

## Archived News - 2021

### Precision Cancer Care

2021-12-14

The MUHC Foundation has received a \$2 million donation from the BMO Financial Group for the Precision Oncology Program. [Read more.](#)

### Quebec SmartCare Consortium

2021-12-13



Congratulations to **John Kildea** (Principal Investigator) and **Tarek Hijal** (Clinical Lead) who received \$10 million in funding over three years for the project entitled "The Quebec SmartCare Consortium". The consortium is a group of public and private partners who are coming together to demonstrate the power of SmartCare, which they define as the combined use of patient-centered data, mhealth, remote monitoring, and AI research. The technology behind Opal will serve as a data-sharing hub linking data from wearable devices on patients in the real world with clinicians and ultimately with researchers. [Quebec SmartCare Consortium website.](#)

### Research News

2021-12-12

**Patricia Tonin** and colleagues have found that mutations in the FANCI gene play a role in the risk of ovarian cancer. [Read more.](#)

Pre-clinical research conducted by **Pnina Brodt** and colleagues has shown that combinatorial immunotherapy may be useful in treating pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma liver metastases. [Read more.](#)

**Kevin Petrecca** helped found the Montreal based company, Reveal Surgical, which has now developed a probe that facilitates the detection of hard to detect cancer cells during surgery to remove brain tumours. [Read more.](#)

### **Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation**

2021-12-12

Congratulations to **Prisca Bustamante** on being awarded the Mitacs Award for Outstanding Innovation. Prisca Bustamante, a PhD candidate at the MUHC Research Institute working under **Julia Burnier**, developed the first non-invasive blood screening test for the early detection of eye cancer. [Read more.](#)

### **Focus on Faculty Profile - Victoria Mandilaras**

2021-12-01



**Victoria Mandilaras** is profiled in the December 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Victoria Mandilaras is a medical oncologist who also is conducting research focused on building a database of rare gynecologic cancers and their molecular profiles with the ultimate goal of identifying new therapeutic molecular targets for these cancers which are notoriously difficult to treat. Click [here](#) to read her profile.

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

### **New Appointments**

2021-11-18

**Sarit Assouline** - Associate Member (Hematologic Oncology)

**Erin Strumpf** - Associate Member (Cancer Epidemiology)

**Saad Aldelajian** -Affiliate Member (Medical Physics)

## Prix du Québec

2021-11-14



Congratulations to **Morag Park** on being awarded the Armand-Frappier Prix du Québec and **Michel Tremblay** on being awarded the Wilder-Penfield Prix du Québec. [Read more.](#)

## Focus on Faculty Profile - Jamil Asselah

2021-11-02



**Jamil Asselah** is profiled in the November 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Jamil Asselah is a medical oncologist specializing in breast cancer at the MUHC. He has been involved in providing recommendations to the provincial government with respect to safeguarding oncology care during the pandemic. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

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### Research Grants - Metastatic Breast Cancer

2021-11-01



Congratulations to **Mark Basik** and **Morag Park** who were each awarded a \$500,000 research grant from the “100 Years of Research” competition (Cancer Research Society and Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation). [Read more.](#)

### Launch of the Quebec Metastatic Breast Cancer Registry

2021-11-01



The new Quebec Metastatic Breast Cancer Registry, coordinated by the McPeak-Sirois Group and under the responsibility of **Sarkis Meterissian**, will give researchers access to patient data in order to support breast cancer research and promote collaboration between researchers. [Read more.](#)

### Promotion

2021-10-29

Congratulations to **Sylvie Bouchard** and **Monical Serban** who were each promoted from Faculty Lecturer to Assistant Professor.

## Improving Cancer Care

2021-10-26



**Gerald Batist** and **Barry Stein** (Montreal lawyer and president of Colorectal Cancer Canada) wrote an opinion article in the Montreal Gazette on how the pandemic put a spotlight on the deficiencies in our healthcare system and what we can do to improve cancer care. [Read more.](#)

## New Appointments

2021-10-25

**Asma Saidi** - Faculty Lecturer (Radiation Oncology)

## Upcoming Events

2021-10-13

### 4th Annual Symposium on Upper Gastro-Intestinal Cancers

**Date:** Saturday October 16, 2021

Click [here](#) for more information on the program and registration.

