

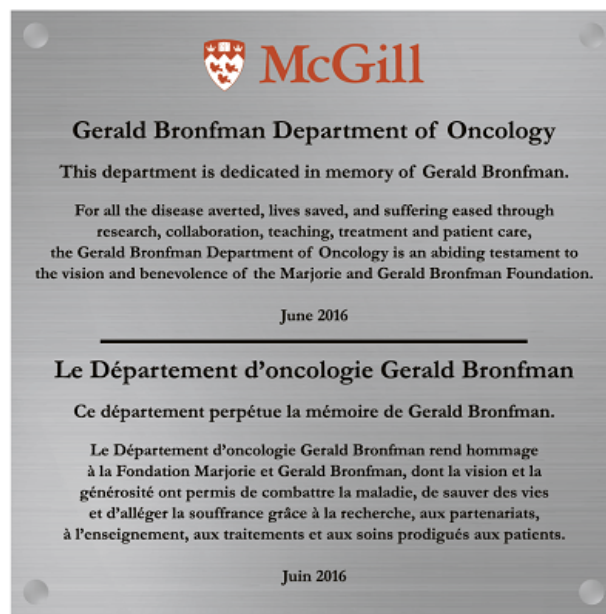


## Sixth Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony

**Celebrating More Than 30 Years of Excellence in  
Education, Research and Patient Care**



Portrait of Gerald Bronfman



Plaque dedicated to the memory of Gerald Bronfman

The Sixth Gerald Bronfman Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony was held on November 28, 2022. This annual event is in recognition of the Department's leading patron, Gerald Bronfman, and his family. After two years of holding the event virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year we were able to hold the event in-person at the Faculty Club. Dr. David Eidelman, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, acknowledged the generous support of the Bronfman family and congratulated the Department and its Chair, Dr. Eduardo Franco, for the nurturing of an innovative scientific hub that facilitates collaboration between its clinical and research programs. Dr. Franco, who is in his final year as Department Chair, acknowledged the generous support of the Bronfman family, talked about the mission of the Department and then introduced this year's Distinguished Speaker, Dr. John Ioannidis.

### **Distinguished Lecture – *Reproducible research and useful evidence in the biomedical sciences***

Dr. John Ioannidis is a Professor of Medicine and of Epidemiology and Population Health at Stanford University and serves as the Co-Director of the Meta-Research Innovation Center. He also is a member of the Stanford Cancer Center. He was born in New York City but was raised in Athens, Greece. In 1990 he graduated with an MD from the National University of Athens where he also obtained a DSc in biopathology. He continued medical training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at both Harvard

and Tufts. Before moving to Stanford in 2010, Dr. Ioannidis held positions at NIH, Johns Hopkins, and Tufts. Dr. Ioannidis has served as an Editorial Board member of many top journals including the *Lancet* and the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* and was Editor-in-Chief of the *European Journal of Clinical Investigation*. He has delivered hundreds of invited and honorary lectures, is a highly cited researcher with a Google Scholar h-index of 237 and has received numerous awards including the European Award for Excellence in Clinical Science (2007), Chanchlani Global Health Award (2017) and the Epiphany Science Courage Award (2018).

Dr. Ioannidis' talk centered around the challenges of making biomedical research more reproducible and useful. He began by discussing the paucity of transparency in research and the fact that with only a few exceptions, most publications worldwide do not share their data nor have registered protocols that allow their methods, results and/or interpretations to be reproduced. 'Small' and 'big' data research approaches are prone to challenges that make findings both difficult to replicate and to translate into clinical utility, whether due to underpowered sample sizes in the former or a lack of clarity on what is being shared in the latter. Although statistically significant results can be achieved, these do not always translate into clinically meaningful results with, for example, only null or minimal effects being reported for the most popular cardiovascular biomarkers. Dr. Ioannidis further elaborated that of the studies that can be reproduced, only a fraction of original effect estimates' magnitudes can be achieved and that a very small minority of published meta-analyses are useful and correctly conducted. Despite these challenges and the reality that useful research remains a largely unmet goal, Dr. Ioannidis concluded with the hopeful suggestions that we need to change the reward system for science and that new measures for quality, translational impact, clinical utility, and reproducibility are needed and should be at the heart of criteria for academic promotion and tenure.



Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. John Ioannidis

## Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony included the presentation of four Merit Awards: (i) Academic, Clinical or Research Support, (ii) Teaching and Mentorship, (iii) Clinical Service and Innovation and (iv) Research as well as the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **(i) Departmental Merit Awards**

The *Academic, Clinical or Research Support Award* was given to **Ms. Stephanie Larocque** (nominator, Dr. Joanne Alfieri). Ms. Larocque is the Associate Director of Administrative Excellence Centre-7 (AEC-7) at McGill. Prior to this she served as the Student Affairs Officer for AEC-7. As Student Affairs Officer Ms. Larocque supervised the administrative staff for the Department's educational programs including the Medical, Radiation and Surgical Oncology Residency Training Programs, the MORE series and the Graduate Diploma in Oncology. As the Associate Director of AEC-7 she has assisted with a range of departmental administrative matters. Ms. Larocque is always ready and eager to provide hands-on assistance helping in any way she can to help keep department initiatives running smoothly. Ms. Larocque had a previous history with the Department when from 2010-2013 she worked as a secretary and then regulatory affairs coordinator for the Clinical Research Program. During this time her work was so highly valued that the Program recognized her as Employee of the Year in 2012.

