



The GOC News

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GOC REVAMPS ITS WEBSITE

By Dr. Tien Le, Chief Website Editor

As you are undoubtedly aware, we are redesigning the look and content of our National Society website. I would like to update you on the changes that you will be seeing over the months to come. The current goals for the website would be to:

1. Establish our identity as the national organization most responsible for treating and advocating for women with gynecologic cancer
2. Provide a mechanism of improved communication between our members
3. Facilitate collaborative research amongst various centers in Canada.

Along these 3 major goals, some of the changes that we are presently working on include:

1. Updating the content of the website so it is more relevant to our patients, allied healthcare professionals, nurses, as well as our members and fellows in training
2. Developing a discussion board where members of our society can post cases of the week for discussion and input from colleagues

3. Developing an infrastructure to facilitate online surveys and research data gathering, similar to the one we have successfully employed during the PanCanadian Forum on Cervical Cancer Screening, that would allow for rapid information entry and tabulation by participating institutions
4. Updating our current research activities and publications (list of ongoing clinical trials, publications, abstracts presentation, etc...) to the 'public accessible' section of the website.
5. Facilitating CME activities by posting online presentations, web casts, etc.

To this extent, I would like to solicit help from one member from each center to participate on the Website Committee whose mandate is to make the site as user friendly as possible and create content relevant to the visitor and to our daily professional life. Please contact me directly via email at tle@ottawahospital.on.ca with your suggestions on how we can improve the GOC website. I hope to see you all at the CPD and NCIC meetings, and to receive input from all of you on this project.

INAUGURAL PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL AWARD TO BE PRESENTED AT THE GOC DINNER IN EDMONTON

As announced in the winter 2004 issue of our newsletter, the inaugural GOC Presidential Medal will be awarded at the GOC Annual General Meeting in Edmonton next June. The recipient of the GOC Presidential Medal is selected for his/her outstanding contributions in the discipline of gynecologic oncology. The GOC Nominating Committee has met and due process was served.

The ceremony will take place at the GOC Dinner on Sunday June 27, 2004. Your attendance is requested to celebrate this special evening with the recipient of this most prestigious award.

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

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The GOC acknowledges the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada for their continued support.



VISIT OUR REVAMPED WEBSITE AT
[WWW.G-O-C.ORG!](http://WWW.G-O-C.ORG)

25TH GOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JUNE 27-28, 2004 EDMONTON, ALBERTA

by Dr. Mark Heywood, GOC Programme Director

We are looking forward to one of our best GOC meetings this year so get your flight booked for Edmonton! Let's join the SOGC celebrations of its 60th anniversary on Saturday June 26th. The GOC sessions start on Sunday June 27th and run until Monday June 28th. We have lined up an exciting program for you, with an International Symposium on 'Breast Cancer Management - The Role of Oophorectomy (Medical or Surgical)', and The Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada Speaker, Dr. Walley Temple (of Calgary), who will present 'Clinical Tips in Exenteration and Abdominal Wall Closure' at the GOC Symposium. If that were not enough, our members have been very diligent this past year, such that there will be more than TWENTY Oral Paper presentations!!

The local hosts are arranging a culinary and vintners delight for Sunday evening, at which will be held the Inaugural Presidential Medal Award Ceremony... and don't forget to pack your running shoes for the Third Annual GOC Run for Her Life, early Monday am (you still have time to get in shape and see if you're able to keep up with the speedy Dr. Gavin Stuart who is, no doubt, as we speak, likely tearing up the pavement in sunny Vancouver!!)

Full details of the program and registration information will be available and communicated to you soon... See you ALL in Edmonton.

Here's a brief look at the program...

Saturday, June 26, 2004

15:00-16:00 Royal College Nucleus Committee Meeting (TBC)

16:00-18:00 GOC Executive Council Meeting

Sunday, June 27, 2004

- ▶ Abstract presentations throughout the day
- ▶ SOGC-GOC International Symposium 7 (IS7)
Topic: Breast Cancer Management – The Role of Oophorectomy (Medical or Surgical)
Faculty: Janice Kwon, MD, London, Ontario (course director), Shailendra Verma, MD, Ottawa, Ontario
- ▶ GOC Session – Ovarian Cancer
Faculty: Alan Gordon, MD, Phoenix, Arizona
- ▶ GOC Afternoon Symposium
Topic: Clinical Tips in Exenteration and Abdominal Wall Closure
Faculty: Walley John Temple, MD, Calgary, AB. GOC's Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Speaker
- ▶ Presidential Address followed by the GOC Annual Business Meeting
- ▶ GOC Presidential Medal Award Ceremony & dinner - All GOC members and their spouse, industry supporters and other GOC guests are invited to attend.

