

The GOC News

Volume 2 Issue 2
Fall 2002

GOC MEMBER DR. REJEAN SAVOIE LAUNCHES TELEONCOLOGY PROGRAM

By Elizabeth Waite, National Coordinator

GOC is proud to have provided support to Dr. Rejean Savoie in establishing a cervical cancer screening program in New Brunswick over the past two years.

In April 2001, the Government of Canada announced a \$1.2 million grant to the Beauséjour Regional Health Authority for a telemedicine pilot project in oncology. The official launch of the program took place on September 26, 2002.

Using health information and communications technologies, the goal of the

project is to develop an efficient, comprehensive screening system for cervical cancer in New Brunswick to reduce the disease's incidence and mortality rates. It is being implemented in five regions across the province: south-eastern New Brunswick, Miramichi, Bathurst, Big Cove and the Acadian Peninsula, as well as Campbellton. The project is funded through the Canada Health Infrastructure Partnerships Program.

Screening clinics have been opened in every participating region. Technologies used in the project include a central system to register every woman

who obtains a Pap test, thus creating a database that would allow identification of the regions at risk and establishment of a call-recall system. This central registry database also enables hospitals to analyze useful and pertinent patient information and may serve for other programs such as the breast screening services.

In addition, an e-consult software was created that enables gynecolo-

gists to send an electronic request for consult to a gynecologist, including patient demographics, history, request form, and images taken from a colposcope. This system will demonstrate how medical professionals can use technology in order to give a better service to the patient by eliminating unnecessary traveling and having access to a specialist at a distance. The software focuses on the efficacy of making information available to the caregiver in a telemedicine environment without compromising patient confidentiality and is unique in its capacity to integrate new data with the existing medical record.

Also available are high tech colposcopy systems used to perform colposcopies at a remote site, enabling caregivers to store images and transmit them to a referring site. The Wellness Network ensures that rural and urban regions in New Brunswick have access to a fibre optic network with a bandwidth large enough to accommodate a variety of telemedicine applications.

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Announcements

- Abstracts for ACM 2003 due December 20, 2002
- Dr. Diane Provencher President-Elect 2004

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Celebrating the launch of the Teleoncology Project: Dr. Joan Murphy, GOC Past-President; the Honourable Anne McLellan, Federal Minister of Health; the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Federal Minister of Labour; Dr. Rejean Savoie, Director of the Teleoncology Project

RUN FOR HER LIFE 1ST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!



By Elizabeth Waite, GOC National Coordinator

The first annual GOC Run For Her Life fun run took off like a shot on June 22, 2002 during GOC's 23rd Annual Clinical Meeting in Winnipeg.

Many of us at GOC, having never been involved in planning a run before, looked forward to the date with excitement mingled with more than a little trepidation. After all, it was scheduled for Sunday morning at 6:30, our original route was under water due to the heavy rains Winnipeg had been receiving of late, and we weren't sure how many members could actually complete the course. We need not have worried, however, as GOC members

turned out in full force along with several SOGC members and many concerned and caring Winnipeggers and corporate sponsors.

We are pleased to be able to donate all proceeds of the run, totaling more than \$3,300.00, to the National Ovarian Cancer Association and to Ovarian Cancer Canada, this year's designated recipients.

Thanks go to Lenka Kimla at GlaxoSmithKline for sponsoring the event, to folks at the Running Room in Winnipeg for assistance in planning the route, and to Drs. Stuart and Murphy for spearheading the project and for arranging to have vests made with the Run For Her Life logo. Thank you to Dr. Lotocki and his family for publicizing the run and for assisting runners, to Chantal Lacasse for designing the posters and brochures, and to Dr. Val Capstick for coming up with a



GOC Members don their vests in preparation for GOC's First Annual Run For Her Life fun run.

catchy name. Most of all, we thank each and every one of the more than 80 runners and walkers who supported ovarian cancer research. Plans are currently in full swing for next year's fun run in Charlottetown, P.E.I. and we anticipate an even greater turnout!

