

## **Focus on Faculty #93**

### **Ipshita Prakash**



Dr. Ipshita Prakash is an Assistant Professor of Surgery & Oncology at McGill University. She completed her general surgery residency training at McGill University as well as a master's degree in Healthcare Policy, Planning and Financing at the London School of Economics and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. In July 2020 she completed a fellowship in Breast Surgical Oncology at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Prakash was born in India and spent her formative years growing up in 5 different countries and changing schools over 15 times. She pursued her pre-medical degree, followed by her medical studies at McGill University. Her global upbringing sparked an early passion in global health issues, which became the common thread as she narrowed in on her clinical interest in surgery. During her residency, she was part of the Centre for Global Surgery, where she led several studies related to the cost of trauma care in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) as well as the development of a national surgical plan for Burundi.

Over the course of her fellowship, Dr. Prakash also developed an expertise in health services research by analysing patterns of breast cancer care in large, contemporary cohorts of breast cancer patients using national cancer databases and by studying the drivers of low value care in breast cancer patients. She eventually melded her research interest in global surgery with her clinical focus and is now an active member of the Global Breast Cancer Initiative, where she is working with other experts in the field to provide an action plan to the World Health Organization for reducing global breast cancer mortality. Dr. Prakash is also a founding member of the McGill Global Oncology Program where she is thrilled to be collaborating with a broad spectrum of global oncology experts who are dedicated to improving access to all aspects of oncology care in low-resource settings.

The progression of her academic experience has led her to develop an interest in studying financial toxicity in women with breast cancer in Canada. Despite the universal healthcare system in Canada, there is evidence that financial toxicity affects Canadian breast cancer patients, and that it is driven by inequities in social determinants of health. Dr. Prakash hopes to use the lessons learned from the Canadian healthcare systems to help improve access to breast cancer care for women in LMICs.

During her free time, Dr. Prakash likes to travel, enjoy the outdoors, spend time with her family, and cook (and eat!). She is an avid reader and is planning on taking up horseback riding in the near future.