Monday June 28, 2004

- ▶ The Third Annual GOC Run For Her Life
- ▶ Abstract presentations, poster viewing and awards for best 3 abstracts

GOC wishes to thank at time of print:

Bristol-Myers Squibb, Ortho-Biotech and Schering Canada for their support of this meeting in the form of unrestricted educational grants.

THE GOC JOINS THE NATIONAL SPECIALTY SOCIETIES OF CANADA (NSSC)

By Dr. Joan Murphy, Past-President

The GOC was among 31 specialty societies represented at the meeting of this new Canadian society held in Ottawa in mid-January. The mandate of the NSSC is to represent the emerging interests of specialists through their specialty societies and to interact closely with the RCPSC and the CMA. These interests include physician resource issues, provision of sanctioned CPD opportunities, relationships with the pharmaceutical industry, specifically Rx&D, etc.

At its first formal meeting held at the Royal College meetings in Halifax last September, at which 17 societies were represented, a draft organizational structure had been approved and an executive was named. Chair of the NSSC Executive Committee is Dr. John Scovil, President of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society. The SOGC, represented by Dr. André Lalonde, has been pivotal in the development of this society. The SOGC is in fact hosting a number of organizational needs including the development of a NSSC website. The "members" of NSSC are specialty organizations rather than individual specialists and these members may be represented both by a physician and the ex-

ecutive director/administrator of the organization.

Since the Halifax meeting, several executive conference call meetings have been held and draft by-laws have been prepared. At the January meeting, all present had an opportunity to have input to the by-laws, another draft of which will be presented at the next NSSC meeting to be held in conjunction with the Royal College meetings in September 2004. The NSSC has arisen in an effort to address interests not currently being addressed by the RCPSC and the CMA and to provide a voice specifically for specialists. The NSSC wishes to work closely and in harmony with these two groups and has both offered and received observer status with the RCPSC. A response from correspondence with the CMA is awaited upon which the NSSC wishes to offer and obtain similar status with that organization.

An ad hoc decision has been taken by your executive to join the NSSC at this pivotal time in its evolution. The appropriateness of ongoing NSSC membership will be discussed at the June 2004 GOC Annual Meeting in Edmonton.

GOC UNDERTAKES BYLAW REVIEW

Over the years, the GOC Bylaws have been amended principally to allow your Society to grow as more and more professional practices/occupations become involved in gynecologic oncology. Almost 25 years after its first draft, the GOC Bylaws Committee, Chaired by Dr. Joan Murphy, will undertake a full review of the document which purpose is to

position the Society's non-fundamental rules and regulations to the new millennium. At the conclusion of this exercise, we hope to have rewritten a Society-friendly and Member-friendly document. We plan to share the results of the review at the next Annual General Meeting of the membership on June 27, 2004 in Edmonton.

OVARIAN CANCER DATABASE LAUNCHED AT THE OTTAWA HOSPITAL

By Ms. Arifa Abdulla, Knowledge Coordinator, Division of Gynaecologic Oncology, Ottawa Hospital



The Division of Gynaecologic Oncology at The Ottawa Hospital has launched GOSOCS (Gynecology-Oncology Services Ovarian Cancer System), a wireless web-based integrated ovarian cancer database. This is the first of its kind to be launched on this scale. This database represents a combination of a partnership between Microsoft Canada, Hummingbird and SystemeMagie. The essential elements of this include not only a patient repository and database but also a multidisciplinary input section allowing patient care input from a variety of health care professionals including nursing, pharmacy and social work. Key to the system is its integration and its ability to allow immediate statistical analysis of any of the elements placed within it. The system also allows for immediate online adjustment of patient surveys used by any user without having to do any core developmental

changes. This added versatility makes the program flexible allowing it to be tailored to the group's needs.