### Palliative Care McGill Continuing Professional Development Day

**Date:** Friday November 19, 2021

Click [here](#) for information on the agenda and registration.

## Goodman Cancer Research Centre becomes an Institute

2021-10-05



The Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre has now become the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Institute. [Read more.](#)

## New Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics

2021-10-05



Congratulations to **Koren Mann** on her new appointment as Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics and her recent promotion to Full Professor.

## Kappy and Eric M. Flanders Chair in Palliative Care Medicine

2021-10-02



**Justin Sanders** has been appointed as the Kappy and Eric M. Flanders Chair in Palliative Care Medicine, replacing **Bernard Lapointe** who held this Chair since 2009. Prior to joining McGill, Dr. Sanders spent seven years in the Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. [Read more.](#)

### Focus on Faculty Profile - Shireen Sirhan

2021-10-02



**Shireen Sirhan** is profiled in the October 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Shireen Sirhan's clinical work involves both solid and hematologic malignancies at St Mary's hospital. She also is an active researcher and is the principal investigator on several phase 1, 2 and 3 clinical trials investigating JAK inhibitors as single agents or in combination with novel agents for the treatment of myelofibrosis. Click [here](#) to read her profile.

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### AACR Cancer Prevention Working Group

2021-09-20



Congratulations to **Michael Pollak** on being named to the new cancer prevention working group of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). For additional information click [here](#).

### New Appointments

2021-09-15

**Paul Ramia** - Faculty Lecturer (Radiation Oncology)

**Annie Leung** - Associate Member (Gynecologic Oncology)

## Breast Cancer Wellness Program at the MUHC

2021-09-06



**Sarkis Meterissian** will be shaving his head in support of the Breast Cancer Wellness Program at the MUHC. The day before this October 20th public event, Sarkis Meterissian plans to die his hair pink! [Read more.](#)

## Associate Director Research - Ingram School of Nursing

2021-09-06



Congratulations to **Sylvie Lambert** on her appointment as Associate Director Research at the Ingram School of Nursing.



## Suppressing Galectin1 Protein and Implications for the Treatment of Glioblastoma

2021-09-06



**Arezu Jahani-Asl** and her colleagues have been looking at the effect of suppression of the galectin1 protein on the growth of brain tumours. The study was published in the August 31st issue of [Cell Reports](#). For more information see the [article](#) in Health e-News.

## Focus on Faculty Profile - Jerry Pelletier

2021-09-01



**Jerry Pelletier** is profiled in the September 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Jerry Pelletier's research focus has been on eukaryotic protein synthesis, trying to understand the underpinnings of translation, i.e., how ribosomes and mRNA work as a complex machinery and from there to identify compounds that can interfere with this process, a useful approach to arrest progression of malignancy. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

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## Personalizing Cancer Treatment with the Help of Artificial Intelligence

2021-08-17



**Jan Seuntjens** is a member of the MEDomics consortium, an international consortium which is looking at using artificial intelligence to link longitudinal electronic health records with real world data to facilitate personalized cancer treatments. The work has been published recently in [Nature Cancer](#). For more information see the [article](#) in Health e-News.

## Focus on Faculty Profile - Belinda Nicolau

2021-08-01



**Belinda Nicolau** is profiled in the August 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Belinda Nicolau's main research interest lies in the life course approach to chronic oral diseases including oral and oropharyngeal cancers. Click [here](#) to read her profile.

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## New President of Executive Scientific Committee - McPeak–Sirois Group

2021-07-27



Congratulations to **Jamil Asselah** on his appointment as the President of the Executive Scientific Committee of the McPeak-Sirois Group. Click [here](#) to read more about this appointment and to watch the interview with Jamil Asselah.

## New Appointments

2021-07-26

**Ramy Saleh** - Assistant Professor (Medical Oncology)

**Samara Perez** - Assistant Professor (Psychosocial Oncology)

**Shen Li** - Associate Member (Hematology-Oncology)

## COVID-19 and Cancer

2021-07-08

The Editorial Team of the journal Preventive Medicine, led by Editor-in-Chief, **Eduardo Franco**, is pleased to announce the publication of the special issue “From disruption to recovery: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Cancer Screening”. The Editorial Office is housed in the oncology department at McGill. See [article](#) in Health e-News.

