

# Annual Report 2014



toronto central regional  
cancer program **south**

in partnership with  
cancer care ontario

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# Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program

## ***A Note About the North & South Regions***

Due to its size, the Toronto Regional Cancer Program is informally divided into the North & South Regions. This report highlights 2014 activities in the South (see page 6 for further detail). Where committee membership or a Lead represents both regions we have indicated as such.

## Message from the Regional Vice President

We are pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report, which showcases the work and initiatives undertaken in the Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program last year. We hope you find the information provided helpful and informative.

The Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program brings together many institutions including Canada's largest cancer centre, the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, and four hospitals that provide cancer services: Mount Sinai Hospital, St. Joseph's Health Centre, St. Michael's Hospital, and Women's College Hospital, as well as the Toronto Central LHIN, Canadian Cancer Society, and the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre. Along with our colleagues in the Toronto Central North Cancer Program, we lead, deliver care, and aim to improve performance across the region in alignment with Cancer Care Ontario's strategic plan.

2014 was an eventful year. We welcomed three new Regional Leaders to the Program: Ian Bookman — a Colorectal Screening & GI Endoscopy Lead, Bernice Downey — a Regional Aboriginal Cancer Lead, and Joanna Vautour — an Aboriginal Patient Navigator. Toronto Central South continues to lead the province in Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference compliance, with an adherence rate of 94%. We launched our new website [www.trcp.ca](http://www.trcp.ca), where you can find more information on our initiatives.

Last year, Ms. Susan Blacker was seconded to the position of Director of the Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program where she did a fantastic job filling in while Martha Wyatt was on maternity leave. We are grateful to her and to St. Michael's Hospital leadership for this tremendous partnership.

As we look towards the 2015 launch of Cancer Care Ontario's Ontario Cancer Plan IV, we continue efforts to deliver exceptional care and innovation in cancer services throughout the region. The pages ahead provide just a snapshot of the remarkable leadership and activities we have seen in the past year — we look forward to building upon our achievements next year, and beyond.



**Mary Gospodarowicz** MD, FRCPC, FRCR (Hon)  
Medical Director, Princess Margaret Cancer Program  
Regional Vice President, CCO for Toronto Central South



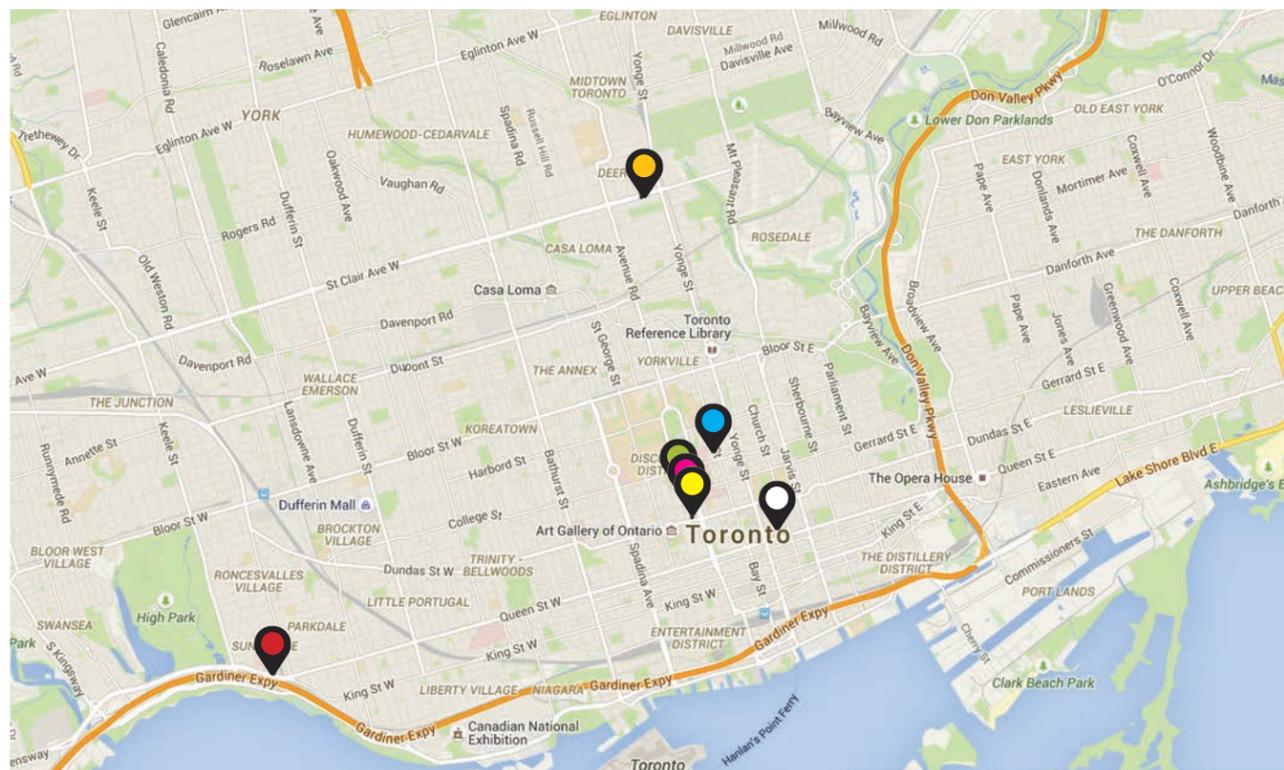
**Martha Wyatt**  
Director, Toronto Central South  
Regional Cancer Program



