



Annual Meeting 2024 Toronto, Canada (Hybrid meeting)



Canadian Cancer
Research Alliance
Alliance canadienne
pour la recherche sur le cancer



Doing More Together

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Monday May 13, 2024: Networking Event



Craig Earle, MD, MSc (he/him)

Dr. Craig Earle is Chief Executive Officer at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, a medical oncologist at Sunnybrook's Odette Cancer Centre in Toronto, a Senior Scientist at ICES, and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Dr. Earle originally trained and practiced in Ottawa, after which he spent 10 years – 1998 to 2008 – in Boston at Harvard Medical School, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Harvard School of Public Health. From 2008 to 2017 he was Director of Health Services Research and Head of Clinical Translation at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.



Dajan O'Donnell, PhD

Dajan became the Director of Scientific Affairs and Partnerships at the Cancer Research Society (CRS) in 2020 and has worked to increase strategic partnerships and develop new funding programs, broadening both the scope and geographic reach of cancer research historically supported by the CRS. Dajan is the current Chair of the Advisory Board of the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance (CCRA).

Dajan is a seasoned professional with recent experience at Exactis Innovation and 18 years working in preclinical R&D with AstraZeneca. He has a PhD in neurology and neurosurgery.

Tuesday May 14, 2024: Opening



Nigel Brockton, PhD

Nigel Brockton is the Vice President of Research at American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR). Dr. Brockton earned his PhD in the genetic epidemiology of colorectal cancer from the University of Aberdeen in 2003 followed by post-doctoral studies at the University of Dundee. Before joining AICR in 2017, he was a Research Scientist/Associate Professor with Alberta Health Services/University of Calgary conducting population-based molecular epidemiology research, studying the role of modifiable lifestyle factors and prognostic

markers in cancer-related outcomes, particularly in breast, colorectal and oral cancer patients.

As the Vice President of Research for AICR, he oversees all research-related aspects of the organization including the Research Grant Programs, the AICR Research Conference and symposium and the research that supports AICR's policy objectives and AICR printed and digital materials. He also contributes to the WCRF/AICR Global Cancer Update Program (CUP Global) that reviews, analyses and summarizes the global literature regarding diet, physical activity, obesity and cancer.

He maintains an appointment (adjunct Associate Professor) at the University of Calgary, Department of Community Health Sciences, and continues to conduct collaborative research using the rich data and biospecimen resources within the prospective longitudinal cohorts that he established in Alberta. These studies examine the patterns of adherence to lifestyle recommendations among cancer patients, the impact of modifiable lifestyle factors on cancer metastasis and survival and provide data and biospecimens for external collaborative projects.



Lynne Davies, PhD

As Operations Manager of the International Cancer Research Partnership (ICRP), Lynne enjoys working with ICRP's active network of international funders to enhance global collaboration in cancer research. Her prior experience includes working in research management, strategy and evaluation for Cancer Research UK, EU ERA-NET and the UK National Cancer Research Institute. Lynne obtained her PhD in Developmental Biology and did post-doctoral research on leukaemia molecular biology and diagnostics in London.

Tuesday May 14, 2024: Challenging the Status Quo



Lynn Turner, PhD

Dr Lynn Turner is the Director of Research at Worldwide Cancer Research, responsible for the strategic development and operational oversight of the research-funding programme of the Charity. The Research Directorate is responsible for awarding funding, overseeing all active grants, communicating the science, and measuring the impact we are making as a cancer research charity. Lynn has a PhD in immunology from the University of Bath and postdoctoral research experience in a translational cancer research lab.



