



THE CANADIAN CANCER
RESEARCH **CONFERENCE** | LA **CONFÉRENCE** CANADIENNE
SUR LA RECHERCHE SUR LE CANCER

PRESENTED BY
CCRA
ACRC

New Horizons in Cancer Research: Opportunities and Challenges

Nouveaux horizons dans la recherche sur le cancer :
opportunités et défis

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM | PROGRAMME SCIENTIFIQUE

November 2-4 | 2025

Telus Convention Centre and Hyatt Regency Hotel Calgary, Alberta

2 au 4 novembre | 2025

Centre des congrès Telus et hôtel Hyatt Regency Calgary (Alberta)



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS | MERCI À TOUS NOS PARTENAIRES

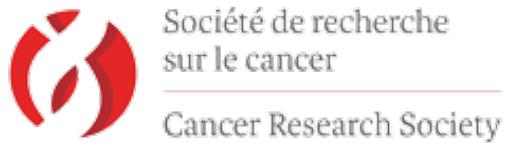
PLATINUM LEVEL | NIVEAU PLATINE



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer



SILVER LEVEL | NIVEAU ARGENT



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BRONZE LEVEL | NIVEAU BRONZE



FRIENDS | AMIS

Calgary TELUS Convention Centre
Current Oncology - an Open Access Journal by MDPI
Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ) – secteur Santé
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada
McGill University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences,
sponsored by the Rose Wiselberg Foundation
University of Alberta, College of Health Sciences,
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Department of Oncology

We would like to acknowledge

Doug Eagleton, Calgary Fire Department, for facilitating permits for the event.

OVERVIEW - New Horizons in Cancer Research: Opportunities and Challenges

Colour-coded - venue maps pg. 43

TELUS EXHIBIT HALL/PREFUNCTION

TELUS MACLEOD HALL

HYATT ROOMS

Saturday, November 1, 2025

3:00 pm	REGISTRATION OPEN – EXHIBITORS AND POSTER PRESENTERS PLEASE SET-UP BETWEEN 3:00-6:00 PM (Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E) and Pre-function)					
6:00 pm	Pre-registration: Reimagining Cancer Clinical Trials and Prevention: Strategies to Improve Access and Inclusion (Telus Macleod Pre-function)					
Sunday, November 2, 2025						
7:45 am	Opening Ceremony (Telus Macleod Hall)					
10:00 am	Break (Telus Macleod Pre-function)					
10:30 am	Plenary 1 – Immune system and cancer: What's next on the horizon? (Telus Macleod Hall)					
Noon	Lunch (Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E))					
12:30 pm	Tech Talk: Canada's Lung Cancer Action Plan (Telus Exhibit Hall Pre-function)					
12:30 pm	RRCancer's Quebec General Assembly (Closed to RR Members) Doll/Herald					
1:45 pm	Interactive Session: Collaborating for Impact in Cancer Research with CIHR - Dr. Paul Hébert, President, Dr. Fei-Fei Liu and Dr. Paula Kirton (Telus Macleod Hall)					
2:15 pm	Transition to Hyatt					
	Concurrent Series A					
2:30 pm	A1-Drug Discovery, Design, Delivery and Resistance Imperial 4/6	A2-Immunotherapy Imperial 1/2/3	A3-Pediatric Cancer Across the Patient Journey Imperial 5/7/9	A4-Patient Centred Research/Patient Engagement Imperial 8	A5- Health Equity Doll/Herald	A6-Indigenous Knowledge and Methodologies in Cancer Research Stephen AB
	Pre-registration: Introduction to Oncology-focused Startups with the Creative Destruction Lab Walker/Bannerman					
4:00 pm	Break (Imperial Grand Foyer 3)					
	Lightning Series A					
4:30 pm	A1-Blood Cancers Imperial 4/6	A2-Brain Tumours Imperial 1/2/3	A3-Breast Cancer Imperial 5/7/9	A4-Colorectal Cancer Imperial 8	A5-Lung Cancer Doll/Herald	A6-Ovarian Cancer Stephen AB
	A7-Prostate Cancer Walker/Bannerman					
5:05 pm	Transition to Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E)					
5:15 pm	Poster Session 1 (odd numbered posters) & Exhibits (Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E))					
6:00 pm	Pre-registration: RRCancer Networking Event Walker/Bannerman					
7:00 pm	Anew Research Collaborative, Imagine...Film Screening and Panel Discussion (LOCATION TBD) – Open to all delegates					
Monday, November 3, 2025						
8:00 am	Plenary 2 - BIG data in cancer research: Too BIG to fail? (Telus Macleod Hall)					
9:30 am	Break (Imperial Grand Foyer 3)					
	Concurrent Series B					
10:00 am	B1-Molecular and Cellular Biology Imperial 4/6	B2-Clinical Research and Trials Imperial 1/2/3	B3-Patient Experience Imperial 5/7/9	B4-Screening Imperial 8	B5-Health Economics/Outcomes Research Doll/Herald	B6-Indigenous Cancer Care Across the Continuum Stephen AB
	Pre-registration: Navigating the Path to Publication Walker/Bannerman					
11:30 am	Lunch (Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E))					
11:45 am	Tech Talk: Beyond the Silos: Uniting Health Data for Real Impact, hosted by CIHR and Genome Canada (Telus Exhibit Hall Pre-function)					
11:45 am	Open Event: From Priorities to Progress: Catalyzing Action on Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Research in Canada (Telus Macleod Hall)					

Concurrent Series C							
12:45 pm	C1-Tumour Biology, Immunology and the Microenvironment <i>Imperial 4/6</i>	C2-Bioinformatics and Precision Medicine <i>Imperial 1/2/3</i>	C3- Cross-Pillar Cancer Research Across the Lifespan <i>Imperial 5/7/9</i>	C4-Clinical Research and Radiotherapy <i>Imperial 8</i>	C5-Environmental Impacts on Cancer <i>Doll/Herald</i>	C6-First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Prevention and Screening <i>Stephen AB</i>	Pre-registration: CanPath Synthetic Dataset Workshop – Part 1 <i>Walker/Bannerman</i>
2:15 pm	Break (<i>Imperial Grand Foyer 3</i>)						
Concurrent Series D							
2:45 pm	D1-Precision Oncology Continuum: From Molecular Markers to Therapeutic Resistance Pathways <i>Imperial 4/6</i>	D2-From Risk Assessment, Screening and Surveillance to Survivorship <i>Imperial 1/2/3</i>	D3-Health Human Resources in Cancer Control <i>Imperial 5/7/9</i>	D4-Lung Cancer in Canada: Plans and Trends <i>Imperial 8</i>	D5-Cervical Cancer and HPV-related Interventions <i>Doll/Herald</i>	D6-First Nations, Inuit and Métis Stories <i>Stephen AB</i>	Pre-registration: CanPath Synthetic Dataset Workshop – Part 2 <i>Walker/Bannerman</i>
4:15 pm	<i>Transition</i>						
Lightning Series B							
4:25 pm	B1-Cancer Biology <i>Imperial 4/6</i>	B2-Metastasis <i>Imperial 1/2/3</i>	B3-Prevention and Screening <i>Imperial 5/7/9</i>	B4-Treatment and Drug Resistance <i>Imperial 8</i>	B5-Enhancing Immunotherapy <i>Doll/Herald</i>	B6-Survivorship <i>Stephen AB</i>	B7-Improving Cancer Care <i>Walker/Bannerman</i>
5:00 pm	<i>Transition to Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E)</i>						
5:10 pm	Poster Session 2 (even numbered posters) & Exhibits (<i>Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E)</i>)						
Tuesday, November 4, 2025							
8:00 am	Plenary 3 – Metabolic Health and Cancer (<i>Telus Macleod Hall</i>)						
9:30 am	Break (<i>Telus Macleod Pre-function</i>)						
10:00 am	Plenary 4 - Rising cancer rates in adults under 50 years: What do we need to know? (<i>Telus Macleod Hall</i>)						
11:30 am	Closing Ceremony (<i>Telus Macleod Hall</i>)						
12:30 pm	Grab & Go Lunch (<i>Telus Macleod Pre-function</i>)						
12:30 pm	VIP Lunch (by invitation) (<i>Telus Exhibition Hall E</i>)						

APERCU DU PROGRAMME - Nouveaux horizons dans la recherche sur le cancer : opportunités et défis

Horaire codé par couleur - les plans des lieux se trouvent à la page 43

TELUS EXHIBIT HALL/PREFUNCTION

TELUS MACLEOD HALL

HYATT ROOMS

Samedi 1^{er} novembre 2025

15 h	INSCRIPTIONS OUVERTES – EXPOSANTS ET PRÉSENTATEURS D'AFFICHES VEUILLEZ VOUS INSTALLER ENTRE 15H00 ET 18H00 (Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E) et pré-fonction)
18 h	Préinscription : Réinventer les essais cliniques et la prévention du cancer : Stratégies pour améliorer l'accès et l'inclusion (Pré-fonction Telus Macleod)

Dimanche 2 novembre 2025

7 h 45	Cérémonie d'ouverture (Telus Macleod Hall)
10 h	Pause (Pré-fonction Telus Macleod)
10 h 30	Plénière 1 – Système immunitaire et cancer : quelle est la prochaine étape ? (Telus Macleod Hall)
12 h	Déjeuner (Salle d'exposition Telus (C/D/E))
12 h:30	Discussion technique : Plan d'action du Canada contre le cancer du poumon (Pré-fonction du Telus Exhibition Hall)

12 h 30		Assemblée générale du Québec par RRCancer (fermée aux membres de RRCancer) Doll/Herald	Préinscription : Soins aux enfants des Premières Nations, inuits et métis atteints de cancer au Canada Walker/Bannerman
13 h 45	Séance interactive : Collaborer pour un impact accru en recherche sur le cancer avec les IRSC – Dr Paul Hébert, président, Dr Fei-Fei Liu et Dr Paula Kirton (Telus Macleod Hall)		

14 h 15	Transition vers les salles du Hyatt
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	Sessions simultanées - série A				
14 h 30	A1-Découverte, conception, administration et résistance des médicaments Imperial 4/6	A2- Immunothérapie Imperial 1/2/3	A3- Le cancer pédiatrique tout au long du parcours du patient Imperial 5/7/9	A4- Recherche centrée sur le patient/Engagement des patients Imperial 8	A5- Équité en santé Doll/Herald
					A6- Connaissances et méthodologies autochtones dans la recherche sur le cancer Stephen AB

16 h	Pause (Imperial Grand Foyer 3)
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	Séances éclair - série A				
16 h 30	A1-Cancers du sang Imperial 4/6	A2-Tumeurs cérébrales Imperial 1/2/3	A3-Cancer du sein Imperial 5/7/9	A4-Cancer colorectal Imperial 8	A5-Cancer du poumon Doll/Herald

17 h 5	Transition vers la salle d'exposition Telus (C/D/E)
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17 h 15	Session d'affiches 1 (affiches impaires) et expositions (Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E))
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18 h					Préinscription : Événement de réseautage RRCancer Walker/Bannerman
19 h	« Anew Research Collaborative, Imagine... » Projection du film et table ronde (La salle d'événement est à déterminer) – Ouvert à tous les délégués				