**Susan Blacker**  
Interim Director, Toronto Central South  
Regional Cancer Program

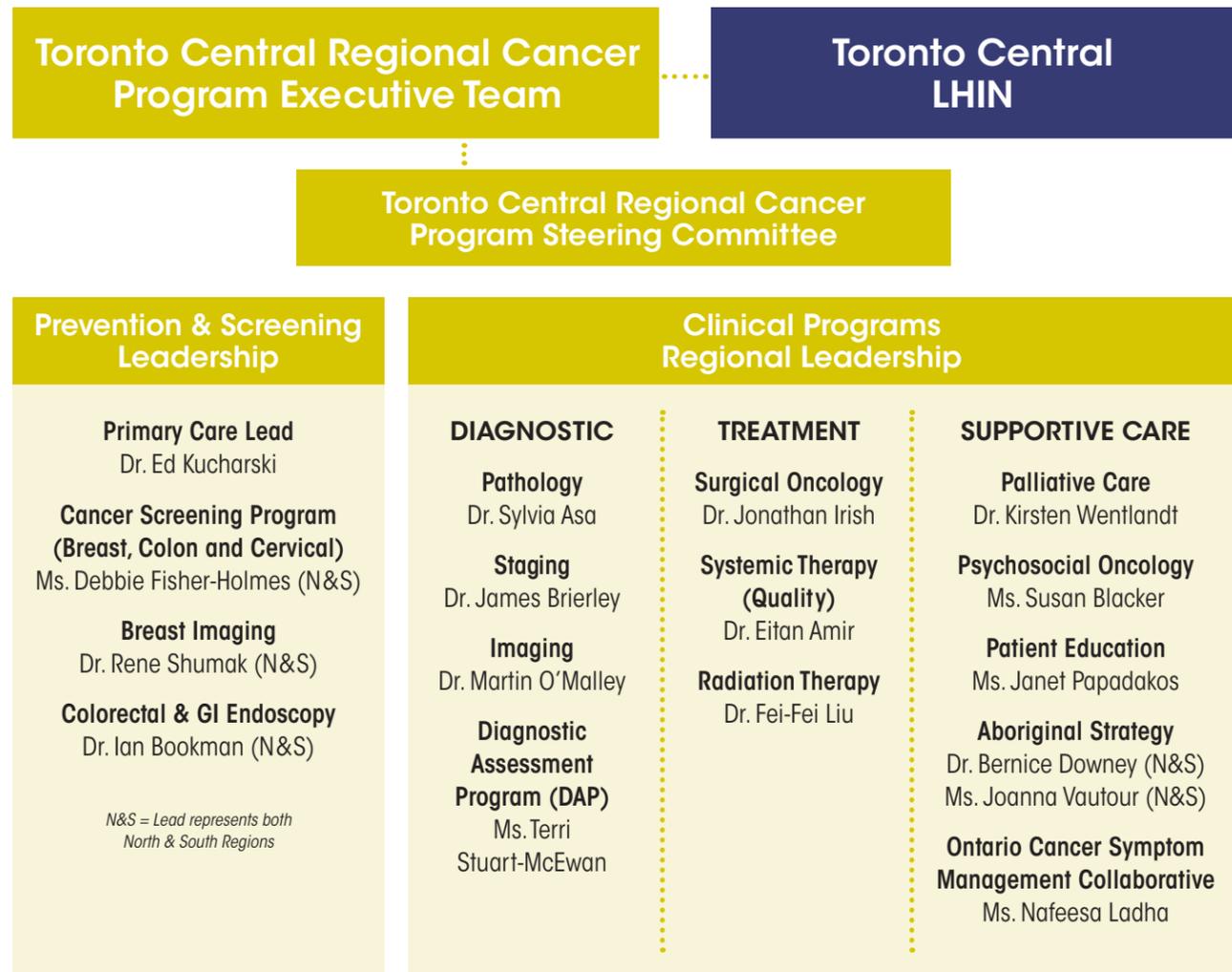
# Program Overview

The Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program is located within the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (TC LHIN). It is comprised of a Regional Cancer Centre, the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre at the University Health Network, four partner hospitals: St. Michael's Hospital; Mount Sinai Hospital; St. Joseph's Health Centre; and Women's College Hospital, and partner organizations including the Toronto Central LHIN, Canadian Cancer Society, and the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre. Together with the Toronto Central North Regional Cancer Program, we provide and/or support cancer care in the community, monitor cancer statistics, and work collaboratively to improve & streamline cancer services within the City of Toronto. The Program is led by Dr. Mary Gospodarowicz, Regional Vice President.



- Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) Toronto Region
- Women's College Hospital
- University Health Network (UHN)/Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
- Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- St. Michael's Hospital
- St. Joseph's Health Centre

# Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program Structure



The Regional Cancer Program is responsible for implementing provincial standards and programs for cancer care and ensuring service providers meet the requirements and targets set out in their partnership agreements with Cancer Care Ontario (CCO). In order to fulfill this responsibility, we have a variety of regional committees to respond to local cancer issues, coordinate care across local and regional healthcare providers, and to continually improve access to care, wait times and quality.

# Steering Committee (North & South)

The Toronto Regional Cancer Program Steering Committee is co-Chaired by the two Regional Vice Presidents, Dr. Mary Gospodarowicz (VP, Toronto Central South Regional Cancer Program) and Dr. Calvin Law (VP, Toronto Central North Regional Cancer Program). The Steering Committee assists and guides the development and implementation of strategies to improve the delivery and quality of cancer services in the region. Key topics/activities in 2014 included: Quarterly Performance Reviews, transition to Quality-Based Performance Funding for Cancer Surgeries, and Cancer Screening & Prevention in the Regional Aboriginal Community.

## Membership

### Co-Chairs, Regional Vice Presidents

Dr. Mary Gospodarowicz, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*  
Dr. Calvin Law, *Odette Cancer Centre*

### Hospital Administrative Leads

Victoria Noguera, *Women's College Hospital*  
Susan Blacker, *St. Michael's Hospital*  
Mary Agnes Beduz, *Mount Sinai Hospital*  
Marnie Escaf, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*  
Martha Wyatt, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre\**  
Janice Stewart, *Odette Cancer Centre\**  
Shelley DeHay-Turner, *St. Joseph's Health Centre*  
Melissa Morey-Hollis, *St. Joseph's Health Centre*  
Penny Walcott, *Toronto East General Hospital*

\*T-RCP Directors of Regional Program

### Cancer Program Clinical Leads

Dr. Jing Li, *Toronto East General Hospital*  
Dr. Ori Rotstein, *St. Michael's Hospital*  
Dr. John Semple, *Women's College Hospital*  
Dr. Dorothy Lo, *St. Joseph's Health Centre*  
Dr. Jay Wunder, *Mount Sinai Hospital*

