

Focus on Faculty #90

George Shenouda



I was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1954 and following primary and secondary education I went on to study medicine at Ain Shams University, Cairo. I completed my MBChB with honours in December 1977. Due to the limitation of opportunities in medical research, I immigrated to Canada in 1980 where I was accepted into a PhD program in the Division of Experimental Medicine at McGill University under the supervision of Dr. David Thomson. My research focused on cancer immunology and its application for early detection and diagnosis of cancer. I completed my PhD in 1983 and published eleven papers on my work in prestigious medical journals.

In 1984 I started clinical residency training in Radiation Oncology at McGill under the supervision of world-experts in the field and this was followed by a 6-month fellowship in the Department of Pathology. I joined the McGill Department of Radiation Oncology in 1988, now the Division of Radiation Oncology in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology, where I am currently Associate Professor. My clinical research focus is neuro-oncology and head and neck oncology, and I am currently the PI of an investigator-initiated phase 2 clinical trial for patients with glioblastoma. The results of the study are encouraging and compare favourably to published reports. They were presented at the conferences of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO) and the American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) in fall 2022. I have more than 90 publications in peer-reviewed journals and more than 100 abstracts and conference presentations.

Teaching has always been a passion that I pursued early in my professional activities. Thanks to the support of the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum Committee and the Department of Internal Medicine, in the early 1990's I established, for the first time at McGill, an undergraduate teaching curriculum for oncology. This was comprised of a two-week section for oncology teaching (including medical, surgical, and radiation oncology), as well as a palliative

care component. Since then, oncology teaching has become an integral part of the medical school undergraduate curriculum.

Over the years, I have actively supervised many residents and fellows in their clinical research activities and have received a number of awards for medical education and oncology from McGill and the Cedars Cancer Foundation, including the 2011 award for Teaching and Mentorship from the McGill Department of Oncology.

On the national level, I am member of the head and neck oncology scientific committee at the NRG-RTOG as well as a member of the Canadian Cancer Trials Group (CCTG) head and neck disease site committee. On the international level, I am a member of the Head and Neck Cancer International Group (HNCIG) representing McGill and Canada on two important committees: (i) Database; and (ii) Guidelines for head and neck cancer protocols. The HNCIG is comprised of international leaders in head and neck oncology whose objectives are to establish standards for current and future research as well as clinical practice in head and neck oncology.

Outside of work my interests include playing golf, listening to music and traveling.