

The GOC News

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 Spring 2005

5th Annual Continuing Professional Development Meeting – Yet Another Success

The 5th Annual CPD meeting themed "Re-tooling for the Future" was held in Montréal on April 1st, 2005. The meeting was an outstanding success. It was the first time we had such a significant number of international speakers who participated. This year's meeting focused primarily on updating us on the new technologies in ovarian cancer screening, looking at new ways to manage recurrent ovarian cancer and looking at different ways of evaluating recurrence and streamlining therapies in the recurrent setting.

The first speaker was Dr. Gordon Whiteley who is Director of the Clinical Proteomics Reference Laboratory at NIH. Gordon is a Canadian who did his initial training at the University of Toronto. He presented the current state of proteomics pattern recognition and the evolving technology to try to bring this to clinical practice. The present state-of-the-art is that we are still a bit of ways away from clinical application, however, the information is extremely promising. Dr. David

Fishman, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at New York University presented his update on the national ovarian cancer early detection program and his views on the changing



Drs. Fung Kee Fung, Fishman, Gore, Provencher, Gronlund and Whiteley.

paradigm of approach to early ovarian cancer screening, including the role of 3D ultrasound and the potential impact of innovations such as the ovarian Pap test. In addition, Dr. Bo Gronlund, Senior Research Fellow at the Finsen Centre at Copenhagen University Hospital, presented a distillate of his work in the usefulness of CA-125 in predicting recurrences. A lot of his

work shows that modeling of CA-125 was as predictive or a better predictor than traditional imaging using the RECIST criteria. There was a great deal of discussion about this and the clinical application of this new information. One of our plenary speakers also included Dr. Martin Gore, well known to all of us for his role in clinical trials in recurrent ovarian cancer. Dr. Gore presented an in-depth review of the management of and the increasing challenges within recurrent ovarian cancer. He made great clarity of a number of issues including sequencing of various treatments and various types of chemotherapy. There was

spirited discussion from the floor as regards where we go next in terms of sequencing of various drugs. Another speaker included Dr. John Freedman from the University of Toronto. Dr. Freedman is Director of Transfusion Medicine at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and Professor of Internal Medicine. He

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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.

25th Anniversary Pin – Wear it With Pride

In your meeting package at the 25th Anniversary Meeting of the GOC will be included the GOC 25th anniversary pin. This sterling silver pin features the GOC logo. It will be given to all

members and we ask that you wear this pin with pride (on your lab coat or as appropriate) during work. The 25th anniversary pin symbolizes our

achievements as a Society and as a group and we look forward to seeing lots of pins highly visible at work and at future meetings.

Best Gynecologic Oncology Practice: A National Approach



National Guidelines Workshop Participants:

Back row: P. Ghatage, W. Gotlieb, D. Provencher, J. Petrella, G. Browman, R. Lotocki, H. Soublière, D. Miller, L. Souhami, K. Swenerton, B. Rosen, P. Craighead, G. Stuart;
Front row: M. Brouwers, L. Zitzelsberger, M. Johnston, L. Elit, L. Dawson, J. Murphy, I. Graham, M. Fung Kee Fung; Missing from photo: R. Savoie, L. Paquet

GOC Officers and invited participants met for a 1½ day meeting with the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control Group to discuss the opportunities available in developing a national gynecologic oncology guidelines approach. This was a meeting about two years in the making, born of an idea when the Chair of the Canadian Practice Guidelines Group (a subsection of the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control) was

approached by the GOC to engage in a partnership whereby the strengths of the clinical practice group, methodology and guideline dissemination could be linked to the academic and clinical expertise of the GOC membership and its various provincial groups. The idea further developed in the last 6 months with a submission to CIHR by Dr. Laurie Elit, Melissa Brouwers, Dr. Michael Fung Kee Fung and Dr. George

Browman for a meeting grant. This culminated in the 1½ day workshop, March 30th and 31st, prior to our CPD meeting.

The Canadian Practice Guideline Group includes a number of methodologists of international standing who have been assembled federally to try and promote the dissemination of high quality guidelines in order to facilitate the dissemination of evidence care. Fundamental to this is an adaptation tool called the AGREE instrument, which is a series of in-depth questions to assess guidelines presently in production, their quality and applicability to the Canadian setting. The workshop included presentations by GOC Officers, a review current provincial guidelines including those of the B.C. Cancer Agency, Cancer Care Ontario, the Québec experience and the SOGC/GOC/SCC's own experience. We reviewed a series of CPG adaptation models and saw how the GOC could possibly fit into an opportunity for federal strategy. The test case used to flush out the potential applicability of this approach was to review a guideline on recurrent ovarian cancer that could be useful to Cana-

dian provinces. There was a significant amount of discussion on this particular topic both from its content as well as its applicability. This was beneficial in that it allowed us to prioritize how we might want to approach a national guidelines process with the Canadian Cancer for Strategy Control, and it led to the following:

1. A clear recognition for the need for a national guidelines process
2. A draft document in recurrent ovarian cancer guideline for further discussion
3. A commitment by the GOC and CPG to move forward looking at a further process for other guidelines that could be used looking at one's less controversial as our initial start

The opportunity exists to approach various funding bodies (federal and others) for support to develop further guidelines which the provinces can consider for potential implementation.

