

The GOC News

Volume 8 Issue 3
 Fall 2008

A Word from our President

Well, it has been an interesting mandate so far! A lot of action and projects have been going on! I would first like to briefly look back at the Newfoundland crisis, then bring the membership up to speed with all the projects we are working on. I also take this opportunity to welcome anyone interested in participating in any of those projects or has ideas for new projects.

Newfoundland and Labrador crisis

Obviously the situation in Newfoundland and Labrador has occupied the front scene since August. The whole issue has been openly debated in the media and at least journalists and the general population now know what a gynecologic oncologist is! The situation has given gynecologic oncology incredible visibility and media attention.

As you are aware, GOC has made representations to the Health Ministry of Newfoundland and Labrador supporting our three colleagues in their negotiation process. Several letters were written to the Health Minister and Premier (see GOC website). At the same time, GOC provided support for patient care by offering the GOC website platform to the Eastern Health to advertise for recruitment.

Our colleagues stood solid and finally reached a verbal mutual agreement with the Health Ministry. They obtained a commitment from the Government to respond to all their demands related to the improvement of patient care (infrastructure, equipment and human

resources) and obtained an acceptable financial compensation.

We are proud of our three colleagues for their determination in fighting for the care of women with gynecologic malignancies, for raising the standards of practice in their province as well as raising the profile of our discipline. Well deserved!

Projects and plans for the year

In the next year, we will continue to develop and pursue several projects and I thought the membership would be interested in knowing more about them:

We are actively preparing another Communities of Practice (CoP) meeting December 5th-6th in Toronto. In addition to the three CoPs already in progress, two new CoPs were recently initiated.



Ovarian Cancer CoP

IP chemotherapy project (Dr. Diane Provencher). This project is awaiting the NCIC approval of the trial on neo-adjuvant chemotherapy followed by IP chemotherapy;

IP chemotherapy survey (Lynne Jolicoeur). In the meantime, the nurses are conducting a national survey to

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The GOC Presidential Pin

The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada commissioned the new Presidential pin in order to recognize the Presidents, past and present, for the Society. The Presidents have played a major role in the development and evolution of the Society, the time commitment and efforts involved are not insignificant. As part of the plan to continue to recognize our members,

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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.

A Word from our President (continued from page 1)

look at problems, difficulties and solutions in conducting IP chemotherapy in each centre to facilitate the implementation of IP chemotherapy in the country;

2nd line chemotherapy (Drs. Laurie Elit and Michael Fung-Kee-Fung). This project aims at developing a case-based study based on the 2nd line chemotherapy guideline already produced. The project will be conducted in collaboration with other subspecialty partners using the website platform.

Cervical Cancer CoP

FAQ book (Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung). The FAQ book for vaccine implementation is a GOC-led initiative in partnership with CAIRE (Canadian Association of Immunization Research and Education) and other societies. The first version was such a success that a new updated edition was requested.

Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) CoP

A thorough national survey on MIS surgery in endometrial cancer will soon begin (Dr. Jan Hauspy);

A prospective national robotic database is being developed (Drs. Dominique Lanvin and Susie Lau);

A project to develop an interface between MIS and our website was recently initiated to include items such as FAQs, sharing of instrumentation, forum for discussing problems, videos of MIS procedures on-line, live webcast retransmission of procedures etc (Dr. Rachel Kupets).

Translational Research CoP

This new CoP aims at gathering a small group of scientists interested in working together to share ideas and develop a platform/network to foster the development of basic research in Canada (Dr. Johanne Weberpals).

International Health CoP

This CoP was recently created to leverage opportunities for GOC to support international activities and coordinate activities of GOC members already

participating in international work (Drs. Laurie Elit and Dianne Miller).

Upcoming Meetings

GOC/WAGO meeting

We are actively working on preparing the joint GOC/WAGO meeting in June 2009 in Vancouver. Dr. Jason Dodge is working on the Educational Program. It should be a very interesting experience to combine the two societies, to mutually exchange our views, share knowledge, engage in discussions with our US colleagues, network and potentially develop collaborations. Exceptionally, GOC will not participate to the annual SOGC meeting in June 2009 as it is held in the Maritimes the week before the GOC/WAGO meeting. However, there will be GOC representation for the International Symposium at the SOGC meeting under the supervision of our Maritimes colleagues (Dr. Jim Bentley and Paula Rittenberg).

CPD meeting

The CPD meeting this year will be in Toronto Friday May 1st and will be followed by the NCIC meeting. Mark your calendar as we are looking at an amazing meeting and a very exciting program!

The Synoptic OR Notes

CPAC (Canadian Partnership Against Cancer) is engaging in the development of a "collaborative staging system" to incorporate all the important elements of the FIGO staging into the OR dictation notes. The objectives are to standardize OR dictation in oncology, facilitate data extraction, etc. (A similar project has been developed in pathology with the implementation of a synoptic pathology report which captures all the important elements of the FIGO classification). The province of Alberta has conducted a pilot project of the synoptic OR notes in a number of surgical oncology disciplines including gynecologic oncology for ovarian cancer (Dr. Prafull Ghatage). The project is now piloted in a few Ontario centres as well (Dr. Barry Rosen). This project represents a unique opportunity for GOC to actively get involved in defining the minimum dataset elements to be included in the synoptic OR notes in ovarian cancer and in other gynecologic

malignancies as well, and to play a pivotal role in the implementation of the synoptic OR notes in gynecologic oncology centres across the country.

New GOC email address and website

GOC is now the proud owner of the g-o-c domain name (www.g-o-c.org). Owing the domain name allows us to create GOC email addresses. For instance the email for H el ene Soubli ere has now been changed to hsoubliere@g-o-c.org. (For those wondering why not dropping the dashes and simply using www.goc.org, it's because that domain already belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church!)

So as I said, the Presidency of GOC has been an interesting and at times very intense experience...and quite frankly, I am almost starting to enjoy it! It is truly a team effort and without the continuous help and support of Michael, Barry, Walter and H el ene, it would simply be impossible to manage!

It is now clear to me that GOC has become a reputable and recognized national subspecialty Society. It was

particularly noticeable during the Newfoundland crisis. We now regularly get calls from the media as soon as issues pertaining to gynecologic oncology come up (vaccine, wait times etc). That clearly means that we are becoming more relevant and are acknowledged as the voice of gynecologic cancer in this country.

We also have several ongoing very interesting projects to make our Society more academically relevant. Several members of our Society with interest in translational research wish to put their efforts together to collaborate on research projects. As we are becoming a more mature Society, we are now in a position to start contributing to the care of women with gynecologic cancers in the developing world. Those are all signs of a very healthy Society where individuals are now working together on projects far and beyond their own cancer centers.

So yes, it is an exciting time to be President of GOC!

