

The GOC News

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2ND ANNUAL CPD MEETING OUT OF THIS WORLD!

By Elizabeth Waite, National Coordinator

GOC's 2nd Annual Continuing Professional Development meeting held in Montreal in mid-April was a resounding success with attendance up from last year's meeting by 33%.



From left to right: Dr. Joan Murphy, Dr. Marc Garneau, Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung at Latini's Restaurant, Montreal.

The meeting kicked off Friday afternoon with an outstanding Tissue Profiling workshop led by Dr. Diane Provencher and her team from Notre Dame Hospital in Montreal.

Members dined Friday night at Gibby's Restaurant, an historic building in old Montreal which once served as a stable and is now renowned for its superb cuisine and impeccable service.

Saturday morning, members listened to Dr. Nick Reed, Dr. Christina Parsons and Dr. Michael Hoeckel debate the pros and cons of choosing chemotherapy, radiation or surgery for treatment of advanced carcinoma of the cervix. Drs. Al Covens and James Bentley debated whether we should be more aggressive in our treatment of recurrent carcinoma of the cervix.

The afternoon session began with a lecture from Dr. Michael Hockel on nerve sparing radical hysterectomy and the LEER procedure. Later that afternoon, a lighthearted round of Gynecologic Oncology Jeopardy was hosted by Dr. Mark Carey sporting a moustache and Dr. Janice Kwon (Vanna) in black evening wear and platinum blond wig. Dr. Akira Sugimoto serenaded the match with a jazzy piano version of the Jeopardy theme song, while those in the audience participated via touchpad.

Members enjoyed an excellent 5 course dinner Saturday evening at Latini's Restaurant. Afterward, in keeping with the meeting theme of "Reaching Beyond our Grasp," members listened closely as guest speaker Dr. Marc Garneau, Canada's first astronaut in space, discussed some of the challenges he has faced during his career, what it feels like to "blast off," and his concern for the environmental future of our planet. The evening was topped off with a visit to one of Montreal's hottest jazz bars, The Upstairs.

Many thanks to our meeting sponsors, GlaxoSmithKline and Schering, for their support and to the organizing committee for their hard work and many hours of volunteered time. We look forward to our third meeting which will take place in Toronto in April 2003.



Dr. Mark Carey tries on Vanna's wig.

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Announcements

- GOC holds first fun run!
- Ortho-Biotech joins as website sponsor
- Membership continues to increase

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RUN FOR HER LIFE! FIRST ANNUAL ACM FUNDRAISER

By Dr. Joan Murphy, President

At this year's Annual Clinical Meeting, GOC will hold its first annual "fun run." The run will take place at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 23 and will include a 5k route which will wind through Winnipeg and along the Assiniboine River. There will also be a 3k walking route for those of us who are less fit, in other words, suffering from "bad knees."

We would like to thank the sponsor of

the run, GlaxoSmithKline, who will provide embroidered pullovers for all those who register for the race. We also thank the Running Room in Winnipeg for their assistance with establishing routes. Proceeds for this year's race will go to the National Ovarian Cancer Association and the Ovarian Cancer Association of Canada. Registration for the run is \$25.00, and receipts for tax purposes will be provided on site.

All GOC members attending the meeting are asked to participate in the run and it is our hope that as awareness of the run develops, not only medical professionals will participate, but that members of all sectors of society affected by gynecologic cancer including families, children, colleagues and friends of victims will take part. For more information or to register, please contact our national office.

ONTARIO APP A SUCCESS!

By Dr. Barry Rosen

The success of the Ontario Alternate Payment Plan was demonstrated in an exciting way this spring when Ottawa Hospital was faced with having to replace one of its two gynecologic oncologists.

During the month of April, as part of the provincial initiative to deliver cancer services provincially and coordinated centrally through the Gynecologic Oncology Group of Ontario, four gynecologic oncologists from Toronto (Drs. Denny DePetrillo, Gordon Lickrish, Barry Rosen and Joan Murphy) came to work at Ottawa Hospital for three days per week. These physicians worked together with Dr. Michael Fung Kee

Fung within the Ottawa Gynecologic Oncology Program to allow full clinical services to be maintained until a new

gynecologic oncologist was available. This arrangement meant that not one patient had to be referred out of Ottawa for gynecologic oncology treatment and assessment.

