

## Archived News - 2020

### CAME Certificate of Merit Award

2020-12-24



Congratulations to **Dr. Joanne Alfieri** on being one of the recipients of the Canadian Association for Medical Education's 2021 CAME Certificate of Merit Award. The awards will be presented during the CAME Annual General Meeting to be held in spring 2021.

### Associate Chair for Education

2020-12-17



Congratulations to **Dr. Joanne Alfieri** who was promoted from Director of Education to Associate Chair for Education.

**COVID-19 - Clinical Trial**

2020-12-16



In a [news release](#), the Government of Canada announced that it will be contributing up to \$6.7 million to the biotechnology company, Arch Biopartners, as its lead drug candidate, Metablok (LSALT peptide) will be tested on hospitalized COVID-19 patients. LSALT peptide was developed by **Drs. Stephen Robbins** and **Donna Senger** and their team at the University of Calgary. Both recently have been appointed to the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology, and Dr. Robbins will serve as the Director of the Lady Davis Institute at the Jewish General Hospital.

**30th Anniversary of the McGill Department of Oncology - History of the Department**

2020-12-15



Read about the history of the McGill Department of Oncology and how it evolved - Creation and building of the department, 1990-2001; Enhancement of interdisciplinary activities, 2001-2010; and Enriching the academic life of the Department, 2011-Present. [\*McGill Oncology – Traveling through time, looking back and seeing the future\*](#), by **Drs. Gayle A. Shinder** and **Eduardo L. Franco**.

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

2020-12-14



Congratulations to **Dr. Pnina Brodt** on being honoured with the *Alumni Award of Distinction for Lifetime Achievement* from the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine.

**Fourth Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony**

2020-12-08



The Fourth Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony was held on December 1, 2020 via Zoom with livestreaming on YouTube ([view webcast](#)). The Distinguished Lecturer was **Dr. Bernard Lapointe** who gave a presentation on the history of palliative care at McGill and in Quebec. **Dr. Vera Hirsh** was the recipient of the Department's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Department Merit Awards were presented to:

**Dr. Peter Siegel** - Research or Clinical Service

**Dr. Koren Mann** - Teaching and Mentorship

**Mr. Majid Ghahremani** - Academic, Clinical or Research Support.

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Department of Oncology partnered with the Canada-Pakistan Affiliated Chamber of Trade (CPACT) and South Asian Women Association of Canada (SAWAC) to honour the following **Female Champions of Cancer Education, Research, and Care**:

**Dr. Nicole Beauchemin** - For her enduring legacy as scientist, mentor and teacher of the fundamentals of cancer research.

**Dr. Carolyn Freeman** - For her decades-long, vigorous leadership in improving the quality of cancer care in Quebec.

**Dr. Anna Towers** - For her international leadership developing lymphedema treatment services for cancer patients.

[Summary of the event](#)

**Focus on Faculty Profile - Dr. Michael Hier**

2020-12-01



**Dr. Michael Hier** is profiled in the December 2020 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Dr. Hier's clinical interests include thyroid and parathyroid surgery, salivary gland surgery, and the management of mucosal head and neck cancers including transoral robotic surgery. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

Visit our [Focus on Faculty page](#) to read profiles of other featured Department faculty members.

**European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO)**

2020-11-23



Congratulations to **Dr. Thierry Alcindor** on being named as a member of the ESMO Faculty in Gastrointestinal Cancers.

**Recent Promotion**

2020-11-23



Congratulations to **Dr. Thierry Muanza** on being promoted to Associate Professor.

### New Appointment

2020-11-17



The Department welcomes **Dr. James Man Git Tsui**, who has been appointed as an Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology.

### 2020 Best of ASTRO Abstract

2020-11-17



Congratulations to **Dr. George Shenouda** and colleagues on receiving the 2020 Best of ASTRO Abstract award for the research project: *A phase 2 study of Neo-adjuvant Metformin and Temozolomide followed by Hypofractionated Accelerated RadioTherapy (HART) with concomitant and adjuvant Metformin and Temozolomide (TMZ) in patients with Glioblastoma*. G. Shenouda, L. Souhami, K. Petrecca, V. Panet-Raymond, S. Owen, R. J. Diaz, J. Hall, M. C. Guiot, T. Carvalho, and B. S. Abdulkarim

### Prix du Québec

2020-11-07



Congratulations to **Dr. William Foulkes** on being awarded the Prix du Québec's Wilder-Penfield Prize

for biomedicine, for his cancer genetics research focused on breast and ovarian cancer, as well as his work on rare cancers. Click [here](#) for further information.