23RD ANNUAL CLINICAL MEETING A SUCCESS

By Dr. Peter Bryson, ACM Program Officer

GOC's 23rd Annual Scientific meeting took place at the Winnipeg Convention Centre June 21-23, 2002. Thanks to all the hard work by the Program Committee members the meeting was once again a success. A special thanks goes to our host members, Dr. Bob Lotocki, Dr. Garry Krepert, Dr. Mark Heywood and Dr. Paula Rittenberg, for volunteering their time to make us feel at home.

On Friday, June 21, GOC played a role in the SCC scientific meeting by participating in the initiation of a consensus process that will lead to adapting for the Canadian scene, the new Bethesda Screening Guidelines for abnormal cervical cytology. Dr. Joan Murphy addressed the Canadian Colposcopy Society with the proposal that such a consensus process needs to start immediately and be an example of academic cooperation between the two Societies towards a common goal.

On Friday evening we headed off to Dubrovnik's Restaurant for our annual dinner. Many pictures of the event are currently posted on the website. A local jazz band, Native singing, Ukrainian, Native and ballroom dancing entertained us during the evening.

The scientific portion of the meeting took place Saturday and part of Sunday morning with an excellent variety of abstracts and two symposia and was very well attended. Our guest speakers were Dr. Tom Wright (Royal College Speaker) from Columbia University in New York, Dr. Joan Walker from the University of Oklahoma and Dr. Lesley Seymour from NCIC, Kingston, Ontario.

Abstracts were adjudicated and awards handed out on Sunday morning at the business meeting. First prize went to Dr. Helen Steed (Calgary) for "A randomized controlled trial of early versus traditional postoperative oral intake on length of hospital stay." Second prize went to Dr. Laurie Elit (Hamilton) for "Outcomes for surgery for ovarian cancer," and third prize went to Dr. Rachel Kupets (Toronto) for "Do physicians follow guidelines for the management of abnormal Pap smears?" Thanks go to GlaxoSmithKline for sponsoring these awards.

Substantial progress was made in many areas at the Annual Business Meeting. Dr. Joan Murphy gave the first Presidential Address to the Society. It was a moving account of the

current state of the Society, how we got where we are and what challenges are before us. Joan passed on the gauntlet and plaque to Dr. Bob Lotocki for the next two years. Dr. Diane Provencher from Montreal was unanimously chosen as President-Elect 2004.

The program ended with an International Symposium on Endometrial Cancer, organized and moderated by Dr. Val Capstick from Edmonton. Dr. Capstick, Dr. Gavin Stuart (Calgary) and Dr.

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Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung, GOC Secretary-Treasurer, on left and Dr. Joan Murphy, GOC Past-President on right with abstract winners from left Dr. Laurie Elit (Hamilton), Dr. Rachel Kupets (Toronto), and Dr. Helen Steed (Calgary).

23RD ACM

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Bob Pearcey (Edmonton) presented information identifying the current controversy around surgical staging to a packed room of over 200.

Next year's annual meeting will be in

Charlottetown, PEI, June 28-29. Abstract submissions are due December 20, 2002.

The SOGC/GOC core-planning committee met in Ottawa on September 25-26, 2002 to begin plans for the 2003 conference. Suggestions for the Charlottetown meeting are welcome and may be forwarded to Elizabeth

In Memoriam.....

Members were saddened by the sudden death of **Dr. Ev Sargeant**, a founding member of GOC and great contributor to the education and development of many gynecologists currently practicing in Canada. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Call for Abstracts

GOC 24th Annual Scientific Meeting

June 28-29, 2003
Charlottetown, PEI

Deadline for Submission: December 20, 2002

For an application or further information, please contact
Elizabeth Waite at:

ewaite@sogc.com or at
1-800-561-2416/613-730-4192 x 250

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS



Dr. Joan Murphy addressed GOC members at the First Presidential Address at the 23rd Annual Business Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you to give the first of what we have rather auspiciously labeled "the presidential address."

The most significant development during my tenure is establishment of the National Office within SOGC head office in Ottawa, complete with a National Director.... We have previously "made do" with little or no administrative support...and Elizabeth's work has made a world of difference....Michael Fung Kee Fung has literally redefined the GOC and for his vision, determination, perseverance and energy in the cause of making the GOC the "Voice of

Women's Cancer in Canada" the Society...has much for which to thank him. ...