This arrangement represents a unique collaboration among physicians, allowing them to move from one centre to

other centres in need. The undertaking was an all around success for all health-care professional involved and resulted

not only in services at Ottawa Hospital being maintained, but in allowing a significant exchange of knowledge between different centres. The experience also served to enhance the group's appreciation

of its individual members' skills and their ability to work together as a group to meet the needs of the province's gynecologic oncology patients.

"This arrangement represents a unique collaboration among physicians, allowing them to move from one centre to other centres in need."

FIRST CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH

The first Canadian Conference on Ovarian Cancer Research was held in Ottawa on May 27-28, 2002. This was a multidisciplinary meeting co-sponsored by the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada and was the first such meeting sponsored by the society.

Each session involved both a basic scientist and clinical chair. Dr. Joan Murphy acted as clinical co-chair. GOC members present included Drs. Rosen, Fung Kee Fung, Faught, Lotocki, Colgan, Shaw, DePetrillo, Miller, Popadiuk, Provencher, Le and Stuart. It was clear that the presence of GOC was well appreciated and the effort to combine the forces of clinical and basic science re-

searchers created an exciting energy.

At the end of the two-day meeting, three key ideas had formed: (1) the importance of translating basic research into clinical opportunities and of highlighting the potential for basic science opportunities in clinical research presentations; (2) the concept of a Canadian ovarian cancer consortium; and (3) that the conference would be held in the future, potentially every two years. In this way, the major players in ovarian cancer research, including the GOC, would come together in a consortium to raise the agenda for more research dollars and advocate for issues concerning ovarian cancer.

Part of the meeting's discussion involved integration of tumor banks from the various centers into a national network. From this discussion it was clear that collection of tissues and the associated clinical material is an essential and vital component of all tumor banking efforts. The role of the surgeons and pathologists involved was highlighted. Members of GOC strongly encouraged other members to take up the challenge to become an integral part of tumor banking and to participate in these discussions at their various centers. GOC members also need to be active participants in research projects developed from these resources.

PHYSICIAN EDUCATION IN MONGOLIA

By Dr. Laurie Elit, Hamilton Regional Health Centre

During the last 3 years I have been fortunate to use my vacation time to assist in providing continuing medical education to physicians in Mongolia. These trips have been provided for under the auspices of the Commission on International Educational Affairs which is a branch of the Christian Medical Dental Society. The goal of this society is to provide continuing medical education to physicians who for geographical or economic reasons cannot attend international educational updates.

Mongolia is a landlocked country of 2 million people; half of the population lives in urban areas and half leads a nomadic lifestyle. The country's most common gynecologic cancer is cervical followed by ovarian and then endometrial.

In 1999 I spent afternoons teaching physicians from the department of obstetrics and gynecology, radiation and medical oncology and pathology a range of gynecologic oncology subjects from cervical screening to family history of ovarian cancer. In 2000, my Mongolian colleagues and I were awarded an ICRETT fellowship to assess the frequency of a unique BRCA1 mutation in Mongolian women with ovarian or premenopausal breast cancer. In 2001, we were awarded both an ICRETT and PATH grant (from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation) to assess visual inspection of the cervix with acetic acid as an option for cervical screening. Publications that have stemmed from this project are listed below:

My interaction with Mongolian physicians began with a focus on continuing education, however, it now encompasses research collaborations that fo-

cus on the needs of the Mongolian community as a whole. None of my journeys have been complete without significant time in the operating room.

Donations of suture, drugs, two electrocautery units, two ECG monitors and colposcopic biopsies forceps (to name a few), have been greatly appreciated from hospitals in Hamilton and London, Ontario.

Elit, L., Jack, E., Kwan, E., Baigal, G., Narod, S. A Unique BRCA1 Mutation Identified in Mongolia. *International Journal of Gynecologic Oncology*. 11(3)241-3, 2001.

Elit, L., Baigal, G., Jack, E., Munkhtaivan, Narod, S. The risk factors for ovarian cancer and early onset breast cancer in Mongolia. Accepted to *European Journal of Gynecologic Oncology*. May 2002

Elit, L. "Mongolia" in D'Alvenzo, C. *Health and Culture*. Mosby Co 2002.

23RD ANNUAL CLINICAL MEETING MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

This meeting promises to be a meeting full of firsts starting with the venue—our first annual meeting in Winnipeg. Thanks go to Bob Lotocki and his wife Debbie for local arrangements including dinner and entertainment.