### Focus on Faculty Profile - Dr. Michel Tremblay

2020-11-01



**Dr. Michel Tremblay** is profiled in the November 2020 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Dr. Tremblay's research focuses on Protein Tyrosine Phosphatases (PTP), important enzymes in signal transduction pathways. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

Visit our [Focus on Faculty page](#) to read profiles of other featured Department faculty members.

### The Department welcomes new Faculty members in Outaouais

2020-11-01

The Department welcomes the following new Faculty Lecturers based in Outaouais:

Suzy Bendellali - Medical Oncology

Pierre-Yves McLaughlin - Radiation Oncology

Shelly Sud - Medical Oncology

Steven Tisseverasinghe - Radiation Oncology

### Oncopole's Priorité patient Competition

2020-10-25



Congratulations to **Drs. John Kildea** and **Tarek Hijal** on being one of four winners of Oncopole's

Priorité patient Competition for their Opal patient portal app project, OncoBuddy et OncoConseil. Click [here](#) for further information.

### COVID-19 and Cancer

2020-10-11



**Dr. Nathaniel Bouganim** and his team recently published a [research letter in JAMA Oncology](#) regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lung cancer treatment at the MUHC.

### Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Prize in Cancer Research

2020-10-11



Congratulations to **Dr. Nada Jabado** on receiving the seventh annual Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Prize in Cancer Research from the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine, for her work on treating pediatric brain cancers.

### Focus on Faculty Profile - Dr. Raquel Aloyz

2020-10-01



**Dr. Raquel Aloyz** is profiled in the October 2020 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Dr.

Aloyz's research focuses on the role of a variety of fundamental biological processes in the resistance to anti-leukemic agents. Click [here](#) to read her profile.

Visit our [Focus on Faculty page](#) to read profiles of other featured Department faculty members.

### **Congratulations to Koren Mann**

2020-10-01



**Dr. Koren Mann** and her colleagues in the US have been awarded a three-year NIH VICTER grant for a project looking at essential and non-essential metal mixtures. In addition, Dr. Mann has been invited to take on the role of Associate Editor of the widely read environmental health journal, Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **Canadian Academy of Health Sciences**

2020-09-22



Congratulations to **Dr. Wilson Miller** on being one of ten McGillians elected as a new Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

### **Canada Post Honours Dr. Balfour Mount**

2020-09-14

Canada Post has created a stamp in honour of Dr. Balfour Mount for his groundbreaking work in palliative care and whole person care. Medical Groundbreakers: Official First Day Cover – Dr. Balfour Mount, was issued on September 10, 2020. Click [here](#) for further information.



## COVID-19 and Cancer

2020-09-11



In the Montreal Gazette article, [The cancer clock is ticking. How many in Quebec are walking around undiagnosed?](#), **Dr. Gerald Batist** expresses concern regarding cancer screening diagnosis and treatment as we approach the second wave of the pandemic. He says that the Segal Cancer Centre has been preparing for the second wave.

## Focus on Faculty Profile - Dr. Patricia Tonin

2020-09-01



**Dr. Patricia Tonin** is profiled in the September 2020 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Dr. Tonin's research focuses on the contribution of BRCA1 and BRCA2 to familial and sporadic breast and ovarian cancers, particularly in the French Canadian population of Quebec. Click [here](#) to read her profile.

Visit our [Focus on Faculty page](#) to read profiles of other featured Department faculty members.

### CIHR Grant on Impact of Vaping

2020-08-29



**Dr. Koren Mann** is the recipient of a CIHR grant for the project, *Utility of a Preclinical Model to Study the Impact of Vaping Products on Cardiopulmonary Outcomes*.