Christopher Booth, MD, FRCPC

Christopher Booth MD FRCPC is a Medical Oncologist and Health Services Researcher at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. He is a Professor of Oncology and Public Health Sciences and holds the Canada Research Chair in Population Cancer Care. Dr. Booth is the Director of the Division of Cancer Care and Epidemiology at Queen's Cancer Research Institute. In his clinical practice he provides care to patients with GI cancer. Dr. Booth's research program explores access, quality, and value of cancer care. In 2016 Dr. Booth spent a sabbatical at the Regional Cancer Centre in Trivandrum, India. He is an Advisor (Health Services Research) to the National Cancer Grid of India, an Honorary Consultant at Pallium India, and a member of the WHO Essential Medicine List Cancer Working Group. Dr. Booth has published more than 350 peer-reviewed manuscripts. In 2022 he received the Exceptional Healer Award at Kingston Health Sciences Centre for embodying compassion, respect, and clinical excellence. He was inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2022. Dr. Booth is one of the founding leaders of the Common Sense Oncology initiative.



Aisha K. Lofters, MD, PhD, CCFP (she/her)

Aisha is a scientist at the Women's College Research Institute (WCRI), adjunct senior scientist at IC/ES, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. She previously held a New Investigator Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and is the Medical Director and Chair in Implementation Science at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Women's Cancers at Women's College Hospital in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society. She was recently the recipient of the 2021 Canadian Cancer Society Inclusive Excellence Award. Her research program focusses on improving quality of care in cancer screening and prevention, particularly for populations that experience marginalization, through a variety of methods including community-partnered approaches.



Wilfred Ngwa, PhD, MSc

Professor Wil Ngwa is a founding Director and PI of Global Health Catalyst at Harvard and Johns Hopkins, ICTU Distinguished Professor of Public Health, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology and Oncology, Johns Hopkins, and Adjunct Professor, University of Massachusetts. He is the Chair of the Lancet Oncology Commission for Sub-Saharan Africa, and a leader of the U.S. Cancer Moonshot 2.0 Lancet Oncology Commission. He currently serves as Advisor for the USA government on Global Health and the Cancer Moonshot. He also has appointments as Professor of Global Health and Radiation Oncology at Rutgers

University, Guest Professor at University of Heidelberg Germany, and visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ngwa co-founded the Global Oncology University and is the Co-chair of Africa-Oxford-Harvard-Hopkins Clinical trials network. He has received over 40 prestigious awards/honors at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, from the United States National Institutes of Health, international professional societies, and organizations (AAPM, COMP, ASTRO, etc.), and foundations for his leading efforts in global health and innovation. He has published four books on Global Oncology.

Dr. Ngwa trained at the University of Buea (Cameroon), University of Leipzig (Germany), MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Harvard Medical School. He loves soccer and serving others.

Tuesday May 14, 2024: Strengthening Cancer Clinical Trials



Sara Urowitz, PhD, MSW (she/her)

Dr. Sara Urowitz is the Director of Research and Innovation for the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, and the Executive Director of the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance (CCRA). Prior to joining the Partnership, Sara was the Manager of Palliative Care and the Ontario Palliative Care Network at Ontario Health (then Cancer Care Ontario). Prior to assuming managerial roles at the Provincial and then pan-Canadian level, she managed a cancer survivorship research centre at the University Health Network in Toronto, where she conducted research on the use of innovative approaches as a means for educating and

empowering cancer survivors to become active participants in their own care and improving the patient experience. Sara has also held an Assistant Professor position at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto where she supervised master's level students and co-designed and then taught a course in evaluation of Health Information Systems.

Sara has a doctorate in Health Policy and Bioethics, a Masters of Social Work, and a Masters of Arts in applied ethics/bioethics. She has studied in Toronto, Ontario, Charlottesville, Virginia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and spent a year in Washington, DC working in the Department of Health and Human Services as a Presidential Management Intern.



Christina Robinson, MA

Christina Robinson has spent 20 years in research communications and technology. She currently serves as a Technical Information Specialist at the National Library of Medicine. In this role, she supports those who rely on ClinicalTrials.gov with the most current information and timely communication about the program. Her current focus is website content and communications, with a secondary focus on plain language. Previously, she served as Product Owner for modernization of the ClinicalTrials.gov website and continues to support this effort through communications. She is an ICAgile Certified Professional and has an MA in English linguistics from Purdue University.



