

# The GOC News

Volume 7 Issue 1  
 Spring 2007

## A Resident's Experience in Gynaecology Oncology An Experience to Whet my Appetite

Dr. Shannon Salvador, PGY3, UBC

### Objective:

To discover the opportunities available in other provinces across Canada in gynecology oncology while meeting the fellows, and staff members at each site. Focus will be on the differences in training, skills, and research.

### Locations:

- 1) Tom Baker Cancer Center, Foothills Hospital, Calgary, Alberta
- 2) Princess Margaret Hospital and Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, Ontario



Dr. Shannon Salvador

### The Experience:

Each site was a very different experience and will be discussed separately. Prior to arriving at either site, I had been in contact with the secretaries and program directors. Each were extremely helpful and I felt welcome. I also had great deal of assistance with the whole process of applying for province licensing, making this rather painless.

### Calgary, January 2007

Upon arrival in Calgary, I was immediately welcomed by the resident, Kendra, on the ward. She had been rounding alone on the 12 inpatients and was very pleased to have assistance. The Calgary inpatients were a wide range of issues. As I was starting my elective immediately after New

Years, many were emergencies that required admission to hospital over the holidays. The complicated cases were discussed between me and the other resident, and the staff was available over the phone for care planning. The fellow in Calgary was hands off and left the running of the ward to the residents and would receive a report from us on a daily basis.

Calgary was divided between the OR and clinic each day. Kendra and I would each split up, one going to each. The clinical experience allowed close contact with the staff members and I was able to work with Drs. Nation, Chu, and Ghatage personally. Every Tuesday was the new patient clinic, which I enjoyed the most. The patients usually came to the clinic with a suspected diagnosis of cancer and often there were findings on exam. I was able to vastly improve my clinical skills with interviewing and I was able to see some of the more uncommon cancers. One that stands out is a vaginal cancer that was apparent

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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 of our Society.

## The GOC's Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy Standards Now Published!

Several months prior to the release of the NIH statement on IP chemotherapy and the Armstrong paper, the GOC was already planning to facilitate the implementation of this new practice within the various gynaecologic oncology units

in order to improve access for ovarian cancer patients to the benefits of this therapy. To this end, the GOC developed a strategy involving identification of an important subject - IP chemotherapy - and the development of a Communities

of Practice (CoP) model and infrastructure. With the support of Schering Canada, the CoP model was used, several CoP meetings were held and using

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## GOC Surveys Membership

By Walter Gotlieb, MD

GOC is proactively progressing, expanding and maturing. As part of this process, the leadership is committed to involve and serve the membership and the community. To best attain this goal, we are attentive to your outlook, and will hold a survey by means of digital voting pads during the upcoming CPD in Toronto in April.

Results will be collected and displayed in real time. Areas assessed will include your expectations from the Society, an evaluation of your degree of satisfaction of the activities provided by GOC, and probing your interest in contributing to specific aspects of the Society, including your involvement in the upcoming IGCS conference in Vancouver in 2012.

This informal session is planned as an enjoyable discovery of the aspirations of our membership. Look forward to seeing you all and your participation in the survey at the CPD.

The survey will be sent via email to members who cannot attend this year's CPD meeting.

*GOC wishes to acknowledge Dr. Walter Gotlieb for taking the lead in this effort, and Drs. Bessette, Chu and Steed for their contribution to this project. They have done an excellent job creating the survey.*

## Update on Minimally Invasive Surgery – Communities of Practice Planning

As the Society continues to move on a strategic front of improving the dissemination of new technologies and implementation throughout the various parts of the membership, it is clear that the minimally invasive surgery is a potential area that the Society needs to put some of its well-known expertise to bear. The executive has set about to develop a position/planning paper on the role of the GOC in facilitating the advancement of surgical technologies within gynaecologic cancer and the dissemination of established procedures through the membership. Implementation will follow our established protocol with a systematic review and development of best practice, bringing together opinion leaders and experts within the various areas for a first meeting, the

development of a Communities of Practice (CoP) to map out our needs. These include identification of process evidence and technical gaps that we have and subsequently facilitating a strategy for appropriate closure of these gaps. The first step will be to bring together a small sub-group with members interested in MIS surgery for discussion and planning, and then position what activities would be necessary in order for us to move forward. Apart from this initial meeting and the planning document there will also be an opportunity for the GOC to look at ways in which we can integrate MIS surgery into some of our clinical trials. To this end, Dr. Plante will be doing an update on MIS at this year's NCIC meeting.