This was a very positive meeting and it was a time for all of us to get to know the various players. GOC was subsequently invited to the CPG/AG Planning Meeting held in Vancouver in April 2005. Dr. Gavin Stuart attended the meeting on behalf of the GOC. This was again a very positive response to GOC's participation in this national directive. There will be more to come on this initiative as it evolves.

GOC Members Head The Montreal Ovarian Cancer Initiative (MOI)

By Maral Tersakian, Director of Development, Montréal Cancer Institute

Mission: MOI, an initiative of the Institut du cancer de Montréal (ICM) and the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), is dedicated to defeating ovarian cancer by raising funds to support research, prevention and innovative treatments. In addition, this fund will create awareness and empower women by educating them about ovarian cancer, the most lethal gynecological cancer at present. The funds will be used by a collaborative group of clinical researchers affiliated with ICM and the JGH. The aim of MOI is to create collaboration between two leading research groups in Montreal performing research in ovarian cancer. The new collaborative group is headed by Dr. Diane Provencher and Dr. Walter Gotlieb.

Academic Corner

Recent Publications

- J. Riopel, M. Plante, M-C. Renaud, M. Roy, B. Têtu. Lymph node metastases in low grade endometrial stromal sarcoma. **Gynecol Oncol**, 2005; 96: 402-6.
- Valérie Dubé, Michel Roy, Marie Plante, Marie-Claude Renaud, Bernard Têtu. Mucinous ovarian tumors of mullerian-type. Analysis of 17 cases of borderline tumors, intra-epithelial, micro-invasive and invasive carcinomas. **Int J Gynecol Pathol**, 24:138-46.2005
- Kanjeekal, A. Chambers, M. Fung

Kee Fung, S. Verma. "Systemic Therapy for Advanced Uterine Sarcoma: A Systematic Review of the Literature". **Gynecologic Oncology**, 2005;97:624-37.

- AR Gagliardi, M. Fung Kee Fung, B. Langer, H. Stern, AD Brown. "Development of Ovarian Cancer Surgery Quality Indicators Using a Modified Delphi Approach". **Gynecologic Oncology**, 2005;97: 446-56.

Book Chapter

- Roy M, Plante M. Laparoscopically assisted radical vaginal hysterectomy. **Best Practice & Research Clin Obstet Gynecol**, Eds : Elsevier Publisher, vol 19, no 3, chapter 5, 2005.

History Book - The First 25 Years

By H el ene Soubli ere

The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada's first 25 years is nearing its completion. Plans were to publish the book for our 25th anniversary celebrations. However, on further reflection, it was felt that we should conclude the book with pictures and a piece on our 25th anniversary celebrations. As such, we have postponed the date of publication until the fall of 2005. We look forward to capturing information and further photos at the 25th anniversary gala, a black-tie event. This should be an ideal picture for the final part of the

book. We have assembled most of the pictures that we need from the early 80's. We are still waiting for pictures of a few people and are approaching individual members to ask if they have any tucked away in their archives that we could use. Over the next couple of months, we will verify the facts and go over the editing. Luc has done a wonderful job in amalgamating memories of the early years. We also thank our sponsors, GlaxoSmithKline and Schering Canada Inc. who have helped fund the creation of this book.

News from the Centres

Qu ebec



Dr. Jean Gr egoire, currently fellow in Calgary, is joining our group at l'H otel-Dieu de Qu ebec in July. We very much look forward to working with him.

During the first 2 years, Jean will be doing a masters in Epidemiology and complete his laparoscopic/vaginal surgery formation. We are convinced that he will bring a significant contribution to our centre and to the Qu ebec Province as a whole. Bienvenue Jean!

tions to oncology in general has been his belief in multidisciplinary care and for over 20 years, he has promoted this concept across Canada as the best way to optimize care for cancer patients.

Last year at the GOC meeting, Denny was honored with the Society's Presidential Medal. He is retiring as a Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Toronto.



He will be missed.

Toronto

This June, four Canadian Fellows will graduate from our fellowship and take up gynecologic oncology positions across our country. Helen Steed in Edmonton, Chris Giede in Saskatoon, Johanne Weberpals in Ottawa, and Katharina Kieser in Halifax. This group has been very productive academically and all have presentations at this year's annual GOC meeting. On May 6th, each of them presented their research at the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual Research Day.

In Ontario, gynecologic oncologists are involved in renegotiating their APP contract with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. This has been very successful for all parties.

Winnipeg

Out With The Old; In With The New

Anyone traveling west from Winnipeg on April 30th might have noticed the Heywood caravan heading to Vancouver. Following a loaded moving van, one would have seen an over-loaded truck pulling a large boat with a sign "Vancouver or Bust". The smarter part of the Heywood clan will follow Mark more comfortably once school and parties are finished.

With Mark Heywood's departure westward, Manitoba's Gynecologic Oncology training program has now populated gynecologic oncology coast to coast.

