



# landmARCC

Marking a turning point...

## Directors' Message

Welcome to the Spring 2016 issue of landmARCC!

We wanted to take a moment to thank the ARCC Network for support during a number of key transitions and changes we have made since the end of last year. In November, Dr. Jeffrey Hoch, one of the original ARCC co-founders, stepped down from his role as ARCC Co-Director to take up a new role at the University of California, Davis, where he is now working with the Center for Health Policy and Research. At that time, we welcomed Dr. Kelvin Chan as the new ARCC Co-Director at our Ontario hub. Dr. Chan is a medical oncologist with the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and a clinical lead within the Provincial Drug Reimbursement Program at Cancer Care Ontario.

In early 2016, we notified the Network of changes to our specific program areas, transitioning the Patients & Families program to Survivorship, and making a number of changes to our Program Leads.

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to our outgoing Program Leads for their work with ARCC, and our warmest welcome to the



ARCC co-directors Dr. Kelvin Chan & Dr. Stuart Peacock

new team. You can find out more about current Program Leads on our "Our Team" page at <http://cc-arcc.ca/our-team-new/>

The new leadership team at ARCC is now fully in place, and looking forward to launching some new initiatives later this year.

For now, we are quite excited about our upcoming conference and will continue to keep members informed about the conference and other ARCC-related news on our website. More information about the conference, including some information about our invited speakers, is included in this issue of landmARCC – we hope you will consider registering and joining us in Toronto this May. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about ARCC, feel free to contact us at [ARCC@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:ARCC@cancercare.on.ca)

Sincerely, Kelvin and Stuart

### This issue of landmARCC

- Directors' Message
- ARCC Conference 2016
- Member Spotlight
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Do you want to share information in a future newsletter? If so, please contact [ARCC@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:ARCC@cancercare.on.ca)

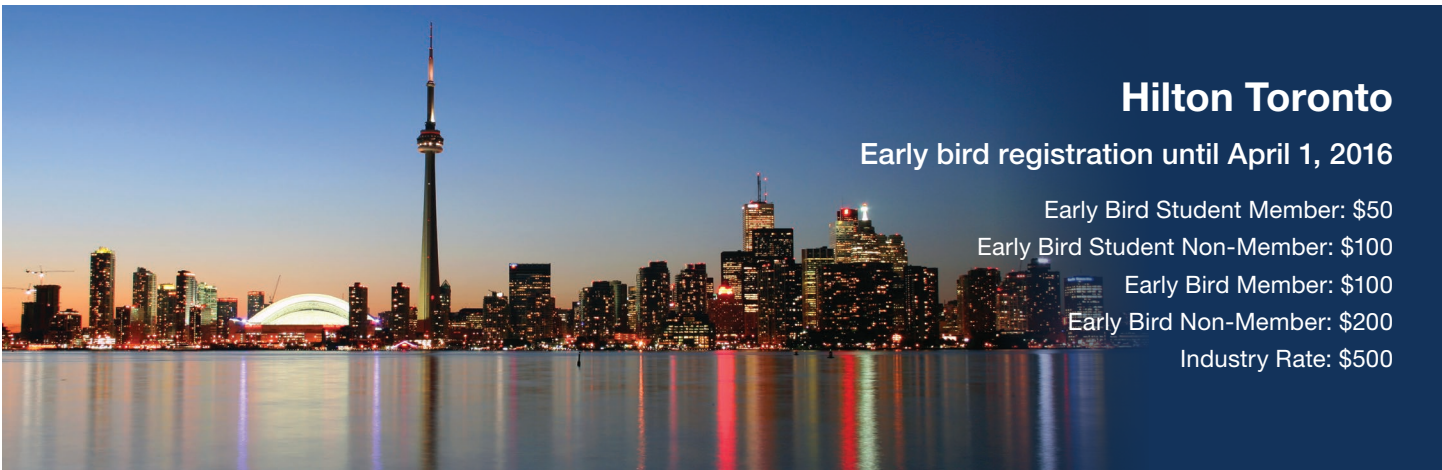


## JOIN US

ARCC Conference  
May 8-9, 2016  
Toronto, ON

# JOIN US

**ARCC Conference Toronto May 8-9, 2016**  
 Canada's Applied Research in Cancer Control Conference



## Hilton Toronto

Early bird registration until April 1, 2016

Early Bird Student Member: \$50

Early Bird Student Non-Member: \$100

Early Bird Member: \$100

Early Bird Non-Member: \$200

Industry Rate: \$500

The discounted member rate for the conference is available to members who join the ARCC Network before April 1, 2016. Are you an ARCC member within 5 years of receiving your terminal degree? If so, contact [ARCC@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:ARCC@cancercare.on.ca) to receive a promotional code that will allow you to receive a registration discount code.

## ARCC Conference 2016

We are excited to share the work done by our members and others at the 2016 Applied Research in Cancer Control Conference, which will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. Registration is now open and we invite you to participate in what will be a valuable two days of knowledge exchange and networking. More information about the conference can be found below or online at <http://cc-arcc.ca/arcc-conference-2016/>. Registration is now open, and early bird rates are in effect until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Register today to be included!

Introducing the Co-Chairs of the 2016 ARCC conference, Dr. Claire de Oliveira and Dr. Eva Grunfeld.