## Website Improvements

By Tien Le, Chair – GOC Website Committee

The GOC website is constantly changing to meet the needs of our Society members and the Canadian public. Over the past few months, the site has been completely redesigned to have a new look making it easier to navigate. Relevant updated health and meeting information are prominently displayed on the home page. Under the expanded member section, all previous scientific presentations from 2004 are now available in PDF format; together with the recent HPV monograph and selected educational videos are downloadable for reference. The membership directory has recently been updated with the latest contact information with easy search capabilities. You can also change your member profile on-line



to update our database. Please use the poll on the main page to give us feedback on the overall look and feel of the website.

For the next phase, we will concentrate on updating the current clinical trial

database in all Canadian centers as well as developing CME content via podcast/webcast technology to facilitate access for our members. An on-line journal club/case discussion forum is also being considered. Soon to be available will be on-line membership dues payments and event registrations. We are also planning to expand on the patient related area of the website to provide interactive content dealing with many issues regarding HPV vaccination.

Please send us your comments and suggestions for improvement.

Stay tuned for future exciting developments and come visit the site at [www.g-o-c.org](http://www.g-o-c.org).

## Baby News!!



The Vancouver group has a "new addition"! Sarah had a baby girl this spring named Lucy Elliott Finlayson, she is enjoying her time at home.

The east coast has also seen some new arrivals. Lesa is the proud mother of a little boy, Rory, who was born prematurely in October and is doing very well. Lesa will be returning to work sometime in June. Patti had her second baby, a little 10 lbs girl named Lucy in December. Patti will be back sometime in May.

Julie Ann Francis, our newest fellow-in-training member from London, is expecting her 2<sup>nd</sup> baby in June.

## Contemporary Knowledge and Issues in Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention in the Era of HPV Vaccination: The Canadian Context – CD Rom Shipped

This educational resource, developed by the GOC/CAIRE Consortium in association with SOGC and SCC, was shipped to the membership last month. Its creation involved a significant effort that has been achieved via the Consortium editors. The monograph includes three sections, a total of 18 chapters, an addendum and glossary. Each chapter was developed by an expert national or international author linked to a GOC reviewer. The format is a reproducible PowerPoint presentation which can be used by all members, not only for their own professional development but also for use in their own educational initiatives. It is a very timely and up-to-date effort.

This work was initiated and led by Dr. Diane Provencher during her presidency. Editors for the monograph include Drs. Provencher, Joan Murphy and Michael Fung-Kee-Fung.

The monograph has been accredited for 3 credits under section 1 of the CPD framework for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. *To receive your credits, complete and send the evaluation form (located in the addendum folder) to H el ene Soubli ere via mail, fax or email.*

Hope you all have had a chance to view it. Note that it is also available on the GOC website at [www.g-o-c.org](http://www.g-o-c.org) – just login as a member and follow the links.

### The GOC's Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy Standards Now Published! (continued from page 1)

a cross-country process grounded in a systematic review of the information, we set about to identify the key essential elements for the safe delivery and enhancement of IP chemotherapy. The product of this is the IP Chemotherapy Standards document, which describes the criteria required to develop IP chemotherapy protocols and IP chemotherapy implementation, at an institution, regional and practitioner level.