We have consciously "branded" everything that is ours since we established the GOC logo, and ever more rigorously in the past two years.... I encourage you to take up that cause at every opportunity...the rewards will be many.

We now have a website and one of which I am proud. It is beautiful and we have Chantal Lacasse to thank for it. But we need it populated with content and activity that can only come from you, the members. It holds the member's directory and GOC event information, there are regular web-bulletins associated with it and information for consumers including relevant links....

Your Society was officially represented at the NIH/Bethesda consensus conference, at the National Cancer Strategy process, and of course at the Canadian Ovarian Cancer Research Conference. We will have a strong GOC contingent in Seoul at the IGCS...We initiated the first annual "Run for Her Life" this morning....We have presented to you today an amendment to our by-laws that will allow our international colleagues, most of whom will have trained in a Canadian center, to participate in GOC to the extent that geography will allow. Such initiatives can hopefully address the CPD needs of such colleagues, perhaps provide a forum for them to bring their issues and to establish strategic relationships and offer opportunities for our Canadian members to pursue their objectives in International Health.

All of our activities are designed to establish opportunities for individuals and groups within the Society to demonstrate leadership in our chosen field of medicine. Seizing such leadership opportunities will improve patient care and can provide career development and satisfaction for our members....A more generic issue is that of personal and emotional health, primarily work and family balance....We have much to learn from the "new generation" of physicians about finding the balance that will keep us whole and healthy while allowing for career satisfaction and success....

While it has been a challenging time for our society and for me it has also been a pleasure and a great privilege to serve as your president. I thank you for your trust, your patience and your friendship—all of which are important to me. I hope I have deserved it and I look forward to assisting Bob in any way possible.

Dr. Robert Lotocki of St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg took over as GOC President in June 2002. Dr. Lotocki, a long time member of GOC, has been a loyal supporter and participant in the society for many years and members look forward to assisting him in his new role on the Executive. Good luck to you, Bob, as you guide us into a new and exciting two year phase of growth and development!



Dr. Murphy presents the presidential plaque to Dr. Robert Lotocki, GOC's new President.

PRESIDENT-ELECT 2004: DR. DIANE PROVENCHER

By Dr. Joan Murphy, Past-President



Dr. Diane Provencher

The GOC Nominating Committee was pleased to have unanimous support both at our June Executive Council meeting and at the Annual General Business meeting for its nomination of Dr.

Diane Provencher to the position of President-Elect 2004.

Dr. Provencher graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Montreal and pursued her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at McGill University. She then worked at the Montreal General Hospital and at Ste-Mary's Hospital as an Assistant Professor at McGill University for two years under the direction of Dr. R.A.H. Kinch. She then completed a two year Gyn-Oncology Fellowship at Jackson Memorial Hospital, University of Miami, under the supervision of Dr. Hervy E. Averette, one of the founding members of Gyn-Oncology in the USA. During this time she received her certification from the American OB-GYN Sub-Specialty Board (Gyn-Oncology). From 1988 to 1990,

Dr. Provencher pursued a fundamental research training in immunology and ovarian cancer within the Avon Program for Ovarian Cancer at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York under the supervision of Dr. John L. Lewis Jr. and Dr. Kenneth O. Loyd. Since 1990, she has worked at Notre-Dame Hospital and at the Insitut du Cancer de Montréal, both of which are now part of the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal. She has been an Associate Professor since 1996 and Chercheure Clinicienne. She divides her time and efforts between clinical gyn-oncology including breast pathologies and fundamental research studying molecular aspects of ovarian cancer in collaboration with several researchers including Drs. A. M. Mes-Masson and P.T. Tonin and this research benefits from peer reviewed support. Dr. Provencher is the recipient of an FRSQ chercheure clinicienne senior five year award. She is a founding member and the principal physician of the Clinique des Cancers Familiaux du CHUM. As of August 2001, she is now Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology of the CHUM. She is a member of several medical societies and participates in several national and international committees.

We are all extremely pleased that Dr. Provencher has agreed to accept the role of President 2004. Her leadership will be of great benefit to the Society.

GOC'S FUTURE - WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU!

By Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung, Secretary-Treasurer

GOC has had an exciting year of projects as we continue to grow and increase our relevance both to society at large and to members. The key to our success is the participation of members on committees and project areas such as:

1. Quality of Life Questionnaire. This questionnaire will provide GOC with a baseline of working conditions among gyn-oncologists in Canada.
2. Educational Assessment. Completion of educational assessment is important in assisting with planning for the CPD meeting and educational events.
3. Committees. Participation in the current standing committees and in newly formed committees will keep our society active and relevant.
4. Website. Submission of content and comments regarding general improvements and areas to develop are strongly encouraged.
5. Technology. Ideas for keeping the gynecologic oncology care community alive and e-connected are welcome.
6. ACM and CPD Meetings. We need your participation!

WEBSITE NEWS

By Chantal Lacasse, Webmaster

We are pleased to welcome on board the website editorial team, our new website Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Tien Le.

Working with co-editors Dr. Robert Grimshaw and Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung, we look forward to Dr. Le's fresh ideas and input as we seek to keep our website up-to-date and to initiate some changes to the site. Our goal is to keep the site in the forefront as a source of information and knowledge to the public and to our membership on issues concerning gynecologic cancer.

We hope to see many more members contributing to the site and to our upcoming projects about which you will hear more in future issues of the newsletter.

**Visit our
website at
www.g-o-c.org!**

Thank You from Ovarian Cancer Survivors Community

A short note to say a very large thank you—publicly—to Dr. Jeffrey for his outstanding presentation at our community event last evening—"Awareness is Best."

After last night's seminar, I thought back over the past two years or so about.....the support that you [professionals] have given our community of ovarian cancer women. It is timely for this to be communicated to you. Ovarian cancer women and their families understand your time constraints and greatly appreciate your contributions to our public awareness forums.

Thank you.

*Sandi Pniauskas
Ovarian Cancer Survivor*

NEWS FROM OUR CENTRES

Vancouver

- Gynecology Tumour Group and the Division of Gyn-Oncology have launched a coordinated effort to support and enhance ovarian cancer research in Vancouver involving researchers from UBC, BCCA, VGH and Children's and Women's Hospitals. Achievements so far have been the development of an ovarian tissue bank, a gene array facility and a tissue array facility. They hope to establish a tissue culture lab and ultimately fund a chair in Ovarian Cancer Research at UBC.

Hamilton

- Residents voted to award the H.R. Morgan Award for "Excellence in Surgical Teaching" to Drs. John Mazurka, Francois Moens and Laurie Elit.
- An evening educational series on ovarian cancer has been organized. Drs. Elit and Moens will provide lectures on *ovarian cancer surgery* while Drs. Hirte and Elit will lecture on *What's New in the Adjuvant Treatment of Ovarian Cancer*.
- Interact has been completed for Burlington-Oakville and Cambridge-Guelph. Niagara Falls-St. Catherines-Welland and Brantford-Hamilton will be carried out this fall.

St. John's

- Province-wide physician withdrawal of services ended on October 18th after a 17 day strike. The government and the doctors have agreed to undergo arbitration. Family doctor and private offices were closed, and only emergency care was provided during the strike. At the Newfoundland Cancer Treatment Research Foundation, clinics were limited to those patients on active cancer treatment and to urgent new patients. Medical, radiation and gynecologic oncologists in the province represent a key group to benefit or suffer from the outcome of this job action, as this young newly-recruited group sees many more patients than their counterparts nationally and are being paid 40–60% of the salaries.

Ottawa

- Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung has been appointed to the Quality Committee for Surgical Oncology for the province of Ontario.
- Lynn Jolicoeur (GOC Member) is doing her masters in nursing. Her work will study the use of decision-making aids in ovarian cancer.

Kingston

- Initiative by CCO and Ontario government to integrate regional cancer centres and host hospitals is moving forward in Kingston. Disease site teams have been set up to incorporate previously separate clinical care groups in all disease sites. Surgical oncology will play a larger role in the organization.

Alberta

- Dr. Val Capstick has been named 'Teacher of the Year' for the University of Alberta class of 2003. The reproductive block coordinated by Dr. Capstick has been selected as the faculty 'block of the year.'