## Ride La Grande Roue - Program for Women's Cancer Research

2021-07-08



**Joanne Alfieri** and **Tarek Hijal** from the MUHC Division of Radiation Oncology are pleased to announce the fundraising event, Ride La Grande Roue, which features a 3-course dinner while on La Grande Roue observation wheel at the Old Port. The event will take place on September 28, 2021. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Focus on Faculty Profile - Elliot Mitmaker

2021-07-02



**Elliot Mitmaker** is profiled in the July 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Elliot Mitmaker's clinical and research interests include endocrine oncological conditions of the thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal glands along with rare genetic endocrine syndromes. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

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## Cancer Grand Challenges

2021-06-27



**Nada Jabado** and **Claudia Kleinman** are members of a global team selected for the final stages of an application for funding from Cancer Grand Challenges, a program founded by Cancer Research UK and the US National Cancer Institute. Click [here](#) for article in Health e-News.

## Genome Quebec Funding

2021-06-27



Congratulations to **Peter Siegel** on being one of five McGill researchers who has been awarded a Genomic Integration Program, Human Health Science Stream grant from Genome Quebec for his project: *Towards single-cell metabolomics: uncovering the metabolic heterogeneity and architecture of solid cancers*. Click [here](#) for article in Health e-News.

## New Appointments

2021-06-18

**Rose-Marie Rouleau** - Faculty Lecturer (Hematologic Oncology)

**Laura Habib** - Associate Member (Hematologic Oncology)

**Liya Roudaia** - Associate Member (Hematologic Oncology)

**Carolyne Elbaz** - Associate Member (Hematologic Oncology)

## Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence

2021-06-15



Congratulations to **Joanne Alfieri** who was named to the [2021-2022 Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence](#).

**Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres**

2021-06-13

Quebec hospitals and institutes affiliated with McGill University and Université de Montréal (Quebec Cancer Consortium) have joined with the BC Cancer Consortium and the Princess Margaret Cancer Consortium as the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network. A Contribution Agreement has been signed by the Government of Canada and the Terry Fox Research Institute. The co-leads for the Quebec-based consortium are **Morag Park** (McGill) and **Anne-Marie Mes-Masson** (Université de Montréal). [Read article.](#)

**Cole Foundation - pediatric leukemia and lymphoma research**

2021-06-13



**Sonia del Rincon**, a past recipient of a Cole Foundation Transition Grant, is featured in an [article](#) about the Cole Foundation in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences', Alumni and Friends. Also featured in that article is **Janusz Rak**, who has held the Jack Cole Chair since 2006.

**FRQS Salary Awards**

2021-06-07

Congratulations to the following recipients of FRQS salary awards:

**Chercheurs-boursiers**

Arezu Jahani-Asl  
Luke McCaffrey  
Michael Witcher

**Chercheurs-boursiers cliniciens**

April Rose  
Stephanie Wong  
George Zogopoulos

### Focus on Faculty Profile - Horacio Patrocinio

2021-06-02



**Horacio Patrocinio** is profiled in the June 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Horacio Patrocinio is a clinical medical physicist whose research interests include stereotactic radiosurgery, image-guided radiotherapy and brachytherapy. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

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### New Appointments

2021-06-02

**Yannick Poirier** - Assistant Professor (Medical Physics)

**Najwa Buhlaiga** - Faculty Lecturer (Medical Oncology)

### Order of Quebec

2021-05-12



Congratulations to **Morag Park** who was appointed as Chevalière of the National Order of Quebec. [Read article in the McGill Reporter](#)

## Canadian Cancer Society Awards for Excellence

2021-05-12



Congratulations to the following recipients of the the 2020 Canadian Cancer Society Awards for Excellence:

**Nada Jabado** - Robert L. Noble Prize

**Claudia Kleinman** - Bernard and Francine Dorval Prize

For further information click [here](#).

## Canadian Cancer Society Emerging Scholars Awards

2021-05-12



Congratulations to **Julia Burnier** and **Sonia del Rincon** who were each recipients of a 5-year grant from the Canadian Cancer Society's Emerging Scholar Awards competition.

