

Second Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony

In October 2017 the Department held its inaugural Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony at its new headquarters at 5100 Blvd. de Maisonneuve West. This annual event is in recognition of the Department's leading patron, Gerald Bronfman, and his family.

The Second Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony was held on Monday October 15, 2018. The event began with introductory remarks by the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Associate Vice-Principal for Health Affairs at McGill, Dr. Samuel Benaroya, who thanked the Bronfman family for their generous support of the Department. This was followed by the Department Chair, Dr. Eduardo Franco, who spoke about the historical renaming of the Department and gave an update on the Department's status, before introducing the Distinguished Lecturer, **Dr. Pierre Band**.

Dr. Band trained in medical oncology at the Institut Gustave-Roussy in France before the subspecialty was created. During his long career he held a number of positions in Canada including Head of the Division of Oncology at the University of Alberta, Professor in the Department of Medicine at Université de Montréal, Director of the Recherche clinique et épidémiologique, Institut du cancer de Montréal, and Professor in the Department of Medicine at McGill. Dr. Band's talk was a fascinating trip through time and was based on his book *Therapeutic Revolution: The History of Medical Oncology From Early Days to the Creation of the Subspecialty*. He described the work of the early pioneers whose experiments and clinical innovations revolutionized cancer treatment. He talked about the early breakthroughs in the 1940's such as the use of nitrogen mustard as the first cancer chemotherapy agent, and the advent of randomized clinical trials, experiments in the 1950's showing the benefits of drug combinations in chemotherapy, the creation of cooperative oncology groups in the 1950's and the strides made in the treatment of childhood acute leukemia in the 1960's and breast cancer in the 1970's. By the early 1970's the subspecialty of medical oncology was created and this paved the way for further advances in treatment of various types of cancers.



Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Pierre Band

Following Dr. Band's Distinguished Lecture, Dr. Franco gave the audience a brief overview of the mission and structure of the Department. He then described the awards nomination and selection process and introduced the award winners, reading their citations, Dr. Benaroya presented the awards to each recipient.

The *Academic, Clinical or Research Support Award* was given to **Ms. Lina Maglieri** (nominator, Dr. Armen Aprikian). Ms. Maglieri has spent 36 years working in Oncology at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Since 2006 she has been working as Dr. Aprikian's Executive Assistant with respect to the MUHC Department of Oncology and the Cancer Care Mission. During her many years of service she has helped with a wide range of activities including research grants, administrative duties, the organization of retreats and social events, the monthly Oncology Grand Rounds and Cedars Cancer Foundation activities.

The *Teaching and Mentorship Award* was given to **Dr. Scott Owen** (nominator, Dr. Michael Thirlwell). Dr. Owen is an Assistant Professor in the Department and the Program Director for the Medical Oncology Residency Training Program. He is a medical oncologist who practices at the MUHC, both at the Cedars Cancer Center and the Montreal Neurological Hospital. His primary clinical interests focus on the treatment of lung and brain malignancies in adults.

The *Research or Clinical Service Award* was given to **Dr. Carolyn Freeman** (nominator, Dr. Tarek Hijal). Dr. Freeman is a Professor in the Department and holds the Mike Rosenbloom Chair of Radiation Oncology. In addition to her clinical duties as a radiation oncologist, Dr. Freeman is the Medical Director, Office of Quality, Patient Safety and Performance for the Cancer Care Mission at the MUHC. She is the former McGill and MUHC Director of Radiation Oncology, the former Chair of the Comité de radio-oncologie of the Direction de la lutte contre le cancer, Quebec Ministry of Health, and a Founding Member and former President of the International Paediatric Radiation Oncology Society (PROS).



Dr. Armen Aprikian, Ms. Lina Maglieri and Dr. Samuel Benaroya (Vice-Dean of Medicine)

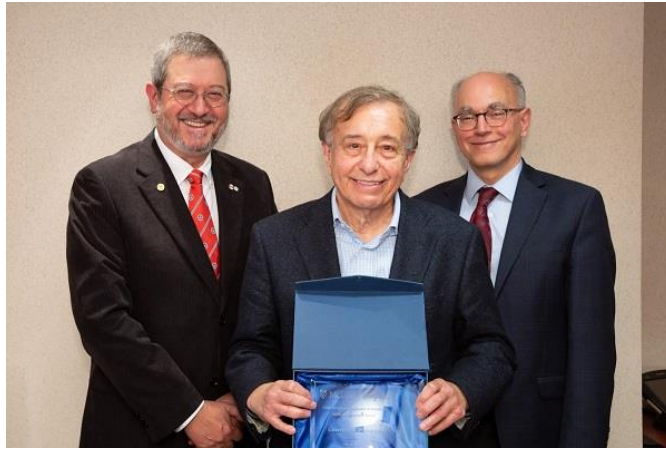


Dr. Samuel Benaroya (Vice-Dean of Medicine), Dr. Scott Owen and Dr. Michael Thirlwell



Dr. Tarek Hijal, Dr. Carolyn Freeman and Dr. Samuel Benaroya (Vice-Dean of Medicine)

The Department's *Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented to **Dr. Lawrence Panasci**, a Professor in the Department, the Director of Medical Oncology and the former Director of the Medical Oncology Residency Training Program. Dr. Panasci received a BSc in Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown University in 1968 and an MD from Georgetown University Medical School in 1972. He completed a fellowship in oncology and spent a year as an Assistant Professor at Syracuse University before joining McGill in 1980. Dr. Panasci has a successful research program on chronic lymphocytic leukemia and has supervised research trainees at the undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral level. He has published 144 papers in peer-reviewed journals, many in top journals in the field.



Dr. Eduardo Franco, Dr. Lawrence Panasci and Dr. Samuel Benaroya (Vice-Dean of Medicine)

Following the awards ceremony, Dr. Franco thanked all attendees and invited them for a wine and cheese reception in the foyer near the seminar room. He invited the award recipients and Vice-Dean Benaroya for a photo-op session at the reception area of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology.



Dr. Eduardo Franco, Dr. Scott Owen, Dr. Lawrence Panasci, Dr. Carolyn Freeman, Ms. Lina Maglieri, Dr. Samuel Benaroya (Vice-Dean of Medicine) in front of portrait of Gerald Bronfman



Dr. Scott Owen, Dr. Carolyn Freeman, Ms. Lina Maglieri and Dr. Lawrence Panasci in front of Awards Plaque