### Regional Cancer Program & Partner Organization Members

Debbie Fisher-Holmes, *Toronto Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening*  
Laura McDonald, *Toronto Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening*  
Enrique Saenz, *Toronto Central CCAC*  
Susan Flynn, *Canadian Cancer Society*  
Helen Taylor Camacho, *Canadian Cancer Society*  
Nello Del Rizzo, *Toronto Central LHIN*

## Regional Leaders

### Pathology

Dr. Sylvia Asa (*South*)  
Dr. Nadia Ismiil (*North*)

### Staging

Dr. James Brierley

### Imaging

Dr. Martin O'Malley (*South*)  
Dr. Elaine Martinovic (*North*)

### Surgical Oncology

Dr. Jonathan Irish (*South*)  
Dr. Danny Enepekides (*North*)

### Systemic Therapy

Dr. Eitan Amir (*South*)  
Dr. Sonal Gandhi (*North*)

### Radiation Therapy

Dr. Fei-Fei Liu (*South*)  
Dr. Gregory Czarnota (*North*)

### Palliative Care

Dr. Kirsten Wentlandt (*South*)  
Dr. Jeff Myers (*North*)

### Psychosocial Oncology

Susan Blacker (*South*)  
Dr. Janet Ellis (*North*)

### Patient Education

Janet Papadakos (*South*)  
Tamara Harth (*North*)

### Primary Care

Dr. Ed Kucharski (*South*)  
Dr. Lisa Del Giudice (*North*)

### Diagnostic Assessment Program

Terri Stuart-McEwan (*South*)  
Jan Stewart (*North*)

### Colorectal Screening/ GI Endoscopy

Dr. Ian Bookman (*North & South*)

### Aboriginal Cancer Lead

Bernice Downey (*North & South*)

### Aboriginal Navigator

Joanna Vautour (*North & South*)

### Breast Imaging Lead

Rene Shumak (*North & South*)

# 2014 Toronto Regional Cancer Program Priorities

PRIORITY  
1

## Continue to Increase Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS) Screening

- Increase ESAS screening rates in participating organizations to 70% of cancer patients
- Initiate electronic ESAS screening in the final community hospital in the region
- Implement clinical pathways to address ESAS scores; work collaboratively across the region to develop new tools/resources for staff

### Achievements

- Implementation of Interactive Symptom Assessment and Collection (ISAAC) kiosk at St. Joseph's Health Centre
- Conducted Community of Practice event with regional Psychosocial Oncology, Palliative Care, Patient Education, and Ontario Cancer Symptom Management Collaborative in collaboration with Smoking Cessation Champions

PRIORITY  
2

## Continue to build momentum to increase screening rates in the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

- Harness new Integrated Cancer Screening administrative structure including health promotion and clinical leads to improve screening rates and quality in the Toronto Central Region
- Continue to work with regional Primary Care Leads to educate providers on screening
- Develop communication and marketing campaign for regional website as an avenue to improve provider understanding and performance related to screening
- Increase public education and awareness through community engagement and workplace awareness strategies

### Achievements

- Engaged 12 community health centres in a public education outreach awareness campaign on breast screening
- Conducted 11 education sessions across the region in collaboration with primary care providers about the importance of cancer screening
- Launched the Toronto Regional Cancer Program website in January 2014

PRIORITY  
3

## Improve smoking cessation screening rate in the Regional Cancer Centre

- Improve smoking cessation screening rate among new patients
- Optimize screening data collection for CCO submissions
- Increase proportion of patients being referred for smoking cessation activities
- Develop and hold a regional smoking cessation educational event for the region
- Develop nicotine replacement orders for in-patients at the Regional Cancer Centre

### Achievements

- Referral rate of Princess Margaret Cancer Centre patients (self-identified smokers) to a smoking cessation program reached 65%
- Received Ontario Institute for Cancer Research grant to build a patient self-management interface for smoking cessation to increase the proportion of patients being referred to the smoking cessation program
- Conducted joint Community of Practice event with the ESAS screening team

# 2014 Regional Statistical Highlights

Highest rate of provincial Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference compliance at

**94%**

Number of unique visitors to TRCP website has increased

**94.4%**

since launch (January-December 2014), with over **4000 unique page views**

Percentage increase of smoking cessation screening rates of new ambulatory patients in the Regional Cancer Centre has risen by over

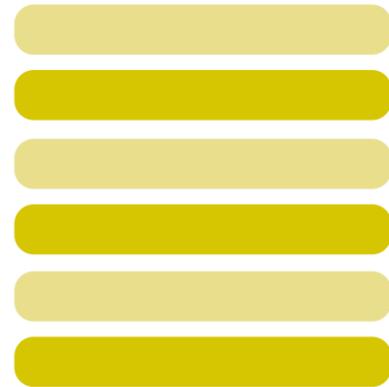
**50%**

from April-December 2014



**1,090**

screening volumes with an MRI (or ultrasound) with or without mammogram performed for the target screening population (women aged 30-69 years) from April-December 2014



**9,240**

cancer surgeries performed in the region (\*Cancer Surgery Agreement (CSA) volumes)

**10,401**

radiation courses of treatment

**8,188**

systemic consults in 2014 (note: new methodology introduced in 2014-15 fiscal year; figure is based on historical volumes/patterns and monthly operational volume reports)

Ontario Breast Screening Program site mammograms within region have increased over **8%** from the same time in 2013 (April-December) - representing more than

**3,000**

mammograms (for the target screening population)

**1,189**

Family History (FH)/Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) positive colonoscopies were performed in Colon Cancer Check participating hospitals (FH = 930 + FOBT = 259) from April-December 2014

## Systemic Consult Volumes 2014 (January-December)

Mount Sinai Hospital	623
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre - UHN	5,885
St. Joseph's Health Centre	527
St. Michael's Hospital	1,153
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,188</b>

## Cancer Surgery Agreement (CSA) Volumes 2014 (January-December)

Mount Sinai Hospital	2,104
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre - UHN	4,232
St. Joseph's Health Centre	933
St. Michael's Hospital	1,421
Women's College Hospital	550
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,240</b>

# Program Activities & Achievements

## Prevention & Screening

### Cancer Screening



**Dr. Ed Kucharski**  
Primary Care Lead



**Debbie Fisher-Holmes**  
Regional Cancer Screening Program  
(North & South)



**Dr. Rene Shumak**  
Breast Imaging Lead  
(North & South)



**Dr. Ian Bookman**  
Colorectal Screening & GI Endoscopy Lead  
(North & South)

The Cancer Screening program consists of:

- Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP)
- ColonCancerCheck (CCC) Program
- Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP)

The Regional Cancer Screening program monitors screening site performance and quality, supports quality improvement among screening sites and primary care providers, and develops and implements public and provider educational initiatives to improve participation, in breast, colorectal and cervical cancer screening. A key initiative in 2014 was the launch of our new website, where healthcare providers can access information about the cancer program and the resources available within the region [www.trcp.ca](http://www.trcp.ca). In addition to ensuring the best use of resources across the system, our Prevention & Screening Regional Leads fill a critical role in capacity planning and improving the quality, safety, and accessibility of cancer screening services across Toronto.