Sincerely



Marie Plante, MD, FRCSC

The GOC Presidential Pin (continued from page 1)

the Presidential pin was struck in order to officially recognize this unique contribution. At our recent Annual General Meeting, the Presidential pin was presented to those past presidents who were in attendance. It is the hope that everyone will wear this pin with pride. The Society is truly grateful for their contribution.



Past-Presidents Dr. Barry P. Rosen (2006-2008), K. Joan Murphy (2000-2002), Garry V. Krepart (1990-1992), Hugh Allen (1984-1986), Pierre Drouin (1996-1998), Gavin Stuart (1998-2000), Robert Lotocki (2002-2004) and Lou Benedet (1992-1994). Missing from photo are Drs. Robert C. Fraser (1986-1988), David Popkin (1988-1990), Dr. Denny DePetrillo (1994-1996), and Dr. Diane Provencher (2004-2006).

Success in Calgary - A Review of our 29th Annual General Meeting

By Dr. Helen Steed

Another successful Annual General Meeting was held in Calgary June 27-28, 2008. It was our Society's 29th AGM and many were in attendance to take in the numerous research presentations, the outstanding presentation from our invited Royal College speaker, as well as enjoy an evening catching-up with friends and colleagues in true "Western style" at the historical Heritage Park Village.

The numerous abstract submissions were an attestation to the active research members of our Society conduct and participate in. We received 45 abstract submissions of which 17 were presented orally, 25 by poster (the others withdrew). We started the day off with an interesting and thoughtful presentation from our guest speaker, Dr. Denis Querleu on the new nomenclature for radical hysterectomy. It was an exciting review of the proposed standardized international classification of radical hysterectomy that had many of us questioning our own surgical definitions (Marie put it best "those beautiful uterosacral ligaments we display at laparoscopic radical hysterectomy"). The scientific program included abstracts from all disease sites and research topics such as fertility preserving surgery for cervical cancer, preoperative imaging for uterine cancer patients, genetic profiling of ovarian cancer, and cost-effectiveness prevention strategies for cancers in Lynch Syndrome. Also, there were posters from across the country re-

viewing a variety of topics such as rare as neuroendocrine tumors of the cervix, treatment of ACIS with LEEP, to women's perceptions about treatment decision-making in recurrent ovarian cancer.

It was also a pleasure to see medical students and residents both in attendance at the meeting as well as presenting oral presentations and posters. First prize actually went to a resident presenter, Dr. Lua Eiriksson of University of Alberta (congratulations to Lua!!).

Saturday morning was a treat for all of us to hear an excellent presentation from Dr. John Boggess, Associate Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Walter Gotlieb summarized the experience in Canada to date in robotics, and introduced our guest speaker. Dr. Boggess has dedicated his skills to improving surgical outcomes through application of technology and minimally invasive surgical techniques. He definitely convinced us with his presentation and the remarkable outcomes achieved with robotic surgery. He actually showed shorter OR times, LOHS, and minimal EBL with robotic surgery compared to open surgery, and similar improvements when robotics is compared to laparoscopic procedures also. In addition, we had the opportunity to try out the da Vinci S robot from Intuitive Surgical brought to us by Minogue Medical Inc. - a real highlight to our AGM this year.



Clockwise from top left:

CHUM Fellow Dr. Carole Williams and Dr. Pierre Drouin

Drs. John Boggess and Walter Gotlieb

Visiting International Guest Dr. Omeng, and Dr. Barry Rosen

*Dr. Hatim Aldabbagh should have minded his own business!
Pictured with actors during Gunfighter Show at social event*

Overall, a successful meeting encouraging the exchange of research interests and ideas as well as fostering the social interactions our Society enjoys also.

Make note, that next year, GOC will hold its 30th AGM in Vancouver in conjunction with The Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists (WAGO). We hope to see everyone again at next year's AGM!

8th Annual Run for Her Life™ raises \$1,750 for Calgary!

We wish to thank all participants in this year's Run for Her Life, which raised \$1,750 for Ovarian Cancer Canada, to be used in the local Calgary community. Thanks to everyone who helped in organizing the Run - Dr. Pam Chu, Lisa Barrett and Lisa Clement of Ovarian Cancer Canada, David Pawlik of GlaxoSmithKline, Jacqui Allison of The Running Room, and everyone who volunteered at the registration desk and the day of the event. Thank you as well to all who

sponsored the Run - GlaxoSmithKline, Schering-Plough Canada and The Running Room.

We would like to express our gratitude as well to Dave Pawlik of GSK who knocked on many doors in Calgary securing several prizes in the form of gift certificates which were drawn amongst the Run participants.

We look forward to another successful event in Vancouver next year!



GOC's 2008 Abstract Programme – 29th Annual General Meeting, Calgary, Alberta

Congratulations to all abstract award recipients!

Abstract Winners

1st place oral:

Lua Eiriksson
ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES IN STAGE I/II HIGH RISK ENDOMETRIAL ADENOCARCINOMA PATIENTS TREATED WITH POSTOPERATIVE VAGINAL VAULT RADIOTHERAPY ONLY
L. Eiriksson, H. Steed, J. Cuartero, V. Capstick, A. Schepansky, R. Pearcey, W. Faught, G. Dundas

2nd place oral:

Taymaa May
THE GENETIC PROFILE OF OVARIAN LOW GRADE SEROUS CARCINOMA IS SIMILAR TO SEROUS LOW MALIGNANT POTENTIAL TUMORS WITH MICROPAPILLARY FEATURES AND DISTINCT FROM HIGH GRADE SEROUS CARCINOMA
T. May, A. Tone, C. Virtanen, M. Sharma, H. Begley, I. Jurisica, B. Rosen, J. Murphy, P. Shaw, T. Brown

Best poster:

Candace O'Quinn
AN EXAMINATION OF THE REFERRAL CRITERIA AND PATTERNS FOR BRCA TESTING IN NOVA SCOTIA
C. O'Quinn, P. Steele, M. Ludman, T. Dummer, L. Parker, K. Kieser

Best paper in Basic Science / Translational:

Taymaa May
THE GENETIC PROFILE OF OVARIAN LOW GRADE SEROUS CARCINOMA IS SIMILAR TO SEROUS LOW MALIGNANT POTENTIAL TUMORS WITH MICROPAPILLARY FEATURES AND DISTINCT FROM HIGH GRADE SEROUS CARCINOMA
T. May, A. Tone, C. Virtanen, M. Sharma, H. Begley, I. Jurisica, B. Rosen, J. Murphy, P. Shaw, T. Brown

Best paper in Clinical:

Lua Eiriksson
ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES IN STAGE I/II HIGH RISK ENDOMETRIAL ADENOCARCINOMA PATIENTS TREATED WITH POSTOPERATIVE VAGINAL VAULT RADIOTHERAPY
L. Eiriksson, H. Steed, J. Cuartero, V. Capstick, A. Schepansky, R. Pearcey, W. Faught, G. Dundas

Best paper in Health Services Research / Health Policy:

Candace O'Quinn
AN EXAMINATION OF THE REFERRAL CRITERIA AND PATTERNS FOR BRCA TESTING IN NOVA SCOTIA

C. O'Quinn, P. Steele, M. Ludman, T. Dummer, L. Parker, K. Kieser

Best paper in Innovations in Care / Education:

Gabriela Penalzo
IMPROVING ACCESS, INTEGRATION AND PATIENT-CENTERED PALLIATIVE CARE FOR INPATIENT GYNAECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY PATIENTS VIA SUSTAINABLE PROCESS RE-DESIGN STRATEGIES IN A TERTIARY CARE SETTING

J. Murphy, J. Dodge, L. O'Leary, S. Chambers, C. Wang, M. Caesar, A. Langan, G. Penalzo

Oral Presentations

SIGNIFICANCE OF CA125 RESPONSE TO NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY AND DELAYED PRIMARY SURGICAL DEBULKING IN EPITHELIAL OVARIAN CANCER
T Le, L Hopkins, W Faught, M Fung-Kee-Fung

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHEMOTHERAPY INTERRUPTIONS FROM PLANNED DELAYED SURGICAL DEBULKING IN OVARIAN CANCER PATIENTS TREATED WITH NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY
T Le, K Fathi, L Hopkins, W Faught, M Fung-Kee-Fung

HISTOPATHOLOGIC ASSESSMENTS OF CHEMOTHERAPY EFFECTS IN OVARIAN CANCER PATIENTS TREATED WITH NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY AND DELAYED PRIMARY SURGICAL DEBULKING
T Le, K William, M Senterman, L Hopkins, W Faught, M Fung-Kee-Fung

CERVICAL INTRAEPITHELIAL NEOPLASIA: RECURRENCE AFTER TREATMENT LONGTERM FOLLOW-UP FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COHORT STUDY
T Ehlen, J Melnikow, C McGahan, G Sawaya, C Andy

COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS OF PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR GYNECOLOGIC CANCERS IN LYNCH SYNDROME
J Kwon, C Sun, S Peterson, K White, S Boyd-Rogers, M Daniels, K Lu



Drs. Alon Altman, Lua Eiriksson, Candace O'Quinn and Jacqueline O'Connell

EVALUATING STRATEGIES TO REDUCE ENDOMETRIAL CANCER RISK WITHIN THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC
J Kwon, K Lu

OUTCOME OF 87 PREGNANCIES FOLLOWING RADICAL TRACHELECTOMY FOR THE TREATMENT OF EARLY-STAGE CERVICAL CANCER
M Plante, M Renaud, J Grégoire, M Roy

ADJUVANT THERAPY IN GRANULOSA CELL TUMORS OF THE OVARY
J Hauspy, M Beiner, I Harley, A Oza, B Rosen, W Chapman, L Le, W Levin

PATTERNS OF SURGICAL CARE FOR UTERINE CANCER IN ONTARIO
L Elit, S Schultz, R Przybysz, J Kwon, R Saskin, N Gunraj, D Wilton, M Simunovic, D Urbach

RESIDUAL TUMOUR > 1CM FOLLOWING DEBULKING SURGERY AFTER NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY PREDICTS POOR CLINICAL OUTCOME IN ADVANCED STAGE OVARIAN CANCER (FIGOIII-C-IV)
D de Jong, M Verhulsdonk, M van der Burg, C Burger

RADICAL VAGINAL TRACHELECTOMY VS. RADICAL HYSTERECTOMY FOR SMALL EARLY STAGE CERVICAL CANCER: A MATCHED CASE-CONTROL STUDY
M Beiner, J Hauspy, B Rosen, J Murphy, S Laframboise, S Nofech-Mozes, N Ismiil, G Rasty, M Khalifa, A Covens

EVALUATION OF TWO MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR PREOPERATIVE GRADE 1 ENDOMETRIAL CANCER
M Bernardini, T May, M Khalifa, S Nofech-Mozes, A Berchuck, A Covens, L Havrilesky

UTILIZATION OF PREOPERATIVE IMAGING AMONG UTERINE CANCER PATIENTS IN ONTARIO
L Gien, L Barbera, R Kupets, R Saskin, L Paszat



Drs. Taymaa May, Jason Dodge and Barry Rosen

A COMPARISON OF OUTCOMES BETWEEN ENDOMETRIOID AND SEROUS CARCINOMAS OF THE OVARY: ARE THEY DIFFERENT CANCERS?

L Gien, B Rosen, T Panzarella, W Chapman, J Dodge

PREVIOUS HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) RELATED GYNECOLOGICAL NEOPLASIA IN WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH ANAL CANCER IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

W Jiménez, L Pászat, R Kupets, J Tinmouth

ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES IN STAGE I/II HIGH RISK ENDOMETRIAL ADENOCARCINOMA PATIENTS TREATED WITH POSTOPERATIVE VAGINAL VAULT RADIOTHERAPY ONLY

L Eiriksson, H Steed, J Cuartero, V Capstick, A Schepansky, R Pearcey, W Faught, G Dundas

THE GENETIC PROFILE OF OVARIAN LOW GRADE SEROUS CARCINOMA IS SIMILAR TO SEROUS LOW MALIGNANT POTENTIAL TUMORS WITH MICROPAPILLARY FEATURES AND DISTINCT FROM HIGH GRADE SEROUS CARCINOMA

T May, A Tone, C Virtanen, M Sharma, H Begley, I Jurisica, B Rosen, J Murphy, P Shaw, T Brown

Posters

CD138 EXPRESSION IN OVARIAN CANCER IS SUPPRESSED BY HISTONE DEACETYLASE INHIBITORS AND STRESS

A Covens, L Helpman, B Katz, D Grisarou

USE OF TPN IN PATIENTS WITH BOWEL OBSTRUCTION FROM RECURRENT INTRA-ABDOMINAL MALIGNANCY

L Elit, N Gangum

WOMEN'S PERCEPTIONS ABOUT TREATMENT DECISION-MAKING IN RECURRENT OVARIAN CANCER

L Elit, C Charles, S Dimitry, A Gafni, S Tedford Gold, I Gold

IMPROVING ACCESS, INTEGRATION AND PATIENT-CENTERED PALLIATIVE CARE FOR INPATIENT GYNAECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY PATIENTS VIA SUSTAINABLE PROCESS RE-DESIGN STRATEGIES IN A TERTIARY CARE SETTING

J Murphy, J Dodge, L O'Leary, S Chambers, C Wang, M Caesar, A Langan, G Penalzoza

PATTERNS OF SURGICAL CARE FOR VULVAR CANCER IN ONTARIO

L Elit, R Przybysz, S Schultz, L Barbera, J Kwon, R Saskin, D Wilton, N Gunraj, M Simunovic, D Urbach