The IP Chemotherapy Standards have recently been published in *Gynecologic Oncology* [M. Fung-Kee-Fung, D. Provencher, B. Rosen, P. Hoskins, L. Rambout, T. Oliver, W. Gotlieb, A. Covens and the IP Chemotherapy Working Group on behalf of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada. "Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy for Patients With Advanced Ovarian Cancer: A Review of the Evidence and Standards for the Delivery of Care", *Gynecologic Oncology*, March 16, 2007, Epub ahead of print].

The CoP model will serve as the basis to facilitate further dissemina-

tion of the information required to share best practice. Implementation of the Standards will be achieved through the continuation of the CoP and the ongoing development of nursing and other sub-committees who have been connected via the CoP to share protocols and processes that would make this therapy easier. Present plans include the establishment of common protocols, sharing of best practice, the development of a common database and collection format for data, sharing of complications and solutions to complications, and looking at the possibility of a Canadian IP protocol that could be potentially used as the basis for phase 2 or other study.

The CoP in IP Chemotherapy continues to develop and a lot of the success has been due to the leadership of Dr. Diane Provencher who during her presidency facilitated the initiation of this project. This is the first Standards document to be produced by GOC and in fact in IP chemotherapy that we know of.

## AGM 2007 Scientific Session – A Bumper Year!

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting to be held in Ottawa is shaping up to be an actual bumper meeting. We have had an extraordinary number of abstracts sent in for evaluation (a total of 49) which has created a great problem for us – that is how do we best facilitate the display and the sharing of this new knowledge and information in the time slots that we have. Believe us, this is an excellent problem to have and reflects the maturity of research and efforts within our membership. There will also be a very special Poster Program with prizes for the membership and presenters. We look forward to seeing you in Ottawa for an excellent time!

## More About GOC's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

By Dr. Mark Heywood,  
Chair of AGM Planning Committee

Well hopefully wherever you are spring has by now sprung, summer will soon be here, and of course you are thinking of visiting the nation's capital, Ottawa, for the AGM June 23 & 24. We have an interesting time planned for your education and entertainment, so get your forms filled, airline tickets and hotel booked. The meeting will mostly be held at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, except for International Symposium 9, in conjunction with the SOGC, which is planned for the Westin Hotel.



The meeting starts early Saturday morning with the Royal College speaker Mr. Jeffrey Lozon, who is the recently appointed President for the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. This is a federal agency who recently acquired a budget of \$260 million dollars to facilitate the improvement of cancer surgical services within the country working with the various provinces.

The day unfolds with no less than 16 scientific paper presentations from our members, bright young students and residents, as well as one invited abstract by Dr. Gavin Stuart, "Efficacy of Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin (PLD) plus Carboplatin in patients with partially sensitive relapsing advanced ovarian cancer". There will also be an update from the GOC Task Force on Cervical Cancer Control and Prevention.

Sunday starts with the "6<sup>th</sup> Annual GOC Run for Her Life™" organized by local hostess Dr. Laura Hopkins, so don't forget to bring your run-

ning or walking shoes. After a quick freshen up, the business meeting and Presidential address from Dr. Barry Rosen. The final two scientific abstracts, a dash across to the Westin Hotel and the concurrent SOGC/GOC International Symposium (IS9) "The role and criteria of imaging modalities in the evaluation of the pelvic mass – clinical implications" conclude the GOC meeting. Dr. Robert Lotocki has kindly agreed to chair the Symposium and we have secured as the key speaker Dr. David A. Fishman, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at NYU School of Medicine and Director of the Division of Gyn Oncology at NYU Cancer Institute. GOC is hoping that this will stimulate a discussion on the development of a standardized/synoptic ultrasound reporting format.

Hopefully this short intro has whetted your appetite and we will have an exciting and productive meeting. See you in Ottawa.

## Profiling our Members

Welcome to *Profiling our Members*, a new section of *The GOC News*. GOC has created this section with the intent and wish to build a sense of community within the membership, to get to know who we are and what we do. We welcome your submission.