This is also the first time our meeting has been conjoint with the Society of Canadian Colposcopists annual meeting. We have combined forces under Peter Bryson's leadership as program chair for both Societies to gather expert domestic and guest faculty and put together a program to review the Bethesda II cervical screening recommendations and the integration of HPV DNA testing and begin a process to re-interpret the recommendations into the Canadian context. As the voice of gynecology cancer in Canada, this is an opportunity for our society to impact policy, practice, economics and outcomes, further reinforcing the crucial relevance of the GOC and its members to women's health in Canada.

The submitted papers represent the pride of our academic productivity across the country and include tried and true contributors as well as newcomers to our professional community, collaborators without whom we will not move forward.

Dr. Val Capstick has assembled a program that grapples with controversies in management of endometrial cancer to optimize the role of the generalist, the subspecialist, the pathologist and of course outcome for the patient.

In my role as president I am concerned about lifestyle as well as professional issues for our members and as such, another first for this meeting is the First Annual GOC fun run, a 5k run/3k walk which we hope will become an annual fundraising opportunity. I hope you can join us!

Dr. Joan Murphy, President, GOC

GOC wishes to thank:

- *GlaxoSmithKline*
- *Ortho-Biotech*
- *Schering*
- *Eli Lilly*

*for their support of
GOC's meetings and
website*

**Visit our
website at
www.g-o-**

TISSUE PROFILING WORKSHOP *THE FIRST OF ITS KIND*

The Society had its first Tissue Profiling Workshop led by Dr. Diane Provencher at our Annual CPD Meeting in Montreal in April 2002. The star studded speaking cast included Dr. David Huntsman who presented on cancer genomics and gave a detailed analysis of the role of tissue microarrays analysis its present use and applications. He also presented the Vancouver group's experience with the use of this technology to elucidate the various clinical questions facing us in ovarian cancer. Dr. Huntsman is the Medical Director of the Pathology Evaluation Centre at the Vancouver

"This was an exciting afternoon and felt by many to be the greatest concentration of this kind of quality information many of us have ever experienced."

General Hospital. Other presenters included Dr. Park, Professor of Biochemistry and Oncology and Head of the Molecular Oncology Group at McGill University presenting issues on breast cancer and genomic-based strategies. Dr. Mes-Masson presented information on complimentary model systems and the

use of microarrays profiling to study the epigenic events associated with low malignancy potential tumors.

Dr. Mes-Masson also presented the Quebec tumor banking effort and network. Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden,

Corinne Boyer Chair in Ovarian Cancer at the University of Ottawa, presented the present status of tumor banks and the Ovarian Tumor Bank Network and proposal for such. She also presented the Ottawa experience with c-kit in ovarian cancer. Dr. Patricia Tonin presented the BRCA1-2 story. Dr. Tonin is a medical scientist at the Research Institute at McGill University Health Centre. In addition, Dr. Barry Rosen provided his update on the innovative work being done by his group with the use of prophylactic oophorectomy in BRCA1-2 carriers and the implications for future management. This was an exciting afternoon and felt by many to be the greatest concentration of this kind of quality information many of us have ever experienced. Hats off to Dr. Provencher who is leading the effort on the clinical gynaecologic oncology side to integrate basic science.

IGCS PROGRAM: GOC MEMBERS ACTIVE

GOC members are actively participating in the 9th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society to be held October 20-24, 2002 in sunny Seoul, Korea. In addition to many poster and paper presentations, several members of the Society are participating either in terms of giving talks, holding meet the professor sessions or chairing sessions. Participating members for the workshops include Dr. J. Thomas (Chemotherapy in Cervical Cancer), Dr. Al Covens (Radical Trachelectomy), Dr. Dianne Miller (Upper Abdominal Surgery in Ovarian Cancer), Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung (Training in Gynaecological Cancer) and Dr. Mark Carey who will act as Chairperson for the oral presentations. We wish everyone a successful meeting and an enjoyable time in Seoul.

Website News

By Chantal Lacasse, Website Developer

This spring has been a busy time for the GOC website. We have accomplished the following:

- The GOC website directory has recently been updated to represent an accurate list of members and contact information. We hope this will enhance communication among members.
- All members were given a user name and password to access the members only section. This section will give them all coordinates listed alphabetically including members' up-to-date hotlinked e-mail addresses
- We would like to welcome Janssen-Ortho aboard as a co-sponsor in the development of our website. They are now partnering with GlaxoSmithKline in this endeavour.
- We have signed, as of April 2002, a new contract with Reuters Health News for another year of newsbreaking research articles and headlines. We hope everyone will find the time to use this valuable service.