The *Teaching and Mentorship Award* was given to **Dr. Zeev Rosberger** (nominator, Dr. Samara Perez). Dr. Rosberger is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychology, Psychiatry and Oncology at McGill. He was Chief of the Psychology Department at the Jewish General Hospital (1994-2017) and Chief of the Louise Granofsky Psychosocial Oncology Program at the Segal Cancer Centre, Jewish General Hospital (2006-2017). For 20 years (1994-2014) he taught a course on critical thinking in psychotherapy. Dr. Rosberger has supervised undergraduate, master's and doctoral students as well as postdoctoral fellows and pre-doctoral clinical psychology interns and is a very highly regarded mentor by many of his students. Dr. Rosberger was presented with the Award of Excellence from the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology in 2006 and was elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association in 2017.

The *Research Award* was given to **Dr. Luke McCaffrey** (nominator, Dr. Morag Park). Dr. McCaffrey is an Associate Professor at the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Institute and the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology. He currently serves as the Graduate Program Director in the Department of Oncology overseeing the Graduate Diploma in Oncology. Dr. McCaffrey's research program focuses on epithelial development and function, stem cell biology and cancer progression. Through his development and use of cutting-edge experimental models and his eagerness to work across disciplines and boundaries, Dr. McCaffrey's research has illuminated the molecular basis of the relationship between form and function during the development of epithelial tissues and how this is altered during carcinogenesis. Dr. McCaffrey has received Fonds de Recherche du Québec- Santé (FRQ-S) Junior 1 and Junior 2 salary awards and currently holds the FRQ-S Senior salary award. He has received grants from several granting agencies in Canada and has published in a number of prestigious journals in the field.

The *Clinical Service and Innovation Award* was given to **Dr. Sarkis Meterissian** (nominator, Dr. Armen Aprikian). Dr. Meterissian is a Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Oncology at McGill University and a surgical oncologist at the McGill University Health Centre. He received his MDCM degree and completed an MSc degree in Experimental Surgery at McGill University. In addition to Dr. Meterissian's contributions to teaching and training, including serving as the Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education and Professional Affairs (2007-2014) he has made important contributions in clinical service and innovation. He developed the Breast Centre at the Royal Victoria Hospital which has served as a model for others across Quebec and Canada. He is the Clinical Director of the Programme Québécois de Cancerologie level 4 supraregional multidisciplinary team at the MUHC, the co-lead of the Rossy Cancer Network breast site group and a member of the McPeak Sirois Breast Cancer Research consortium. He developed the Breast Cancer Wellness Program, attending to survivorship needs of women with breast cancer as well as being actively engaged in its fundraising endeavours. Dr. Meterissian received the Physician of the Year award

from the MUHC in 2017 and has served as President of the Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology, President of the Canadian Association of University Surgeons, and President of Breast Surgery International-International Surgical Society.



Dr. Joanne Alfieri, Ms. Stephanie Larocque, Dr. David Eidelman



Dr. Samara Perez, Dr. Zeev Rosberger, Dr. David Eidelman



Dr. Morag Park, Dr. Luke McCaffrey, Dr. David Eidelman



Dr. Armen Aprikian, Dr. Sarkis Meterissian, Dr. David Eidelman

### (iii) Lifetime Achievement Award

The Department's *Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented to **Dr. Abraham Fuks**. Dr. Fuks received a BSc degree (1968) and an MDCM degree (1970) from McGill University. After completing residency training in internal medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital and clinical immunology at the Montreal General Hospital, he did postdoctoral research training at McGill University (with Dr. Phil Gold) and subsequently at Harvard University. His postdoctoral studies focused on human tumour antigens and histocompatibility antigens. In 1978 he was appointed as an Assistant Professor at McGill and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1984 and Full Professor in 1991. In addition, in 1984 he became an Associate Physician at the Montreal General Hospital. Dr. Fuks served as Acting Director of the McGill Cancer Centre from 1984 to 1987, and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1995 to 2006. He is currently a member of the Departments of Medicine, Pathology and Oncology.

Over his long career Dr. Fuks has been involved in the teaching and training of medical students on topics such as immunology, physiology, oncology, clinical research and research ethics. He served as Chair of the Institutional Review Board at McGill, which sparked his interest in clinical trials and ethics and led to a collaboration which resulted in the creation of the Clinical Trials Research Group. Following a sabbatical in the Department of Social Medicine at Harvard, Dr. Fuks became actively involved in collaborative work with McGill colleagues in Biomedical Ethics and Social Studies of Medicine.

Dr. Fuks has given invited presentations locally, nationally and internationally and has served on many committees both within McGill and externally. For example, he served as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Research at the National Cancer Institute (1990-1993), President of Martinex Science Inc (1991-1995), Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the McGill University Health Centre (1996), President of the Conférence des doyens des facultés de médecines du Québec (1998-1999, 2002), President of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges (2003-2004) and Chair of the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (2008-2014). He has over 120 publications in peer-reviewed journals and a number of books, book chapters and invited articles. Finally, Dr. Fuks is a recipient of both the Queen Elizabeth Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals (2002 and 2012 respectively) and he became a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2005 and a Member of the Order of Canada in 2018.



Dr. Eduardo Franco, Dr. Abraham Fuks, Dr. David Eidelman



Dr. Eduardo Franco, Dr. Luke McCaffrey, Dr. Sarkis Meterissian, Ms. Stephanie Larocque  
Dr. Abraham Fuks, Dr. Zeev Rosberger, Dr. John Ioannidis, Dr. David Eidelman