

## **Focus on Faculty #82**

### **Armen Aprikian**



Dr. Armen Aprikian is a Full Professor of Surgery and Oncology in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University and is the Medical Director of the Cedars Cancer Centre at the MUHC.

A Canadian virtually all his life, he was born in Alexandria, Egypt to Armenian parents. He came to Montreal at 6 months of age and was raised with strong Armenian culture and values. He graduated from the University of Sherbrooke Medical School in Quebec in 1985 and completed his urology residency training at McGill University in 1990. He then pursued a 3-year research and clinical fellowship in urologic oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York City. In 1993 he was recruited by Prof Mostafa Elhilali as an Assistant Professor of Surgery (Urology) at McGill University and began his career in prostate and bladder cancer research and as a clinical urologic oncologist. In 1998 he became the McGill Division of Urology Training Program Director and in 2000 established the Annual Canadian Senior Resident Urologic Oncology Course which runs to this day. In 2004 he became the Head of the Division of Urology at McGill University and the Chief of Urology at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). In 2007 he became Full Professor of Surgery and Oncology and in 2009 he was appointed the Medical Director of the MUHC Cancer Care Mission and Chief of its Department of Oncology. Moreover, in 2010 he was appointed the McGill University Richard Tomlinson Professor in Prostate Cancer. Finally, in 2020 he was appointed as Clinical Lead of McGill's Rossy Cancer Network and Associate Chair (clinical) of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology.

Dr. Aprikian has been awarded the American Society of Clinical Oncology Young Investigator Award, the American Urologic Association Practicing Urologist Award, the Canadian Urology Association Scholarship, the McGill University William Dawson Scholar Career Award and the Quebec FRSQ Senior Clinician Scientist Award. He has obtained independent peer-reviewed

grants from several organizations including the US Department of Defense and the National Cancer Institute, and served as editor in chief of the Canadian Urology Association Journal. In addition, in 2004 he was a founding member of *Procure*, a Quebec-based Prostate Cancer Foundation dedicated to research and public awareness. With the help of this foundation, Dr. Simone Chevalier, and collaborators from Quebec's four university urology departments, he launched a 15-year prospective cohort study and longitudinal biobank of 2000 men from across Quebec affected by prostate cancer, which serves as a wealth of biomaterial and information for research.

He serves or has served on several Boards of Directors or executive committees, including the Rossy Cancer Network of McGill University, Cedars Cancer Foundation, Goodman Cancer Research Centre, MUHC-Research Institute, Canadian Urology Association, Bladder Cancer Canada, Testicular Cancer Canada, and Procure Alliance. As a proud Armenian he also "gives back" to the community in many ways including as a founding member of the Mashdots Foundation executive committee and the Semerdjian Fund, both dedicated to enhancing advanced education both locally and in Armenia. He is actively involved in a leadership role in national and provincial guidelines in prostate, bladder and testicular cancer and has published over 230 peer-reviewed original scientific papers. Finally, in 2021 he was nominated as President-elect of the Canadian Urology Association.

His iPhone front-page is the logo from Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon, and he can often be found quizzing residents in the operating room on their knowledge of music. He loves to play racquetball and spends a fair amount of time playing on-line chess.