Lundi 3 novembre 2025	
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8 h	Plénière 2 – Le « BIG » data dans la recherche sur le cancer : trop « BIG » pour échouer ? (Salle Telus Macleod)
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9 h 30	Pause (Imperial Grand Foyer 3)
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	Sessions simultanées - série B				
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10 h	B1-Biologie moléculaire et cellulaire Imperial 4/6	B2-Recherche clinique et essais cliniques Imperial 1/2/3	B3-Expérience du patient Imperial 5/7/9	B4-Dépistage du cancer Imperial 8	B5- Économie de la santé/Recherche sur les résultats Doll/Herald	B6- Soins aux Autochtones atteints de cancer à travers le continuum des soins contre le cancer Stephen AB	Préinscription : Naviguer sur le chemin de la publication Walker/Bannerman
11 h 30	Déjeuner (Telus Exhibition Hall(C/D/E))						

11 h 45	Discussion technique : Au-delà des cloisons : unifier les données sur la santé pour un impact réel, organisé par les IRSC et Génome Canada (Pré-fonction du Telus Exhibition Hall)						
11 h 45	Événement ouvert : Des priorités aux progrès : Catalyser l'action en matière de recherche sur le cancer chez les adolescents et les jeunes adultes au Canada (Telus Macleod Hall)						
Sessions simultanées - série C							
12 h 45	C1-Biologie tumorale, immunologie et microenvironnement Imperial 4/6	C2-Bioinformatique et médecine de précision Imperial 1/2/3	C3-Recherche inter-piliers sur le cancer tout au long de la vie Imperial 5/7/9	C4-Recherche clinique et radiothérapie Imperial 8	C5-Impacts environnementaux sur le cancer Doll/Herald	C6-Prévention et dépistage du cancer chez les Premières Nations, les Inuits et les Métis Stephen AB	Préinscription : Atelier sur les données synthétiques CanPath – Partie 1 Walker/Bannerman
14 h 15	Pause (Imperial Grand Foyer 3)						
Sessions simultanées - série D							
14 h 45	D1-Le continuum de l'oncologie de précision : des marqueurs moléculaires aux voies de résistance thérapeutique Imperial 4/6	D2-De l'évaluation des risques, du dépistage et de la surveillance à la survie Imperial 1/2/3	D3-Ressources humaines en santé dans la lutte contre le cancer Imperial 5/7/9	D4-Cancer du poumon au Canada : plans et tendances Imperial 8	D5-Interventions contre le cancer du col de l'utérus et le VPH Doll/Herald	D6-Histoires des Premières Nations, des Inuits et des Métis Stephen AB	Préinscription : Atelier sur les données synthétiques CanPath – Partie 2 Walker/Bannerman
16 h 15	Transition						
Séances éclair - série B							
16 h 25	B1-Biologie du cancer Imperial 4/6	B2-Méタstase Imperial 1/2/3	B3-Prévention et dépistage du cancer Imperial 5/7/9	B4-Traitement et résistance aux médicaments Imperial 8	B5-Améliorer l'immunothérapie Doll/Herald	B6-Survie Stephen AB	B7- Améliorer les soins contre le cancer Walker/Bannerman
17 h	Transition vers la salle d'exposition Telus (C/D/E)						
17 h 15	Session d'affiches 2 (affiches paires) et expositions (Telus Exhibition Hall (C/D/E)						
Mardi 4 novembre 2025							
8 h	Séance plénière 3 – Santé métabolique et cancer (Telus Macleod Hall)						
9 h 30	Pause (Pré-événement Telus Macleod)						
10 h	Plénière 4 – Augmentation du taux de cancer chez les moins de 50 ans : que faut-il savoir ? (Telus Macleod Hall)						
11 h 30	Cérémonie de clôture (Telus Macleod Hall)						
12 h 30	Déjeuner à emporter (Pré-événement Telus Macleod)						
12 h 30	Déjeuner VIP (sur invitation) (Telus Exhibition Hall E)						

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The success and impact of the Canadian Cancer Research Conference is driven in large part by our committees, representing advocates and leaders in cancer research from across Canada. Their time, thoughtfulness, and expertise are deeply appreciated.

Executive Planning Committee

The Executive Planning Committee ensures the organization of a relevant and engaging conference. It is responsible for overseeing the development of support opportunities and logistical aspects of the conference.

Co-Chairs:



Fei-Fei Liu, MD, FRCPC, FASTRO, FCAHS

Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Cancer Research; Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto; Radiation Oncologist & Senior Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre – University Health Network



Paula J. Robson PhD CHE

Scientific Director, Cancer Research and Analytics, Cancer Care Alberta, Alberta Health Services

Members:

- Judy Bray, PhD, Canadian Cancer Society
- Darren R. Brenner, PhD, Co-Chair, Scientific Program Committee (SPC)
- Spencer B. Gibson, PhD, Co-Chair, Scientific Program Committee (SPC)
- Christy Holtby, Alberta Cancer Foundation
- Rosilene Kraft, PhD, Chair, PIP Working Committee
- Raja Mita, PhD, Alberta Innovates
- Paul O'Connell, PhD, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada
- Dajan O'Donnell, PhD, Cancer Research Society
- Cindy Peltier, PhD, Representative, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Working Group
- Rebecca Tamarchak, PhD, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research
- Chantale Thurston, Member, PIP Working Committee
- Jim Woodgett, PhD, Terry Fox Research Institute

Scientific Program Committee

The Scientific Program Committee spearheads the development of scientific content by identifying novel session themes, chairs, and speakers, and overseeing abstract review and selection.

Co-Chairs:



Darren R. Brenner, PhD

Professor, Departments of Oncology and Community Health Sciences, Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary



Spencer B. Gibson, PhD

Dianna and Irving Kipnes Endowed Chair in Lymphatic Disorders, Professor, Department of Oncology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta, University of Alberta, and Adjunct Senior Scientist, Paul Albrechtsen Research Institute, CancerCare Manitoba

Members:

- Touati Benoukraf, PhD, Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Jennifer Brooks, PhD, University of Toronto
- M. Dean Chamberlain, PhD, University of Saskatchewan
- Jennifer Chan, MD, University of Calgary
- Adrienne Co-Dyre, Member, PIP Working Committee
- John Corriveau, Member, PIP Working Committee
- Stephanie Grover, MSc, CCRP, PMP, ACCESS
- Bishal Gyawali, MD, PhD, Queen's University
- Angeline Letendre, RN, PhD, Co-Chair, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Working Group
- Madeline Li, MD, PhD, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre - University Health Network; University of Toronto
- Kiven Eriue Lukong, PhD, University of Saskatchewan
- Rebecca Mercer, PhD, Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control (ARCC)
- Hermann Nabi, PhD, HDR, Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec-Université Laval; Université Laval
- Hanne Ostergaard, PhD, University of Alberta
- Joel Pearson, PhD, University of Manitoba
- Christian Steidl, MD, PhD, BC Cancer
- Robin Urquhart, PhD, Dalhousie University
- Josie Ursini-Siegel, PhD, McGill University
- Linda Watson, PhD, Alberta Health Services

First Nations, Inuit and Métis Working Group

This group promotes and strengthens First Nations, Inuit and Métis participation in cancer research and provides advice on integrating culture, participation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners and involving Elders, knowledge keepers, patients, families and traditional healers.

Co-chairs:



Angeline Letendre, RN, PhD
Interim Chair of the Indigenous Cancer Research Network



Judy Inugjuaq Clark
Inuit Community Health Advisor, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

Members:

- Geela Amarudjuak, Youth Representative and Advisor
- Lea Bill, RN, First Nations Information Governance Centre
- Levinia Brown, Elder, Former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

- Lois Edge, PhD, Athabasca University, MacEwan University, Yorkville University
- Kimiora Henare, PhD, University of Aukland, He Akoranga Whakahoungia
- Peter Hutchinson, PhD, University of British Columbia
- KD King, RN, PhD, Alberta Health Services, MacEwan University, University of Alberta
- Cindy Peltier, PhD, Nipissing University

PIP Working Committee

The PIP Working Committee provides direction on the PIP program format, process and materials and oversees the implementation of the 2025 PIP Program.

2025 PIP Working Committee



Dr. Rosilene Kraft (Chair) – B.C.

Patient representative on the CCRA Advisory Board; conference Executive Planning Committee member



Ms. Chantale Thurston – Manitoba

Patient representative on the CCRA Advisory Board; conference Executive Planning Committee member



Ms. Adrienne Co-Dyre – Ontario

Family representative on the CCRA Advisory Board; conference Scientific Program Committee member



Mr. John Corriveau – Alberta

Patient partner; conference Scientific Program Committee member

CCRA AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2025 awardees! For more, interviews conducted with our awardees as well as brief videos can be found at <https://www.ccra-acrc.ca/ccra-awards/>.



Sitansisk Wolastoqey (St. Mary's First Nation) is the recipient of the inaugural award for **Excellence in a First Nations, Inuit and Métis Community Project** for the "Radiant Spirits: Indigenous Mammogram and Breast Health Initiative," launched in October 2024, which has improved breast screening access for Indigenous women in the Sitansisk Wolastoqey. This initiative is rooted in Indigenous leadership and community engagement, laying the foundation for future, sustainable programming focused on equity and cultural safety in cancer care. Sherry Parsons, Community Health Coordinator at the St. Mary's Veterans Memorial Health Center, will receive this award on behalf of Sitansisk Wolastoqey.



Dr. Christine M. Friedenreich, PhD, FCAHS, FRSC, Adjunct Professor and Lead, Academic Research and Education, Preventive Oncology, Departments of Oncology, Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, is the recipient of the **Philip E. Branton Exceptional Leadership in Cancer Research award** for the transformative and international impact of her research on the role of physical activity in the fields of cancer prevention and survivorship which has informed national and international public health guidelines, policies and initiatives, and her pivotal role in championing equity and diversity in the cancer research workforce.



Dr. Nada Jabado, OC, MD, PhD, Senior Scientist in the Child Health and Human Development Program at the Centre for Translational Biology, Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, and Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at McGill University, has been awarded the **Outstanding Achievements in Cancer Research award**. She is recognized for her groundbreaking discovery of regulatory histone mutations as a fundamental cancer hallmark and her paradigm-shifting finding that brain tumours arise from stalled development in embryonic neural hierarchies—work that has transformed our understanding of pediatric and young adult brain tumours and opened new avenues for diagnosis and treatment.



Dr. Lana Ray, PhD, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Resurgent Methodologies for Indigenous Health, Health Disciplines, Athabasca University, Co-Director, Anishinaabe Kendaasiwin Institute (AKI), and Adjunct Faculty Member, Lakehead University, is the recipient of the inaugural **Excellence in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Research award** for her work to address significant gaps in Indigenous health research including implementation of Traditional Healing for the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, the inadequate engagement of health research with land and settler colonialism, and the urgent need for Indigenous-led governance and data management solutions.