Meanwhile, for the next two months, Uncle Garry and Doc Bob (alias Ralph the Dog from the Muppet Days) shall face call one in two.

Manitoba's void is being filled July 1 with Dr. Shaundra Popowich. She brings both youth and the other gender to the last Canadian "Boys Club". Both are definite assets that will propel Manitoba into the future. Shaundra is completing a fellowship in palliative care, just in time to revive two old farts or



**25 Years of
Excellence in Women's
Cancer Care**

Update on the Meeting of the Canadian Gynecologic Cancer Group – Terms of Reference Established

The GOC has been working with its partners, NOCA and OCC, to establish Terms of Reference that would see GOC broker the efforts of several non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups who are focused on advancing the care of patients at risk or with gynecologic cancer. This has led to the establishment of a group formally known as The Canadian Gynecologic Cancer Group – CG². The founding members are The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada, the National Ovarian Cancer Association and Ovarian Cancer Canada. The Terms

of Reference allow for the participation of affiliate members and foster collaborative efforts in the advocacy. The group's initial focus will be on ovarian cancer. In the next few months, we will be looking to establish a Chairperson for the CG², who will be a member of the GOC. The CG² plans to meet at the annual CPD meeting of the GOC and other related meetings as to be decided. We look forward to your suggestions on how this group can functionally grow and facilitate the advancement of care.

News of the Gynecologic Oncology Nursing Professional Practice Committee (GONPPC)

By Lynne Jolicoeur, The Ottawa Hospital – General Site

The GONPPC had its second annual face to face meeting during the GOC CPD/NCIC meeting in Montréal on March 31st. Terms of Reference for the Committee were approved. Three members are interested in the two co-chair positions; Sherida Chambers, Dianne DalBello and

Lynne Jolicoeur. A vote will take place during the month of July.

The primary goal of this group is to have a nurse representative from each Gynecologic Oncology Centre across the country thus creating a network of gynecologic oncology

nurse experts with whom centres can link to share expertise and resources.

Over the next few months, we will be conducting an inventory of all available patient education resources at each centre for various cancer

diagnoses and related interventions. We aim to add some of these materials to the GOC Patient Advocacy web pages.

Who is your nurse expert in gynecologic oncology? Is she a member of the GOC and GONPPC?

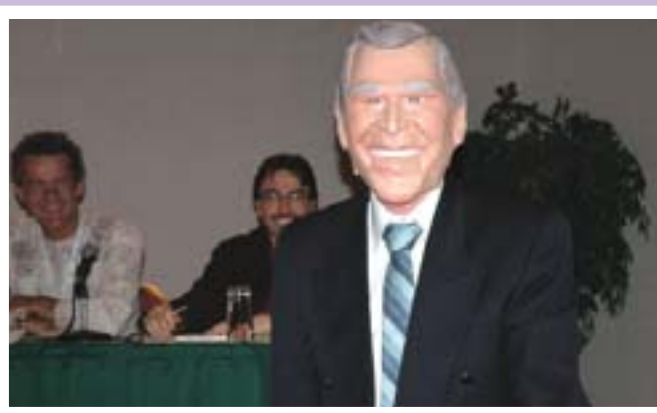
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presented the clearest and most concise review that many of us have ever heard of the benefits and risks associated with transfusion, the options for decrease transfusion complications and not giving a transfusion. Last but not least was our own Dr. Laura Hopkins who presented her work on decision analysis and its potential application in difficult clinical scenarios in gynecologic oncology. The potential for this tool in gynecologic oncology is great and we look forward to its application.

We had our traditional debate, which included a spirited discussion by Dr. James Biagi from Kingston and Dr. Rob Grimshaw from Halifax. Dr. Martin Gore declared no winner.

We also had our traditional GOC game hosted by President George W. Bush (aka Dr. Mark Carey), who did a game sequence based on the reality television show *The Apprentice*. Dr. Carey and his team, Dr. Peter Bryson, Dr. Janice Kwon and H. Soublière provided an entertaining and clinically insightful game involving participants Drs. Mark Heywood, Paul Bessette, Barry Rosen, Jim Bentley, Barry Rosen and Patti Power. At the end, everyone was fired so we are unsure who the actual winner was.

In the evening, we had an outstanding visit to Pointe-à-Callière and a tour of the birth place of Montréal and a history of its early days. Our Canadian



The Apprentice special guest, President George W. Bush



Dr. Provencher, Greg Cromwell (GSK), Drs. MacInnis and Fung Kee Fung



Drs. Dianne Miller, Sarah Finlayson, Rob Grimshaw, Katharina Kieser, Barry Rosen, Jan Hauspy and Neill Iscoe (Eli Lilly)

Leadership Lecture was hosted by Dr. Joseph MacInnis, physician-scientist and filmmaker who took us through a review of the early work in finding the Titanic and its impact and challenges as it affected the members of the team. We were treated to a multi-media presentation on the dive and under sea creatures that was quite spectacular.

All in all, our CPD meeting continues to grow and be a significant success. We look forward to a very exciting meeting next year.