A fundamental component is the Knowledge Management component which allows for the collection of clinical and knowledge queries to be put in its Knowledge Management database and appropriate links to knowledge repositories. Such information can be served in the mobile platform of a wireless tablet PC which is one of the key entry points for the system. Operationally, patient surveys are filled out by physicians at the point of care, either using a wireless tablet PC or desktop computers on the hospital's intranet. Encounters, follow-ups, surgical pathology and treatment plans are input. Nurses, pharmacists and social workers fill out corresponding information surveys depending upon their interaction with the patient. The administrator of the program, Arifa Abdulla, Knowledge Coordinator for the division, facilitates the updating of surveys and appropriate changes as they occur.

Clearly, this unique opportunity of integrating the learning and the information gathered from the multi-

disciplinary team in the management of ovarian cancer has great potential for generating unique and current data for analysis. The Knowledge Management software, led by Hummingbird Business Intelligence tools also allows us to analyze and gather information from many sources on the web and package it in ways that are user-friendly and can be implemented by members of the team. This project is the first clinical wireless application at The Ottawa Hospital, and positions the division within the hospital structure as one of the leaders of information technology.

The project is led by Dr. Tien Le, Mrs. Lynne Jolicoeur and Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung. It is slowly being implemented and we look forward to integrate further developments which include timeline graphics and improvements to the graphical interface as we go forward. Because it is web-based, the opportunity for this database to be extended to other centres is apparent. There is also the possibility to develop a data warehouse which could be shared with other centres to create a multi-site repository for research in the future.

... FAREWELL CHANTAL



We were sad to see the departure of Mrs. Chantal Lacasse who has taken on the pivotal role of directing information strategy for the Canadian Institute for Health Information. She will be greatly missed by all of us and she will be well remembered for all the hard work that she has put in the development and maintenance of our Society's website. We wish Chantal all the best in her new career.

WELCOME ARIFA...



On a brighter note, I would also like to introduce Miss Arifa Abdulla. Arifa joins the

GOC team this month as the new GOC Website Manager. She comes to us with a broad background in Project Management and website content development. She will be looking after the maintenance and content updates on the website, this will be a part of her overall position as the Knowledge Coordinator of the Gynaecologic-Oncology Program at the Ottawa Hospital. Arifa looks forward to working with the website team and the membership overall. Welcome Arifa.



GOC'S 2ND ANNUAL RUN FOR HER LIFE RECEIVES THANKS!

Run for Her Life, the GOC's annual 'Run/walk' raised \$1,455 in registration fees last year, which were donated to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation in Charlottetown, PEI for the purchase of medical (oncologic) equipment. In this picture, the proceeds are being handed over to Dr. Chris Lantz, Head of the ER at QEH.



From left to right: Dr. Philip E. Champion (QEH), Ms. Moira MacLean (GlaxoSmithKline), Dr. Chris Lantz (QEH) and Ms. Pam Auld (GlaxoSmithKline).

Get ready for the 3rd Annual Run for Her Life in Edmonton on June 28, 2004!

CANADIAN OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH CONFERENCE

OTTAWA, MAY 16TH TO MAY 18TH, 2004

By Dr. Dianne Miller, Program Co-chair

The second National Ovarian Cancer Research Forum is all set to go in May. The meeting will bring together clinicians and scientists in a dynamic forum. The program is based principally on the abstracts received and run from molecular biology to clinical management. Sessions include 'Clinical Management', 'The Cancer Patient: social and quality of life', 'Databases and their use for the study of Ovarian Cancer', 'Diagnostic Issues', 'Chemoresistance in Ovarian cancer', 'Molecular Biology of Ovarian Cancer'

and more. In addition to the keynote lectures and abstract presentations, a large number of posters will be displayed.

This meeting allows us a unique opportunity to develop collaborations with our scientific colleagues across the country and make a difference in the management of ovarian cancer.

The GOC is a proud sponsor of this conference again this year. Hope to see all of you there.