### 2014 Highlights

- In collaboration with Canadian Cancer Society hosted the Giant Colon at World Pride Toronto at Allan Gardens; supported the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) Get Screened Mammography Day at Women's College Hospital; partnered with Rainbow Health Ontario to offer an LGBT sensitivity training workshop for OBSP staff; developed an accredited online educational module for healthcare providers to promote cancer screening in LGBT populations, and promoted the Canadian Cancer Society Women to Women campaign at OBSP sites in the Toronto Central LHIN
- Implemented a Pap clinic at St. James Town Community Corner during Cervical Cancer Awareness Week in collaboration with various regional partners
- Collaborated with the Immigrant Women's Health Centre Mobile Health Clinic and Community Matters Toronto to provide Pap testing in St. James Town

## Primary Care

- Organized and delivered 11 “Cancer Journey” continuing medical education events to primary care providers
- Dr. Ed Kucharski nominated for The Change Foundation 20 Faces of Change Award for work reaching out to the under and never screened populations (later awarded in 2015)

## Breast Imaging

- Enlisted three new OBSP sites in March and August
- Recognition from Cancer Care Ontario for successfully meeting the provincial 2013/14 annual improvement target for OBSP clients with an abnormal screen diagnosed within 5 weeks for cases without biopsy and within 7 weeks for cases with a biopsy

## Colorectal Screening & GI Endoscopy

- A Regional Colorectal Screening/GI Endoscopy Lead helped to guide and implement the Quality Management Partnership for colonoscopy (a collaboration between Cancer Care Ontario and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario)
- Established working relationships with relevant stakeholders including endoscopists and other staff at Community Endoscopy Clinics, the regional Primary Care Leads, the Regional Vice President, and the Diagnostic Assessment Program (DAP) Coordinators
- Creation of an inventory of endoscopy and colorectal screening services in the region to address factors such as the number of endoscopies and volume of procedures being performed as well as other services available such as DAPs
- Initiated dialogue on quality metric collection and analysis, such as cecal intubation rates and number of colonoscopies per endoscopist
- Encouraged collaboration amongst endoscopy units within the region, both in and out of hospital, to address concerns of quality metrics such as wait times and efficient use of endoscopy resources

## Prevention: Smoking Cessation



**Dr. Meredith Giuliani**  
Smoking Cessation Champion

In 2014 Smoking Cessation was chosen as one of three regional priority areas of focus. Led by our Smoking Cessation Champion, Dr. Meredith Giuliani, we have introduced smoking cessation questionnaires and referral forms in all Regional Cancer Centre ambulatory clinics. As part of the initiative, a dedicated Smoking Cessation Community of Practice event was held the afternoon of October 10<sup>th</sup>.

# Diagnosis

## Cancer Imaging



**Dr. Martin O'Malley**  
Cancer Imaging Lead

The Cancer Imaging Program was created in 2010 and has developed strategic priorities to support and align with the Ontario Cancer Plan. Key initiatives include the continued development of Imaging Community of Practice events, standardization of imaging evaluation & reporting, and participation in provincial advisory committees.

## 2014 Highlights

- Continued development of Imaging community of practice standards to support the Ontario Cancer Plan goals and strategic priorities. Within the Cancer Imaging Program, stakeholders work collectively to identify priorities, advise on achieving program goals, and disseminate information to the Imaging community
- In 2014 development continued for a CT synoptic report for newly-diagnosed lung cancer patients. The use of a synoptic report for MRI of patients with newly diagnosed rectal cancer is now the accepted standard of practice in Ontario. Synoptic reporting promotes standardization, ensures comprehensive imaging evaluation and contributes critical staging information for treatment planning. Funding is in place within the region to study and develop the electronic transfer of data from synoptic radiology reports
- Submission of a report to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care by the Advisory Committee on Focal Tumor Ablation that outlines recommendations for the organization and delivery of tumor ablation services across the province

## Pathology & Laboratory Medicine



**Dr. Sylvia Asa**  
Pathology Lead

Laboratory Medicine in the Regional Cancer Program is focused on improving quality and equal access for patients, as well as leading laboratory medicine and diagnostic practices. Driving our strategy has been aligning our subspecialty model across all partner sites, such as implementing a fully integrated Laboratory Information System platform to improve regional communication of patient information. 2014 saw the continued investment in digital pathology services to our patients and partners, in order to improve turnaround times, subspecialty care and improved diagnostics.

### 2014 Highlights

- Investment began in fully-integrated Laboratory Information System platform across all partner sites within the region
- Enhanced the understanding of the value of laboratory medicine to stakeholders, including physicians and patients
- Continued serving as system leader around quality, diagnostics and planning issues within the region
- Started implementation of validated amyloid testing by mass spectrometry at University Health Network; the only diagnostic laboratory in Canada to provide this test
- University Health Network & Women's College Hospital began partnership to develop a multisite Intraoperative Parathyroid Hormone assay

### Diagnostic Assessment Programs

In 2014 work continued across the region towards the standardization of Cancer Care Ontario-supported Colorectal and LungRAMP Diagnostic Assessment Programs (DAPs). Representatives from participating sites met throughout the year to discuss wait time improvement strategies, patient education resources, and the implementation of standardized referral forms across the region.