Dr. Sevtap Savas, PhD, Professor, Human Genetics and Oncology, Division of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University, is the recipient of the **Exceptional Leadership in Patient Involvement in Cancer Research award** for the critical role she has played in the development and growth of the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Interest Group on Cancer Research and the Atlantic Cancer Consortium Patient Advisory Committee and her commitment to the inclusion and capacity-building of people with lived and living experience from equity-deserving communities as patient partners in cancer research.



Dr. Barbara C. Vanderhyden, PhD, Senior Scientist, Cancer Research, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Corinne Boyer Chair in Ovarian Cancer Research, University of Ottawa and Distinguished Professor, Cellular and Molecular Medicine, University of Ottawa, is the recipient of **Distinguished Service to Cancer Research award** for her decades-long dedication to public engagement, ensuring that scientific advancements reach patients, families, and communities and her pioneering work developing and championing novel and inclusive science promotion and education programs for elementary, high school and university students, building science literacy and inspiring Canada's next generation of scientists.

PIP PARTICIPANTS

Since 2017, the CCRA has offered the Patient Involvement in Cancer Research Program (PIP) as part of the biennial Canadian Cancer Research Conference (CCRC). PIP provides patient partners with an opportunity to learn about leading-edge science from Canada's cancer researchers and trainees and to, likewise, offer the scientific community an opportunity to learn from and interact with patient partners keen on building their knowledge of cancer research and demonstrating the value that engaged patients can bring to the cancer research process. Brief videos from this year's PIP Working Committee and the full transcripts they prepared can be found at <https://www.ccra-acrc.ca/about-us/patient-involvement/>.

This year's participants are:

- Randy Baldwin
- Adrienne Co-Dyre
- Jennifer Coish
- John Corriveau
- Howard Dellar
- Alyssa Dickey
- Sandra Dudych
- Kirsten Efremov
- Justin Gaudet
- Lucy Ioannoni
- Suad Ismail
- Rosilene Kraft, PhD
- Natalie Kwadrans
- Camille Leahy
- Cara MacInnis, PhD
- Sherry Metcalfe
- Katharine Palmer
- Darrin Park
- Megan Quintal
- Megan Sewell
- Sundas Shamshad
- Eddy Szczerbinski
- Valentine Thompson
- Chantale Thurston
- Robyn Wood

Early career researchers supporting PIP participants as science partners are: Drs. Vasudeva Bhat, Miffy Hok Yan Cheng, Jawad Chishtie, Vikas Garg, Zhimeng Jia, Shuk On Annie Leung, Catrina Loucks, Elodie Lugez, Ronda Lun, Arata Matsuyama, Scott McComb, Éva Michaud, Mathieu Quesnel-Vallières, Sara Shearkhani, Fay Strohschein, Ying Tang, Joanne Tay, Yiming Wang, Amanda Wurz, Stephanie Xie, and Karen Zhang. Your assistance is much appreciated!

A special thank you to Scott McComb, PhD, National Research Council Canada, University of Ottawa and Joel Pearson, PhD, University of Manitoba for providing pre-webinars to PIP participants.

2025 PIP SUPPORTERS • COMMANDITAIRES DU PPP 2025



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du cancer



SickKids® | Garron Family
Cancer Centre



Société de recherche
sur le cancer
Cancer Research Society

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EXHIBITORS

We encourage you to visit our 2025 CCRC Exhibitors to find out more about what they offer to the research and patient partner communities. This year's exhibitors are:



**Arnie Charbonneau
Cancer Institute**



Canadian Cancer Society **Société canadienne du cancer**



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DETAILED SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**Friday, October 31,
2025**

7:30 am – 4:00 pm
Telus Room 103



CIHR Institute of Cancer Research Advisory Board Meeting (Closed)

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Telus Co-Lab



PIP Meet and Greet (Closed)

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Off-site



CIHR Institute of Cancer Research Institute ECR-PIP Networking Meeting (Closed)

**Saturday,
November 1, 2025**

7:30 am – 6:15 pm
Hyatt Stephen AB



CIHR Institute of Cancer Research Early Career Researcher (ECR) Meeting (Closed)

8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Telus 104-105, 103



Canadian Indigenous Nurses' Association and Indigenous Cancer Research Network Meeting (By invitation)

10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Telus Co-Lab



PIP Program (Closed)

A- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
B – 12:00 – 1:00 pm
C - 1:00 – 2:00 pm
D - 2:00 – 3:00 pm
E - 3:00 – 4:00 pm
F - 4:00 – 5:00 pm



Tours of the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Pre-registration required. Registrants must meet 10 minutes before departure times in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel for the shuttle service.

Provided by the Alberta Cancer Foundation, this tour will highlight the unique features of this new and largest cancer treatment and research facility in Canada and the second largest in North America.

Following engagement of hundreds of patients, family advisors, physicians, design and contracting partners, the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre is a state-of-the-art facility that includes both inpatient and outpatient services, and fosters community and connection among patients, their support groups, and services. Research across the spectrum is integrated to further optimize care, with a focus on prevention, early detection, precision medicine and psychosocial care.

More about the centre is here: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ajec/page15399.aspx>. More about the Alberta Cancer Foundation is here: <https://albertacancer.ca/>.

**Saturday,
November 1, 2025**

1:00 am – 4:30 pm
*Arthur J.E. Child
Comprehensive Cancer
Centre*

Introduction to Machine Learning - WORKSHOP

Pre-registration required.

Hosted by Precision Analytics, Cancer Advanced Analytics, Cancer Research & Analytics, Cancer Care Alberta, this workshop provides an introductory overview of machine learning for participants with a foundational understanding of data analysis, but no prior experience with machine learning. It is designed for individuals seeking to build conceptual knowledge of machine learning and understand its role in applied and research contexts.

The session will introduce key concepts in machine learning, including how it differs from traditional statistical approaches, how models learn from data, and the basic types of learning. Participants will also be introduced to fundamental ideas related to evaluating model performance, identifying common pitfalls, and recognizing the importance of ethical considerations and bias in real-world applications.

Instructors:

- Cheligeer Cheligeer, PhD
- Kenneth Lai, PhD
- Maeve Wickham, PhD
- Ali Manouchehrinia, PhD
- Grace Heemeryck
- Emily Walker, PhD

6:00 – 7:30 pm
*Telus Macleod Pre-
Function*



Canadian Cancer Society **Société canadienne du cancer**

Reimagining Cancer Clinical Trials and Prevention: Strategies to Improve Access and Inclusion

Pre-registration required.

Hosted by the Cancer Prevention Research Network (CPRN), an initiative of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), this is an evening of connection, insight, and collaboration focused on the future on improving access to cancer related clinical trials in Canada. Light refreshments will be provided.

What to Expect:

- CCS leadership and a lead cancer prevention researcher will give opening remarks and discuss CCS's evolving role in cancer clinical trials
- An interactive roundtable activity designed to spark discussion and gather diverse perspectives on improving access to and awareness of clinical trials. Participants will have the opportunity to share insights, experiences, and ideas in a collaborative setting.
- Open networking to connect with others passionate about advancing cancer prevention research and clinical trials

**Sunday, November
2, 2025**

7:45 – 10:00 am
Telus Macleod Hall

Opening Ceremony

Co-Chairs:

- Dajan O'Donnell, PhD, Chair, CCRA Advisory Board
- Craig Earle, MD, MSc, FRCPC, CEO, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

Elders Opening

Committee Introductions and Acknowledgements

Awards presented to:

- Sherry Parsons for the Sitansisk Wolastoqey (St. Mary's First Nation)
- Dr. Christine M. Friedenreich
- Dr. Nada Jabado
- Dr. Lana Ray
- Dr. Sevtap Savas
- Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden

10:00 – 10:30 am
Telus Macleod Pre-function

BREAK

Join us for a cultural celebration featuring a Métis Elder and family sharing traditional drumming and singing, followed by a performance by Violet's Michif Dancers. This event honours Métis heritage and invites attendees to experience the rich rhythms, stories, spirit of the Métis in Alberta.

10:30 am – Noon
Telus Macleod Hall

Plenary 1: Immune System and Cancer: What's next on the horizon?

Over the past decade immunotherapy has changed cancer outcomes with substantially improved survival of individuals with certain types of metastatic cancer. However, immunotherapy does not work with all cancers and not all patients respond, so more work needs to be done. In this session we will hear about how challenges with immunotherapy can be overcome in ovarian cancer and potential targets of immunotherapy for brain cancer. We will also hear about the development and delivery of novel immunotherapies.

Co-chairs:

- Hanne Ostergaard, PhD, University of Alberta
- Rosilene Kraft, PhD, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Barbara Vanderhyden, PhD, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, University of Ottawa
Overcoming the Barriers to Effective Immunotherapy

- Donna Senger, PhD, McGill University – Lady Davis Institute
Harnessing the Power of Macrophage for Cancer Therapy
- Brad Nelson, PhD, BC Cancer, University of British Columbia
Engineering the immune response to cancer: Local efforts in a global context

Noon – 1:45 pm
*Telus Exhibit Hall
(C/D/E)*

LUNCH
During this extended lunch, we encourage delegates to visit the exhibitors, networking with other delegates, and attend the Tech Talk.

12:30 – 1:00 pm
Telus Exhibit Pre-function



Canadian Cancer Society Société canadienne du cancer

Tech Talk: Canada's Lung Cancer Action Plan

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Canada, claiming more lives annually than breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers combined. Despite advancements in care, inequities in access, diagnosis, and outcomes persist—especially among underserved populations.

To address this, the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), with guidance from a national Steering Committee of diverse stakeholders, developed the 2026-2035 Pan-Canadian Lung Cancer Action Plan. The plan's overarching goal is to reduce lung cancer deaths by 30% over the next decade through coordinated, equity-focused action.

Join us for a fireside chat with a panel of experts involved in the development of the action plan to gain insights on how this movement started, what some of the biggest challenges and opportunities are today in lung cancer and why it's more important now than ever to have focused collective action across Canada.

Panelists:

- Annemarie Edwards, Canadian Cancer Society
- Dr. Christian Finley, McMaster University
- Jan Pezarro, Author and Health Advocate
- Dr. Ambreen Sayani, Women's College Hospital
- Dr. Robin Urquhart, Dalhousie University
- Dr. Rosalyn Juergens, Lung Cancer Canada

12:30 – 1:30 pm
Hyatt Doll/Herald



RRCancer's Quebec General Assembly

Closed to RRCancer Members

12:30 – 1:30 pm
Walker/Bannerman



Care for First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children with Cancer - Workshop
Pre-registration required.

In this 60-minute workshop, we will facilitate a community-engaged discussion to gather the most pressing priorities in the care and wellbeing for First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) children, families and communities affected by childhood cancer and begin to formulate an approach to addressing these issues.

We will centre the discussion through the story of one family's cancer journey. Background information about what is known about outcomes and experiences among FNIM children with cancer in Canada will be shared with the participants as well as information about what data sources are available for further work. From here, we will gather the thoughts of the participants and identify themes that emerge, which may include research priorities, responsible data governance and data sharing, consent considerations for FNIM children and youth, as well as protocols and principles of engagement with FNIM communities. We will summarize the discussion verbally with participants and use a visual format for knowledge sharing.