### Rachel Kupets, MD - Sunnybrook and Women's Hospital, Toronto, Ontario

In 1997, Dr. Rachel Kupets graduated from the Obstetrics and Gynecology residency program in Winnipeg. After completion of her gyn oncology fellowship at U of T, Rachel relocated to Palo Alto, California, joining the very large gynecologic oncology group, Women's Cancer Center, in Silicon Valley where she learned advanced laparoscopic surgical skills from one of her mentors, Dr. Nicola Spirtos, and has become a very skilled laparoscopic surgeon. Back to Toronto in 2005 to join the Sunnybrook Hospital team.

Rachel has authored several articles and presented at national and international meetings. Her most recent challenge was successfully defending her Masters thesis in Clinical Epidemiology in January 2007.

Rachel's future projects include co-editing a "Laparoscopic DVD textbook in Gynecologic Oncology", continue her research interests in health outcomes research and study how women with cervical smear abnormalities are managed by health care workers.

Rachel's most important and exciting project is her daughter Paulina, who is a busy little toddler!"



### Jason Dodge, MD - Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Ontario

Dr. Dodge completed residency training at the U of T in 1996 and completed his gynecologic oncology fellowship training also at the U of T in 2004.

He recently received his Master of Education degree at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto in November, 2006. His area of interest was Health Professional Education, particularly "Continuing Professional Development and Knowledge Translation". His the-

sis included a survey of Ontario gynecologic surgeons regarding their practices of surgical staging for ovarian cancer. The project examined the practice gap between current practice and ideal surgical staging, as defined by the current Canadian clinical practice guidelines. The results from this comprehensive knowledge translation project are currently being considered for publication by JOGC.

Other academic projects include: The design of an ideal fellowship training program based on educational psychological principles and web-based continuing education programs.

Dr. Dodge currently practices at Princess Margaret Hospital, University Health Network. He currently chairs a committee to revitalize site group tumour board and continuing professional development, and has participated as both a course coordinator and faculty member in many CME events.

His future career goals include: exploring the development and implementation of a knowledge translation strategy that aims to improve the performance of surgical staging for ovarian cancer and to continue facilitating continuing professional development of learners at all stages of their professional careers.

### Raleigh Butler, MD - Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau, Bahamas

Dr. Raleigh Butler received his Bachelor of Medicine; Bachelor of Surgery Degree from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica after being awarded a scholarship by Bahamas Supermarket. In May 1990, he was awarded his membership and certification into the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, United Kingdom.

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Faculty, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau, Bahamas.  
Front: Left to right Drs. Bloomfield, Butler, Hall-Watson, Knowles, Back: Left to Right Drs Johnson, Depuch, Carey, Lyons, Davis

## Profiling our Members (continued from page 4)

He received a Commonwealth scholarship where he joined Professor Campbell's research team at the University of Southampton in England focusing on molecular genetics in specific the genes that may be used as indicators of gynaecological malignancies. He co-authored several publications during that period and

then went on to complete a fellowship in Gynaecology Oncology at the University of Toronto in June 2000.

Since returning to the Bahamas, he has served as Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Director of Gynaecologic Oncology and Surgical Oncology at the Princess

Margaret Hospital, Nassau. He serves as the national coordinator for cervix cancer prevention in the Bahamas, a member of the Pan American Health Organization cervical cancer working group, Chairman of Tumor Board and Director of Oncology services, and Associate Professor at the University of the West Indies Nassau Bahamas.

His research interests include screening for cervical cancer, cervical cancer and HIV, neoadjuvant chemotherapy for ovarian cancer, role of nodal debulking in cervical cancer.

## A Resident's Experience in Gynaecology Oncology (continued from page 1)

on exam and was further advanced than the initial consult implied. I was able to express my impression to Dr. Nation and we discussed the implications of how treatment changes with a more advanced case of vaginal cancer.

I was also exposed to obtaining informed consent appropriately and learned new techniques for communicating with patients and family. Cancer is usually a much more emotionally involved medical issue than others and I was able to pick up new methods in which to empathize with the patients and their situation.