### Appointment of Dr. Stephen Robbins

2020-08-26



**Dr. Stephen Robbins**, Scientific Director of the Institute of Cancer Research at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research since 2013, has been appointed as the Director of the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research at the Jewish General Hospital. He will begin his mandate in January 2021. Dr. Robbins will be appointed as a Professor in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology. See [article](#) in the McGill Reporter.

**McGill Task Force on the Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Control and Care**

2020-08-20



Initiated by **Dr. Eduardo Franco** and lead by **Dr. Wilson Miller**, the McGill Task Force on the Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Control and Care aims to prepare a contingency plan to mitigate risks for individuals with cancer in the McGill health network. Further information about the task force and its members can be found [here](#).

See [article](#) in Med e-News.

**Improving glioblastoma response to ionizing radiation**

2020-08-20



**Dr. Arezu Jahani-Asl** is the lead researcher on a study showing that suppressing cytokine receptor for oncostatin M (OSMR) improves glioblastoma response to ionizing radiation. The study was recently published in Nature Communications (Sharaneek, A., Burban, A., Laaper, M., Heckel, E., Joyal, J-S., Soleimani, V.D., and **Jahani-Asl, A.** *OSMR controls glioma stem cell respiration and confers resistance of glioblastoma to ionizing radiation*. Nat Commun 11, 4116 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-17885-z>).

See [article](#) in Med e-News.

**Canada Foundation for Innovation Grants**

2020-08-20



Congratulations to the following recipients of the John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI):

**Dr. John Kildea**, for the grant entitled, *Development of strategies to better understand and control the long-term side effects of radiotherapy.*

**Dr. Peter Siegal** for the grant entitled, *The role of Lipoma Preferred Partner (LPP) in regulating breast cancer progression.*

**2021 American Society of Clinical Oncology Meeting**

2020-08-17



Congratulations to **Dr. Thierry Alcindor** who was named as the Sarcoma Track Leader of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2021 meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

### Focus on Faculty Profile - Dr. Jian Hui Wu

2020-08-01



**Dr. Jian Hui Wu** is profiled in the August 2020 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Dr. Wu's research focuses on the impact of mutations on the structure and function of a drug target and designing novel chemical compounds to overcome this impact. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

Visit our [Focus on Faculty page](#) to read profiles of other featured Department faculty members.

### Award - Canadian Order of Medical Physicists (COMP)

2020-07-29



Congratulations to **William Parker** on being awarded a *Fellow of COMP*.

### **Dr. Armen Aprikian appointed as Clinical Lead of the Rossy Cancer Network**

2020-07-26



**Dr. Armen Aprikian** has been appointed as the Clinical Lead of the Rossy Cancer Network, replacing **Dr. Wilson Miller** who has served in that role since 2014. [Announcement in Med e-News](#). Dr. Aprikian also replaces Dr. Miller as the Associate Chair for Clinical Affairs in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology.

### **New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Exploration Grant**

2020-07-22



**Dr. Julia Burnier** is one of twenty-one McGill recipients of a New Frontiers in Research Fund Exploration Grant for her project, *Microfluidic Systems for nanoparticle synthesis and characterization to understand cancer cell-derived EV uptake*.

### Oncopole's Innove-Onco Competition

2020-07-17



The team of **Dr. Sylvie Lambert** and **Dr. Peter Nugus** is one of two recipients of Oncopole's Innove-Onco Competition, for their project *The integration of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in cancer care: learning from real-world implementation in cancer centres across Quebec*. [Press release](#).

### LeadAction | Breast Cancer du Sein Competition

2020-07-1



**Dr. Jerry Pelletier** and his team are one of four recipients of the LeadAction|Breast Cancer du Sein Competition funded by IRICoR and the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation, for their project *Rationally designed approaches to target mRNA translation in eradicating poor outcome breast cancers*. [Announcement in Med e-News](#).

### Canada Research Chairs

2020-07-15



Congratulations to **Dr. Shirin Enger** who was awarded a Canada Research Chair in Medical Physics, CIHR, Tier 2, and to **Dr. Nada Jabado** who was awarded a Canada Research Chair in Pediatric Oncology, CIHR, Tier 1.