Stephen Sundquist

Stephen has over 25 years of experience in clinical trial operations and health programs' leadership. His clinical research expertise includes roles in pharma, CRO and academic settings involving the conduct of Phase 1-3b drug, biologic, and device trials across a wide range of therapeutic areas. He serves as the Executive Director of the Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network (3CTN). 3CTN maintains a Portfolio of over 800 multi-centre academic cancer clinical trials and mobilizes and supports a pan-Canadian community of over 250 investigators, clinical research professionals and patient partners across its 60 pediatric- and adult-member Cancer Centres in improving shared aims for equitable access, accrual and the efficient, high-quality conduct of trials.



Michelle Audoin

Michelle lives with Stage 4 breast cancer and advocates for the unmet needs of undersupported communities in the cancer care space, with a focus on health equity and the patient voice. She is involved in many cancer organizations and awareness campaigns, and loves to speak to healthcare agencies and on panels about her own experiences navigating cancer as a Black woman. Michelle comes from an education background and is a mom.



Benjamin Haibe-Kains, PhD

Dr. Benjamin Haibe-Kains is a Senior Scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (PM), University Health Network, and Professor in the Medical Biophysics Department of the University of Toronto. Dr. Haibe-Kains earned his PhD in Bioinformatics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium). Supported by a Fulbright Award, he did his postdoctoral fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard School of Public Health (USA). He is now the Canada Research Chair in Computational Pharmacogenomics and the Scientific Director of the Cancer Digital Intelligence Program at PM. Dr. Haibe-Kains' research focuses on the integration of high-throughput data from various sources to simultaneously analyze multiple facets of carcinogenesis. Dr. Haibe-Kains' team analyzes large-scale radiological and (pharmaco)genomic datasets to develop new prognostic and predictive models to improve cancer care.

Tuesday May 14, 2024: ICRP Member Showcase



Katherine McKenzie, PhD

Katherine (Katie) McKenzie is the senior program officer for the California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP), a state-funded program dedicated to the prevention and elimination of breast cancer through innovative research and effective communication strategies. Katie has dedicated over two decades toward advancing these goals and shaping the research agenda of CBCRP to identify and address critical gaps in the breast cancer research landscape. She is responsible for setting breast cancer research program priorities as well as developing and overseeing grant funding mechanisms to maximize the effectiveness of funded projects and their impact on breast cancer. She is deeply committed to sharing these findings with diverse audiences, from scientific and clinical communities and breast cancer advocates to the general public, fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Katie has represented CBCRP in ICRP for 15 years and has previously served as its chair. She is currently a trustee for the organization and is gratified to contribute to the pivotal role ICRP plays in shaping global efforts to combat cancer.



Sudha Sivaram, DrPH, MPH

Dr. Sudha Sivaram is a Program Director and leads the portfolio of global cancer research training at the Center for Global Health at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In this capacity, she works with colleagues across NCI and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop funding initiatives, and coordinate training and research education programs that seek to build capacity and support career development of early-stage scientists in cancer research in diverse global settings. She led the development of NCI's [first broad global research training initiative](#). Dr. Sivaram is a member of several trans-NCI and NIH committees that focus on advancing science in key biomedical research areas such as implementation research in cancer control and obesity and cancer. Dr. Sivaram has received NIH Director's Award for her work with the [Global Environment and Occupational Health](#) research collaborative, NCI Directors Award for the [Cancer Moonshot Scholars Diversity Program](#) and for Collaborative cancer research in India.

Dr. Sivaram earned her doctorate in public health and epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Following her doctoral degree, she continued at Hopkins serving as Faculty in the Department of Epidemiology where her research in HIV/AIDS and cancer control in south Asia was supported by the US National Institutes of Health as well as private non-profit foundations. Employing principles of social science research, epidemiology and implementation research, Dr. Sivaram's has led and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and book chapters and is a reviewer for many professional journals. She serves as a mentor to students in public health and currently serves as an Academic Editor for the journal, PLOS Global Public Health. She recently completed a Fulbright-Nehru academic research fellowship in India whose goal was to work with cancer survivors and their care givers to understand patient-reported measures to improve quality of life during and after cancer treatment.