The region is exceeding the provincial Lung DAP wait time rates (date of referral to date of diagnosis) at 64.2%\* and overall patient feedback is favourable with 93%\* rating their diagnostic experience as positive. Also in 2014, drafting of DAP data sharing agreements between the regional sites & Cancer Care Ontario began which is expected to further strengthen the program.

\*Q3 Data

# Treatment

## Surgical Oncology



**Dr. Jonathan Irish**  
Surgical Oncology Lead

The Toronto Central Surgical Oncology Program is a vital resource for cancer surgery in Ontario and ensuring access to surgical care through wait time reporting is critical. Rapid Diagnostic Units (RDUs) and Diagnostic Assessment Programs (DAPs) in Breast, Colorectal, Lung, and Prostate cancer have seen wait times improve across the LHIN. The program Committee meets on a quarterly basis, and is responsible for monitoring Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference (MCC) performance & Community of Practice development.

### 2014 Highlights

- Provincial leader in MCC compliance (94%)
- Implementation of MCC tracking software in Regional Cancer Centre
- Finalization of wait time targets for "Wait 1" (date of referral to date of consultation with the surgeon) and initiation of reporting has begun
- Highest rate of registration for surgeon-level report cards in province
- Held joint Continuing Medical Education events with regional Primary Care Lead & Thoracic surgery teams

### Surgical Oncology Committee Membership (North & South)

**Danny Enepekides, Co-Chair**  
*Odette Cancer Centre*

Mary Agnes Beduz, *Mount Sinai Hospital*  
Jay Wunder, *Mount Sinai Hospital*  
Janice Stewart, *Odette Cancer Centre*  
Martha Wyatt, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*  
Chris Compeau, *St. Joseph's Health Centre*  
Shelley Dehay-Turner, *St. Joseph's Health Centre*  
Susan Blacker, *St. Michael's Hospital*

**Jonathan Irish, Co-Chair**  
*Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

Ori Rotstein, *St. Michael's Hospital*  
Penny Walcott, *Toronto East General Hospital*  
Rob Zeldin, *Toronto East General Hospital*  
Marnie Escaf, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre/UHN*  
Mary Ann Neary, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre/UHN*  
Victoria Noguera, *Women's College Hospital*  
John Semple, *Women's College Hospital*

Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences (MCCs) are an additional setting in which to discuss individual patient cases to allow the multidisciplinary treatment team to develop the best individual plan of care. Toronto Central South is a leader in the province in performance of MCCs confirming the dedication of our region's medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, radiologists and nurses to the concept of multidisciplinary team care.

MCC Hospital	Q1 – FY13/14	Q3 – FY13/14	Q1 – FY14/15	Q3 – FY14/15
Mount Sinai Hospital	93%	97%	99%	94%
St. Joseph's Health Centre	81%	100%	78%	97%
St. Michael's Hospital	87%	74%	84%	99%
UHN	84%	86%	93%	89%
Women's College Hospital	67%	67%	100%	100%
<b>Region Overall</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>94%</b>

## Community of Practice Events

A foundation of the Toronto Central Surgical Oncology Program is the dedication to the development of Communities of Practice. Highlights from the 2014 Prostate & Endocrine events are below.

### Prostate

Hosted by Dr. Tony Finelli, the February Prostate Community of Practice brought together surgeons, pathologists, and medical oncologists from five regional organizations.

The event provided a setting for discussions regarding quality consistency, reliability of practice patterns, and importance of the standardization in prostate surgery.

### Endocrine

Hosted by Dr. James Brierley, the November event saw physicians, surgeons, radiologists, histopathologists, and cytopathologists from seven organizations participate in inter-professional collaborative discussion regarding best management practices. Specific discussion topics included thyroid cancer diagnosis and patient care.

## Systemic Therapy



**Dr. Eitan Amir**

Systemic Therapy Quality Lead

The Regional Systemic Treatment Program (RSTP) South has rolled out the *Oral Chemotherapy Safety Quality Improvement Initiative* to all institutions. Regional work on pre-printed orders (PPO) formed the basis of provincial PPOs which were rolled out in November 2014. RSTP south has continued to improve the proportion of chemotherapy nurses with certification by the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology in line with Cancer Care Ontario targets. The region has also formed a partner centre outreach between the Regional Cancer Centre and non-Regional Cancer Centre sites to facilitate transition to Activity-Level Reporting and Quality-Based Procedure funding. Finally, we have initiated a number of pilot projects at Princess Margaret comprising nursing and pharmacy-led call backs for toxicity management. These occur in the breast and Gastrointestinal disease sites (nurse-led) as well as among unselected patients in the chemotherapy unit (pharmacy-led).

## 2014 Highlights

- Provided provincial leadership in the oral chemotherapy PPO initiative
- Substantially improved nursing certification for systemic therapy in all institutions in the regions
- 8,188 systemic consults in 2014 (note: new methodology introduced in 2014-15 fiscal year; figure is based on historical volumes/patterns and monthly operational volume reports)

## Regional Systemic Treatment Program (TC South) Committee Membership

### Eitan Amir, Chair

*Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

Mary Agnes Beduz, *Mount Sinai Hospital*

Simon Kuzyl, *Mount Sinai Hospital*

Ron Burkes, *Mount Sinai Hospital*

Marcia McLean, *Mount Sinai Hospital*

Martha Wyatt, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

Marina Kaufman, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

Terri Stuart McEwan, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

Rita Kwong, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

Celina Dara, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*

Shelley Dehay-Turner, *St. Joseph's Health Centre*

Dorothy Lo, *St. Joseph's Health Centre*

Ruth Law, *St. Michael's Hospital*

Julie Kruchowski, *St. Michael's Hospital*

Christine Brezden-Masley, *St. Michael's Hospital*

Susan Blacker, *St. Michael's Hospital*

## Radiation Therapy



**Dr. Fei-Fei Liu**  
Radiation Therapy Lead

2014 was yet another successful year for the Radiation Medicine Program (RMP) at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, with gains in radiation therapy utilization, new models of care, and quality and safety innovation.