Presenters:

- The ACCESS Indigenous Research Circle: Stacey Marjerrison, Wendy Lariviere, Alexandra King, Malcolm King, Angeline Letendre, Cindy Peltier, Amanda Sheppard and Vicky Wilton.

1:45 – 2:15 pm <i>Telus Macleod Hall</i>	Interactive Session: Collaborating for Impact in Cancer Research with CIHR - Dr. Paul Hébert, President, Dr. Fei-Fei Liu and Dr. Paula Kirton
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2:15 – 2:30 pm	<i>Transition to Hyatt</i>
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2:30 – 4:00 pm <i>Hyatt Imperial 4/6</i>	Concurrent A1: Drug Discovery, Design, Delivery and Resistance
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Co-Chairs:

- Dean Chamberlain, PhD, University of Saskatchewan
- Megan Quintal, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Mohsen Akbari, PhD, PEng, University of Victoria
A drug-eluting injectable nanogel for localized delivery of anticancer drugs to solid tumors
- Miffy Hok Yan Cheng, PhD, University of British Columbia
Lipid nanoparticles for cancer diagnostics and therapeutics
- Melissa Loeffen, University of Toronto
Novel perfluorocarbon nanoemulsions for photodynamic therapy of lung cancer
- Pooja Praveen Kumar, University of Alberta
Preclinical 3D Model Drug Repurposing Screen Identifies Digoxin as an Effective Anti-cancer Therapy for SWI/SNF-inactivated Endometrial and Ovarian Cancers

2:30 – 4:00 pm <i>Hyatt Imperial 1/2/3</i>	Concurrent A2: Immunotherapy
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Co-Chairs:

- Christian Steidl, MD, PhD, BC Cancer, University of British Columbia
- Camille Leahy, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Larisa Kovtonyuk, PhD, University of Calgary
Determining the role of the microbiome and microbial metabolites in enhancing the efficacy of CD19 directed CAR-T cell therapy of B cell malignancies
- David Jung, University of Calgary
Inactivation of TRAF3 and CYLD Causes Resistance to T-Cell Based Therapies in Multiple Myeloma by Promoting an Immunosuppressive Microenvironment that Alters T Cell Function
- Leanne Palichuk, University of Calgary

- Using double-negative T cells to enhance the innate like anti-leukemia activity of CD8+ T cells against relapsed acute myeloid leukemia
- Yale Michaels, PhD, University of Manitoba
Harnessing stem cells as a scalable and cost-effective source of T cells for off-the-shelf immunotherapy
-

2:30 – 4:00 pm
Hyatt Imperial 5/7/9

Concurrent A3: Pediatric Cancer Across the Patient Journey

Co-Chairs:

- Stephanie Grover, ACCESS
- Kirsten Efremov, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Fawzi Aoudjit, PhD, Université Laval
Alpha2 integrin mediates chemoresistance in human acute T cell lymphoblastic leukemia
 - Nadine Azzam, CHEO Research Institute
A National Pediatric Preclinical Modelling Program to Advance Precision Oncology for Childhood Cancers in Canada
 - Tona Pitt, University of Calgary
Geographic access to pediatric cancer centers in Canada
 - Rebecca Deyell, MD, MHSc, BC Children's Hospital
Advancing Equitable Access to Pediatric Oncology Trials: Applying the Canadian Remote Access Framework for Clinical Trials (CRAFT) at BC Children's Hospital
 - Ekaterini Damoulianos, McGill University
How Children Want to Know: Identifying Knowledge Dissemination Preferences in Pediatric Oncology
-

2:30 – 4:00 pm
Hyatt Imperial 8

Concurrent A4: Patient-Centred Research/Patient Engagement

Co-Chairs:

- Linda Watson, PhD, Alberta Health Services, University of Calgary
- Darrin Park, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Manuel Ester, PhD, University of Calgary
Patient perspectives of screening brief intervention and referral for cancer-related lifestyle risk factors across healthcare settings
 - Preet Kang, MSc, University of British Columbia
Experiences of Partners of Patients diagnosed with Cancer: A Systematic Review and Thematic Synthesis of Qualitative Literature
 - Rosilene Kraft, PhD and Katharine Palmer, MOHCCN Patient Working Group
Patient Voices in Research: A patient-centred and patient-driven research funding initiative from the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network (MOHCCN)
 - Georgia Skardasi, MSc, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Goals, accomplishments, and future plans of the Atlantic Cancer Consortium Patient Advisory Committee (ACC PAC)
 - Kednapa Thavorn, PhD, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
Meaningful Patient Engagement in Economic Evaluations of Cancer Care: Are We There Yet?
-

2:30 – 4:00 pm
Hyatt Doll/Herald

Concurrent A5: Health Equity

Co-Chairs:

- Robin Urquhart, PhD, Dalhousie University
 - Sundas Shamshad, Research Advocate
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Presenters:

- Jagbir Kaur, MN, RN, CON(C), BC Cancer
Planning and Co-Creating an Equity-Oriented Model of Care: Baseline Findings & Lessons Learned
- Anna Pujadas Botey, PhD, Alberta Health Services and Caleb Chamoy, University of Alberta
Co-developing cancer research priorities with underserved communities: A patient-oriented health equity workshop in Alberta
- Mika Rathwell, MA, University of Saskatchewan
Closing the Gap: Understanding and addressing sub-regional HPV immunization inequities in Canada
- Zhimeng Jia, MD, University of Toronto
A qualitative study of Chinese immigrant families' experience with inpatient palliative care specialists
- Morgan Stirling, University of Manitoba
Exploring barriers and priorities for including Trans & Gender Diverse people in Canadian cancer health services research

2:30 – 4:00 pm
Stephen AB

Concurrent A6: Indigenous Knowledge and Methodologies in Cancer Research

Co-Chairs:

- KD King, RN, PhD, Alberta Health Services, MacEwan University, University of Alberta
- Justin Gaudet, CAO, Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement and Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Peter Hutchinson, PhD, University of British Columbia
Indigenous Cancer Research in Canada
- Lea Bill and Barb Frazer, Alberta First Nations Information Governance Center
Applied First Nations Knowledge and Practice of Collaborative Processes: Recognizing multiple bodies of knowledge through orality to inform Practice Change within cancer care settings
- Carol Crowe, EP, Indigenous Visions Inc.
Integrating Traditional Knowledge and Western Science: Advancing Cancer Prevention in Indigenous Communities
- Andrea Aiabens, First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA)
Pathways to Building Cancer Education for First Nations Health Leaders
- Kyla Hachey, Certified Tobacco Educator (CTE), Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta (MNA) Health Department; Rochelle Griffiths, ChangeCore Peer Support Group Meeting Guide, Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizen in Edmonton, MNA District 9; Milissa Kilian, Tobacco Educator at the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta (MNA) Health Department
Learning Through Evaluation: Insights from Culturally Grounded Tobacco Reduction Programs for Métis Albertans

2:30 – 4:00 pm
Walker/Bannerman



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer

Introduction to the Oncology-focused Startups with the Creative Destruction Lab
WORKSHOP
Pre-registration required.

This interactive workshop introduces clinicians and researchers to the exciting world of oncology-focused startups through the lens of the Creative Destruction Lab (CDL), a global objectives-based mentorship program for massively scalable, science-based ventures. Participants will explore the fundamentals of research commercialization, learning how their clinical expertise and research can be translated into impactful startups that accelerate innovation in cancer care.

Presenters:

- Mathew Platt, PhD, Director of Community & Cancer Stream Lead, Creative Destruction Lab
 - CDL Alumni Founders

For more information on the CDL Cancer program and relevant resources, please visit: <https://creativedestructionlab.com/streams/health/cancer/>.

4:00 – 4:30 pm <i>Hyatt Grand Foyer 3</i>	BREAK
4:30 – 5:05 pm <i>Imperial 4/6</i>	Lightning A1: Blood Cancers Chair: Stephanie Xie, PhD, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Havva Afshari, University of Manitoba Determining kinase activation states in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) through multiplexed targeted mass spectrometry• Salman Basrai, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research Blood-based epigenetic instability linked to cancer, aging, and cardiovascular disease• Angela Hamie, University of Alberta Development of a Lipid Nanoparticle based Anti-BCMA CAR-NK Therapy for Multiple Myeloma• Noemie Leblay, University of Calgary Single cell profiling of PR subclones defines high-risk disease in multiple myeloma• Sarah St-Amand, Université de Montréal Identifying new metabolic vulnerabilities in CBFA2T3::GLIS2+ acute megakaryoblastic leukemia• Ami (T.T.Chau) Truong. University of British Columbia Delineating the roles of integrin a6 in central nervous system involved acute lymphoblastic leukemia
4:30 – 5:05 pm <i>Hyatt Imperial 1/2/3</i>	Lightning A2: Brain Tumours Chair: Ronda Lun, MD, MSc, FRCPC, University of Calgary Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Samir Assaf, University of Calgary Interplay between DOT1L and the Mediator complex regulates glioblastoma stem cell growth• Kyle Heemskerk, University of Calgary The proteasome activator, PA28ab, interacts with KIF11 to promote stemness and therapeutic resistance in glioblastoma• Ryan Mota, University of Manitoba D-serine facilitates aggressive migration and stemness of recurrent glioblastoma cells by interacting with host endothelial cells• Tala-Maria Mouannes, McGill University Dual functions of IL-33 orchestrate tumour-associated macrophages in glioblastoma• Mallak Salla, University of Alberta Understanding the Interaction Between Macrophages and Tumor Cells in the Brain Tumor Microenvironment to Enhance Anti-Tumor Immune Responses

- Shannon Snelling, University of Calgary
Chimeric antigen receptor macrophages (CAR-M) sensitize glioblastoma models to temozolomide and immune checkpoint blockade combination therapy

4:30 – 5:05 pm
Hyatt Imperial 5/7/9

Lightning A3: Breast Cancer

Chair: Elena Kuzmin, PhD, Concordia University, McGill University

Presenters:

- Stephanie Ali Fairbairn, McMaster University
Exploring Kaiso's role in Androgen Receptor expression in triple-negative breast cancer
- Bahareh Heidari, Université de Montréal – IRIC
Investigation of IDH2 inhibition-associated vulnerabilities in triple negative breast cancer cells
- Kevin Linn, University of British Columbia
Breast Cancer System Performance: Wait Times, Stage at Diagnosis, and Survival Rates for First Nations and All Other Women in BC
- Marie-Ève Proulx, McGill University
CD13 Loss Disrupts Tissue Architecture to Promote Cancer Progression
- Katherine Rich, University of British Columbia
Mast cells as biomarkers for capecitabine benefit in triple negative breast cancer
- Anaïs Vivet, Université de Montréal - IRIC
ER+ signaling in breast cancer: KO by SUMOs?