Kim Elsink, PhD

Kim has a background in Health Sciences and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) research and currently works as a science liaison for the Infrastructure Initiatives at the Dutch Cancer Society (KWF). Her tasks include the monitoring, evaluation and support of infrastructural projects funded by KWF. In addition to this, she works on policy aspects regarding Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR) data management and Open Science. Specifically, her role is to build a bridge between the researcher on the one hand and FAIR policy from the funder on the other hand.



Marc Hurlbert, PhD

Dr. Marc Hurlbert, a pharmacologist by training, was appointed Chief Executive Officer for the Melanoma Research Alliance in May 2022. In this role, Marc is responsible for setting and executing the strategic direction of the organization and its science programs. Previous to his appointment as CEO, Dr. Hurlbert served as MRA's Chief Science Officer. In this role, he was responsible for guiding MRA's scientific strategy, overseeing the peer-reviewed grant-making program, and forging scientific collaborations. Under his leadership, MRA dramatically expanded investment in and focus on rare melanoma subtypes, brain metastases and leptomeningeal disease and broadened support for prevention and early detection of melanoma through novel technologies such as machine learning. He has more than 20 years of nonprofit and grant-making experience focused on advancing medical research.



Claire Kilty, PhD (she/her)

Claire Kilty is the Head of Research at the Irish Cancer Society. As part of her role, she leads the research team to oversee the Irish Cancer Society research funding portfolio, implements cancer research strategy, and communicates to the public about the research funded by the Society as well as the latest cancer research developments.

Claire is extremely passionate about ensuring that the patient voice is at the heart of cancer research and manages the Society's public and patient involvement panel. She works together with people affected by cancer to ensure public and patient involvement in research is central to both the Irish Cancer Society's research funding processes and the national cancer research community.

Prior to her role in the Society, Claire was Research Manager in UCD working on developing a One Health Research strategy across the university. She has also previously worked as Programme Manager for the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research; BREAST-PREDICT, Irish Cancer Society's first Collaborative Cancer Research Centre; and SYS-MEL, an EU FP7 funded Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways grant.

Claire has a PhD in Genetics, and three years postdoctoral experience working in ocular drug discovery.



William Gallagher, BSc PhD CBiol MSB

Professor William Gallagher is Full Professor of Cancer Biology at University College Dublin (UCD) and Deputy Director of *Precision Oncology Ireland*, a large-scale Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Strategic Partnership Programme involving 5 academic institutions, 6 cancer charities and 7 companies (www.precisiononcology.ie). He is also Scientific Director of the recently established St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre (www.stvincentsucdcancercentre.ie/).

Currently, Prof. Gallagher is a primary driving force behind the *All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI)*, which is creating an overarching framework for cancer research across the entire island of Ireland (www.aicri.org). AICRI-linked programmes were recently awarded over 12 million euro under the recent HEA North-South Research Programme, including an all-island Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Training Programme in Precision Cancer Medicine (*AICRIstart*) which Prof. Gallagher co-leads, together with Prof. Mark Lawler (Queen's University Belfast). Prof. Gallagher is also co-leading, with Prof. Lawler, an InterTradeIreland Synergy project which is mapping the industry ecosystem on the island of Ireland in respect of precision oncology and allied digital health areas, with a view towards ultimately developing an All-Island Oncology Innovation Cluster.

From 2016-2021, Professor Gallagher was Director of the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, one of Ireland's largest biomedical research facilities. From 2013-2019, he was the Director of *BREAST-PREDICT*, which was the first Irish Cancer Society Collaborative Cancer Research Centre (CCRC) to be funded (www.breastpredict.com). This country-wide CCRC, which was supported to the level of 7.5 million euro and involved 6 academic institutions, as well as Cancer Trials Ireland, focused on developing more personalised treatment approaches for breast cancer.

Prof. Gallagher has received a number of awards for his research and innovation achievements in the oncology arena, including the inaugural Irish Association for Cancer Research Medal in 2017, the SFI Entrepreneurship Award in 2019 and the SFI Researcher of the Year Award in 2021. Prof. Gallagher has co-founded two molecular diagnostics companies, OncoMark Ltd. and OncoAssure Ltd., the former being acquired in March 2021 by the US company Danaher (Cepheid division).