Strategies to improve access to radiation therapy included: a) the formalization of a partnership with St. Michael's Hospital for consultation and treatment services; b) collaborative participation in Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences, and joint knowledge transfer & exchange (KTE); c) continued targeted outreach to referring physicians through our RMP newsletter "ConneXions"; and d) ongoing RMP participation in clinics, inpatient consultations, and MCCs at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Innovative models of clinical care continued to expand in RMP with the introduction of two new roles. First, building upon the success of our five existing Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (CSRT) positions, RMP's first Advance Practice Radiation Therapist (APRT), specializing in thoracic image-guided adaptive radiotherapy was introduced in 2014. Secondly, RMP's first Physician Assistant (PA) was recruited to provide patient assessments, investigations, symptom management, and follow up care for select high volume services. These new and evolving roles will continue to support innovative models of clinical care whilst improving access for our cancer patients.

In response to the growing complexities in managing multiple quality assurance (QA) and quality control tools in a dynamic environment, RMP's Drs. Daniel Letourneau and David Jaffray, along with their team, developed an innovative and comprehensive software platform, called AQUA (Automated Quality Assurance) to centralize all radiotherapy QA activities. The importance of this innovation was recognized with a Cancer Quality Council of Ontario Honourable Mention Award in 2014, acknowledging its value to improve safety, performance, and efficiency of radiation therapy clinics worldwide.

### Radiation Therapy Treatment Volumes (cases)

	2013	2014
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre	10,099	10,401

January-December Data

# Supportive & Palliative Care

## Palliative Care



**Dr. Kirsten Wentlandt**  
Palliative Care Lead

The Palliative Care Program for the Toronto Central South Region focused on several new initiatives in 2014; including a provincial project designed to improve quality care at end of life and a community engagement event focused on optimizing symptom management.

## 2014 Highlights

- Region selected as one of three in the province to implement integrated models of palliative care delivery and palliative care educational strategies among primary care providers and oncology teams (INTEGRATE). The project highlights the identification and management of patients who may benefit from a palliative care approach early and across care settings.
- A new province-wide directory of inpatient Hospice Palliative Care (HPC) was designed to help Ontario's patients, families and healthcare providers make informed choices for end-of-life care. The HPC Ontario directory, developed at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, holds information on over 100 facilities across the province that offer 24-hour care for patients facing a life-limiting illness. The HPC Ontario directory is available online at [www.uhn.ca](http://www.uhn.ca), and a new, interactive app for iPhone and iPad users has been developed based on the HPC Ontario directory available for download at the Apple App Store.

## INTEGRATE Pilot Project

In 2014 Cancer Care Ontario launched the INTEGRATE project, which aims to enable identification and management of patients who may benefit from a palliative care approach early and across care settings. In the Toronto Central south Region, the project is being piloted at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (CNS site group) as well as at the Forest Hill Family Health Group. As part of the project, training designed by Pallium Canada – Learning Essentials Approaches to Palliative Care and End of Life Care (LEAP) - will be provided to health care professionals. It will cover topics including psychosocial distress, tips for having essential conversations, advance care planning, and goals of care discussions.

## Psychosocial Oncology



**Susan Blacker**

Psychosocial Oncology Lead

The Regional Psychosocial Oncology committee continued to meet quarterly in 2014, with a focus on the regional priority goal of ensuring screening for symptoms for all cancer patients, including distress, at all of the hospitals. The Committee also continued to work closely with the regional leaders for palliative care and symptom screening and management.

### 2014 Highlights

- Development of team-based strategies for implementing the Cancer Care Ontario Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care Pathway model
- Community of Practice event held in October with a focus on providing participants with an opportunity to consider strategies for sustaining screening and assessment activities in the cancer clinics as well as a review of recent research looking at outcomes of screening practices. The event also addressed the importance of considering health literacy as part of symptom management.
- Continued regional participation in Cancer Care Ontario's monthly psychosocial oncology rounds, and several TCS clinicians have been featured presenters this year

### Toronto Regional Psychosocial Oncology Committee Membership (North & South)

#### **Susan Blacker (Co-Chair)**

*St. Michael's Hospital*

Sheila Weinstock, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*  
Madeleine Li, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*  
Valerie Heller, *Princess Margaret Cancer Centre*  
Christina Fabbuzo-Cota, *Mount Sinai Hospital*  
Jon Hunter, *Mount Sinai Hospital*  
Simon Kuzyl, *Mount Sinai Hospital*

#### **Janet Ellis (Co-Chair)**

*Odette Cancer Centre*

Manisha Gandhi, *Odette Cancer Centre*  
Mikki Layton, *Toronto East General Hospital*  
Carmel Richards, *St. Joseph's Health Centre*  
Mari Vella, *St. Michael's Hospital*  
Catharine Fox, *Women's College Hospital*

## Ontario Cancer Symptom Management Collaborative

The Ontario Cancer Symptom Management Collaborative (OCSMC) promotes earlier identification, documentation, and communication of patients' symptoms through the Edmonton Symptom Assessment System revised (ESASr) and functional status through the Patient Reported Functional Status (PRFS) assessment tool. Symptom Management Guides-to-Practice have also been developed to help healthcare professionals assess and appropriately manage a patient's cancer-related symptoms.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 2014 Regional Highlights

- Consistent overall ESAS screening rates in the Toronto Central south region to meet the CCO target of 70%
- ESAS screening being completed electronically at all partner sites as of December, 2014

### 2014 Site Highlights

#### **Princess Margaret Cancer Centre**

- Forty Distress Assessment and Response Tool (DART) iPads have been embedded in most ambulatory clinics, resulting in an increase in electronic screening from 23% to 45% (March- December 2014).
- Launch of DART iPads in genitourinary clinics and increased electronic screening from 1% to 75% while maintaining overall rates above target.