### Distinguished James McGill Professor

2020-07-15



Congratulations to **Dr. Morag Park** on being named as a Distinguished James McGill Professor.

### 2020 ARCC Studentship Award

2020-07-14

Congratulations to PhD student **Aimee Castro** on receiving a Studentship Award from the Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control (ARCC) for her project entitled *User-Centric Design of a Proof-of-Concept of a Smartphone Application to Connect Cancer Caregivers with On-Demand Nursing Respite Care Services*. **Dr. Argerie Tsimicalis** is her thesis supervisor while **Dr. John Kildea** is a member of her thesis committee.



### Recent Department Appointment

2020-07-07



Khashayar Esfahani (Medical Oncology) - Assistant Professor

### Cancer Research Society

2020-07-06



Congratulations to **Dr. Mark Basik** who was recently appointed as the President of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Cancer Research Society. He replaces **Dr. Michel Tremblay** who served in that role for three years.

[Cancer Research Society announcement](#)

**Canadian Cancer Society Funding**

2020-07-06



Congratulations to the following Department members who recently received funding from the Canadian Cancer Society:

**Dr. Josie Ursini-Siegal** - Innovation to Impact Grant - *Capitalizing on an oxidative stress response to sensitize poor outcome cancers to PARP inhibitors*

**Dr. Antonis Koromilas** - Innovation Grant - *2B or not 2B: that is the question about KRAS function*

**Dr. Luke McCaffrey** - Innovation Grant - *Characterizing DCIS heterogeneity and disease progression*

**Dr. Morag Park** - Innovation Grant - *Developing therapeutic approaches to treat poor outcome metaplastic breast carcinomas*

**Dr. Peter Siegel** - Innovation Grant - *Characterizing molecular mediators of leptomeningeal metastasis*

**NCRI - In conversation with William Foulkes - July 9, 2020 - 13:30-14:15 (BST)**

2020-07-02

The National Cancer Research Institute presents *In Conversation with William Foulkes* to be held on July 9, 2020, 13:30-14:15 (BST). "This session will focus on genetics and cancer predisposition. The discussion will cover our current understanding of the genetics of various cancers and consider the risk of inherited mutations, reflecting on the role of policy in the context of prevention, screening and early detection. Consideration will be given to the potential of data and AI, using exemplars such as genome-wide characterisation of patients with multiples primary tumours to identify their genetic predisposing factors."

[Further information and to register](#)

**Focus on Faculty Profile - Dr. Marc Fabian**

2020-07-01



**Dr. Marc Fabian** is profiled in the July 2020 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Dr. Fabian's research focuses on how RNA-protein interactions govern gene expression in normal cells and how these programs can become dysregulated in cancer cells. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

Visit our [Focus on Faculty page](#) to read profiles of other featured Department faculty members.

**Obituary - Kappy Flanders**

2020-06-29



Image by Owen Egan / Joni Dufour.

The Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology mourns the loss of Kappy Flanders, who passed away on June 27, 2020 at the age of 81. Kappy was a champion for palliative care and in 1994 established the Eric M. Flanders Chair in Palliative Medicine at McGill in honour of her late husband. The Department of Oncology was proud to serve as host of this Chair for many years. Kappy also founded and led the McGill Council on Palliative Care which raises awareness and support for palliative care through its various events, collaboration with Palliative Care McGill and involvement with the International Congress on Palliative Care. Every spring she and her team organized the Eric M. Flanders Professorship Dinner and Lecture bringing to McGill world-renowned experts on prevention and care of lung cancer. Kappy's commitment to education at McGill was far-reaching and included setting up the wide range of McGill "mini" series such as mini-med, mini-law, mini-science and mini-music, as well as being a strong proponent of simulation in medical education. In addition, she served as a member of the Board of Governors from 1998 to 2007, and in 2009 was recognized for her outstanding contributions to McGill by being awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws. Kappy was also the recipient of the Governor-General's Meritorious Service Medal and was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada.