Kari Wojtanik, PhD

Dr. Kari Wojtanik is the Sr. Director of Applied Research & Evaluation at Susan G. Komen. She earned a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Physiology from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Wojtanik leads a team of scientific and public health experts and is responsible for the implementation of qualitative research studies that contribute to the body of evidence about breast cancer, as well as the development of comprehensive, integrated evaluation strategies and innovative solutions to assess the impact of Komen’s mission programs and activities. Dr. Wojtanik also serves as the chair of the Evaluation committee for the International Cancer Research Partnership.

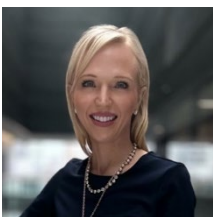
Prior to joining Komen, Dr. Wojtanik worked at the National Cancer Institute. She is based in the Boston area, serves on the Board of Directors at Feet of Clay Pottery, and is an avid ceramicist and runner of miles.

Tuesday May 14, 2024: AI: Innovative Approaches and Responsible Use



Kimberly Badovinac, MA, MBA (she/her)

Kimberly (Kim) is the Program Manager for the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance (CCRA) at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. She developed and is responsible for the Canadian Cancer Research Survey, an annual survey of the investment in cancer research made by many of the organizations that fund cancer research in Canada. Kim also leads CCRA’s Patient Involvement in Cancer Research Program (PIP). She currently serves as the co-chair of the International Cancer Research Partnership (ICRP).



Christine Allen, PhD

Dr. Christine Allen is a full professor at the University of Toronto (U of T) and an internationally recognized leader with more than 170 publications in drug formulation and development. She is a member of the Scientific Leadership Team of the Acceleration Consortium, a strategic initiative at the University of Toronto awarded \$200M in funding from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund. She has received numerous awards, and is a distinguished fellow of prestigious societies including the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Christine is committed to the translation and commercialization of her research. She is a co-founder and CEO of Intrepid Labs Inc., a company that is accelerating pharmaceutical drug development through integration of AI, automation and advanced computing. She is also a co-founder and board member at Nanovista Inc. Her lab at U of T is deeply engaged in industry partnerships, playing a key role in advancing drugs from early-stage research to clinical trials.

Her leadership has been pivotal in several scientific societies, notably as President of the Controlled Release Society and the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences. In academia, her roles have included the inaugural Associate Vice-President and Vice Provost Strategic Initiatives and Interim Dean of the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy.

Christine’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) goes beyond words. She actions EDI in her research and community engagement. In 2019, she founded the Women in STEAM: Leading and Reading book club to create a community that supports women as they advance in their education and careers.



Muhammad Mamdani, PharmD, MA, MPH (he/him)

Dr. Mamdani is Vice President of Data Science and Advanced Analytics at Unity Health Toronto and Director of the University of Toronto Temerty Faculty of Medicine Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Education in Medicine (T-CAIREM). Dr. Mamdani's team bridges advanced analytics including machine learning with clinical and management decision making to improve patient outcomes and hospital efficiency with over 50 AI solutions developed and deployed into clinical practice. Dr. Mamdani is also Professor in the Department of Medicine of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, and the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He is also Affiliate Scientist at IC/ES and a Faculty Affiliate of the Vector Institute, which is a leading institution for artificial intelligence research in Canada. Further, Dr. Mamdani is a member of the Human Drug Advisory Panel of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB).

Previously, Dr. Mamdani founded the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN), which is among the world's most impactful collaborations between researchers and drug policy decision-makers. He was also the Founding Director of the Li Ka Shing Centre for Healthcare Analytics Research and Training (LKS-CHART) of Unity Health Toronto and the Founding Director of the Applied Health Research Centre (AHRC) of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of Unity Health Toronto, which is Toronto's leading academic research organization focused on the design and implementation of multicentre clinical research initiatives including large randomized clinical trials. In 2010, Dr. Mamdani was named among Canada's Top 40 under 40. Prior to joining the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute and Unity Health Toronto, Dr. Mamdani was a Director of Outcomes Research at Pfizer Global Pharmaceuticals in New York.

