

Focus on Faculty #83

Nader Sadeghi



Dr. Nader Sadeghi is a Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology. He is currently Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at McGill, Chief of the service at the MUHC, and Director of the McGill Integrated Head and Neck Cancer program, leading the program across McGill sites. He is a senior investigator at the Research Institute of the MUHC (RI-MUHC). He graduated with his MD in 1991 followed by residency training in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in 1996 both from McGill. He then completed training in epidemiology at McGill followed by a fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology and reconstruction at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, 1996-1998.

Dr. Sadeghi joined the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at McGill and was based at the MUHC from 1998 to 2002 until he was recruited to George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC to lead the head and neck cancer program there. He was at GWU for 15 years where he built an integrated multidisciplinary head and neck oncology program. He served as a member of the first board of directors of the Katzen Cancer Research Center at GWU and served as a member of the advisory board committee for the George Washington University Hospital for many years.

Dr. Sadeghi was recruited back to McGill in 2017 to his current position. He is driven by his passion for expanding the clinical and research profile of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and positioning the McGill Integrated Head and Neck Cancer program at the leading edge of innovation and cutting edge of cancer care. He successfully campaigned and negotiated with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) to bring the Quebec cochlear implant (CI) surgery program to Montreal, and the MUHC is now designated as the CI surgery program for western Quebec. His research interests include translational and clinical research. On cancer care, he has established a new translational head and neck cancer research laboratory at the RI-MUHC within the Functional Genomics group of the Cancer Research Program and recruited a tenure track scientist, Dr. Sampath Loganathan to this newly

formed laboratory. His clinical research currently is focusing on HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancer, neoadjuvant treatment, and transoral robotic surgery. He established the transoral robotic surgery (TORS) program at the MUHC. He has developed and is currently conducting a paradigm-shifting clinical trial for oropharyngeal cancer with neoadjuvant chemotherapy and TORS (NECTORS trial). He has established the head and neck data and biobank at the MUHC to support the research program on head and neck cancer functional and quality of life outcomes and has expanded the program across the Rossy Cancer Network. He is a strong believer that cancer cure is not enough, and improvements or maintenance of the quality of life, and patient-reported outcomes should be integral to cancer care. Dr. Sadeghi feels fortunate to be surrounded by extraordinary talent across the McGill oncology landscape and enjoys productive research collaborations within this network.

Dr. Sadeghi, is a native of Iran who, in 1983 at the age of 19, left his family behind to come to Canada as a refugee, escaping the tumultuous times of political instability and persecution following the 1979 revolution. This was a long and adventurous journey to a largely unknown territory for him back then, that was hardly planned if at all, and took a year to complete. This journey may correctly be characterized as nothing more than accidental. This might have shaped his taste for adventure and stepping into unknown territories when opportunities are presented. It also has shaped his belief that perspectives matter and one may be unintentionally prisoner of her/his perspective that may hinder one's interpretation of reality. Hence, he believes that enrichment of one's ideas and experiences with other perspectives, collaborations, and collective wisdom are cornerstones of fulfilling life experiences.

When not practicing medicine, Dr. Sadeghi enjoys reading broad topics outside medicine and always wished to have more time for that. He feels blessed to have the support of his incredible wife Lyne (Chiropractor, teacher), daughter Noushine (OBGYN resident), and son Bijan (Software engineer). He is an outdoor enthusiast enjoying nature hikes, cycling, and photography, and then delving into reading Persian poetry to make it all sync.

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