

Focus on Faculty #78

Jamil Asselah



Dr. Jamil Asselah is an Associate Professor in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology at McGill University. He completed his medical training in oncology at the University of Algiers and did a fellowship at the Institut Curie in Paris, focusing on phase 1 clinical trial design and execution. In 2008 he moved to Quebec and joined the Université de Sherbrooke as an Assistant Professor as well as the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Sherbrooke as an attending physician in medical oncology. In 2011 he joined McGill as an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Oncology and Medicine and became a practicing medical oncologist at the Cedars Cancer Centre, McGill University Health Centre.

Dr. Asselah was the inaugural breast cancer site lead for the Rossy Cancer Network and has led the development of practice guidelines to standardize breast cancer treatments across the McGill University affiliated hospital network. In 2014 he was the recipient of the Department of Oncology's Research or Clinical Service award and in July 2021 he was appointed as President of the Executive Scientific Committee of the McPeak-Sirois Group for Clinical Research in Breast Cancer.

Dr. Asselah has played an important role as a member of the Opal Medical App (a mobile internet-based application) team which developed and has been implementing the innovative patient platform and portal that gives patients immediate access to their personal medical information. In March 2020 Dr. Asselah, together with Dr. John Kildea, Dr. Tarek Hijal and other members of the Opal team, were awarded the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation's National Bank Innovation and Community Support Award for Opal.

More recently, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Asselah played a leadership role with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux (MSSS), participating in various taskforces, including the COVID Committee of the programme québécois de cancérologie (PQC). The PQC COVID Committee has implemented framework recommendations to safeguard Quebec's oncology departments and centers against the evolving pandemic. Dr. Asselah has played a key role in the design and drafting of these recommendations. The quality of his commitment and leadership throughout this pandemic has brought invaluable benefits to those affected by cancer.

Dr. Asselah is involved in teaching and training medical students, residents from various specialities, and oncology fellows. From 2012 to 2020, he served as the Department's Director of Oncology Undergraduate Medical Education during which time he developed and implemented an oncology curriculum for the revamped McGill undergraduate medical education curriculum.

In his spare time, Dr. Asselah enjoys cooking and every Friday he makes an Algerian couscous meal, a tradition from his cultural background, which he enjoys sharing with friends and family on a regular basis.