4:30 – 5:05 pm
Hyatt Imperial 8

Lightning A4: Colorectal Cancer

Chair: Vikas Garg, MD, DM, Windsor Regional Hospital Cancer Centre, Western University

Presenters:

- Angie Chen, University of Alberta
Effect of mtDNA and gDNA on Immune Cell Activation in Colorectal Cancer Subtypes
- Vicki Cheng, University of British Columbia
Incidence and Mortality Impact of New-Onset Depression Among Patients with Colorectal Cancer: A Population-Based Cohort Study
- Julian Chua, University of Calgary
NOTUM Depletion Restores CD8+ T Cell-Mediated Removal of Colorectal Cancer Cells
- Liam Fitzgerald, University of Calgary
Development of a blood-based colorectal cancer screening test using targeted metabolomics
- Shuo Ren, McGill University
Systemic CD4+-Dominant Immune Response Following Liver Resection in Patients with Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastases
- Anastasia Tsatoumas, McGill University
TGF- β Inhibition as a Strategy to Target Vessel Co-option and Immune Evasion in Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastases

4:30 – 5:05 pm
Hyatt Doll/Herald

Lightning A5: Lung Cancer

Chair: Lisa YW Tang, PhD, University of British Columbia

Presenters:

- Liton Devnath, BC Cancer
AI for Predicting Pembrolizumab Monotherapy Response in High PDL1 Advanced NSCLC
- Arnaud Driussi, Université Laval
Characterization of the tumor microenvironment in pulmonary adenocarcinoma: a new insight into the biology of Spread Through the Alveolar Space

- Melis Erkan, Dalhousie University
Unveiling Molecular Signatures of Arsenic-Induced Lung Damage: A Multi-Omics Approach Using Lung Models and Human Tissues
- Siddhartha Goutam, University of Calgary
Translating Trials to Practice: A Real World Analysis of Effectiveness and Safety of Neoadjuvant Chemoimmunotherapy in Resectable Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Jana Jajarmi, BC Cancer
Identifying Novel Modifiers of EGFR Induced Tumourigenesis
- Rocky Shi, BC Cancer
Drug tolerance and persistence to EGFR inhibitor treatment are mediated by an ILK-SFK-YAP signaling axis in lung adenocarcinoma

4:30 – 5:05 pm
Stephen AB



Lightning A6: Ovarian Cancer

Chair: Shuk On (Annie) Leung, MD, FRCSC, FACOG, McGill University Health Centre

Presenters:

- Breanne Bevelander, University of Saskatchewan
Revolutionizing Ovarian Cancer Research: Unveiling the Power of 3D Microtissues
- Mandana Bigdeli, Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM)
Exploiting Multidimensional Synthetic Lethalities to Overcome PARPi Resistance in Ovarian Cancer
- Jeanie Malone, BC Cancer
Towards *in vivo* optical fallopian imaging for tubo-ovarian cancer detection
- Sarah Nersesian, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
Epitype-immune interactions in high-grade serous ovarian cancer
- Sabrina Ritch, Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM)
Combining novel Ran GTPase inhibitors with PARP inhibitors as a therapeutic strategy in ovarian cancer
- Alicia Tone, PhD, Ovarian Cancer Canada
Driving innovation in ovarian cancer survivorship research through national patient and caregiver engagement: an Ovarian Cancer Canada and Cancer Research Society joint initiative

4:30 – 5:05 pm
Walker/Bannerman

Lightning A7: Prostate Cancer

Chair: Nicolette Fonseca, PhD, University of Victoria

Presenters:

- Maëlle Cottin, Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM)
Harnessing a marine worm hemoglobin potential to enhance tumor biobanks preservation and 3D living avatars viability for personalized cancer research
- Lingwei (Stephanie) Han, McGill University
Investigating the role of CHD4 in prostate cancer
- Ariane Lapointe-Belleau, Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec-Université Laval
Androgenic Effects of 11-oxyandrogens in Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer
- Lucie Leclair, Université Laval
Impact of MAG-EPA supplementation on the prostate tumor microenvironment
- Samira Rahimirad, McGill University

- Rising Circulating Cell-Free Tumour DNA During the Trajectory of Prostate Cancer Patients Reveals Genomic Alterations Related to Progression
- Unnati Yagnik, University of British Columbia
The Discovery of Novel Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer Biomarkers Utilizing a Proteomic Approach
-

4:30 – 5:30 pm
Telus Exhibit Pre-function



Knowledge Product Presentations

Knowledge Products were submitted to the Canadian Cancer Research Conference to provide an opportunity for individuals and organizations to showcase their work in cancer screening, patient navigation and cancer strategies. This showcase will highlight resources, strategies and programs produced and also the work of Dr. Lana Ray, the inaugural recipient of the **Excellence in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Research** award.

ABSTRACT:

Lana Ray, Ph, Athabasca University, Lakehead University
Implementing Traditional Healing for Cancer Control

This presentation provides an overview of the Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig Mino-Bimaadiziwin (WNMB) project. This mixed methods project is guided by Indigenous methodologies and implementation science to understand the enablers and barriers to implementing traditional healing in an organizational setting, and the impacts of traditional healing on non-communicable disease.

5:00 – 5:15 pm *Transition to Telus Exhibit Hall (C/D/E)*

5:15 – 6:15 pm
Telus Exhibit Hall
(C/D/E)



Poster Session 1 & Exhibits

This poster session features a broad range of research topics. Explore the exhibit hall and meet with researchers and trainees to hear about their research and our exhibitors to learn more about their organizations.

6:00 – 7:00 pm
Hyatt
Walker/Bannerman



RRCancer Networking Event

Pre-registration required

This networking event is for fellow associate and student members of the FRQ Cancer Research Network (RRCancer) from across Quebec. Attendees will have the opportunity to share research interests, foster potential collaborations, and discuss patient involvement in cancer research.



Reshaping adolescent & young adult cancer care
through immersive experience.



Reshaping young adult cancer care, together.

Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Open to all delegates

A Special Screening and Panel Discussion with members of the Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) co-development team and researchers supporting this creative and powerful immersive performance. Please join us as we share this experience and learn from the AYAs, researchers and clinicians who experienced Imagine... and are seeing tangible changes in AYA cancer care.

Imagine... was developed by a talented team of 10 AYA co-researchers each with lived experience of cancer and all committed to improving care and support for those who follow. They worked together with the Anew Research Collaborative, a participatory research team based at Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC. The group met virtually and in-person over 11 months in 2024 to co-create, devise and produce this immersive experience giving a felt-sense of what it's truly like to navigate cancer as an AYA. Imagine... debuted to capacity audiences at the BC Cancer Summit, November 2024 in Vancouver, where over 100 clinicians, care providers and researchers participated one of twelve 40-minute performances gaining insight into the unique challenges of AYA cancer care and support and reflecting on how they can improve the care and support they provide.

For more, go to <https://anewresearch.ca/>.

Monday, November
3, 2025

8:00 – 9:30 am
Telus Macleod Hall

Plenary 2: BIG data in cancer research: Too BIG to fail?

As the costs of sequencing genetic code have decreased and the power of linking digital health records increased, researchers have access to increasing large volumes of data. How this data is analyzed and translated to cancer care is a challenge. Three presenters will give their insights into how BIG data was used to gain insight, knowledge and strategies to treat and/or manage cancer care from pediatric brain tumors to adult cancers to the entire cancer care system.

Co-chairs:

- Spencer B. Gibson, PhD, University of Alberta
- Adrienne Co-Dyre, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Nada Jabado, OC, MD, PhD, McGill University Health Centre, McGill University
[Mining What's Hidden in Plain Sight: Insights from Big Data](#)
- Marco Marra, OC, OBC, PhD, FRS(C), FCAHS, LLD (hon), DSc (hon), BC Cancer, University of British Columbia
- [Towards a precision cancer genomic medicine resource for Canada: BC's Personalized Oncogenomics Programme and the TFRI Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network](#)
- Craig C. Earle, MD, MSc, FRCPC, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
[Too Small to Succeed: Building Big Cancer Data, Together](#)

9:30 –10:00 am
Hyatt Grand Foyer 3

BREAK

9:30 am

Hyatt Grand Foyer 4



Storytelling Circle

Guided by First Nations and Métis Elders, the Storytelling Circle offers a space for gathering in a spirit of respect, relational accountability, and shared responsibility, where participants are invited to listen, discuss and reflect.

10:00 – 11:30 am
Imperial 4/6

Concurrent B1: Molecular and Cellular Biology

Co-chairs:

- Eriq Lukong, PhD, University of Saskatchewan
- Cara MacInnis, PhD, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Housheng Hansen He, PhD Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto
Transcriptional and functional landscape of circular RNA in Cancer
- Laura Hulea, PhD, Université de Montréal
Targeting resistance to cancer therapy through translational control of metabolism
- Zhaoping Ju, McGill University
Role of Hippo Signaling Effectors Yap & Taz in Gastric Metaplasia and Carcinogenesis
- Yilin Wang, McGill University
G0S2 Protein Regulates Colon Inflammation and Colorectal Cancer Through Production of Branched-chain Fatty Acids

10:00 – 11:30 am
Imperial 1/2/3

Concurrent B2: Clinical Research and Trials

Co-chairs:

- Pierre-Olivier Gaudreau, MD, PhD, MPs, FRCPC, Cancer Centre of Southwestern Ontario, Queen's University
- Jennifer Coish, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Anne Gangloff, MD, PhD, FRCPC Université Laval
Lipid metabolism reprogramming in the Safety cohort of the CHLOE pancreas trial: Cholesterol blockade in metastatic pancreatic cancer NCT04862260
- Kevin Hay, MD, MSc, FRCPC, University of Calgary
Building the Canadian-Led Immunotherapies in Cancer (CLIC) Network: Impact, Opportunities, and Lessons Learned
- Fatima Nadeem, University of Western Ontario
Standard Chemo-Immunotherapy versus Real-World Protocols: Evaluating Outcomes in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Neoadjuvant chemo/immunotherapy
- Judy Needham, Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network (3CTN)
Development of Patient Priorities in Cancer Research



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

**SINCLAIR CANCER
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Concurrent B3: Patient Experience

Co-chairs:

- Andrew Craig, PhD, Sinclair Cancer Research Institute, Queen's University
- Eddy Szczerbinski, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Monica Iliescu Nelea, PhD, Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)
Mise à l'échelle du programme PAROLE-Onco au Québec : le rôle central d'une communauté de pratique interétablissements
- Rebecca Hansford, PhD, Queen's University
The experience of breast cancer treatment among adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities: A convergent mixed methods study
- Vicki Cheng, PhD, University of British Columbia
Examining mental health care utilization in individuals with colorectal cancer: population-based cohort studies
- Patricia Biondo, PhD, University of Calgary
Five years of a province-wide Compassionate Communities initiative: impact on public awareness of palliative care and advance care planning

Concurrent B4: Screening

Co-chairs:

- Paula Robson, PhD, Alberta Health Services
- Lucy Ioannoni, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- David Busolo, PhD, University of New Brunswick
Strategies to improve access to mammograms: A qualitative study with social service providers in New Brunswick
- Nadine Caron, MD, MPH, FACS, FRCSC, University of British Columbia
An Assessment of British Columbia's Cancer Screening Programs for First Nations People Living in the Province
- Maryam Darvishian, PhD, University of British Columbia
Breast cancer screening engagement among women with different ethnic backgrounds in Canada: Evidence from the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow's Health
- Rafael Meza, PhD, BC Cancer
Projected Impact of Lung Cancer Screening on Health Outcomes and Healthcare Resources in Canada