#### **St. Joseph's Health Care Centre**

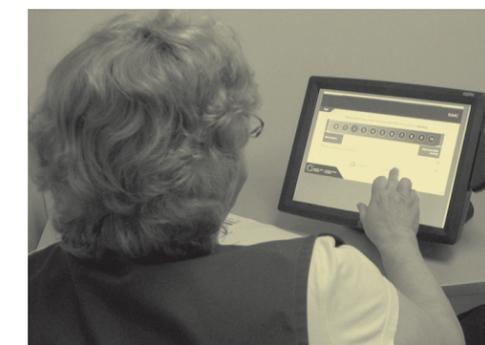
- Implementation of electronic screening using Interactive Symptom Assessment and Collection (ISAAC) kiosks in December 2014

#### **Mt. Sinai Hospital**

- Review initiated to obtain portable/mobile devices which are expected to increase ESAS response rates across the site

#### **St. Michael's Hospital**

- Implementation of a mobile ISAAC kiosk in Fall 2014



[1] <https://www.cancercare.on.ca/ocs/api/ocsmc>

## Patient Education



**Nazek Abdelmutti**  
(January-June 2014)  
Patient Education Lead



**Janet Papadakos**  
(July 2014-Present)  
Patient Education Lead

The Regional Patient Education program was very active this past year, with a strong focus on developing comprehensive education pathways within the clinical setting. These pathways have significantly increased the availability of education resources, allowing clinicians to easily augment verbal teaching in an appointment setting and have enabled patients to personalize their learning based on individual needs and preferences. In 2014, participation in regional committees continued including the Cancer Care Ontario Patient Indicators, Toxicity, and Patient Symptom Management Guides working groups.

### 2014 Highlights

- Provided the Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Training Course has been offered twice in 2014, with a total of 48 regional healthcare providers in attendance
- Delivered a session on Health Literacy & Cancer Self-Management as part of Cancer Care Ontario's Patient Education rounds
- Integration of educational resources (Education Pathway) into clinics through dedicated "Patient Education Stations" and clinic webpages
- Process evaluation with clinicians indicated that 82% used the pathway frequently to supplement verbal teaching, 93% stated that it improved clinic flow and 100% stated that it improved the quality and consistency of education provided to patients by the clinic
- Regional launch of Cancer Care Ontario's "Your Learning Matters" survey in November at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, with a final response rate of 240 patients & families

### Supportive and Palliative Care Community of Practice Event

Following the success of last year's Psychosocial Oncology, Palliative Care, Patient Education and Symptom Management Community of Practice (CoP) Event, it was decided to hold a follow-up that included participants from all seven hospitals affiliated with Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, as well as regional stakeholders. On October 10th 2014, 51 attendees from across 11 organizations met at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre to engage in discussion around symptom screening & management, guiding clinician response to low symptom screening scores, and health literacy.

## Aboriginal Cancer Strategy (North & South)



**Dr. Bernice Downey**  
Regional Aboriginal Cancer Lead



**Joanna Vautour**  
Aboriginal Patient Navigator

In 2014, Cancer Care Ontario provided the support for two new roles dedicated to the leadership and advancement of the Aboriginal Cancer Strategy within the province. Dr. Bernice Downey was recruited as Regional Aboriginal Cancer Lead (for both Toronto Central south and north regions) in January to support First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) people across Toronto who have unique cancer care needs that require a measure of systemic change in order to be fully addressed. Working closely with Cancer Care Ontario's Aboriginal Cancer Care Unit, Bernice worked to raise awareness of the province's Aboriginal Cancer Strategy through interface with various Indigenous organizations providing health services to FNIM people.

In November, Joanna Vautour joined the Program in the role of Aboriginal Patient Navigator. As part of a network of 10 positions across the province, the Aboriginal Patient Navigator provides support and advocacy for FNIM patients and families by facilitating and coordinating access to cancer services, addressing cultural/spiritual needs, and networking with FNIM and non-Aboriginal partners.

### 2014 Highlights

- Participation in the region-wide Toronto Regional Cancer Program network and the Integrated Cancer Screening network meetings and activities
- Participation in provincial Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative and End of Life Care (LEAP) Aboriginal Symposium (Manitoulin Island)
- Facilitation of meetings with various FNIM organizations across the region
- Collaboration with Regional Leads towards exploring and identifying FNIM-specific issues related to palliative care and patient education
- Creation of draft Toronto Central Aboriginal Cancer Plan, to be finalized in 2015
- Distribution of FNIM-specific cancer screening fact sheets to provide information on the Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal provincial cancer screening program
- Distribution of Palliative Care Toolkit: Tools for the Journey for families and community members involved in Palliative Care

# Regional Partner Organization Highlights

## Hospitals

### Mount Sinai Hospital



2014 was a remarkable year for Oncology at Mount Sinai Hospital. Continuing work in collaboration with the Princess Margaret, the Christopher Sharp Cancer Centre provides access to specialized care for underserved and rare cancers. This past year Mount Sinai became a Regional Sarcoma Centre and a Designated Gynecologic Oncology Centre which will offer further opportunity to improve access to specialized cancer care for Canadians.

The Centre continued to expand access for Ontario patients with peritoneal malignancy treatment program for pseudomyxoma, mesothelioma, and low volume colorectal carcinomatosis who are treated with cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy.

In 2014, Mount Sinai finalized work towards becoming the first hospital in Canada to receive the prestigious Magnet® designation (awarded in January 2015). The journey to achieve Magnet status began more than 4 years ago as the organization began to build a framework that reflected Magnet principles. A 2014 submission to the American Nurses Credentialing Centre included more than 3000 pages of data outlining the nursing role within the organization and their impact on patient care and outcomes. A three-day site visit during which appraisers from the Credentialing Centre evaluated and validated all aspects of nursing care at Mount Sinai Hospital helped achieve the designation.

### Princess Margaret Cancer Centre



In 2014, the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre continued to focus on personalized cancer medicine, ensuring that the right treatment for the right patient happens at the right time. Progress and impact is being made in detection, diagnosis, target and support, through programs such as the Gattuso Rapid Diagnostic Centre, IMPACT/COMPACT molecular profiling and guided therapy, molecular imaging, image/robotics guided precision surgery, image guided precision radiotherapy, immunotherapy, personalized support interventions (e.g. adolescent and young adults program), palliative and end of life care.

Princess Margaret also continues to be a provincial resource for complex and rare cancer care with new developments in 2014 including being designated a Gyne Oncology Centre and leading acute leukemia services in the province, in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario. Princess Margaret and Women's College Hospital also finalized the amalgamation of colposcopy services at Women's College Hospital under Dr. Joan Murphy, to launch the Gyneoncology Centre of Excellence for Colposcopy. The formation of this collaborative, interdisciplinary program enhances screening, enables more education for patients and staff and expands an already-robust research database.

