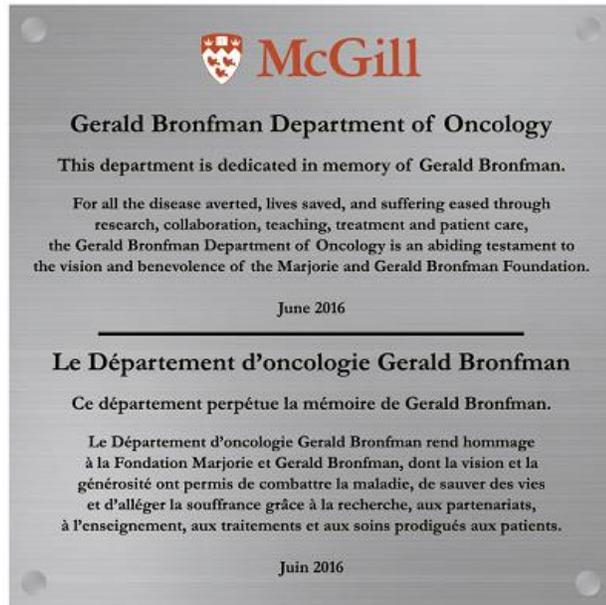




Third Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony



Portrait of Gerald Bronfman



Plaque dedicated to the memory of Gerald Bronfman

The Third Gerald Bronfman Distinguished Lecture and Awards Ceremony was held on October 7, 2019 at the Department's 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 event began with introductory remarks from the Vice-Dean of Academic Affairs in the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Lesley Fellows, followed by the introduction of the Distinguished Lecturer by the Department Chair, Dr. Eduardo Franco.

In 2018 the Distinguished Lecturer was Dr. Pierre Band who gave a history of the field of medical oncology from its early days to the creation of the subspecialty. Continuing on the theme of the history of cancer treatment, this year's Distinguished Lecturer was **Dr. Richard Margolese** whose own long and distinguished career as a breast cancer surgeon made him the ideal person to give a history of breast cancer treatment from the early days of radical mastectomy to the advent of rational targeted therapies using biologics.

Dr. Margolese has been a Professor in the McGill Departments of Oncology and Surgery since 1971 and was the inaugural Herbert Black Chair in Surgical Oncology. He was the former director of the Department of Oncology at the Jewish General Hospital and is a leader in the design and implementation of clinical trials of breast conserving surgery, adjuvant therapies and the Breast Cancer Prevention Trial. He has been the Chairman of the Treatment Committee of the Breast Cancer Task Force at the National Cancer Institute in the US and is Past-President of the National Cancer Institute of Canada. In 1994 he was awarded the prestigious O. Harold Warwick Prize from the Canadian Cancer Society and in 1997 he was inducted as a Member of the Order of Canada. In 2011 he was the recipient of the Department's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The theme of Dr. Margolese's talk was "things change". Just like telephones evolved from the black rotary phone to the touch-tone phone in many shapes and sizes to the ubiquitous cell phone, so too has cancer treatment changed resulting in improved outcomes. Between 1900 and 1970 surgery was the only treatment for breast cancer. Between 1970 and 1980 the use of surgery decreased as chemotherapy became a viable option for the management of breast cancer. In the 1990's as chemotherapy treatments for breast cancer evolved, there was a further decline in breast cancer surgery. In the 2000's the advent of biologics turned the tide even further away from surgery as well as from chemotherapy. Dr. Margolese walked the audience through the studies that helped bring about these changes in management of the disease. He began with the 1907 publication of William Stewart Halsted in the Annals of Surgery describing radical mastectomy to manage breast cancer. Between 1895 and 1970 there was no difference in cure rates between radical mastectomy, extended mastectomy and super radical mastectomy. The creation of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) facilitated the conduct of clinical trials to test different treatment modalities such as combining total mastectomy with lymph node surgery or radiation therapy. NSABP trials initially focused on surgery and radiotherapy, improving local control but not cure rate. However, with the use of adjuvant chemotherapy, cure rates increased from 70% to 85%. The success of clinical trials using chemotherapies and biologics resulted in a paradigm shift where surgery became the adjuvant treatment for breast cancer. Currently there is an increasing emphasis on chemotherapy combinations and biologics such as Herceptin, with de-emphasis on surgery, node dissection and radiotherapy.



Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Richard Margolese

Following Dr. Margolese's Distinguished Lecture, Dr. Franco expressed appreciation to the Bronfman family for their generous support of the Department and gave the audience a brief overview of the mission and structure of the Department. The Awards Ceremony was divided into three parts: (i) presentation of the three Kuok Fellowships (Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology & Rossy Cancer Network's Cancer Quality and Innovation Program); (ii) presentation of the three Merit Awards; and (iii) presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Franco explained the awards nomination and selection process and then introduced each of the award winners.