Concurrent B5: Health Economics/Outcomes Research

Co-chairs:

- Rebecca Mercer, PhD, Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control (ARCC)
- Katharine Palmer, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Philip Akude, University of Calgary
The PaCES Study: Cost effectiveness of an early palliative care intervention in patients with advanced colorectal cancer
- Patience Nishimagizwe, Dalhousie University
Examining the association between breast cancer treatments and self-reported sexual dysfunction in Canadian women: A population-based cross-sectional study
- Diego Sanchez, MD, MPH, BC Cancer
Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of First-Line Tumour Tissue Profiling to Guide Targeted Therapy in Metastatic Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma: A Canadian Public Health Payer's Perspective
- Mona Shafey, MD, FRCPC, Alberta Health Services, University of Calgary
Policy Brief: Enhancing Access to CAR T in the Canadian Healthcare System

10:00 – 11:30 am
Stephen AB

Concurrent B6: Indigenous Cancer Care Across the Continuum

Co-chairs:

- Angeline Letendre, RN, PhD, Indigenous Cancer Research Network
- Sherry Metcalfe, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Liris Smith, PhD, Yukon University, Vera Charlie and Sherrie Frost
Understanding First Nations Ways of Knowing and Doing in Cancer Care in Yukon: Using intergenerational and survivorship models to inform community wellness
- Felicia Adelaja and Jemimah Thomas, Tungasuvvingat Inuit
Storytelling: An Inuit-Led Narrative Approach to Cancer Prevention and Wellness
- Ria Patel, University of Western Ontario and Laura McNab-Coombs, BC Cancer
Developing the Métis-CTN program: National meeting to co-create a clinical trials navigation pathway for Métis cancer patients
- Laura McNab-Coombs, BC Cancer
Indigenous Cultural Safety in Clinical Trials: Realities, Relationships, and Recommendations
- Nina Scott, Te Whatu Ora Waikato (Health New Zealand)
Cancer Whiri; An Indigenous led model that enhances delivery of cancer care and well-being for Maori, Indigenous peoples of New Zealand



Navigating the Path to Publication

Pre-registration required

This workshop will guide researchers through the fundamentals of high-quality peer review, while also delving into concepts of Open Research, systemic bias in research and peer review and considerations for Community Engaged Research.

Specific topics covered include:

- Fundamental and emerging practices in peer review
- Unconscious bias in research and peer review
- An introduction to Open Research
- Best practices for reporting and reviewing Community Engaged Research
- Maximizing societal impact with your research

Instructor:

- Calvin Chan, PhD, Canadian Science Publishing

11:30 am – 12:45 pm <i>Telus Exhibit Hall (C/D/E)</i>	LUNCH We encourage delegates to visit the exhibitors, networking with other delegates, and attend the Tech Talk.
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11:45 – 12:15 pm
Telus Exhibit Pre-function



Tech Talk: Beyond the Silos: Uniting Health Data for Real Impact

In an era of precision medicine and data-driven discovery, the fragmentation of health data remains one of the greatest barriers to unlocking transformative impact in cancer research and care. This session brings together leaders from Genome Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) – Institute of Cancer Research to explore how uniting health data across platforms, institutions, and jurisdictions can accelerate breakthroughs in drug discovery, improve patient outcomes, and drive system-wide innovation. Through real-world examples and strategic insights, speakers will highlight the importance of interoperability, data governance, and collaborative infrastructure in building a connected health data ecosystem and showcase what is being done in the ecosystem now to get us there. The session will also explore how genomics, other omics, and the integration of clinical data can advance personalized medicine, improve population health, and promote equitable access to care. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in discussion and provide input on how best to shape the national agenda on data and where to focus our efforts as we move forward together.



From Priorities to Progress: Catalyzing Action on Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Research in Canada

Together with hundreds of Adolescent and Young Adults (AYAs), caregivers, and clinicians from across Canada, the AYA Cancer Research Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) has identified the most pressing research needs of adolescents and young adults affected by cancer. See <https://www.ayacancerpsp.ca/>.

This session will explore how these priorities can drive the next phase of action—shaping funding strategies, guiding collaborative research, and inspiring early adopters to lead the way. The discussion will highlight opportunities to align efforts, attract new partners, and accelerate progress toward filling critical evidence gaps in AYA cancer care and survivorship.

Moderators:

- Nadia Wendowsky, CFRE, AYA Patient Advocate & President and CEO, St. Mary's Hospital Foundation
- Perri Tutelman, PhD, R.Psych, Clinical Psychologist & Assistant Professor, University of Calgary

Panelists:

- Corinne Daly, MSc, Director, Transitions and Care, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
- Annemarie Edwards, MBA, VP, Cancer Strategy and Innovation, Canadian Cancer Society
- Chantale Thurston, CPA, CGA, AYA Patient Advocate & Chair, AYA Can – Canadian Cancer Advocacy

Open to all interested delegates

12:45 – 2:15 pm
Imperial 4/6

Concurrent C1: Tumour Biology, Immunology and the Microenvironment

Co-chairs:

- Joel Pearson, PhD, University of Manitoba
- Suad Ismail, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Pinaki Bose, PhD, University of Calgary
[RNF126 Orchestrates Immune Evasion via Coordinated Regulation of PD-L1 and MHC-I](#)
- Kurt Hildebrand, PhD, University of Calgary
High dose radiation therapy promotes immune suppressive macrophage phenotypes, whereas low dose radiation therapy promotes immunogenic macrophage phenotypes in an immune competent murine model of soft tissue sarcoma
- Shyam Menon, McGill University - Lady Davis Institute
[Control of brain tumor progression by the dual function cytokine IL-33](#)
- Hanne Ostergaard, PhD, University of Alberta
Leupaxin deficiency results in increased differentiation of CD8 T cells into CD8+NK1.1+ T cells and decreased tumor growth

12:45 – 2:15 pm
Imperial 1/2/3

Concurrent C2: Bioinformatics and Precision Medicine

Co-chairs:

- Touati Benoukraf, PhD, Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Randy Baldwin, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Arielle Elkrief, MD, FRCPC, Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)
Microbiome profiling reveals that fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) modulates response when combined with immunotherapy in patients with lung cancer and melanoma (FMT-LUMINATE, NCT04951583)
- Maximilian Labrecque, University of Calgary
Characterizing the effects of radiation therapy on the genomic landscape of murine models of undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma
- Clément Larose, MSc, Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec-Université Laval
Metabolic syndrome and prostate cancer risk: results from the BIOMarkers of Prostate Cancer/Prevention and Environment (BIOCaPPE) prospective study
- Hadeesha Piyadasa, PhD, Stanford University
Multiomic Landscape of Human Gliomas From Diagnosis to Treatment and Recurrence

12:45 – 2:15 pm
Imperial 5/7/9

Concurrent C3: Cross-Pillar Cancer Research Across the Lifespan

Co-chairs:

- Madeline Li, MD, PhD, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto
- Alyssa Dickey, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Cheryl Heykoop, PhD, Royal Roads University
Imagine... An Immersive Performance Co-Designed by Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) with Cancer Offering a Felt Sense of Cancer Care and Support in British Columbia
- Stacey A. Santi, PhD, Health Sciences North Research Institute
Regional comparison of age-stratified incidence rates of colorectal cancer in Ontario: a population-based study across 20 years
- Fay Strohschein, RN, PhD, University of Calgary
Addressing the needs and concerns of older adults facing cancer diagnosis: A comprehensive model of recommendations developed through engagement with older adults, family, and healthcare professionals during co-design of a provincial cancer diagnosis program
- Yiming Wang, MD, PhD, FRCPC, Hospital for Sick Children
Cancer risk stratification at the time of birth: potential roles of newborn screening in diagnosing cancer predisposition syndromes

12:45 – 2:15 pm
Imperial 8

Concurrent C4: Clinical Research and Radiotherapy

Co-chairs:

- Fei-Fei Liu, MD, FRCPC, FASTRO, FCAHS, CIHR ICR, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto
- Natalie Kwadrans, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Robert Olson, MD FRCPC MSc, University of British Columbia
Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy for up to 5 Oligometastases: Long-Term Outcomes of the Population-Based Phase 2 SABR-5 Clinical Trial
- Candice Poon, MD, PhD, FRCSC, University of Calgary
Niacin modulates immune responses in newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients

- Atiyah Yahya, PhD, FCCPM, PEng, FCOMP, University of Alberta
Glutamate and Glutamine (Glx) Measurements in High Grade Glioma in Response to Radiation Therapy: A Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopic Imaging Study at 3 T
- Rebecca Xu, MBA(HSM), CCRP, Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network (3CTN)
3CTN: A Decade of Impact in Advancing Academic Cancer Clinical Trials in Canada

12:45 – 2:15 pm
Imperial Doll/Herald

Concurrent C5: Environmental Impacts on Cancer

Co-chairs:

- Ludmil Alexandrov, PhD, University of California San Diego
- Valentine Thompson, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Parveen Bhatti, PhD, BC Cancer
Wavelength-resolved measures of outdoor artificial light at night and breast cancer risk
- Lindsay Forsman-Phillips, CAREX Canada, University of British Columbia
Mobilizing sun safety messages in the construction industry
- Vikki Ho, PhD, Université de Montréal
Lifetime occupational and domestic environmental exposures and breast cancer risk among women in the CARTaGENE study
- Emilia Lim, PhD, University of British Columbia
Investigating the Impact of Environmental Exposures on Lung Cancer Promotion
- Paola A. Marignani, PhD, Dalhousie University
Environmental Determinants of Cancer Disparities in a Black Canadian Community

12:45 – 2:15 pm
Stephen AB

Concurrent C6: First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Prevention and Screening

Chair:

- Peter Hutchinson, PhD, University of British Columbia

Presenters:

- S. Trevor Baxter, EdD, Athabasca University
Enhancing Alberta Métis Settlements Participation in Cancer Screening: A Distinctions-Based, Community-Grounded Approach
- Samantha Morris, Lakehead University, Elliot Fiddler, and Jason Mawakesick
Living Well Together: Integrating Two Perspectives into Cancer Prevention Programming for Indigenous Communities
- KD King, BScN, MPH, RN, CPSO, University of Alberta
Exercising Self-Determination & Governance through Métis Culture, Knowledge & Science Research to Build Youth Capacity to Prevent Cancer
- Angeline Letendre, RN, PhD, Canadian Indigenous Nurses of Canada (CINA)
Métis Culture, Knowledge & Science as a Framework for Building Youth Capacity to Prevent Cancer: A Métis Settlement Panel Presentation
- Barbara Frazer and Lea Bill, Alberta First Nations Information Governance Center
Knowledge into Action: Implementation Testing of Cancer prevention and Screening Practices Grounded in First Nation Knowledge Transfer Practices



CanPath Synthetic Dataset Workshop – Part 1

Pre-registration required

This hands-on workshop introduces participants to the CanPath Synthetic Dataset, a privacy-safe, research-ready version of CanPath data, housed in a secure, cloud-based trusted research environment. Designed for early career researchers, trainees, and instructors alike, this session offers an engaging and supportive introduction to analyzing large-scale health data in the cloud. Participants will learn how to navigate a cloud-based trusted research environment, explore the structure and content of the synthetic dataset, and run R and Python-based pipelines that mirror real epidemiological research scenarios.