Dr. Mamdani's research interests include pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacoconomics, drug policy, and the application of advanced analytics approaches to clinical problems and health policy decision-making. He has published over 500 research studies in peer-reviewed medical journals, including leading journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, the Lancet, the Journal of the American Medical Association, the British Medical Journal, and Annals of Internal Medicine. His research has been cited over 45,000 times and has an h-index of over 100. Dr. Mamdani obtained a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD) from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1995 and subsequently completed a fellowship in pharmacoconomics and outcomes research at the Detroit Medical Center in 1997. During his fellowship, Dr. Mamdani obtained a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan with a concentration in econometric theory. He then completed a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University in 1998 with a concentration in quantitative methods, focusing on biostatistics and epidemiological principles.



Hadassah Drukarch, adv. LL.M.

Hadassah Drukarch, adv. LL.M., is a specialist in technology policy and regulation. In that capacity, she advises organizations on compliance, fosters policy awareness and understanding, and guides responsible tech development.

She is currently a fellow at the Responsible AI Institute, where she guides the development of responsible AI practice by providing organizations with the necessary tools to advance their digital innovation journey.

As the Founder and Executive Director of The Law of Tech, she bridges the divide between the legal, policy, and tech sectors through effective communication and collaboration.

Moreover, her research at the intersection of healthcare innovation and regulation, supported by EU-funded projects and publications, demonstrates her commitment to responsible and inclusive innovation.

Hadassah's goal is to establish a shared language among stakeholders to drive innovation aligned with public interests.

Wednesday May 15: Funding Game-Changing Research

Nigel Brockton (see page 3)



Holly Paden, PhD (they/them)

Holly Paden is the Research Programs Manager for the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR). They have a PhD in Human Nutrition from the Ohio State University and a background in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology.

As the Research Programs Manager for AICR, they oversee the AICR Investigator-Initiated Grant Program and are involved in the WCRF International INSPIRE Research Challenge. They also assist with running webinars, conferences, symposia, and external relations related to AICR's research and policy objectives. They also contribute to the WCRF/AICR Global Cancer Update Program (CUP Global), which assesses the global literature on diet, nutrition, physical activity, and cancer.

Their ongoing research centers on food safety and creating targeted educational interventions for cancer patients, as well as assessing changes in the microbiome throughout the course of cancer and treatment.



Julia Panina, PhD

Julia has obtained a MSc in Drug Discovery and Translational Biology from the University of Edinburgh, and a PhD in Cancer Biology from Imperial College London. Prior to joining WCRF, Julia completed her postdoctoral research at The Francis Crick Institute, specialising in cancer metabolism and solidifying her experience in conducting literature reviews, mechanistic research and data analysis.

At WCRF, Julia is responsible for ensuring the effective running of a successful Regular Grant Programme and establishing the second Inspire Research Challenge. She is also managing additional external research collaborations, WCRF Academy activities and communicating with internal and external stakeholders about the findings and impact of the grants we fund.



Judith Bray, PhD

Dr. Judith Bray completed her post-secondary education in England, obtaining a B.Sc. in Biology from London University, an M.Sc. in Immunology from the University of Birmingham, and a PhD in Cancer Immunology from the Cancer Research Campaign Laboratory, Nottingham. Following a two-year postdoctoral position, Judith moved to the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, Alberta. After a successful career as an independent investigator in cancer research for more than six years, she took a leave from the workforce to raise her three sons. Judith then changed direction, joining the Canada Science and Technology Museum (CSTM), in Ottawa as an education officer, creating and delivering more than 35 educational school science programs for CSTM as well as the Canadian Museum of Nature and the Department of National Defense. In November 2000, Judy moved to the newly created Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) to manage the launch of three Institutes: the Institutes of Genetics, Cancer Research, and Infection and Immunity. Judith remained the Assistant Director of the Institute of Infection and Immunity and the Institute of Cancer Research for 14 years working extensively on partnership development with organizations from both the public and private sector. In 2014, Judith left CIHR, to become an independent consultant working with a large variety of clients in the health sector, preparing business cases, research frameworks, strategic plans, and asset maps, and organizing and facilitating workshops. In March 2018, Judith joined the Canadian Cancer Society where she is currently the VP Research Partnerships.

