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Montreal, October 26, 2015

Six recipients of the Rossy Cancer Network's 2015 CQI Research Fund announced!

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2015 recipients of the Rossy Cancer Network's Cancer Quality & Innovation (CQI) Research Fund.

These innovative grants support advancements in cancer care quality research by funding projects that rigorously evaluate the benefits of continuous improvement projects in cancer care.

"We are extremely proud to be injecting close to half a million dollars into cancer care quality research in the McGill University-affiliated hospitals. This is applied research on the front lines of care. The grants allow us to turn cancer clinics into live labs of innovation," explained Dr. Ari Meguerditchian, the CQI Program Lead. "In addition to contributing to the science of health services research, the projects will generate data enabling the RCN hospitals to implement quality improvement initiatives that have a demonstrated impact."

This year, the RCN will fund \$460,000, enabling the completion of six projects. The grants will impact a number of different cancers, from lung to colorectal, head and neck, hematological as well as cancer pain management.

This initiative builds on the exceptional pool of expertise across the partners that make up the Rossy Cancer Network (RCN) — the McGill University Health Centre, the Jewish General Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital Center, and the McGill Faculty of Medicine — with each project team including members from at least two network hospitals.

"These projects support the RCN's goals of providing world-leading care to all patients in the network," stated Dr. Wilson H. Miller Jr, the RCN's Clinical Lead. "They provide a rigorous framework to assess quality improvement initiatives and to help transfer this knowledge across the McGill-affiliated hospitals."

The 2015 CQI Research Grant recipients are (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Sarit Assouline and her team will be evaluating how health care professionals adhere to treatment guidelines in the management of chronic myeloid leukemia — a patient population where adherence can critically impact life expectancy.

Dr. Franco Carli and his team will assess whether pre-habilitating frail elderly cancer patients before colorectal surgery will reduce post-operative complications that can severely affect their quality of life and impact on the recurrence of their cancer.



Dr. Jeffrey Chankowsky and his team will evaluate how cutting-edge imaging biomarkers can help create personalized cancer care, with highly targeted treatments and improved outcomes for HPV-positive patients with oropharyngeal cancer.

Dr. Reza Forghani and his team will investigate whether the use of state-of-the-art imaging techniques will better predict tumor type, prognosis, and help select more individualized therapy for patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.

Dr. Jordi Perez and his team will gauge whether the addition of ultra-low dose methadone to conventional opioid therapy can improve pain management and reduce side effects for cancer patients with moderate to severe pain.

Dr. Jana Taylor and her team will use texture imaging, an emerging technique, to guide effective targeted therapy and improve outcomes for patients with non-small cell lung carcinoma, who generally present with advanced stage cancer.

Please join us in wishing a warm congratulations to this year's recipients!

Dr. Wilson H. Miller, Jr.
Clinical Lead, Rossy Cancer Network

Dr. Ari Meguerditchian
Program Lead, Cancer Quality & Innovation, Rossy Cancer Network