Instructors:

- Sheraz Cheema, CanPath Data Manager
 - Megan Fleming, CanPath Communications & Knowledge Translation Officer
 - Jeff Brabec, Lifebit Senior Client Success Manager
 - Sangram Keshari Sahu, Lifebit Senior Solutions Architect

2:15 –2:45 am BREAK
Hyatt Grand Foyer 3

2:15 pm
Hyatt Grand Foyer 4



Storytelling Circle

Guided by First Nations and Métis Elders, the Storytelling Circle offers a space for gathering in a spirit of respect, relational accountability, and shared responsibility, where participants are invited to listen, discuss and reflect.

2:45 – 4:15 pm
Imperial 4/6

Concurrent D1: Precision Oncology Continuum: From Molecular Markers to Therapeutic Resistance Pathways

Co-chairs:

- Jennifer Chan, MD, University of Calgary
 - Rosilene Kraft, PhD, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Kirsty M. Ferguson, University of British Columbia
Proteomics: complementary insights in precision oncology
 - Paola Marcato, PhD, Dalhousie University
THSD4 is a novel mediator of T cell exclusion and anti-PD-1 resistance in breast cancer
 - Maya MacLean, Dalhousie University
Highly selective inhibition of ALDH1A3 impedes breast cancer growth and metastasis by blocking ALDH1A3-driven transcriptional programs

- William You, Sunnybrook Research Institute, University of Toronto
Uncovering the Molecular Drivers of Liver Metastasis in Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumours (GEP-NETs)

2:45 – 4:15 pm
Imperial 1/2/3

Concurrent D2: From Risk Assessment, Screening and Surveillance to Survivorship

Co-chairs:

- Hermann Nabi, PhD, HDR, Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec-Université Laval
- Sandra Dudych, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Aline Talhouk PhD, University of British Columbia
The feasibility and acceptability of endometrial cancer screening to identify a high-risk postmenopausal population
- Mark Basik, MD, McGill University - Lady Davis Institute
Establishing an academic hospital based liquid biopsy platform for MRD testing in breast cancer patients
- Audrey Dong, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto
Guidelines for screening for late effects in survivors of young adult cancers: A systematic review
- Dylan E. O'Sullivan, PhD, Cancer Care Alberta, University of Calgary
Risk of developing a different-site subsequent primary cancer among cancer survivors in Canada
- Margaret L. McNeely, PhD, University of Alberta
Preliminary findings from the Alberta Cancer Exercise Hybrid Effectiveness-Implementation Study

2:45 – 4:15 pm
Imperial 5/7/9

Concurrent D3: Health Human Resources in Cancer Control

Co-chairs:

- Winson Cheung, MD, MPH, FRCPC, University of Calgary
- Howard Dellar, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Philip Ding, MD, University of Calgary
Rethinking future workforce planning by developing novel metrics of complexity in cancer care
- Madeline Li, MD, PhD, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto
The Human Crisis in Cancer: A Lancet Oncology Commission
- Peyman Pakseresht, PhD, Alberta Health Services
How did COVID-19 impact practice of palliative homecare and patient outcomes?
- Kristi MacKenzie, Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies and Sri Navaratnam, MD, CancerCare Manitoba
Building a Sustainable Oncology Workforce: A Pan-Canadian Collaborative Call to Action
- Tara Sampalli, PhD, Dalhousie University and Stuart Peacock, DPhil, Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control (ARCC)
A Pan-Canadian Approach to Health Human Resources in Cancer Control: Learning from Scalable Innovations and Policy Directions

2:45 – 4:15 pm
Imperial 8

Concurrent D4: Lung Cancer in Canada: Plans and Trends

Co-chairs:

- Darren R. Brenner, PhD, University of Calgary
- Megan Sewell, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Annemarie Edwards, MBA, Canadian Cancer Society
Transforming the Future of Lung Cancer in Canada: Co-Creating a Pan-Canadian Action Plan to Reduce Lung Cancer Mortality by 30%
- Kirk Graff, PhD, University of Calgary
Impact of PLCOm2012 Ethnicity Model Variations on Eligibility for Lung Cancer Screening
- Ashmeet Mand, FHSD, University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Youth and Nicotine pouches: The concerning new trend examined through TikTok and its implications for cancer prevention
- Rafael Meza, PhD, BC Cancer
Trends in adult combustible and non-combustible tobacco product use prevalence in the United States, 2014 to 2023
- Ambreen Sayani, MD, PhD, Women's College Hospital
Increasing Equity in Lung Cancer Prevention and Early Detection: Co-Evaluation of a Patient-Partnered Educational Intervention

2:45 – 4:15 pm

Imperial Doll/Herald

Concurrent D5: Cervical Cancer and HPV-related Interventions

Co-chairs:

- Angeline Letendre, RN, PhD, Indigenous Cancer Research Network
- Robyn Wood, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Maryam Darvishian, PhD, University of British Columbia
Predictors of participation in cervical cancer screening in Canada: Evidence from the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow's Health
- Pranamika Khayargoli, University of Toronto
Incidence of oncogenic HPV genotypes 16 and 18 by HPV vaccination status, HIV status, and age group among urban gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in Canada, 2017-2024
- Ioana Nicolau, PhD, University of Calgary
Vaccination and screening strategies to accelerate cervical cancer elimination in Canada: An OncoSim modeling study
- Gina Ogilvie, DPHIL, MD, MSc, FCFP, BC Women's Health Research Institute
Vaginally delivered therapeutic human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines in women in rural LMICs

2:45 – 4:15 pm

Stephen AB

Concurrent D6: First Nations, Inuit and Métis Stories



Chair:

- Lois Edge, PhD, Athabasca University, MacEwan University, Yorkville University

Presenters:

- Celine Wick, MA, Métis National Council
Li Kawnsayr: Stories of Métis Cancer Journeys
- Tanya Webster, CISSS de la Gaspésie - Centre de santé Listuguj

- Mawlugutinej: Towards self-determined cancer care in Mi'gmaq territory - When ancestral knowledge and cultural safety save lives
- Julie Stakiw, MD, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and Terri Hansen-Gardiner
Engaging with Indigenous Patients with Multiple Myeloma: Lessons Learned and Future Research
 - Angi Patel, University of Saskatchewan
Lived experiences of Métis cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers in Saskatchewan: Informing a Métis Cancer Control Strategy
 - Veronica Big Plume, University of Calgary
Telling the stories of Indigenous Cancer Patient Multidisciplinary Rounds - an innovative model of equitable cancer care
-

2:45 – 4:15 pm
Walker/Bannerman



CanPath Synthetic Dataset Workshop – Part 2

Pre-registration required

Description provided above.

4:15 – 4:25 pm *Transition to Lightning Sessions*

4:25 – 5:00 pm **Lightning B1: Cancer Biology**

Imperial 4/6

Chair: Elena Kuzmin, PhD, Concordia University, McGill University

Presenters:

- Arielle Beaudoin, Université Laval
Ash2L: an epigenetic regulator of tumor invasion
- Félix Després, Université de Moncton
Identification of Molecular Targets Regulating the Entry of Platelet Derived Microparticles
- Varsha Reddy Durgepudi, McGill University
Soluble CD109 antagonizes EGFR-mediated pro-tumorigenic signaling and functional responses in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma
- Djazia Haferssas, Université de Montréal
FLT4, a novel regulator of Renal Cell Carcinoma progression
- Nickson Joseph, University of Saskatchewan
Novel Insights into the Clinical Relevance of Perineural Invasion
- Raheleh Niavarani, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
Real-Time Imaging and Humanized Models Illuminate gamma delta T Cell Dynamics, Sphingolipid Metabolism, and AML Immunogenicity

4:25 – 5:00 pm **Lightning B2: Metastasis**

Hyatt Imperial 1/2/3

Chair: Yuqing Feng, PhD, York University

Presenters:

- Ana Isabel Castillo Orozco, McGill University
Integrative Transcriptomic Profiling of Metastatic Medulloblastoma using Patient-Derived Xenograft Models

- Yueyang Deng, McGill University
Bioresponsive Immunomodulator Nanocomplex for Selective Immunoengineering in Metastatic Lymph Node
- Seyedeh Sara Karimian, University of Alberta
Discovery of Adrenomenullin 2 as a driver of intratumoral cancer cell invasion, intravasation, and metastasis
- Isbel Lopetegui Gonzalez, University of Calgary
Prolactin and Cholesterol Signaling Crosstalk: a therapeutic target in breast cancer associated bone metastasis
- Leila Pirayeshfard, University of Alberta
Elucidating a novel role for the Bcl-2 family member BAD in breast cancer metastasis
- Areeba Qureshi, University of Toronto
Tol mice overcome the immunogenicity of reporter proteins and enable improved in-vivo cancer-immunity and metastasis studies

4:25 – 5:00 pm
Hyatt Imperial 5/7/9

Lightning B3: Prevention and Screening

Chair: Yiming Wang, MD, PhD, FRCPC, The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto

Presenters:

- Jennifer Anderson, Alberta Health Services
Understanding cancer prevention knowledge among adolescents and young adults – a cross-sectional study
- Ace Chan, University of British Columbia
Preventing Cancer in the Gender Minority Population: Preliminary Results from a Knowledge Synthesis of Existing Practice
- Maria Diaz, University of Saskatchewan
Preventing Cancer Through Métis Cultural Revitalization: A Framework for Saskatchewan
- Petra Famiyeh, Women's College Hospital
Evaluating the Readability, Understandability, Actionability and Health Content of Web-Based Patient Education Materials on Cervical Cancer Screening Through an Equity Lens
- Madison Fullerton, Praxus Health
Mobilizing Community Health Ambassadors to Support HPV Self-Screening Among Underscreened Populations in Alberta
- Manisha Pahwa, PhD, McGill University
Values shaping risk-stratified breast cancer screening participation among South Asian people in Montreal and Toronto: A constructivist grounded theory study

4:25 – 5:00 pm
Hyatt Imperial 8

Lightning B4: Treatment and Drug Resistance

Chair: Miffy Hok Yan Cheng, PhD, University of British Columbia

Presenters:

- Ovini Amarasinghe, CancerCare Manitoba
Aberrant Inflammatory Response Associated with Chemotherapy-Resistance in T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- Sandrine Busque, McGill University
Identification of Gemcitabine-Resistant Populations Using scRNAseq in TNBC Patient-Derived Xenografts
- Mallory I. Frederick, Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM)
Improving efficacy of PARP inhibition by targeting ribosome biogenesis in triple-negative breast cancer