The operating room was also a unique experience at the Foothills Hospital as a resident. The fellow and I usually scrubbed in on cases together under the staff supervision. The fellow attending Calgary at that time was near the end of his training and was focusing on teaching others which created an excellent opportunity for me. I was able to perform most of the surgeries under guidance and by the end of the month, was performing pelvic lymph node dissections comfortably.

Call was an entirely different experience as I did home call for one week during which one patient became extremely ill. The unfortunate part is that this occurred during the one blizzard that passed through Calgary in January. I recall driving a rental car to the hospital, from the south of the city at midnight, through a white out of snow and -25 temperature hoping that the nursing staff and patient would be alright until my arrival, and that I was hopefully going to arrive in one piece! Luckily, the nursing staff

was quite capable and we managed to get the patient stabilized for the night, and my rental car held out through the bad weather.

By the time I left Calgary, I felt that I had improved my surgical skills a great deal and achieved a good relationship with the staff there. I was invited out to dinner during the last week with the other staff and a lecture was given by the visiting program director from Toronto, Dr. B. Rosen, so I was very well set-up to transfer to Toronto for February.

### Toronto, February 2007

In Toronto, I was staying at a bed and breakfast in the center of the city to allow for the full effect of living in the largest, busiest center in Canada. Being two blocks from the downtown Eaton Center was a pretty good deal for an avid shopper like me! Judy Brusse was my first contact in Toronto and she took the time to get me set up with ID badges, scrubs, and a tour of the site on my first day. I then headed to Sunnybrook Hospital where I was promptly brought to the OR and got my first taste of the complex surgeries that the team staff members perform. I was fortunate to see three laparoscopic radical hysterectomies while I was there and each one was an impressive feat in itself. The delicate work was being taught to the fellow and it was encouraging to see them leave the program with the skills to continue with the surgeries where ever they would end up practicing. The surgical cases that were being done in Toronto were more complex and varied than the ones I saw in Calgary, perhaps reflecting the larger population base

and the need for more laparoscopy to be done in the rest of Canada.

The ward experience was also slightly different as the fellow was more directly involved in patient care and lead rounds each morning with the other resident and me. The one frustrating thing about Toronto was the number of surgical cases that had to be cancelled each week in Ontario due to bed shortages. I was sad to see patients that had waited weeks for their surgery being told the day of that it couldn't be done. The problem seemed to be rooted in the sad fact that medical patients, such as palliative care and long term care, were occupying the acute care beds for surgery. Each week, we would be struggling to try to discharge patients to home or other facilities to try to make room for the patients scheduled for surgery before the weekend. It was a daily challenge and I learned a great deal about allocation of hospital resources that are available in Ontario to try to assist with the problem, like the extensive home care programs, and palliative care or rehabilitation set down units to try to relieve the acute care beds.

The clinical experience in Toronto was also a little different as the types of patients were usually limited to the more complex cancer cases to try to decrease the waiting lists. The general gynecologists in the community were attempting to handle the early stage cancers themselves while sending the more complex cases to be seen at the Cancer Agencies. Therefore most of the patients I was involved with at the clinic were usually advanced stage disease and the follow-up of these cases could po-

tentially identify a recurrence. I was exposed to the methods of surveillance available and was able to diagnose a probable recurrence by the time my month was through.

I think the most important connection that I made in Toronto was the meeting of others involved in research. I have a focus in my residency research project in fallopian tube carcinoma and was able to discuss this at length with Dr. Rosen, Dr. Covens, and Dr. Beiner, the fellow. I was able to get some insight into the focus of their research in BRCA positive carriers and added my thoughts on fallopian tube involvement in these cases. I am looking forward to the GOC meeting in June where we can reconnect.