ACADEMIC FOCUS: A NEW FEATURE FOR THE GOC NEWSLETTER

By Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung, Secretary-Treasurer

We wish to introduce a new regular feature for the GOC newsletter titled 'Academic Focus'.

The purpose of this new feature is to celebrate and acknowledge the academic activities and achievements of our members. Particularly, we are looking for our members to contribute to this news corner by submitting

a write-up on recent publications, presentations at international or national conferences, promotions, major academic awards, grants received, etc.

We believe that we are a very productive group and by making this information known, we can all share in each other's success.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRES

Montréal

- Dr. Pierre Drouin participated at the annual AMOGS (Association of Maharashtra Obstetrics and Gynecological Societies) conference on February 8, 2004 in Jalgaon, India where he presented his talk titled "Early Female Malignancies".
- Dr. Philippe Gauthier represented the department at the 35th annual SGO meeting in San Diego February 7-11.
- The department is preparing for the arrival of Dr. Philippe Sauthier (a former fellow of ours) of Switzerland who will be joining the Notre-Dame gynecologic oncology team in August 2004.



Ottawa

- The Ottawa group is expecting a 4th gyn oncologist. However we will have to wait several years while his mother has first priority. Dr. Laura Hopkins is expecting her first baby in August 2004!
- Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung is presently Interim Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

COMPUTERIZED COLPOSCOPY IN N.B.

By Dr. Réjean Savoie, Dr. Léon Richard Oncology Centre, Beauséjour Regional Health Authority

A pilot project for cervical cancer screening was deployed in half the province of N.B. through a partnership between four regional health authorities and an Aboriginal community. This \$2.4 million project was financed by Health Canada's CHIPP program and the partners involved; it ended on February 28, 2003 after a two year development and implementation period.

During this initiative, 17 screening clinics were established in rural and urban regions and 28 nurses were trained to perform Pap tests. From recruiting women to treating cancerous lesions, all services are ensured through the integration of various information and communications technologies with an architecture interconnecting all participating health regions, thus facilitating access, consultation and diagnosis.

Under the medical direction of Dr. Réjean Savoie, gynecologist-oncologist at the Dr. Léon Richard Oncology Centre in Moncton, N.B., the team developed a comprehensive screening system for cervical cancer – a model that could be used for other types of cancer across the country. It includes a complete computerized colposcopy system using a Web-based e-consult application that links specialists and

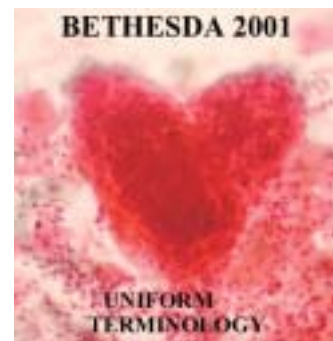
enables them to share complete medical records, thus eliminating the need to repeat costly and sometimes disturbing procedures.

The technology allows for the use of a registry with negative and abnormal cytologies for the four participating regions. Data repositories and a central registry enable health managers to better monitor regions where women are at risk, thus increasing the involvement of health care professionals in primary care.

All users of this program are satisfied and the system has proven efficient and easy to use.

At the end of the pilot project, extra funds were supplied by the provincial government to maintain the program in the four regions. Actions are underway to make it a provincial cervical cancer prevention and screening program, therefore extending it to the four remaining health regions.

New Brunswick is presently going through a provincial restructuring process in oncology, which should help in deploying this cervical cancer prevention and screening program in all provinces.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Ovarian Cancer Research Conference – May 16-18, 2004 – Ottawa, Ontario
- SOGC 60th Annual Clinical Meeting – June 25-29, 2004 – Edmonton, Alberta
- GOC Annual General Meeting – June 27-28, 2004 – Edmonton, Alberta
- GOG Semi-Annual Meeting – July 16-18, 2004 – Orange County, Garden Grove, California
- 10th Biennial IGCS Meeting – October 3-8, 2004 – Edinburgh, Scotland
- SLS (Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons) InterAmerican Multispecialty Congress of Laparoscopy and Minimally Invasive Surgery – February 23-26, 2005 - Miami Beach, Florida
- SGO Annual Meeting – March 19-23, 2005, Miami Beach, Florida
- FIGO World Congress – 2006 – Kuala Lumpur