PYGOPUS IS A POTENTIAL MARKER FOR CERVICAL DYSPLASIA

C Popadiuk, D Fontaine, K Kao

EQUITY INDICATORS FOR OVARIAN CANCER IN ONTARIO WOMEN. RESULTS FROM THE POWER (PROJECT FOR AN ONTARIO WOMEN'S HEALTH EVIDENCE-BASED REPORT CARD) STUDY

L Elit, M Kryzanowski, R Saskin, L Barbera, J Kwon, A Bierman

DNA REPAIR PROTEINS BRCA1 AND ERCC1 AS PREDICTIVE MARKERS IN OVARIAN CANCER

J Weberpals, A O'Brien, K Garbuio, K Clark-Knowles, O Antoniouk, J Dimitroulakos

CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTCOMES OF UTERINE PAPILLARY SEROUS CARCINOMA IN MANITOBA: ELEVEN YEARS EXPERIENCE

H Aldabbagh, R Lotocki, G Krepart, S Popowich, E Dean, A Demers

IFOSFAMIDE INDUCED ENCEPHALOPATHY: A CASE REPORT

A Agrawal, J Nation

NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOR OF THE CERVIX: REPORT OF THREE CASES AND EXPERIENCE AT OUR CENTRE

A Agrawal, P Ghatage, P Chu, J Nation, T Magliocco

LUTEINIZING THECOMA WITH SCLEROSING PERITONITIS (LTSP) SYNDROME: CASE REPORT AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A Altman, P Rittenberg, S Murray

CASE REPORT OF AN UNUSUAL COMPLICATION OF INTRAPERITONEAL CATHETER

C Aspe Lucero, P Ghatage

ELECTROSURGICAL LOOP EXCISION FOR CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT OF CERVICAL ADENOCARCINOMA IN SITU

T Wells, D Hodges, W Faught



Comparing notes – Drs. Christopher Giede and Ian Harley

OVARIAN CANCER EARLY SCREENING PROJECT (OCESP): LOWER GENITAL TRACT SECRETIONS FOR EARLY SCREENING OF PELVIC EPITHELIAL CANCERS

J O'Connell, B Gilks, T Ehlen, S Finlayson, M Heywood, J McAlpine, G Stuart, J Kwon, A Tinker, S Saldivar, M Mazgani, R Correa, S Salvador, S Kalloger, M Schummer, P Brown, D Miller

AN EXAMINATION OF THE REFERRAL CRITERIA AND PATTERNS FOR BRCA TESTING IN NOVA SCOTIA

C O'Quinn, P Steele, M Ludman, T Dummer, L Parker, K Kieser

WHAT DO WOMEN WITH OVARIAN CANCER NEED DURING CHEMOTHERAPY?

L Jolicoeur, J Tourigny, T Le, M Lefebvre

DEVELOPMENT OF A TOOL TO IMPROVE CURRENT TRIAGE PROCESS (CLINICAL MICROSYSTEM)

A Agrawal, P Renfrew

EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND LIFE STYLE FACTORS ON THE INCIDENCE CERVICAL CANCER IN ALBERTA

A Agrawal, S Ross, O Agrawal

TEN YEAR EXPERIENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BORDERLINE OVARIAN TUMORS OF THE OVARY AT THE TOM BAKER CANCER CENTRE, CALGARY

N Anfinan, P Chu, P Ghatage, J Nation

TWO YEAR EXPERIENCE FOR ADVANCED OVARIAN CANCER TREATED WITH INTRAPERITONEAL CHEMOTHERAPY AT TOM BAKER CANCER CENTRE SINCE FEBRUARY 2006

C Aspe Lucero, P Ghatage

10 YEAR EXPERIENCE OF VULVAR CANCER TREATED AT TOM BAKER CANCER CENTRE

C Aspe Lucero, P Ghatage

We would like to acknowledge those who participated in the review of abstracts and in the on-site judging. They are:

Reviewers:

Drs. Peter Bryson, Al Covens, Peter Craighead, Jason Dodge, Pierre Drouin, Wylam Faught, Christopher Giede, Walter Gotlieb, Jean Grégoire, Mark Heywood, Robbi Howlett, Katharina Kieser, Dianne Miller, François Moens, Joan Murphy, Marie Plante, Helen Steed and Gavin Stuart, under the direction of Dr. Mark Heywood, Chair, AGM Program Committee, and Dr. Jason Dodge, Chair-Elect of the AGM Program Committee

On-Site Judges:

Drs. Wylam Faught, Christopher Giede, Ian Harley, John Jeffrey, Michel Préfontaine and Gavin Stuart

AGM 2008 from a Business Perspective...

Introducing GOC Executive, Council and Committee Members on July 1, 2008

GOC Officers

Dr. Marie Plante	President.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Barry Rosen.....	Past-President	June 2008-2010
Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung.....	President-Elect	June 2008-2010
Dr. Walter Gotlieb	Secretary-Treasurer	June 2008-2011

Executive Council

Dr. Marie Plante, President.....	Chair.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Barry Rosen, Past-President.....	Councillor	June 2008-2010
Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, President-Elect	Councillor	June 2008-2010
Dr. Walter Gotlieb, Secretary-Treasurer	Councillor	June 2008-2011
Dr. Peter Craighead	Councillor	June 2007-2009
Mrs. Dianne Dalbello.....	Councillor	June 2007-2009
Dr. Dianne Miller	Councillor	June 2007-2009
Dr. Réjean Savoie.....	Councillor	June 2007-2009
Dr. Jason Dodge, AGM Programme Director	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2012
Dr. Laurie Elit, Co-Chair CoP in Int'l Health	Ex-Officio	Indeterminate
Ms. Lynne Jolicoeur, Co-Chair, GONPPC	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. Tien Le, SOGC/GOC/SCC Policy & Practice Guidelines Committee	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. François Moens, Chair, Task Force in HR	Ex-Officio	Indeterminate
Dr. Joan Murphy, Bylaws & Task Force Chair	Ex-Officio	Indeterminate
Dr. Diane Provencher, CPD Programme Director	Ex-Officio	June 2006-2010

AGM Programme Committee

Dr. Jason Dodge.....	Chair.....	June 2008-2012
Dr. Marie Plante, President	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, President-Elect	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. Walter Gotlieb, Secretary-Treasurer.....	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. Jean Grégoire	Active Member	June 2006-2009
Dr. Paula Rittenberg	Active Member	June 2006-2009
Dr. Erin Dean.....	Active Member	June 2008-2011
Dr. Lilian Gien.....	Observer	June 2008-2010

CPD Programme Committee

Dr. Diane Provencher	Chair.....	June 2006-2010
Dr. Marie Plante, President.....	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, President-Elect	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. Walter Gotlieb, Secretary-Treasurer.....	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. Paul Hoskins	Active Member	June 2006-2009
Dr. Paul Bessette	Active Member	June 2006-2009
Dr. Thu-Van Nguyen-Huynh	Active Member	June 2006-2009
Dr. Stéphane Laframboise	Active Member	June 2006-2009