### St. Joseph's Health Centre



2014 was an eventful year in Oncology at St. Joseph's Health Centre. Focusing on patient experience and symptom management, Interactive Symptom Assessment and Collection (ISSAC) kiosks were successfully implemented in the outpatient clinic. Also of note was the development and launch of a project plan for electronic Activity Level Reporting and computerized practitioner order entry, scheduled for completion in 2015.

St. Joseph's Health Centre was pleased to support the continued educational development of its clinical team, with all Oncology Clinic Nurses completing their Canadian Nursing Association certification in Oncology Nursing. In addition, over 70% of inpatient and outpatient nursing teams have completed de Souza training. St. Joseph's Health Centre continues to grow and expand hosted Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences in alignment with its corporate priority of shaping care through teaching and education, and Cancer Care Ontario's vision and strategy.

### St. Michael's Hospital



In 2014, St. Michael's Hospital saw the launch and expansion of several notable programs. The first renal cell carcinoma cryotherapy program in Toronto, a collaborative program between the Urology and Medical Imaging departments marked its one year anniversary. Development began on a new oncoplastics program, and the Awake Craniotomy program continued to grow in Neurosurgery.

Founded by St. Michael's Hospital physician Dr. Christine Brezden-Masley, the Community Oncologists in Metropolitan Toronto (COMET) clinical trials consortium continued expansion across Ontario. As of 2014 the consortium has over 180 members and lists over 75 cancer clinical trials which help achieve its goal of ensuring that patients at all COMET sites have easy access to clinical trials.

Also in 2014, St. Michael's Hospital welcomed surgeon Dr. Adena Scheer to the CIBC Breast Centre team.

### Women's College Hospital



At Women's College Hospital, the Hospital Based Smoking Cessation Project continued to offer brief counseling (3 A's – Ask/Advice/Arrange) to targeted patient populations in Diabetes, Respiriology and Cardiology. This will be expanded to the Gynecology Center of Excellence for Colposcopy in the year ahead. Patients were also granted access to the Intensive/Personalized Smoking Cessation Clinic where staff trained in motivational counseling assist the patients through their journey of cessation.

Our oncology programs such as the After Cancer Treatment Transitional Program and Breast Centre, document smoking related information at the time of first assessment and thereafter if patients state that they are smokers.

Final preparations took place in late 2014 for the implementation of the new electronic patient record, which will assist in the tracking of specific elements of smoking information and data across the organization.

In September 2014 Women's College Hospital established the Centre of Excellence for Colposcopy Services and Collaboration with Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. The newly-launched centre is led by Dr. Joan Murphy. Planning is currently underway for the 2015 alignment of Gynecology & Colposcopy services between the Centre and the Bay Center for Birth Control.

## Partner Organizations (North & South)

### Canadian Cancer Society



Between September & December 2014, the Society launched a Screening Saves Lives program in the communities of Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park. The aim of the program is to increase screening rates for colorectal, breast and cervical cancer in diverse South Asian populations living in these communities (previously identified

as having one of the lowest screening rates for these cancers in Toronto). Work was undertaken with team members from the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program to help inform outreach within the communities.

Volunteer health ambassadors from within the communities were engaged and received the training and support needed to discuss the importance of early detection with friends, family and other members of their social networks. Conversations focused on addressing the specific fears, concerns and myths that often prevent screening in specific community groups.

### Community Care Access Centre



The Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) has a team of health professionals who work directly with outpatient oncology clinics across Toronto. CCAC Care Coordinators help transition cancer patients from hospital to home, in hopes of reducing unnecessary ER visits and hospitalizations, and to improve quality of life.

In 2014 The Toronto Central CCAC was proud to partner with the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, along with several other healthcare organizations, on Cancer Care Ontario's INTEGRATE Project. CCAC Care Coordinators are part of each patient care team. They work to share information and develop goals and plans based on each person's unique needs.

Also in 2014, long-time collaborators Toronto Central CCAC and the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care partnered with Spectrum Health Care, St. Elizabeth Health Care, S.R.T. Med-Staff, and Dorothy Ley Hospice Palliative physicians to form the Toronto Central Integrated Palliative Care Program. This partnership supports people living with life-limiting illnesses who wish to die at home or stay at home for as long as possible. Program results have been remarkable: 80% of clients dying outside of an acute care hospital responded they had a 91% overall positive experience with the program. Developed and tested using vigorous quality improvement techniques, this program is currently expanding to all Toronto Central Palliative clients.

## 2014 Awards & Notables

### Honorable Mention for Innovation

Cancer Quality Council of Ontario Honorable Mention for Innovation category: AQUA – A Comprehensive Platform for Radiation Therapy Equipment Quality Assurance Radiation Medicine Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. AQUA is an innovative and comprehensive software platform to centralize Quality Analysis for all activities related to radiation therapy.

### New, Interactive Directory App

The Hospice Palliative Care (HPC) Ontario directory app, developed at the Princess Margaret, is a new, interactive app that helps iPhone and iPad users find inpatient palliative care facilities in Ontario. Based off HPC Ontario directory, this app gives mobile users information on over 100 facilities across the province that offer 24-hour care for patients facing a life-limiting illness.

### Highest Provincial Honour in Healthcare

Toronto Central CCAC and its partners and service providers were recognized for the effectiveness of the Toronto Central Integrated Palliative Care program, receiving the highest provincial honour in healthcare: the 2014 Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety.

### Inaugural Ontario Cancer Leads

Three physicians within the Toronto Central South region were appointed by Cancer Care Ontario as inaugural Ontario Cancer Leads. They will coordinate efforts and provide strategic leadership across the full continuum of care for their respective disease sites.

- Dr. Gail Darling (UHN) as the Ontario Thoracic Cancer Lead
- Dr. Tony Finelli (UHN) as the Ontario Genitourinary Cancers Lead
- Dr. Helen MacKay (UHN) as the Ontario Gynecologic Cancers Lead

### Appointments

Dr. Alice Wei (UHN) appointed as the Cancer Care Ontario Quality and Knowledge Transfer Lead (Surgical Oncology)

Dr. Robin McLeod (MSH) appointed as Vice President, Clinical Programs and Quality Improvement for Cancer Care Ontario





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