

Focus on Faculty #99

Annie Leung



Dr. Annie Leung is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and an Associate Member of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology and the Department of Pathology at McGill. She began her training as an engineer and received a Bachelor of Applied Science in Systems Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo. It was during her co-op work placements where she discovered her passion for medicine and medical applications of her engineering skills. After spending one year at a biomedical start-up company in Toronto, she pursued medicine at the University of Toronto. She then joined McGill University for her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Before returning to McGill in 2021 as an attending gynecologic oncologist, she completed a clinical and research fellowship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University. In addition to her clinical training, she developed an expertise in cervical cancer screening and prevention, which forms the foundation of her current research program. As a clinician-scientist at the McGill University Health Centre-Research Institute, her research focus is on biomarkers and its applications in cervical cancer screening, as Quebec and other countries transition from traditional cytology to primary human papillomavirus testing. In cervical cancer prevention, she is interested in methods to improve human papillomavirus vaccine uptake and the development of educational materials for patients and healthcare professionals. She is also broadening her research into other gynecologic malignancies such as development of ovarian cancer organoid models for drug testing and understanding the role of lipid blockade in ovarian cancer pathophysiology.

Dr. Leung is an active member of the Department of Oncology's Global Oncology Program and has been developing global collaborations with other researchers in the field of cervical

cancer prevention. For example, she delivered a seminar on cervical cancer screening and prevention as part of an initiative of the nonprofit organization, BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH).

As an early career clinician-researcher, she is grateful for the support of her department as well as the multiple funding agencies which allow her to pursue her research interests. The dedication of her mentors and collaborators, as well as the rich academic environment within McGill and the MUHC-RI created a supportive and stimulating environment for this young scientist and her growing research team.

Outside the operating room, clinic, and laboratory, Dr. Leung enjoys hikes with her husband Michael in the various national and provincial parks surrounding Montreal. She also enjoys the many restaurants Montreal has to offer, particularly if seafood is involved!