GOC/SCC/SOGC Policy & Practice Guidelines Committee

Dr. Tien Le	Chair.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Marie Plante	President.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. James Bentley	SCC President.....	June 2007-2009
Dr. Scott Farrell.....	SOGC President.....	June 2008-2009
Dr. Rachel Kupets	Ontario.....	June 2007-2010
Dr. Marie-Claude Renaud	Québec	June 2007-2010
Dr. Christopher Giede.....	Western.....	June 2006-2009
Dr. Patti Power	Atlantic.....	June 2007-2010
Mrs. Hélène Soublière	Committee Coordinator	

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming GOC meetings:

9th Annual Continuing Professional Development Meeting April 30th to May 2nd, 2009 (main CPD day Friday May 1, 2009) Montreal, Quebec*

*In conjunction with the NCIC spring meeting

30th Annual General Meeting June 23rd to June 28th, 2009 (actual GOC dates to be confirmed) Vancouver, BC*

*In conjunction with the Western Association of Gynecologic Oncology (WAGO)

November 6 – 7, 2008 – 34th Annual D.A. Boyes Society Meeting – Vancouver, BC – www.cpdkt.ubc.ca

February 5 – 8, 2009 – SGO Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer – San Antonio, Texas – www.sgo.org

February 11 – 14, 2009 – Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons EuroAmerican MultiSpecialty Summit IV of Laparoscopy and MIS – Orlando, Florida – www.sls.org

March 5 – 8, 2009 – SGO Winter Meeting – Olympic Valley, California – www.sgo.org

June 17 – 21, 2009 – SOGC 65th Annual Clinical Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia – www.sogc.org

September 9 – 12, 2009 – 18th SLS Annual Meeting and Endo Expo 2009 – Los Angeles, California – www.sls.org

October 11 – 14, 2009 – 16th International Meeting of ESGO – Belgrade, Serbia – www.esgo.org

October 25 – 28, 2009 - IGCS 12th Biennial Meeting – Bangkok, Thailand – www.kenes.com/igcs

September 1 – 4, 2010 - 19th SLS Annual Meeting and Endo Expo 2010 - Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, New York, New York - www.sls.org



2008 OCC/GOC Grant Recipient Awards. Pictured are Drs. Barry Rosen, Alon Altman, John Jeffrey and Elisabeth Ross

(Continued on page 7)

AGM 2008 from a Business Perspective... (continued from page 6)

Membership Committee

Dr. Barry Rosen, Past-President.....	Chair.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, President-Elect	Ex-Officio	June 2008-2010
Dr. Walter Gotlieb, Secretary-Treasurer.....	Ex-Officio.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Wylam Faught	Active Member	June 2007-2009
Dr. Isabelle Germain	Active Member	June 2007-2009
Dr. Michel Préfontaine.....	Active Member	June 2007-2009
Mrs. Joanne Brodeur	Associate Member	June 2007-2009

Nominating Committee

Dr. Marie Plante, President.....	Chair.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Barry Rosen, Past-President.....	Ex-Officio.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, President-Elect	Ex-Officio.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Walter Gotlieb, Secretary-Treasurer.....	Observer.....	June 2008-2010
Dr. Robert J. Lotocki	Active Member	June 2008-2010
Dr. Gavin Stuart.....	Active Member	June 2008-2010

Thank you Mark!



At AGM, the GOC Executive and Council acknowledged Dr. Mark Heywood for his contributions to the Society in the past 4 years through his participation on Council and as Chair of the AGM Planning Committee.

Walk Raises a Record \$1.5 Million!

The 7th annual Winners Walk of Hope—the country’s only national event dedicated to raising funds to overcome ovarian cancer—has raised a record \$1.5 million to help Ovarian Cancer Canada advance awareness, education and research to challenge the disease.

The annual Walk is made possible with the support of national title sponsor Winners, and host sponsors HomeSense and KPMG. In 2008, Electrolux

joined the team as national presenting sponsor and Chatelaine signed on as national media sponsor. As well, local sponsors in 14 cities joined in to raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

“We are so grateful for the sponsorship and, most importantly, for the spirit of volunteerism that keeps this event going from year to year,” says Elisabeth Ross, CEO of Ovarian Cancer Canada.

“And we were delighted to see GOC members join us across the country.”

A big vote of thanks to the following GOC members who were spotted at the Winners Walk of Hope (hope we didn’t miss anyone!): St. John’s - Lesa Dawson, Patti Power, Cathy Popadiuk; Montreal - Walter Gotlieb, Gerald Stanimir, Susie Lau; Toronto - Hal Hirte; Saskatoon - Christopher Giede; Edmonton - Helen Steed.



Halifax



Sandy’s Team from Edmonton



Toronto

An update on GOC’s Role in HPV Vaccination

GOC continues to play a major role in the development of the strategies for integrating primary and secondary prevention in cervical cancer. Several of the members of the Society have participated in a number of ongoing events. In particular, Dr. Bentley, Dr. Miller, and Dr. Lotocki have taken a leadership role in participating in the new vaccine trials and continue to play a major contributory role in the development of those studies. Dr. Lotocki continues to lead the Manitoba experience which has developed an integrated model for mapping and follow-up of patients

as they move closer to integrating primary and secondary prevention strategies in that province. Dr. Murphy continues to play a lead role and was recently involved in the presentation of the Gairdner Award to Dr. Zur Hansen, Nobel laureate, one of the discoverers of the relationship of HPV and cervical cancer.

In addition, the GOC’s book titled Contemporary Clinical Questions on HPV Vaccination will be updated in conjunction with a number of groups. This project is ongoing and led by Dr.

Fung-Kee-Fung and is planned to be completed by the spring of 2009.

The Communities of Practice will be having their meeting on December 5-6, 2008 to further define projects for the CoP group and for sharing of best practice and research ideas. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Fung-Kee-Fung will be leading this. There are a number of other projects which are presently being vetted by the CoP group in order to address outstanding educational issues for the membership as new information becomes available,

not only with vaccination but also the introduction of new diagnostic tests.

GOC members will also be working with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) and others in developing the beginnings of a framework for implementation that can be used to evaluate these various strategies. There will be more on this in the future.

It is fair to say that GOC members continue to play pivotal roles not only in their provinces and their regions but also on the national stage.

Report from Dr. de Lara Nieto, OCC/GOC Gyn Oncology Grant Recipient

by Jose L. Fernandez de Lara Nieto, MD, CCFP, Obstetrics and Gynecology resident (PGY-4), University of Saskatchewan

I am very grateful to Ovarian Cancer Canada and The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada for their financial support towards my electives in gynecologic oncology. My electives were at Sunnybrook Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto in August and at the Foothills Hospital and Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary in September 2008.