### What Did I Get Out of This Opportunity?

As I stated in my title, this was to whet my appetite for things to come. I enjoyed this experience immensely and I am looking forward to spending time in my own program in gynecologic oncology starting in July. When I arrived back in Vancouver, I completed my last month of research where I was so excited about my study, that I have managed to end the month with hopefully two papers. Most of my motivation came from understanding that I have a lot of opportunities in Canada and many great programs to choose from. The time spent in Calgary and Toronto has reconfirmed for me that I wish to do a fellowship in gynecologic oncology.

Thank you so much for providing me with the financial assistance to do this and I encourage you to continue to support the residents in the future so that they can also have such a positive experience.

## Profiling Vancouver

Reported by Dianne Miller

A lot has changed since we sent our last update from Vancouver, partly a function of change and partly a function of the length of time gone by since we last reported.

First and foremost, GOC has been successful in its to bring the **2012 IGCS** meeting back to Canada and Vancouver has the privilege of being the chosen center. Our local tumor group is very excited about hosting the meeting and looks forward to working with GOC to ensure the best meeting ever!

We have several new members of our tumor group in the last year. In Gynecologic Oncology, **Jessica McAlpine** joined us in July 2006. Jessica is a Vancouver native who pursued her medical education in the US. She joins us after having completed her Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship at Yale in 2006. Jessica has a husband Ken and a lovely one year old daughter Ainsley. In September 2006, **Sarah Finlayson** joined the team. Sarah was our fellow for the previous two years. She has a major interest in education and is currently pursuing a Masters of Education from the University of



Jessica and Sarah 2007



Some of the Provincial Tumor Group

Dundee. Sarah and her husband Gord welcomed their first child Lucy on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. **Anna Tinker** has joined the gyne tumor group as a medical oncologist at the Vancouver center. (She is much better looking than Ken and for that matter Paul!) Anna recently completed a medical oncology fellowship in Melbourne. **Carolyn Holloway** has joined the group as a radiation oncologist in Kelowna. We have four new gynecology pathologists as well. **Kathy Cebellos** comes from McMaster, **Greg Naus** from the University of Pittsburg, **Diana Ionescu** from the University of Pittsburgh and UBC and **Julie Irving** who completed her fellowship in Spain. We have two fellows in our program, Dr. **Mona Mazgani** from Lieden in the Netherlands and Dr. **Sal Saldivar** from El Paso Texas. We hope they all will be welcomed as new GOC members!

Leaving the group are **Dr. Lou Benedet** who completed his tenure at UBC December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 and

**Dr. Mohammed Manji**, one of our long serving radiation oncologists from Surrey. We wish them good fortune.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, thirty six members of the provincial gynecology tumor group met for our annual retreat at the Fairmont at YVR. We heard presentations from around the province highlighting local research and treatment policy. Our provincial tumor group endorsed the NACI statement on HPV Vaccine and passed a resolution supporting a joint proposal (along with the BCCDC) to government encouraging a publicly funded school HPV vaccination program.

**Janice Kwon** will be joining us starting March 5<sup>th</sup> for seven months. We are hoping the wet coast agrees with her! **Mark Carey and Brian Hennessy** recently visited from the MD Anderson. They spent the better part of a week making with-drawals from our tumor bank for a cooperative project.

**Mark Heywood** was elected treasurer of the SOGC in the past year. **Tom Ehlen** is working on the implementation of a web-based provincial colposcopy network. Our OvCaRe initiative continues to be successful. **Gavin Stuart** remains the Dean of the UBC Medical School and continually amazes us with his ability to keep all the balls in the air! **Paul Hoskins** is technically on sabbatical but still hanging about! I am back to Nigeria in May to continue work on a cervical cancer project involving collaboration with six Nigerian University Centers, the U of Texas; MD Anderson; and Rice University.

I would like to take the opportunity of inviting all to the **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual DA Boyes Oncology Day November 9<sup>th</sup>**. This year, the meeting is tacked on to a long weekend... so if you want a little break in Vancouver this fall... Our out-of-town guests this year are **Michael Quinn** from Melbourne and **Pam Chu** from Calgary. We also have a full roster of local content. Program details will follow.