Dajan O'Donnell, PhD (see page 3)



Christine Williams, PhD (she/her)

Dr. Christine Williams is an immunologist and currently serves as the Executive Director of ACCESS. She is also the Executive Vice President and Head of Implementation Science at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR).

Christine received a degree in Life Sciences from Queen’s University and a PhD in Immunology from the University of Toronto. She received postdoctoral training at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University where she studied the molecular pathways involved in the development of leukemia and lymphoma in children. Prior to her roles at ACCESS and OICR, she held leadership positions at the National Cancer Institute of Canada and the Canadian Cancer Society.

She is currently a member of several boards and advisory committees, including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, North York General Hospital, Cancer Care Manitoba and various other research, healthcare and community organizations.



Rebecca Tamarchak, PhD (she/her)

In the role of Head, Strategy, Governance and Partnerships, Dr. Tamarchak’s areas of responsibility include strategic and operational planning, Board governance, strategic projects and partnerships, government relations, patient partnership, EDI and impact assessment. She also serves on the Board of the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance.

Prior to joining OICR, Dr. Tamarchak led a point-of-care diagnostic program at Grand Challenges Canada, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aiming to deliver improved diagnostic testing for infectious disease in low resource settings. Prior to that, Dr. Tamarchak was a senior consultant at SHI Consulting (now Shift Health), where she supported strategic and business planning for health care, academic, non-profit, industry and government clients in the health and life sciences. Dr. Tamarchak holds a BSc. (Honours) in biochemistry from Concordia University and a PhD in cell biology and immunology from Yale University.



Emily Whipple, PhD

Emily C. Whipple, PhD, MBA, joined the Foundation as Director of Strategic Initiatives in 2018, leveraging over sixteen years of experience in operations, project management, and customer relations within entrepreneurial environments. Previously, she held the role of Vice President of Business Development and Operations at AMPEL BioSolutions.

At the Focused Ultrasound Foundation, Emily directs initiatives supporting the advancement and adoption of focused ultrasound technology. Her responsibilities include organizing educational workshops, managing the Foundation's scientific symposium, securing event sponsorships, and forming strategic partnerships.

Emily holds a BS in Molecular Biology from Cornell University, an MS and PhD in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Genetics from the University of Virginia, and an MBA from the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration.

Wednesday May 15: Still Evolving - Patient Engagement in Research



Richard Stephens

Richard has been a patient advocate since 1998, sitting on strategic groups in the UK and Europe, and as a Trustee of several charities, including ICRP. He has been a patient partner on over 50 research studies and programmes, introducing some innovative PPIE work for some, e.g., Cancer In English Prisons. He works with industry, academics, funders, regulators, service providers and patient groups, in Europe, India, Canada and the USA.

Richard Chairs the UK's Cancer Research Advocates Forum (ex-NCRI Consumer Forum) and also Chairs use MY data, Europe's only patient-led movement supporting and promoting the use of patient data for research. He is the founding co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Research Involvement and Engagement*, a Board Member for Leeds CDT for AI in Diagnosis and Health Care, and a member of the European Taskforce on Trusted Research Environments.

Richard has been a journalist, author, teacher, social housing manager and senior local government officer. He has thus far survived two cancers, a heart emergency, plus sundry co-morbidities and late effects. He has participated in four interventional trials and several other studies. He enjoys sitting on warm beaches reading history books, and intends to do it a lot more often.



Judy Needham

Judy is a breast cancer survivor and recently a caregiver for a close family member with bladder cancer. Professionally, she is retired from a corporate marketing career as Director of Campaign Planning. She chose early retirement after her cancer journey and began an unplanned, evolution of long-standing volunteer work in the cancer research spectrum.