**Julia Burnier** - *Defining the mechanisms of DNA release from cancer cells and their impact on the clinical utility of liquid biopsy* (See [article](#) in Health e-news)

**Sonia del Rincon** - *Examining the MNK1/2 eIF4E axis in cancer associated fibroblasts as a driver of oncogenic progression*



## Focus on Faculty Profile - Moulay Alaoui-Jamali

2021-05-03



**Moulay Alaoui-Jamali** is profiled in the May 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Moulay Alaoui-Jamali's research focuses on the biology of cancer progression and drug resistance. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

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

## New Appointments

2021-04-14



**Claudia Kleinman** - Associate Member (Basic Cancer Research)

**Sylvie Lambert** - Associate Member (Psychosocial Oncology)

## Rossy Cancer Network

2021-04-07



As the new Clinical Lead for the Rossy Cancer Network, **Armen Aprikian** shares his vision for improving outcomes for cancer patients. [Read the article.](#)

## Focus on Faculty Profile - Caroline Reinhold

2021-04-02



**Caroline Reinhold** is profiled in the April 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. Caroline Reinhold's research focuses on interpretation of body cross-sectional imaging, with a particular emphasis in multi-parametric MRI for disease stratification and outcome prediction Click [here](#) to read her profile.

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## New Appointments

2021-03-16



- Stephen Robbins** - Professor (Basic Cancer Research)
- Donna Senger** - Associate Professor (Basic Cancer Research)
- Ipshita Prakash** - Assistant Professor (Surgical Oncology)
- Stephanie Wong** - Assistant Professor (Surgical Oncology)
- April Rose** - Assistant Professor (Medical Oncology)
- Sylvie Bouchard** - Faculty Lecturer (Palliative Care)

## Focus on Faculty Profile - Nathalie Johnson

2021-03-01



**Nathalie Johnson** is profiled in the March 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. As a

clinician-scientist, Nathalie Johnson's clinical work focuses on treating adolescents and young adults with Hodgkin lymphoma and diffuse large B cell lymphoma while her research focuses on understanding therapeutic resistance. Click [here](#) to read her profile.

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

### Promotion

2021-02-26



Congratulations to **Arezu Jahani-Asl** who has been promoted to Associate Professor.

### Promotion

2021-02-09



Congratulations to **Joanne Alfieri** who has been promoted to Associate Professor effective February 14, 2021.

### Lifetime Achievement Award

2021-02-05



Congratulations to **Vera Hirsh** who is being presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at today's Canadian Lung Cancer Virtual Conference.

### Top 25 Women of Influence

2021-02-03



Congratulations to **Lucy Gilbert** on being named one of the Top 25 Women of Influence in 2021. For further information click [here](#).

[Watch](#)

### Focus on Faculty Profile - Catherine Goudie

2021-02-01



**Catherine Goudie** is profiled in the February 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. As a

pediatric hematologist-oncologist, Dr. Goudie leads a cancer surveillance clinic dedicated to children in the province who are diagnosed with cancer predisposition syndromes. Click [here](#) to read her profile.

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## Obituary

2021-01-21



### **Kris Jardon 1969-2021**

The Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology mourns the loss of Kris Jardon who passed away on January 15th at the age of 51. Kris Jardon was an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Oncology as well as an Investigator at the MUHC Research Institute. His clinical and research activities focused on gynecologic cancers. Kris Jardon and his colleague, Lucy Gilbert, were recipients of the Québec Science's 2018 People's Choice Award for Discovery of the Year for their test for endometrial and ovarian cancers.

## New Appointments

2021-01-05



**Peter Nugus** - Associate Member (Health Care Research)

**Paz Polak** - Adjunct Professor (Cancer Genetics)

**Focus on Faculty Profile - Dr. Fabio Cury**

2021-01-01



**Fabio Cury** is profiled in the January 2021 installment of the Focus on Faculty series. As a radiation oncologist, Fabio Cury's focus is in uro-oncology, head and neck tumours, skin tumours and sarcoma. Click [here](#) to read his profile.

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**Happy New Year - 2021**

2021-01-01

Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier'.

*Alfred Lord Tennyson*

<https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/alfred lord tennyson 676236>