We are all looking forward to another exciting year on the GOC website full of new developments and new information, including additions to our patient advocacy section.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRES

Queen's

- NCIC CTG IND 148 has just opened with Dr. Jim Biagi as principle investigator and Drs. Peter Bryson and John Jeffrey as co-investigators. The study is a stage II study of OSI-774 inpatients with locally advanced and/or metastatic carcinoma of the endometrium.
- OB 15 is now closed.
- Dr. Peter Bryson has been awarded the CREOG Teaching Award for 2001/2002
- Relapse, survival and morbidity of first 40 patients treated for cervical/vaginal cancer with chemo-radiation have recently been examined. Further details to follow.

Ottawa

- Dr. Tien Le has started as Clinical Trials Coordinator, full-time gynecologic oncologist and Associate Professor at Ottawa.
- Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung is now full professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He recently returned from a trip to China to review opportunities for collaboration in research, touring mainland Chinese hospitals, Hunan Medical College and Jinan University.
- Dr. Carlos Leal, Gyn Oncology fellow, and his wife Sylvia had a baby boy in June 2002.
- Dr. Laura Hopkins has accepted a position as the third gynecologist oncologist at Ottawa Hospital.

Toronto.

- Dr. Denny DePetrillo stepped down as head of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. Dr. Barry Rosen will fill this position effective March 1, 2002.
- Dr. Stéphane Laframboise gave birth to a baby girl in May 2002.
- Four new fellows will be starting on July 1, 2002 at the University of Toronto for a 3 year program including one year of research (Joanne Weberpals from McGill University, Katerina Keiser from Dalhousie University, Helen Steed from the University of Alberta and Chris Giede from the University of Saskatchewan).
- Rachel Kupets is moving to California as a gynecologic oncologist

Alberta

- Dr. Wylam Faught began as Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
- Dr. Valerie Capstick was named for a university wide teaching award.
- Dr. Alex Schepansky is coordinating gynecologic oncology participation in the Cross cancer tumour profiling program.

Manitoba

- Dr. Mark Heywood is now a member of the Executive of the Canadian Medical Association.
- Dr. Pam Chu is starting as a gyn onc fellow on July 1, 2002.

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Elizabeth Waite, National Coordinator

Due to the hiring of new staff and an increasing problem with limited space at the SOGC national office, this winter saw a new work area constructed for the GOC secretariat. The secretariat is no longer adjacent to the reception area and is now located in an enclosed office space consisting of two separate work areas, one of which is utilized by the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health. The increased privacy has resulted in a more productive atmosphere due to less noise and fewer interruptions. GOC would like to thank SOGC and Dr. André Lalonde, for their efforts

in providing this space.

GOC has become a network member with the Canadian Health Network, a group of over 600 Canadian, non-profit organizations providing health information. Funded by Health Canada and affiliated with the Canadian Cancer Society, the CHN website acts as a gateway connecting Canadians to resources produced by health information providers across Canada. The site currently has over 10,000 links to web resources relating to 26 major health topics including cancer, cardiovascular disease, women's health, healthy eating, sexuality, complementary and alternative medicine,

active living and environmental health.

This spring, GOC is taking part in a consultation process designed to examine how National Specialty Societies can work together more closely to enhance the voice of specialty care in Canada. Several societies recently filled out a lengthy questionnaire providing information on their structure and activities and offering ideas on the possible benefits of National Specialty Societies working together. Information will be kept confidential and only aggregate results will be shared. Outcomes of the consultation process will be discussed later this year.





20 Years of Excellence in Women's Cancer Care

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- GOG - July 25-28, 2002 - Vancouver, Canada
- The Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons (US) - September 11-14, 2002 - New Orleans, LA
- 9th Biennial IGCS Meeting - October 20–24, 2002 - Seoul, Korea
- GOG - January 17-19, 2003 - Savannah, Georgia
- 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
- The Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons (US) - September 15-18, 2003 - Las Vegas, NV
- 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

Membership

The following people have applied for membership in the society and their applications will be voted on at GOC's 23rd ACM on June 23, 2002.

Dr. Patricia Baker
Dr. Lizabeth Brydon
Kathleen Fitzgerald RN
Dr. Blake Gilks
Dr. Paul Hoskins
Dr. Felice Lackman
Hélène Marceau RN
Dr. Maureen Nolan
Dr. Amit Oza
Dr. David Popkin
Dr. Dori Seccareccia
Patti Thunberg RN

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