My experience in Toronto

I arrived to Toronto during a hot summer night; the weather was a bit different from Saskatoon. I stayed at the College Residency Hotel, which is located one block from the Toronto General Hospital and within walking distance to downtown. I started my first two weeks of elective at the Sunnybrook Hospital. My first day was a Friday, as we all know, first days are always full of excitement with photo IDs, registrations, and getting yourself setup and comfortable with the site. Thankfully, everyone was very supportive and helpful. I was invited, on the same day, to a delightful dinner with Judy Brusse and her husband at their home. Judy has succeeded in making the fellows and residents in gynecologic oncology feel at home. Upon my arrival to Sunnybrook, I joined the team in the OR, getting a taste of the complex surgeries done at their site. I had the opportunity to work with Dr. A. Covens, Dr. R. Osborne, Dr. R. Kupets and Dr. W. Jimenez, who just finished his fellowship, as well as some of the fellows Limor Gortzak-Uzan, Jake McGee and with the resident Noor Ladhani. Our days started out by rounding on ward patients and then the OR was divided by Limor. We had OR Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. The rest of the week was filled with cancer clinic consults on Wednesdays and a catch up day with all the paperwork on Thursdays. The OR days were full of very complex and interesting cases, with a huge variety of surgical procedures ranging from radical laparoscopic hysterectomy with pelvic and paraaortic lymphadenectomy and omentectomy to extensive debulking laparotomies, complex bowel surgeries as well as radical vulvectomies with sentinel lymph node biopsy.

There were enough OR cases so residents and fellows were able to operate. It was certainly an invaluable OR experience. We all worked as a team. I found the tumor board rounds an excellent learning opportunity with many interesting and difficult cases. The fellows played an active role in the tumor boards. The nurses and the rest of the staff in the OR, wards and the Odette Cancer Center were also excellent.

I joined the team at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) during my 2nd and 3rd week of electives. There I worked with Dr. B. Rosen, Dr. J. Murphy, Dr. S. Laframboise and Dr. J. Dodge. The senior fellow was Lilian Gien and the residents were Marie Czik and Maggie Bells. We had OR and clinics



Resident Dr. Noor Ladhani, Fellow Dr. Diederick de Jong, Dr. Jose L. Fernandez de Lara Nieto, Fellow Dr. Limor Gortzak-Uzan and Dr. Waldo Jimenez

almost every day. Our day started with morning wards rounds and the rest of the day was divided between OR and clinics. It was great to participate in advanced and complex surgeries. I was able to operate with Lilian and the attendings on various occasions. The attendings at PMH are great teachers, and they play an active role in allowing the fellows and residents to operate and do as much as they can. Dr. J. Dodge gives great support to the residents and fellows and we all admire his dedication to teaching. The tumor board rounds were full of very fascinating and intriguing cases. The nurses and the rest of the paramedical staff at Princess Margaret and Toronto General Hospital were great. Calls on both sites were not as busy as I expected. It was nevertheless a good experience to deal with some postoperative issues and consults from emergency.

I enjoyed my elective time in Toronto. It helped me to improve upon and acquire new surgical and clinical skills. The attendings and fellows at both sites have a joint special interest in research. I was able to discuss two of my current research projects with them and gathered new ideas and recommendations. Their fellows are exposed to a wide variety of different styles and methods of practice. I would like to thank all of the attendings and fellows for their excellent support during my elective in Toronto.

A sign at the entrance of Princess Margaret Hospital mentioned of us finding the cure for cancer in our lifetime, it really caught my attention and gave me food for thought.

During my days off, I got lost a few times in Toronto. Thankfully, the subway only goes in two directions and a good map is always a great idea to carry around.

My experience in Calgary

While in Calgary I stayed at a friend's house. On my first day, I initially met the residents Heather Grant, Ingrid Christensen, Karen Naert at morning rounds and later the fellows Nisrin Anfinan, Gregg Nelson and Nalja Al-Marin. Ward rounds were done by the residents and reviewed with the fellows every morning before OR and clinics started. Later in the morning I met with Lynn Steele who gave me an excellent tour of the Tom Baker Cancer Centre and the Foothills Hospital. She helped to get all the registration papers, passwords, photo ID, parking pass and the computer training done in a timely fashion. I also had the opportunity to meet Dr. P. Ghatage, Dr.

J. Nation and Dr. P. Chu on my first day. We had OR and clinics everyday, although it was a big team of residents and fellows, there was enough work to share and to keep us busy. Work is good and busy is better. I spent Wednesday mornings with Dr. J. Nation in the minor OR at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre were LEEP, Laser ablation of cervical, vaginal and vulvar lesions, examination under anesthesia, cystoscopy and sigmoidoscopy were done. Their OR was packed with very interesting and extensive surgeries, including radical laparoscopic hysterectomy, pelvic lymphadenectomy, omentectomy as well as various types of bowel surgeries and extensive debulking cancer procedures. I was able to operate with the fellows and attendings. Thursdays were cancer clinic days. We all attended the clinic and divided the cases. The nurses and staff at the Tom Baker clinic and at the Gynecologic Oncology ward are excellent people to work with. They found out that it was my birthday and everyone baked or bought dessert as a surprise. Their kindness touched my heart. Every week we met once or twice for teaching sessions where fellows, residents and even former fellow Carlos A. Lucero reviewed a topic of interest. Tumor rounds were also full of very interesting and difficult cases where the fellows presented the case and suggested a management plan. During the last week of my elective I was invited to participate in a journal club with the rest of the Obstetrics and Gynecology residents and staff. This was a good opportunity to connect with other members of the department and critically appraised a relevant journal article. We also shared a good Italian meal.

At the end of my rotation in Calgary, I had already improved a great deal in my surgical skills as well my understanding of the gynecological cancers. It was a good time to learn about their program and learn from other members of the team. I would like to thank Dr. P. Ghatage, Dr. J. Nation and Dr. P. Chu for sharing their experiences and for making me feel welcome.

(Continued on page 9)

Profiling our Members

Dr. Janice Kwon
Vancouver, BC



Dr. Janice Kwon completed her MD and residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Queen's University in Kingston, and her fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Toronto in 2001. In 2002 she accepted a faculty position at the University of Western Ontario while obtaining a Masters degree in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston. In 2007 she was offered a 2-year position as visiting professor in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston. She regularly commutes between Houston and her current Canadian home in

Vancouver, where she works at the BC Cancer Agency and University of British Columbia.

Janice has received several peer-reviewed grants, including a clinician scientist award from the National Ovarian Cancer Association, Cancer Care Ontario, and the Mitchell Family, to evaluate endometrial cancer treatment paradigms and outcomes in Ontario, through the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto and the Harvard School of Public Health. She has been awarded funding to evaluate PET/CT and sentinel node mapping in endometrial cancer, and she has ongoing population-based projects with Cancer Care Ontario in evaluating secondary cancers after endometrial cancer and the association of diabetes with endometrial cancer. At the MD Anderson Cancer Center, she has developed cost-effectiveness analysis models of prevention strategies for women at high risk for endometrial cancer, as well as selection criteria for BRCA mutation testing based on ovarian and breast cancer histologies.