- Gurveer Gill, University of Calgary
High Resolution Spatial Analyses Identifies Immunotherapy Resistance Mechanisms to CAR T-Cell Therapy in ASPS
 - Gabrielle Herzenberg, University of British Columbia
mTor Inhibition in the Management of Recurrent Metastatic Solid Pseudopapillary Tumor of the Pancreas
 - Anavasadat Sadr Hashemi Nejad, Université de Montréal
Targeting the translational machinery to overcome kinase inhibitor resistance in melanoma
-

4:25 – 5:00 pm
Hyatt Doll/Herald

Lightning B5: Enhancing Immunotherapy

Chair: Éva Michaud, PhD, McGill University Health Centre (MUHC - Glen) - Royal Victoria Hospital

Presenters:

- Jalal Laaraj, Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec-Université Laval
Gut microbiome influences the antitumor response to BCG immunotherapy in bladder cancer
- Paul Jerard Layug, CancerCare Manitoba
Precise tuning of CAR expression mitigates exhaustion and hyperinflammation in CAR T cell therapy
- Richard Nauman, Queen's University
Clinical *Bacillus Calmette-Guérin* Strains Induce Distinct Trained Immunity Profiles
- Amy Shupe, University of Calgary
Microbial Metabolite Modulation of CAR-T Therapy
- Saif Sikdar, University of Calgary
Microbiome-derived hydroxyphenyl propanoates enhance antitumour immunity by potentiating gasdermin D activity in tumour-associated myeloid cells
- Madison Wickenberg, University of Alberta
Investigating the Use of PCSK9 Inhibitor Alirocumab for use in Combination Therapy with PD-1 Inhibitors to Treat Melanoma

4:25 – 5:00 pm
Stephen AB

Lightning B6: Survivorship

Chair: Fay Strohschein, PhD, University of Calgary

Presenters:

- Arafat Ul Alam, Alberta Health Services
Subsequent primary neoplasm risk among survivors of adolescent and young adult cancer: a population-based study from Alberta, Canada
- Sanjeev Bista, University of Calgary
Colorectal and breast cancer screening adherence among cancer survivors: A systematic review and meta-analysis
- Kelcey Bland, University of British Columbia
The Cancer Rehabilitation and Exercise – Advanced Cancer (CaRE-AC) Program: A Qualitative Exploration of Intervention Delivery Challenges, Successes, and Sustainability
- Haley Schuman, University of Calgary
Mixed-Methods Exploration of Stakeholder Perspectives Toward Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies for Cancer-Related Psychosocial Symptoms
- Sarah Scruton, Nova Scotia Health
Living with and beyond advanced cancer: Understanding patient needs and experiences
- Jenna Sim, University of Calgary
Physical Activity Interventions for Pain Management of Aromatase Inhibitor Induced Musculoskeletal Syndrome: A Systematic Review

4:25 – 5:00 pm
Walker/Bannerman

Lighting B7: Improving Cancer Care

Chair: Haitham Shoman, MD, PhD, McMaster University

Presenters:

- Olivia Benguigui, McGill University - Lady Davis Institute
Using a Serious Illness Conversation Guide to Improve the Quality of Life of Blood Cancer Patients
- Antoine Frasie, Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec-Université Laval / Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Toward Standardized Clinical Assessment of CIPN in Rehabilitation: Identifying Relevant Tools for Practice
- Christian Lopez, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
Mixed Methods Evaluation of Implementation Outcomes, Barriers, and Facilitators of an Electronic Patient-Reported Outcome System for Cancer Rehabilitation
- John-Jose Nunez, BC Cancer
Developing an AI-Powered Assistant for Personalized Navigation in Cancer Care
- Heather Roy, RadFlix
Enhancing Pediatric Radiation Therapy Through Video-Based Distraction and Empowerment
- Morgan Stirling, University of Manitoba
Beyond the Binary: Engaging Trans & Gender Diverse people to improve cancer health services research

5:00 – 5:10 pm *Transition to Telus Exhibit Hall (C/D/E)*

5:10 – 6:30 pm
Telus Exhibit Hall
(C/D/E)



Poster Session 2 & Exhibits

This poster session features a broad range of research topics. Explore the exhibit hall and meet with researchers and trainees to hear about their research and our exhibitors to learn more about their organizations.

7:00 – 9:00 pm
Walker/Bannerman



Charbonneau Networking Event
Pre-registration required

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

**Tuesday,
November 4, 2025**

8:00 – 9:30 am
Telus Macleod Hall



Canadian Cancer Society
Société
canadienne
du cancer

Plenary 3: Metabolic Health and Cancer

Co-chairs:

- Josie Ursini-Siegel, PhD, McGill University – Lady Davis Institute
- John Corriveau, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Peter Siegel, PhD, McGill University – Lady Davis Institute
Delineating metabolic programs in colorectal cancer liver metastases
- Darren Brenner, PhD, University of Calgary
Metabolic health, GLP-1RAs and cancer risk – What is the future of cancer risk reduction?
- Lin Yang, PhD, Cancer Care Alberta, University of Calgary
Resetting metabolic health through physical activity: implications for cancer prevention and control

9:30 – 10:00 am
Hyatt Grand Foyer 3

BREAK

10:00 – 11:30 am
Telus Macleod Hall



Plenary 4: Rising Cancer Rates in Adults Under 50 Years: What do we need to know?

Co-chairs:

- Alexandra King, MD, FRCPC, FCAHS, Nipissing First Nation, University of Saskatchewan
- Chantale Thurston, Research Advocate

Presenters:

- Peter Hutchison, PhD, University of British Columbia
It's Just a Little Lump
- Sevtap Savas, PhD, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Cancer and young individuals: An advocate's point of view
- Darren R. Brenner, PhD, University of Calgary
Peaks and Valleys: Trends in early-onset cancers in Canada
- Ludmil B. Alexandrov, PhD, University of California San Diego
Geographic and Age-Related Variations in Mutational Processes in Colorectal Cancer

11:30 am – 12:30 am
Telus Macleod Hall

Closing Ceremony

Co-chairs:

- Dajan O'Donnell, PhD, Chair, CCRA Advisory Board
- Craig Earle, MD, MSc, FRCPC, CEO, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

In Memoriam: Philip E. Branton

Elder Closing

12:30 pm
Telus Macleod
Prefunction

Grab & Go Lunch

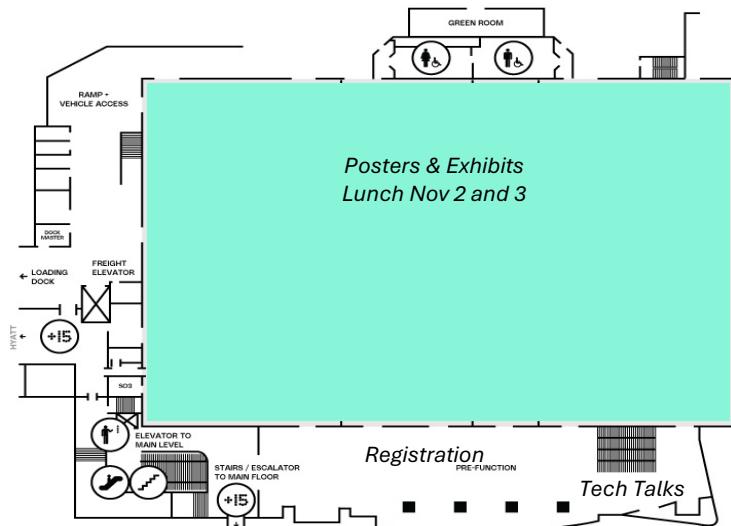
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Telus Exhibit Hall C

VIP Lunch

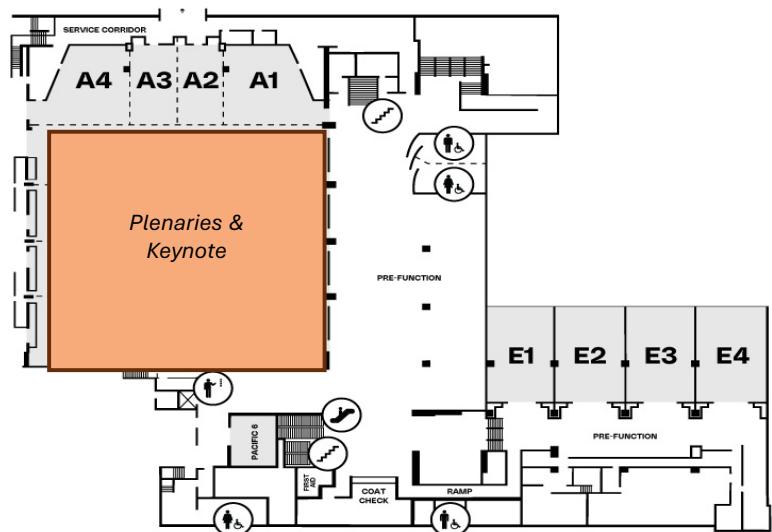
By invitation only

VENUE MAPS

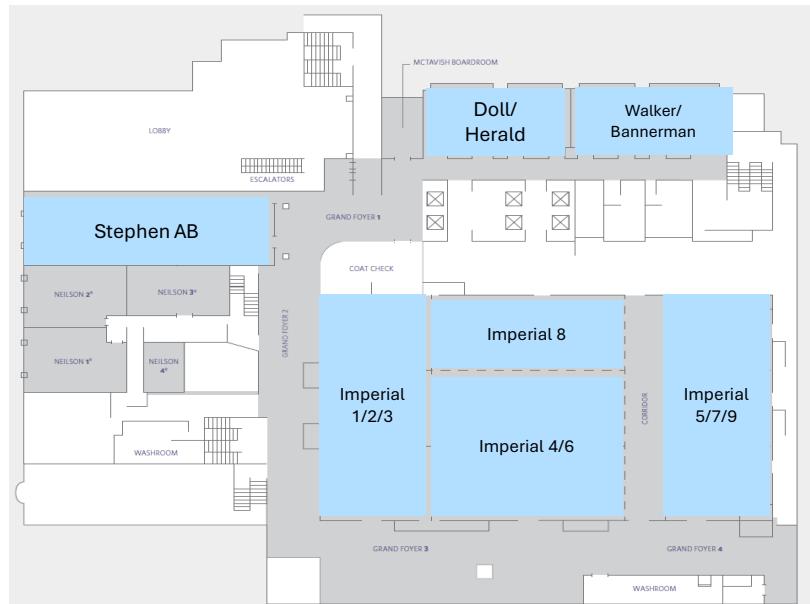
*Telus Exhibit Hall (C, D, E)
North Building, Second Level*



*Telus Macleod Hall
South Building, Lower Level*



Hyatt Third Floor - Concurrent and Lightning Sessions and Workshops



THANK YOU TO CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST CANCER

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

(alphabetical order)

- Harini Aiyer
- Kimberly Badovinac
- Corinne Daly
- Neda Didani
- Sara Goncalves
- Naomi Lu
- Greg Mitchell
- Talia Pfefferle
- Kendall Tisdale
- Josh Tobias

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Volunteers

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- Lu Kuang, Alberta Health Services
- Rebecca Mercer, PhD, ARCC
- Céline Schott, PhD, Cancer Research Society
- Naseem Shaikh, CIHR ICR

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