Well that's all from Vancouver for now!

*Note from the Editor: Congratulations to Dianne Miller for doing such an outstanding job creating this profile. This is a perfect model and we challenge other centre to submit theirs for the summer and subsequent issues. Deadline for the summer issue is May 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact Helen Steed at [helensteed@cancerboard.ab.ca](mailto:helensteed@cancerboard.ab.ca) to reserve space for the next issue.*

## NOCA and OCC Form New Organization

By Elisabeth Ross, Chief Executive Officer

A new Canadian organization dedicated to overcoming ovarian cancer has been created through a partnership of the National Ovarian Cancer Association (NOCA) and Ovarian Cancer Canada (OCC). Adopting the name **Ovarian Cancer Canada** and NOCA's sunflower symbol, the new organization will build on the founding partners' mission to support women and their families living with ovarian cancer, increase awareness of the disease through education and raise funds for much-needed research.

Elisabeth Ross, former Executive Director of NOCA, has been named Chief Executive Officer of the new Ovarian Cancer Canada. Directors of the two founding boards will become directors of the new OCC. Staff and offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Halifax become part of the new organization.

For further information, visit [www.ovariancanada.org](http://www.ovariancanada.org) or call toll free 1-877-413-7970.

## Three New Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Training Programs Approved by the RCPSC

The Gynecologic Oncology Divisions of Laval University, McGill University and the University of Ottawa have all recently received approval from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for a two-year fellowship program in gynecologic oncology.

The Ottawa program at The Ottawa Hospital will be headed by Dr. Tien Le and will receive one fellow every two years beginning July 2008.

Dr. Lucy Gilbert is the Director of the McGill program. Fellowship will be a two-year clinical or three-year clinical and research and the program will receive one fellow beginning in July 2007.

The Laval University program offers a two-year fellowship and will receive one fellow every two years beginning July 2007.

## GOC/CAIRE Masters Class II – A Resounding Success!

The GOC/CAIRE Consortium was created primarily to develop a scientific Consortium to advance the implementation of preventive HPV vaccines in Canada. One of the goals of the Consortium is to facilitate and increase the pool of researchers and educators involved in this domain. To this end, the Consortium has focussed on the first step of building capacity by bringing researchers, educators and opinion leaders together to provide synergy for activities between the different provinces.

The first GOC/CAIRE Masters Class was held in Montreal September 22-23, 2006 and focussed on the immunology of vaccination. The second Masters Class was held January 19-20, 2007 in Quebec City and concentrated on the economics of HPV prevention programs. The goals of this recent workshop were to:

1. Identify the epidemiological modeling, the economic analysis and the optimal strategy for developing these models for decision-making in regards immunization and implementation;

2. Identify the strengths and limitations of currently developed models and what information was necessary in order to inform a Canadian model; and
3. To develop practical research strategies for improving the current models within Canada.

International speakers included Dr. Gillian Saunders from Duke University; Dr. Geoffrey Garnett from the United Kingdom and from Quebec City; Dr. Philippe De Wals, a world leader in creating the analytical framework around vaccine implementation. Co-chairing this meeting were Dr. Simon Dobson from CAIRE and the BC Vaccine Evaluation Center; Dr. Bernard Duval from the Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec; and Dr. Michael Fung-Ke-Fung from The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada. The meeting began with a series of plenary sessions followed by breakout sessions aimed at producing a document that would identify the modeling requirements for a Canadian approach and a documentation of the knowl-

edge gaps and datasets required to inform a Canadian model. The program was attended by a wide spectrum of researchers and opinion leaders from all provinces.

The third Masters Class is being organized for September 2007. Proposed international speakers for this meeting include Dr. Christopher Meijer, Chairman and Director of the Department of Pathology at the Vrije Universiteit Medical Center in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Dr. Joakim Dillner, Professor, Department of Medical Microbiology, Lund University, Malmö University Hospital in Malmö, Sweden.