Dr. Ari Meguerditchian, Department member and Cancer Quality and Innovation Lead of the Rossy Cancer Network, presented the Kuok Fellowship awards to three M.Sc. students:

- **Ms. Ankita Ghatak** (supervised by Dr. Nicole Ezer) for the project entitled, *Clinical predictors of lung cancer outcomes using novel data sets, not traditionally used in prognostication of lung cancer outcomes.*

- **Mr. Kenneth Drummond** (supervised by Dr. Lorenzo Ferri) for the project entitled, *Protective potential of prehabilitation; with an interest in enhancing patient physiological capacity and functional status in esophageal cancer care.*
- **Ms. Sarah Mackay** (supervised by Dr. Annett Körner) for the project entitled, *Investigating current evidence-based practices in psycho-oncology programs in hospitals across Canada.*



(left to right) Dr. Ari Meguerditchian and Ankita Ghatak, Kenneth Drummond, and Sarah Mackay

The three merit awards in the categories of Academic, Clinical or Research Support; Teaching and Mentorship; and Research or Clinical Service, were presented by Dr. Lesley Fellows while Dr Franco read their citations:

The *Academic, Clinical or Research Support Award* was given to **Ms. Jacqueline Vachon** (nominator, Dr. Carmen Loiselle). Ms. Vachon has a BA Magna Cum Laude in Psychology and an MSc degree in Clinical Psychology. She has experience in research management in various fields of study including oncology, neurodegenerative diseases and cardiac surgery. As a Research Officer she oversees the financial management, staff supervision, protocol development, database management and grant submissions of the various multidisciplinary research projects in Dr. Loiselle's unit.

The *Teaching and Mentorship Award* was given to **Dr. Tamim Niazi** (nominator, Dr. Khalil Sultanem). Dr. Niazi is an Associate Professor in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology's Division of Radiation Oncology and serves as Research Director for the Radiation Oncology Residency Training Program. He is a radiation oncologist at the Jewish General Hospital and his primary clinical expertise is genitourinary malignancies, particularly prostate cancer. He is Chair of the Quebec Genitourinary Radiation Oncology Group (GROU-Q) and executive member of the Clinical Trials Committee (CTC) of the National Cancer Institute of Canada's, Canadian Cancer Trials Group (NCIC-CCTG).

The *Research or Clinical Service Award* was given to **Dr. Jan Seuntjens** (nominator, Dr. Tarek Hijal). Dr. Seuntjens is a James McGill Professor in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology and Director of the Medical Physics Unit. He is known internationally for his research in medical physics and is the founder of the International Workshops on Monte Carlo Techniques. He is coauthor of the new edition of Attix's classic textbook on radiation dosimetry (*Fundamentals of Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry* by Pedro Andreo, David T. Burns, Alan E. Nahum, Jan Seuntjens, Frank Herbert Attix. Wiley. 2017). Dr. Seuntjens is the recipient of two Farrington Daniels awards from the American Association of Physicists in Medicine and two Sylvia Fedoruk prizes from the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists.



Dr. Lesley Fellows, Jacqueline Vachon and Dr. Carmen Loiselle



Dr. Lesley Fellows, Dr. Tamim Niazi and
Dr. Tarek Hijal (replacing Dr. Khalil Sultanem)



Dr. Lesley Fellows, Dr. Jan Seuntjens and Dr. Tarek Hijal

The Department's *Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented to **Dr. Antoine Loutfi**, an Associate Professor in the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology and the Department of Surgery, and a surgeon at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). Dr. Loutfi's main interests have been clinical research in breast cancer and melanoma as well as the organization of cancer care services. He has been an active member in the NSABP clinical trials, which have been instrumental in setting new guidelines for the treatment of breast cancer. In 1986 he participated in the development and conduct of multicenter melanoma surgical trials that established new treatment standards.

Furthermore, he led the assessment of new technologies, such as a new implantable device for venous access, the "port-a-cath", was the first MUHC surgeon to implant one and developed an instructional video on the technique. Dr. Loutfi has served as Program Director of the Surgical Oncology Fellowship and as a member of the Royal College specialty committee in surgical oncology.

In 2004 he was appointed as the first director of the Direction de la lutte contre le cancer of the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux (MSSS) where he implemented a five-year cancer control plan that led to several improvements in cancer care. In 2012, he was awarded the Prix reconnaissance de la Direction Québécoise de Cancérologie of the MSSS. On the international front he spent three years in Ethiopia developing a training program in surgical emergencies for general practitioners and taught surgery in Uganda and Rwanda.



Dr. Lesley Fellows, Dr. Antoine Loutfi and Dr. Eduardo Franco

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



Dr. Lesley Fellows, Dr. Richard Margolese, Dr. Antoine Loutfi, Jacqueline Vachon, Dr. Tamim Niazi, Dr. Jan Seuntjens and Dr. Eduardo Franco at the reception area of the department.



Dr. Tamim Niazi, Dr. Jan Seuntjens, Jacqueline Vachon and Dr. Antoine Loutfi in front of the awards plaque.



Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology Awards Plaque