**Recent Department Appointment**

2020-06-29



Thomas Duchaine (Basic Cancer Research) - Associate Member

**CIHR Funding - Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Prevention, Screening and Care**

2020-06-28



A project to study the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer prevention, screening, and care, led by **Dr. Eduardo Franco**, is one of nine COVID-19 projects at McGill that recently received funding from CIHR. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Tips for assessing the COVID-19 scientific literature**

2020-06-28

**Samantha Shapiro**, who is doing a Master's degree in Epidemiology under the supervision of **Dr. Eduardo Franco**, has recently written an Opinion in the Montreal Gazette: [How to become a better armchair epidemiologist](#). In the article, Ms. Shapiro, explains how to look at the study methodology, study population and whether or not the paper has undergone peer review, in order to make an educated opinion about the literature that goes beyond the headlines.

**Upcoming VSPO Virtual Presentation-Webcast**

2020-06-28

The [Visiting Speakers Program in Oncology](#) (VSPO) is pleased to announce that **Dr. Ghassan Abou-Alfa** will be giving the following presentation, *A Decade of Systemic Treatments of Hepatocellular Carcinoma: From a Myth to a Central Role* via webcast on July 8, 9, 10 and 15, 2020. For further details see the [flyer](#).

**Celebrating the retirement of Drs. Sylvia and Richard Cruess at age 90**

2020-06-13



**Drs. Sylvia and Richard Cruess** have made enormous contributions to the Faculty of Medicine during their long careers. The Department of Oncology is one such contribution as it was because of Dr. Richard Cruess, when he was Dean of Medicine, that the Department was created in 1990. Read about the illustrious careers of Drs. Sylvia and Richard Cruess in [Med e-News](#).

**COVID-19 and Cancer - Cancer Facts & Stats from the Division of Cancer Epidemiology**

2020-06-13

Have the safety measures of the pandemic compromised cancer patient treatment? What are the unintended consequences of the postponement of routine cancer screenings? Measuring outcomes in cancer patients during the global COVID-19 pandemic. These are the issues addressed by MSc students, **Eliya Farah**, and **Rami Ali**, and **Dr. Mariam El-Zein** in the newsletter, [Cancer amid Covid-19](#).

**COVID-19 and Cancer - The need for a cancer plan**

2020-06-06

**Dr. Gerald Batist** is signaling the need for a cancer plan in Quebec to ramp up cancer screening, treatment and surgeries that have been stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See [article](#) in The Montreal Gazette.

**Dr. Miguel Burnier Jr. appointed Interim Executive Director of RI-MUHC**

2020-06-01



**Dr. Miguel Burnier Jr** has been appointed Interim Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer of the Research Institute of the MUHC (RI-MUHC). Dr. Burnier is Director of Training and Development and a Senior Scientist in the Cancer Research Program at the RI-MUHC, a Full Professor of Ophthalmology, Pathology, Medicine and Oncology at McGill University, and the founder and Director of the MUHC-McGill Ocular Pathology Translational Research Laboratory.

**Focus on Faculty Profile - Dr. Alexandre Orthwein**

2020-06-01



**Dr. Alexandre Orthwein** is profiled in the June 2020 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Dr. Orthwein's research focuses on understanding how DNA repair pathways are controlled in different in vitro and in vivo models, with a particular focus on B-cells and their associated malignancies. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

Visit our [Focus on Faculty page](#) to read profiles of other featured Department faculty members.

**COVID-19 and Cancer - Publication in The Lancet**  
2020-05-30

McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) researchers **Dr. Arielle Elkrief**, **Dr. Nathaniel Bouganim**, **Dr. Donald Vinh** and Jewish General Hospital (JGH) researcher **Dr. Gerald Batist** led the Canadian chapter of the COVID-19 and Cancer Consortium (CCC19), which reunites more than 100 researchers internationally working together to better understand the unique effects of COVID-19 on patients with cancer. This international collaboration, led by Dr. Jeremy Warner from Vanderbilt University, is the largest study and series of data released thus far from a multinational perspective. It is a grassroots effort that published data in more than 900 patients with COVID19 and cancer. This study showed that people with cancer affected by COVID-19 have a mortality rate of 13%. Importantly, the study identified risk factors associated with mortality, such as advanced age, smoking, male sex, poor performance status, and active cancer. This study will be important in shaping cancer care during the pandemic.