Janice has a number of interests outside of Gynecologic Oncology. She has been a triathlete for over 10 years, and was previously ranked by the Ontario Association of Triathletes. She is a former junior circuit tennis player and figure skating teacher, and she has her Associateship in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto.

Report from Dr. de Lara Nieto (continued from page 8)

At the end, what I am thinking?

At the end of my electives, I realized how much I like gynecologic oncology. My understanding of gynecological cancers and my clinical and surgical skills improved tremendously. I also realized that there are a great variety of clinical practices and methods within the field. I like the fact that minimally invasive surgery has become an integral part in gynecologic oncology at all centres. After talking with the fellows, I concluded there are great and solid fellowship training

programs throughout Canada. Also, the future of Gynecology Oncology is better now than ever before. I will continue pursuing a career in gynecologic oncology.

I certainly recommend to anyone interested in the field of gynecology oncology to go and spend some time at other centres.

Finally, I invite you to become part of the cure for cancer in our lifetime.

Thanks to everyone.

GOC Members Contribute to International Work on Medical Informatics in Obstetrics and Gynecology

With Dr. Laurie Elit at the helm, Drs. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, Prafull Ghatage, Tien Le, Barry Rosen, Bodhan Sadvoy and Susan Bondy came together to submit a chapter on the role of Medical Informatics in Ovarian Cancer.

Ovarian cancer affects 2400 women annually in Canada with a case fatality ratio of 0.70. There are several practice guidelines that indicate that women with early stage ovarian cancer should be appropriately staged including removal of the gynecologic organs, multiple peritoneal biopsies and pelvic and para-aortic lymphadenectomy. In advanced disease, removing as much disease as possible and leaving less than a centimeter of residual disease in any one area improves overall duration of survival in cohort studies. Single institution studies and now work using administrative datasets in many high resource countries, show that women are not receiving adequate surgical staging or debulking. Cancer Care Ontario has used the RAND approach for defining quality indicators as a step for evaluating quality of care for several cancers including the management of women with ovarian cancer. The difficulty with current administrative datasets in the province is the lack of specific information such as stage, grade, histology, and size of residual disease.

In this chapter, we elaborate on the research that has brought ovarian cancer care to this juncture. We highlight the importance of gathering information at the point of procedures

and specifically in ovarian cancer at the point of the operation. Problems with the operative note and mechanisms to overcome these using templates, checklists and synoptic notes are reviewed. We provide examples of pilot studies in Canada using synoptic operative notes in Cancer Care Alberta and Princess Margaret Hospital. We also provide examples of computerized data entry across the spectrum of care from three projects in Ontario, Canada. Issues in building a disease site-specific electronic medical record are discussed. The problems experienced in attempting to generalize such a system provincially are addressed. We elaborate on the potential benefits to the individual patient, the hospital and the province from such information system.

Medical Informatics in Obstetrics and Gynecology provides industry knowledge and insight to challenges in the areas of informatics that are important to women's health. Covering topics such as ethical and legal issues, imaging and communication systems, and electronic health records, this Medical Information Science Reference publication provides medical libraries and researchers, as well as medical students, health technology specialists, and practicing physicians and nurses with unrivaled data on the role of technology in obstetrics and gynecology.

For more information about Medical Informatics in Obstetrics and Gynecology, you can view the title information sheet at <http://www.igj-global.com/downloads/pdf/8299.pdf>.

GONPPC Abstract Presented at IGCS!

The 12th Biennial Meeting of the IGCS 2008 held in Bangkok, Thailand extended invitations to nurses to participate in presentations. The GONPPC, GOC's Nursing Committee, identified the implementation of intraperitoneal chemotherapy as a catalyst that brought many nurses together to learn and share. As a result of this invitation, time was spent during the GOC 8th Annual CPD April meeting to work on an abstract submission. Lynne Jolicoeur, Dianne Dal Bello, Nancy Drummond, Joanne Brodeur, Janet Giroux, Joanne Power, and Heidi Thomas along with Drs. Diane Provencher and Michael Fung-Kee-Fung submitted the poster abstract titled, Community of Practice (CoP) in Nursing: A Knowledge Translation Strategy That Fostered National Intraperitoneal (IP) Chemotherapy Implementation. The abstract was accepted and the poster described the pivotal role of nurses in implementing a national IP chemotherapy strategy in Canada. On behalf of the GONPPC, Lynne Jolicoeur and Nancy Drummond presented the poster in Bangkok. We would like to thank Ovarian Cancer Canada, Schering-Plough and the GOC for providing financial support to attend IGCS.

Academic Corner

Grants

Congratulations to all grant recipients!

PET scanning in recurrent cervical cancer

Principal Investigator: Elit L

Agency: MOHLTC

Prospective randomized study of PET-CT in locally advanced cervix cancer

Principal Investigator: Fyles A, Elit, L., Levine M
Research Personnel: Pond G, Gelunchnyn K, Atri M, Thomas G, Dsouza D, Fung-Kee-Fung M.

What do adolescents understand about HPV and how does it affect their behavior?

Principal Investigator: Elit L

Agency: Canadian Foundation for Women's Health

How do ovarian cancer specialists transfer information to their patients on the risks and benefits of treatment options?

Principal Investigator: Elit L

Juravinski Cancer Centre Foundation

Novel metabolomic based screen test for early detection of breast and ovarian cancer

Investigators: Dr. Michael Sawyer, Dr. Helen Steed, Dr. Carolyn Slupsky

Agency: Terry Fox Initiative

Intraperitoneal Pharmacokinetics of a novel formulation of nab-paclitaxel in a nude mouse model

Investigators: Dr. Michael Sawyer, Dr. Helen Steed, Dr. Steve McQuarrie

Agency: Alberta Cancer Board/Abraxis

Characterization of suspicious lesions identified in high-risk women at 1.5T breast MRI with high-field 3T MRI and ultrasound elastography

Principal Applicant: Trop I

Participating Members: Provencher D, Robidoux A, David J, Lalonde L, Mayrand MH, Maurice RL

Total Amount: \$428,078

Start/End Dates: 10/2008 to 10/2011

Agency: Fondation du cancer du sein du Québec

Selection and validation of target genes implicated in the clinical and biological features of ovarian cancer

Principal Applicant: Mes-Masson AM

Participating Members: Provencher D, Tonin PN

Total Amount: \$752,500

Start/End Dates: 10/2008 to 09/2013

Agency: CIHR

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In vitro metformin anti-neoplastic activity in epithelial ovarian cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* (2008) 110: 246-50

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News from the Centres

Halifax

After a year of maternity leave Rob Grimshaw and Jim Bentley have now welcomed back Katharina Kieser and Paula Rittenberg. Katharina had a baby girl Ericka to join Robert and Lucy. Paula added Jordan to join Aiden and Ben in their growing hockey team!