Judy is Chair of the Patient Representative Committee with the Canadian Cancer Trials Group where she was very instrumental in leading the redesign of the Patient Representative role at CCTG. She is also a member of their Strategic Executive Advisory Council and Clinical Trials Committee. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Council with 3CTN, the BC Cancer Clinical Trials Leadership Committee, the Breast International Group (BIG) headquartered in Belgium, and a co-founder of the Canadian Patient Engagement Community of Practice under executive sponsorship of the Canadian Cancer Society. She was the first recipient of the CCRA Canadian Exceptional Leadership in Patient Involvement in Cancer Research award.



Robin Urquhart, PhD

Dr. Robin Urquhart is an Associate Professor and the Canadian Cancer Society (Nova Scotia Division) Endowed Chair in Population Cancer Research in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, with cross-appointments in the Department of Surgery and Division of Medical Education, at Dalhousie University. She is a Senior Scientist with the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute and an Affiliate Scientist at Nova Scotia Health.

Dr. Urquhart is also the Nova Scotia Lead of the Atlantic Cancer Consortium and Scientific Director of the Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health (Atlantic PATH). Dr. Urquhart is a health services researcher and implementation scientist. Spanning the entire cancer

continuum, from primary prevention to survivorship and end-of-life care, her research examines issues related to access, quality, equity, and effectiveness in cancer care and control, and investigates ways to improve care delivery and resultant patient, family, population, and health system outcomes.

Wednesday May 15: Assessing Research Impact: New Tools and Approaches

Lynne Davies, PhD (see page 4)



Connie Tang, MSc

Connie Tang is the Director of Strategy and Business Development at [Research Impact Canada](#) (RIC). Specialising in research communications, training development and delivery, and stakeholder outreach, she supports RIC's bilingual network of 30+ universities building institutional capacity for knowledge mobilisation. Through volunteer work, she is an active advocate for women, seniors, and newcomers to Canada in the Scarborough community and volunteers as a career mentor with Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council. Connie completed her MSc at the University of Toronto in Chemistry, related to energy and conservation management, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, painting, and cooking.



Andrew Knowles

Andrew Knowles is the Cancer Evaluation & Impact Lead at Cancer Research UK, the world's largest charitable funder of cancer research. He leads a research intelligence team providing portfolio analysis, research evaluation and impact assessment, helping to drive research strategy and funding decisions, and telling the story of CRUK science to audiences including supporters, philanthropists and UK government.

Andrew has a first degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Southampton, is a graduate of the International School of Research Impact Assessment and a current member of the Researchfish Strategic Advisory Committee. He lives in the Kent countryside and enjoys running, often to the pub.



Kathryn Graham, PhD, FCAHS

Kathryn is the Executive Director of the Impact Action Lab at Alberta Innovates, the province's largest Research and Innovation agency. She has over 25 years of experience in implementing strategic impact, performance management and continuous quality improvement systems across multiple organizations and sectors. Kathryn is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS), and she advises organizations on how to optimize their performance by designing and incorporating impact processes both strategically and operationally. Kathryn's passion for teaching and training the next

generation of impact professionals is demonstrated by co-founding of the International School on Research Impact Assessment and teaching on incorporating societal impact into organizations. She also holds adjunct professorship appointments at the University of Calgary and University of Alberta.

Kathryn is an organizational psychologist and received her Ph.D. in Applied Psychology with a specialization in Human Factors from the University of Cranfield (UK). Recently, in 2022, Kathryn received the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) in recognition of her contributions to advancing the science and practice of research and innovation impact for the province. In 2023, she was a co-recipient of an International Startup Ecosystem Star Award for recognizing best practice organizations that build local innovation ecosystems. She is a bridge builder and brings international experience and innovative practices to bear when amplifying and activating positive impact for people's lives.



Euan Adie

Euan Adie is the CEO of Overton, a large index of citations in government policy documents and clinical guidelines, which he founded in 2019. He previously founded and spent six years growing Altmetric.com, which is now owned by Digital Science, and before that worked at Nature Publishing Group and as a researcher in medical genetics (despite not knowing how to hold a pipette properly) at the University of Edinburgh.