"We are proud that McGill University is one of the lead Canadian sites as part of this international study of more than 900 patients with a diagnosis of COVID19 and cancer. This study showed that patients with cancer had a 13% mortality rate, which is more than twice the mortality reported as the global average. This study will help shape cancer care during the pandemic. It is essential to continue every effort to protect our most vulnerable patients, and to continue to work together to find answers." - Dr. Arielle Elkrief

[Clinical impact of COVID-19 on patients with cancer \(CCC19\): a cohort study - The Lancet](#)

[MUHC announcement](#)   [LDI Announcement](#)



### Tenure/Promotion

2020-05-27



Congratulations to **Dr. Shirin Enger** and to **Dr. Argerie Tsimicallis** who were both granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, effective June 1, 2020.

### COVID-19 Clinical Trials

2020-05-26



**Dr. Nathaniel Bouganim** and **Dr. Jamil Asselah** are involved in a pan-Canadian project which allows those who have been exposed to or test positive for COVID-19 to search for COVID-19 clinical trials ([www.covidtrials.ca](http://www.covidtrials.ca)). The project was started by **Dr. Ramy Saleh**, a former trainee in the Department's Medical Oncology Residency Training Program. See [article](#) in The Suburban newspaper.

## FRQS Funding

2020-05-26



Congratulations to the following FRQS funding recipients:

**Dr. Caroline Reinhold** - Research Grant - *Stratification quantitative et qualitative du risque de malignité sur tomographie à densité (TDM) des lésions kystiques complexes*

**Dr. Ivan Topisirovic** - Chercheurs-boursiers - *La dérégulation de la traduction de l'ARN et du métabolisme énergétique dans le cancer*

**Dr. Audrey Burban** (in the laboratory of **Dr. Arezu Jahani-Asl**) - Formations postdoctorale, Citoyens 'd'autres pays - *Ciblage du récepteur de l'oncostatine M en combinaison avec les traitements actuels du glioblastome* (Ranked first out of 14)

## Recent Department Appointments

2020-05-26



Caroline Reinhold (Diagnostic Radiology) - Associate Member

Issam El Naqa (Medical Physics) - Adjunct Professor

Michel Wissing (Cancer Epidemiology) - Affiliate Member

## Graduate Diploma in Oncology

2020-05-22

See the [article](#) about the Department's Graduate Diploma in Oncology in Med e-News.

**Obituary - Dr. Susan Solymoss**

2020-05-22



The Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology mourns the loss of Dr. Susan Solymoss who passed away on May 20, 2020. Dr. Solymoss was an Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Oncology and a hematologist at St. Mary's Hospital and at the MUHC.

**MI4 Emergency COVID-19 Research Funding (ECRF) program**

2020-05-18



Congratulations to **Dr. Janusz Rak** and his team for receiving funding from the McGill Interdisciplinary Initiative in Infection and Immunity (MI4) for their project, *Exosomal mimetics of COVID-19 as viral models and therapeutics*.

**Segal Cancer Centre - Adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

2020-05-18

The Segal Cancer Centre has implemented many changes in order to continue to provide quality cancer care during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are video consultations with the oncologist, staggered clinic appointments for those who must be seen at the clinic, and virtual clinics for COVID-19-positive cancer patients.

The Segal Cancer Centre's Clinical Research Unit (CRU) is participating in a passive immunization trial looking at whether hospitalized coronavirus patients can benefit from plasma taken from recovered coronavirus patients. **Dr. Sarit Assouline** is the lead of this study at the Segal Cancer Centre.

Click [here](#) for more information.

**Rossy Cancer Network Providing Invaluable Support During COVID-19 Pandemic**

2020-05-10

The Rossy Cancer Network (RCN) is providing invaluable support to the oncology departments at the MUHC, Jewish General Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital to help optimize delivery of cancer care during the pandemic. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Shirin Enger receives \$1.3 M grant from the CIHR Collaborative Health Research Projects program**

2020-05-01



Congratulations to **Dr. Shirin Enger** who received a \$1.3 M grant from the CIHR Collaborative Health Research Projects program to develop a non-invasive positron detector for medical imaging. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Read the Latest Focus on Faculty Profiles**

2020-05-01



The Focus on Faculty profile for the month of May is **Dr. Julia Burnier** whose research program focuses on 'omics-based analyses of metastatic disease and liquid biopsy approaches to cancer. Click [here](#) to read her profile.