Toronto

- Dr. Denny DePetrillo has been appointed provincial coordinator of the new Community Cancer Care Program at Cancer Care Ontario.
- Fellows Dr. Johanne Weberpals (McGill), Dr. Christopher Giede (Saskatoon), Dr. Katherina Kieser (Halifax) and Dr. Helen Steed (Calgary) began their fellowships in Toronto in July 2002.

Quebec

- Dr. Marie Plante recently presented on the role of sentinel node in gyn malignancies at the Annual Day of the Department of Ob-Gyn. She also presented a mini-symposium on the role of sentinel node in cervical cancer at the Society of Memorial Gynecologic Oncology in New York.
- Dr. Plante recently presented on the guidelines for the management of women with familial breast-ovary cancer at a Symposium on Breast Cancer in Quebec City.
- In September Dr. Michel Roy presented at the 2nd Congress on Ovarian Cancer in Clermont-Ferrand, France on CO₂ vs. gasless laparoscopy. He also presented on laparoscopy in cervical cancer and colposcopy of the vagina at the meeting of the International College of Imaging in Gynecology, Dublin.
- Dr. Roy will present in October at the HPV 2002 meeting in Paris on digital colposcopy and is an invited guest speaker at the meeting of the Ob-Gyn department, Centre Universitaire Vanois, Lausanne, Switzerland on VIN (diagnostic and treatment).
- Dr. Plante has been nominated to the Search Committee for a new chief of Ob-Gyn at Laval and has been appointed member of the Executive Committee of the Society of Memorial Gynecologic Oncology.

Montreal

- Dr Philippe Gauthier s'est mérité le prix du Meilleur professeur de l'année 2001-2002 du département d'obstétrique et gynécologie, décerné par les résidents
- Nous accueillons deux nouveaux Fellows cet automne, Dr. Alobaid de l'Arabie Saoudite et Dr. Frédéric Goffin de Belgique.



20 Years of Excellence in Women's Cancer Care

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- 9th Biennial IGCS Meeting - October 20 - 24, 2002 - Seoul, Korea
- GOG - January 17-19, 2003 - Savannah, GA
- SGO Annual Meeting - January 31-February 4, 2003 - New Orleans, LA
- GOC's 3rd Annual CPD Meeting - April 25-26, 2003 - Toronto, Canada
- 24th Annual GOC ACM - June 28-29, 2003 - Charlottetown, PEI
- GOG - July 24-27, 2003 - Reno, NV
- Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons (US) - Sept 15-18, 2003 - Las Vegas, NV
- FIGO World Congress of Gynecologists and Obstetricians - November 2-7, 2003 - Santiago, Chile
- SGO Annual Meeting - February 7-11, 2004 - San Diego, CA
- 10th Biennial IGCS Meeting - October 3-8, 2004 - Edinburgh, Scotland
- SGO Annual Meeting - March 19-23, 2005 - Miami Beach, FL

TELEONCOLOGY PROJECT

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Various components related to the project objectives will be evaluated according to Health Canada's framework. The evaluation will focus on improvements to health services, integration of health services, lessons learned, cost-effectiveness and technology performance. A study will evaluate the effects of distance learning on Aborigi-

nal persons in terms of knowledge gained and attitudes about cancer of the cervix and screening.

GOC is pleased for Dr. Savoie and his team who have worked hard to get this huge project underway. Its success demonstrates once again what GOC members can accomplish working together to be-

The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada/La Société des gynécologues oncologues du Canada

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

The following members were welcomed into the Society during the Annual Business Meeting in June 2002..

- Dr. Turkey Al-Rujaib
- Dr. Patricia Baker
- Dr. Lizabeth Brydon
- Kathleen Fitzgerald RN
- Dr. Blake Gilks
- Helene Marceau RN
- Dr. Elissa McMurtrie
- Dr. Maureen Nolan
- Dr. Amit Oza
- Dr. David Popkin
- Dr. Dori Seccareccia
- Patti Thunberg RN

come the voice of gynecologic cancer in Canada. Further information about the project can be obtained at 506-862-

GOC wishes to thank GlaxoSmithKline and Ortho-Biotech for their generous support of GOC

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