As the Consortium continues to develop, we plan to hold a fourth Masters Class involving the evaluation of implementation programs.

These Masters Classes have been supported by unrestricted grants for education from GlaxoSmithKline. Stay tuned as we continue to watch the development of this very productive relationship between the GOC and CAIRE.

### News from the Centres

#### News from Edmonton

##### Edmonton's loss, Ottawa's gain-Wylam Faught relocates to Ottawa

The Edmonton group would like to acknowledge Dr. Wylam Faught's tremendous term as Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology these past five years. We are very sad to see him leave but also wish him all the best in his upcoming move and of course reuniting with family. He has had a successful term and has had major involvement with the planned opening of our new "Lois Hole Hospital for Women" in 2008. He was actively involved with our Gynecology Oncology Division and will not only be missed as Chairman, but also as a colleague and friend. We wish you all the best Wylam!

#### News from London

##### London Welcomes Dr. Michel Préfontaine

The Gynecologic Oncology group in London is very pleased to announce that Michel Préfontaine will be joining their group as of April 2007. Michel is well known to the Canadian gynecologic oncology scene. He originates from Montréal and did his Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Toronto / McMaster University Program. Michel then began his practice at the University of Ottawa in 1985, where he assumed the post of Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology until 1992, when he subse-

quently moved to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. He has since then practiced within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tufts University School of Medicine. We are very pleased that he has decided to return to Canada and in particular to London where he will no doubt be a strong contributor to the care of women with gynecologic malignancies in this country.

#### News from Québec City

##### Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology

We are pleased to announce a two-year fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, Laval University, Québec City, Canada starting July 2007. The program offers a unique opportunity for the trainee to acquire solid skills in invasive laparoscopic procedures and in radical vaginal surgery. Trainees should have a working knowledge of the French language. Applications for 2007 should be sent as soon as possible to Dr. Marie Plante, Fellowship Director.

#### Nomination

Dr. Marie Plante was appointed co-chair of the Cervical Cancer Task Force and member of the Gynecologic Cancer Steering Committee at the National Cancer Institute (US). She was also appointed member of the NCI-C CTG Gynecologic Committee strategic working group (cervix).

## Announcing Elective Grants Recipients

The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada and Ovarian Cancer Canada (OCC), formerly National Ovarian Cancer Association, are very excited to announce our first four elective grant recipients.

This year's elective grant recipients are:

- Dr. Gregg Nelson of University of Calgary who has spent a month at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas.
- Dr. Jacob McGee of University of Ottawa who is currently at the University of BC in Vancouver.
- Dr. Alon Altman from Dalhousie going to University of BC in Vancouver in October.
- Dr. Shannon Salvador from University of BC who has spent a month at the both the Universities of Toronto and Calgary.

We hope this will help foster their interest and pursuit of careers in gynecologic oncology.

#### New Elective Grants in Gynecologic Oncology for Residents - Funding Renewed

We are very pleased to confirm that with the support from Ovarian Cancer Canada, funding for another 12 grants for the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 is now available. The GOC/OCC elective program has been established to support and encourage our young interested residents to obtain experience in Gynecologic Oncology training at various sites.

## Academic Corner

### Awards

Congratulations to our members who have recently received an award ...

Dr. Laurie Elit received a MacKenzie Fellowship in Surgery, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Canada and a Clinical Traineeship Grant from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Canada

Dr. Christopher Giede received the CREOG teaching award for the University of Saskatchewan program in Saskatoon.

Dr. Walter Gotlieb received the Israel Cancer Research Award for Scientific Excellence.

Dr. Michel Roy was awarded the SGO Presidential Award for his presentation "Value of Sentinel Node Mapping in Cancer of the Cervix", which was presented at the SGO 37th Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer, in March 2006 in Palm Springs, California.

### Publications

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### Grants

Walter Gotlieb, 2006 Canadian Foundation for Women's Health Grant

Helen Steed, Michael Sawyer, Carolyn Slupsky 2007 Western Economic Development