In April we featured **Dr. Zeev Rosberger**, a psychologist who led the development of the Louise Granofsky Psychosocial Oncology Program at the Segal Cancer Centre of the Jewish General Hospital. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

Visit our [Focus on Faculty page](#) to read profiles of other featured Department faculty members.

### **Cancer and COVID-19**

2020-05-01

The Coalition Priorité Cancer au Québec has put together a list of [links to various organizations](#) that can be useful to cancer patients and their families.

The Canadian Cancer Society has provided helpful [suggestions](#) on coping with cancer during this pandemic.

For Professionals: The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux has [directives](#) regarding cancer care during this pandemic.

### **Dialogue McGill**

2020-04-27



Congratulations to **Dr. Carmen Loiselle** on being appointed as Dialogue McGill's new Principal Investigator. For more information about Dialogue McGill click [here](#).

### **Cancer and COVID-19 in the News**

2020-04-15

Cancer medicine to be tested on COVID-19. [Link to article.](#)

Canadian Cancer Society provides virtual support to cancer patients - [Link to article.](#)

### **McGill Checks In - Alumni Webcasts - Cancer Care and COVID-19**

2020-04-15

**Drs. Morag Park, George Zogopoulos and Sarit Assouline** will be discussing current cancer patient care, research activity and the role of cancer researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. EDT

[Link to the webcast](#)

**New Program Director of Medical Oncology Residency Training Program**

2020-04-10



**Dr. Victoria Mandilaras** has been appointed as the new Program Director of the Medical Oncology Residency Training Program effective May 1, 2020. She will replace **Dr. Lawrence Panasci** who currently has been serving as Acting Director and who, during his many years at McGill, has served as program director multiple times and collectively for more than 10 years.

**New Director for Oncology Undergraduate Medical Education**

2020-04-08



**Dr. Valerie Panet-Raymond** has been appointed as the new Director for Oncology Undergraduate Medical Education, replacing **Dr. Jamil Asselah** who served in this role with much dedication for the last 10 years.

**COVID-19 Research**

2020-04-01



**Dr. Jian Hui Wu** received a \$478,000 grant from Health Canada for COVID-19 research. Using a computational approach, Dr. Wu will use various assays to screen the approved drug database of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in order to evaluate the best candidates which could be used against COVID-19.

**Farzin Khosrow-Khavar successfully defends PhD thesis**

2020-03-25



Congratulations to **Farzin Khosrow-Khavar**, Senior Data Analyst in the Department, who successfully defended his PhD thesis on March 23rd. The title of his thesis is *Cardiovascular safety of aromatase inhibitors in post-menopausal women with breast cancer*. His thesis co-supervisors are **Dr. Samy Suissa** and **Dr. Laurent Azoulay**.

**Medical cannabis in supportive cancer care**

2020-03-23

Congratulations to **Dr. Maria Fernanda Arboleda**, the first postdoctoral research fellow in medical cannabis and supportive cancer care working under the direction of **Dr. Antonio Vigano**, on her recent paper, "Medical cannabis in supportive cancer care: lessons from Canada" (Supportive Care in Cancer, 2020 Mar 14. doi: 10.1007/s00520-020-05403-2). Click [here](#) for the abstract.

**\*\*Launch of the New Website for the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology\*\***

2020-03-11

In celebration of the Department's 30th anniversary year, today we have launched our new Department website which has a new look, updated content, continuing features such as the Focus on Faculty series, and some upgraded elements such as the ability to search our over 200 faculty profiles by cancer-related activity.