Over the summer, we were lucky enough to attract an international GOC member to work as a locum; Dr. Khalid Sait who did his residency here at Dalhousie followed by Gyn Onc fellowship in Calgary from 1997-99. All nursing and medical staff enjoyed working with Khalid, not surprisingly he added to his family while in Canada! There must be something in the air out east!

Meanwhile there is a change of the guard; Jim Bentley has taken over as Chief of Division. Rob continues his work provincially as Director of the Cervical Cancer Screening program and Medical Advisor for Cancer Care Nova Scotia.

London

Dr. Monique Bertrand, Head of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology in London has recently been appointed as Senior Medical Director of Cancer Services at the London Regional Cancer Centre. Dr. Bertrand will continue her duties as Head of the Division of Gyn Oncology as well as continuing with her clinical activities.

The Division of Gynecologic Oncology in London welcomed a new Fellow, Dr. Vickie Martin, in July 2008. Dr.



Dr. Monique Bertrand

Martin will be completing a two year fellowship finishing in June 2010.

A "Run for Ovarian Cancer" was held in London on May 25, 2008, raising over \$100,000 for ovarian cancer research. Physicians and support staff from the Division of Gyn Oncology participated in the event along with overwhelming support from the community.

The 4th annual Gyn Oncology Update Day will be held on May 8, 2009 in Waterloo, Ontario. "Innovations in Gyn Oncology" will be the topic of the day and the event will be open to gynecologic oncologists, general gynecologists, family physicians, nurses and other support staff in the surrounding region.

Montreal CHUM

Since 2001, Dr. Diane Provencher has been applying for recertification of the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology. And this year again, she passed her exam with great success with a score of 258 good answers on 270 questions

Montreal McGill

Congratulations to Dr. Walter Gotlieb who has been elected to the IGCS Executive Council

Ottawa

Lisa Rambout gave birth to her second daughter, Rachel Elizabeth Samantha Pinck, born June 14, 2008, weight 7lb 3oz.



Rachel Elizabeth Samantha and big sister Alysha

Dr. Johanne Weberpals expecting her first baby in December!

Quebec

Our colleague Dr. Marie-Claude Renaud was recently awarded the prize of the best teacher of the year, a prize attributed by the residents to acknowledge the devotion and implication of a professor in teaching the residents. What is even more remarkable is that Dr Renaud also won the same prize in 1995. This is the first time in our department that the prize is given twice to the same professor. This highlights the remarkable contribution of Dr Renaud to the teaching of gynecologic oncology to our residents.



Dr. Marie-Claude Renaud receives diploma from senior resident Dr. Lionel Pungui

Toronto

Another Dodge girl - Samantha was born September 5th. Big sisters Olivia and Madeline are thrilled, as are parents Jason and Robin.

Congratulations to Drs. Joan Murphy and Stéphane Laframboise who cycled 200 km in two days in the "Ride to Conquer Cancer" from Toronto to Hamilton and on to Niagara Falls this summer.

Vancouver

Well another summer is over and we all seemed to have survived it. Due to fertility issues (the kind where you are really fertile!), and immigration we had four fellows in our program temporarily. Sal Saldivar completed his training on August 31st. We celebrated the great event with a summer barbeque at the home of Mark Heywood.

We also welcomed Tiffany Wells into the program. Mona Mazgani will be

joining our group in January, when she finishes her fellowship, to do a locum. Mark Carey will also be joining the group in January as a locum.

Jessica McAlpine's second daughter "Rowan" made her appearance on September 11th and attended her first departmental social event on September 17th. Now that's a party animal!

We are still looking to fill a permanent position in Victoria...so if winter starts getting you down...



Vancouver Fellows: Drs. Sal Saldivar, Mona Mazgani, Tiffany Wells, Raimundo Correa

Continued Involvement in HPV Vaccine Research

Drs. Dianne Miller, Bob Lotocki and Jim Bentley in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Halifax respectively continue active participation in a randomized, double blind multicenter trial evaluating a new multivalent vaccine in comparison to Gardasil®. The study is looking at the safety and efficacy of this new compound. This is a nonavalent vaccine and thus could provide protection for up to 87% of cancer-causing HPV genotypes. The trial is in enrolment and should be complete by the end of 2011. This trial is sponsored by Merck.

Addressing Concerns About RCPSC Certification in Gynecologic Oncology

By Dr. Allan Covens, Chair, RCPSC Specialty Committee in Gynecologic Oncology
Chief Examiner, RCPSC in Gynecologic Oncology

There seem to be many questions and/or concerns about the RCPSC certification process for those individuals practicing Gynecologic Oncology in Canada.

The following is my response to an inquiry which I hope answers and addresses any concerns fellows of the RCPSC practicing Gynecologic Oncology have.

"You are a fully qualified gynecologic oncologist in Canada, and nobody will ever be able to take that designation away. You were "attested" (same as I, and all of the Gynecologic

Oncologists that successfully finished RCPSC approved Gynecologic Oncology programs from 1990 until present), rather than "certified", as there was no exam process. "Certification" refers to the successful completion of a RCPSC approved fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology and the successful completion of a standardized exam process (for all applicants countrywide).

After the exam, successful candidates will be "certified". For the first year (2009), the exam is optional, as it is for those of us who have been "attested". If you take the exam and fail,

nothing will change, if you pass, you will be "certified". There is no obligation to take the exam, and I suspect most gynecologic oncologists will not. The RCPSC and the exam committee would like as many eligible Gynecologic Oncologists to take the exam as possible, for many reasons, not the least for the exam committee is to provide us some data and feedback on the newly created exam. For some individuals, the challenge and attainment of another designation is important.

However, the designations only refer to how your credentialing was done,

nothing else. Granting of privileges in Canada is mostly hospital based (colleges play some role). I do believe there is any possibility that hospitals will ever consider taking any action on individuals who were successfully attested, yet have not opted for certification. Most licensing and hospital bodies are only interested if the individual met the standards for accreditation at the time of completion of training, and if they continue to practice and update their knowledge and skills (MOCCOMP) consistent with the specialty."

Welcome New Members!

The GOC welcomes to the Society its newest members, voted-in by the membership at the June 28, 2008 Annual Business Meeting in Calgary.

Dr. Alon Altman, resident in ob-gyn, resident category, Halifax

Dr. Nisrin M. Anfinan, fellow-in-training, associate category 3, Calgary

Dr. Allison Ball, resident in ob-gyn, resident category, Halifax

Karine Bilodeau, registered nurse, associate category 2, Montréal

Dr. Raimundo Correa, fellow-in-training, associate category 3, Vancouver

Dr. Diederick de Jong, fellow-in-training, associate category 3, Toronto

Dr. Leonard Kaizer, medical oncologist, active category, Toronto

Dr. Dominique Lanvin, gynecologic oncologist, active category, London

Dr. Taymaa May, resident in ob-gyn, resident category, Toronto

Dr. Shannon Salvador, resident in ob-gyn, resident, Vancouver