**\*\*Launching the Department's New Graduate Diploma in Oncology\*\***

2020-03-07

The Department is pleased to announce the launch of our new Graduate Diploma in Oncology which is now open to applicants. We welcome **Elisa Monaco**, our new Graduate Program Coordinator, who will be working closely with the Graduate Program Director, **Dr. Koren Mann**, to set up the program and prepare for its official start in September 2020. The Department also has launched six new courses including the 6 credit, *Fundamentals of Oncology and Cancer Research* (ONCO 610), the 3 credit, *Principles and Practice of Clinical Trials* (ONCO 615), the 3 credit, *Best Practices in Biomedical Research* (ONCO 620) and the 3 credit, *Quality Improvement Principles and Methods* (ONCO 625). For more information check out the [Graduate Diploma in Oncology](#) page of our website.

**Detecting Ovarian and Endometrial Cancers**

2020-03-07



Congratulations to **Dr. Lucy Gilbert** and her team on being awarded a \$ 6.24 million Genomics Applications Partnership Program (GAPP) funding grant to finalize the development of the screening test, DOvEEgene (Detecting Ovarian and Endometrial cancers Early using genomics). Click [here](#) for further information.

**Canadian Space Agency Grant**

2020-03-07



Congratulations to **Dr. John Kildea** whose grant submission A Cell-by-Cell Track Structure and Genomic Examination of the DNA Damage Caused by Low-and Light-LET Ionizing radiation, submitted under the Flights and Fieldwork for the Advancement of Science and Technology (FAST 2019) Announcement of Opportunity (AO), has passed the Canadian Space Agency-CSA evaluation process and has been selected for a grant.



**CIHR Project Grant funding**

2020-02-03



Department of Oncology researchers received over \$4.5 million in Project Grant funding from CIHR for the following projects:

**Laurent Azoulay** - *SGLT-2 inhibitors and early bladder cancer events: An international multi-centre study*; \$286,875, two years and six months

**Pnina Brodt** - *Regulatory circuits controlling the immune microenvironment of liver metastases*; \$807,075, five years

**Antonis Koromilas** - *The implication of the adaptive arm of the integrated stress response in KRAS lung cancer*; \$868,275, five years

**Alain Nepveu** - *The Tumor Suppressor Function of CUX1*; \$673,200, four years

**Giuseppina (Josie) Ursini-Siegel**

1. *Capitalizing on an oxidative stress response to sensitize poor outcome cancers to PARP inhibitors*; \$948,600, five years

2. *Understanding how oxidative stress influences tumor evolution via metabolic reprogramming*; \$975,375, five years

## Carmen Loisel receives an award for Best Publication from the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO)

2020-01-19



Congratulations to **Dr. Carmen Loisel** on receiving an award from CANO for *Best Publication* in the Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal. For further information click [here](#).

## Targeting glioblastoma; Potential role of estrogen in liver metastases

2020-01-19

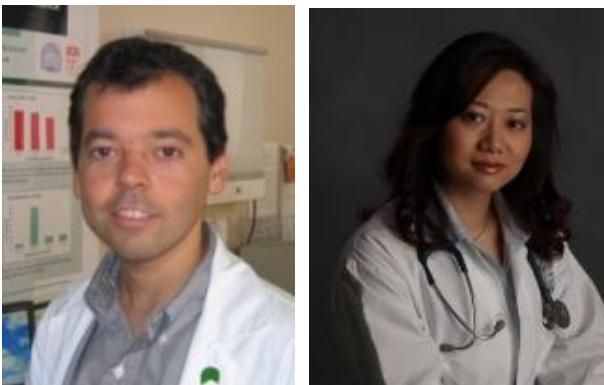


**Dr. Bertrand Jean-Claude** and a team of researchers at the Research Institute of the MUHC have developed a molecule targeting glioblastoma. The molecule has two functions, attacking the tumour cell and destroying its defense system. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Dr. Pnina Brodt** and her team have found that estrogen may play a role in the growth of liver metastases in non-sex-specific cancers. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Recent Promotions

2020-01-19



Congratulations to **Dr. Jason Agulnik** and **Dr. Susie Lau** on being promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective January 1, 2020.

**Catherine Goudie receives TD Ready Challenge grant**

2020-01-01



Congratulations to **Dr. Catherine Goudie** on receiving a \$1 million grant from TD Ready Challenge for her application, MIPOGG (McGill Interactive Pediatric OncoGenetic Guidelines). For further information click [here](#).