### Dr. Claire de Oliveira

Dr. Claire de Oliveira is an Independent Scientist and Health Economist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPE) at the University of Toronto. She is also a collaborator at the Toronto Health Economics Technology Assessment Collaborative (THETA). Her main areas of cancer-related research include the development of costing methodology and the use of administrative health care data to measure health services utilization and costs. She also has extensive experience with regression modeling. Her active projects include a large-scale CIHR-funded study that seeks to estimate the costs of cancer care for adults in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia using linked administrative health care data. She is also involved in a similar study that involves the estimation of costs of pediatric cancer care in British Columbia and Ontario.



### Dr. Eva Grunfeld

Dr. Eva Grunfeld is a leader in cancer health services and outcomes research. Her research focuses on evaluation and knowledge translation of cancer health services, covering the entire spectrum of cancer control activities. She is internationally recognized for making important contributions to the literature on cancer follow-up, and cancer survivorship. She is a physician scientist with the Ontario Institute of Cancer Research, Health Services Research Program and Director of the Knowledge Translation Research Network. At the same time, she is the Giblon Professor and Director of Family Medicine Research at the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto. From 2004 to 2008 she founded and directed the Cancer Outcomes Research Program at Cancer Care Nova Scotia and Dalhousie University.

## Conference Features

### Plenary Sessions

- 1) Sustainability
- 2) Health Human Resources

### Special Session

Back by popular demand! Our 2016 “Fireside Chat” session will explore issues surrounding knowledge translation

### Speed Networking

This popular event returns in 2016! Information on how to join the Speed Networking session will be forwarded to conference registrants in April.

## Invited Speakers

We are pleased to announce our Invited Speakers this year: Dr. Melissa Brouwers, Dr. Jonathan Emery, Dr. Doris Howell, Dr. Jon Kerner, Dr. Eshwar Kumar, Dr. Robin McLeod, and Dr. Michael Sherar.



### Dr. Melissa Brouwers (Special Session)

Melissa Brouwers is an Associate Professor and Health Services Research Lead in the Department of Oncology, McMaster University; Provincial Director of the Program in Evidence-based Care, Cancer Care Ontario; National Lead for the Capacity Enhancement Project of the

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer; and Knowledge Translation Lead for The Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control (ARCC).

Dr. Brouwers holds a BSc in Psychology from the University of Toronto and an MA and PhD in Psychology from the University of Western Ontario. She is an active and leading member of various national and international research groups including a member of the Clinical Guidelines (CG) Action Group of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, and the Lead of the AGREE Research Enterprise (Principal Investigator of AGREE Next Steps Project, upcoming AGREE A3 Project and the AGREE Research Trust).

### Prof. Jonathan Emery (Plenary Panel)

Jon Emery is the Herman Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research at the University of Melbourne, a new Chair developed within the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. He is an NHMRC Practitioner Fellow, Director of the Cancer Australia Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4), and a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge.



He studied medicine at Cambridge and Oxford and obtained his DPhil at Oxford on computer decision support to assess cancer risk in general practice. His research focuses on the role of primary care across the cancer continuum, and primary care trials of complex interventions. He leads a parallel program of cancer research between Melbourne and Cambridge on cancer screening, risk assessment and early diagnosis. He sits on several national advisory committees related to cancer screening and diagnosis, and cancer research.

### Dr. Doris Howell (Plenary Panel)

Doris Howell was trained as a health services researcher and is also focused on clinical intervention research. The goal of Dr. Howell’s research program is to improve the patient’s experience of cancer care through health intervention research focused on better care delivery systems and clinical interventions for complex symptoms (fatigue, breathlessness, pain). Her main focus of intervention research is on understanding how psychological factors such as beliefs influence symptom response and adaptation to illness and how these might be modified through behavioral self-management interventions. Additionally, the efficacy and effectiveness of nurse-led behavioral self-management interventions in reducing symptom distress is a clinical research focus.



Dr. Howell leads standards and guideline development and is a member of the National Distress Management Implementation Team under the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. Dr. Howell has a leadership role in Cancer Care Ontario in Patient-Reported Outcomes.

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**Dr. Jon Kerner  
(Special Session)**

Jon Kerner joined the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer in 2008 and currently serves as Expert Lead, Knowledge Mobilization and Evaluation. He also serves as Chair of the Knowledge Mobilization Steering Committee. His past roles with the Partnership include Senior Scientific

Leader, Population Health and Knowledge Management; Senior Scientific Advisor, Knowledge Translation; and Chair of the Primary Prevention Advisory and Action Groups.

Dr. Kerner obtained a Bachelor of Science from McGill University and his PhD in community psychology from New York University. He received post-doctoral training in cancer epidemiology, biostatistics and clinical trials design from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Prior to joining the Partnership, Dr. Kerner served as the Deputy Director for Research Dissemination and Diffusion of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the U.S. National Cancer Institute. Before that he spent 20 years as a peer-reviewed and funded researcher at two National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centres: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Georgetown University’s Lombardi Cancer Center.

**Dr. Eshwar Kumar  
(Plenary Panel)**

Eshwar Kumar has been Co-CEO of the New Brunswick Cancer Network, a division of the New Brunswick Department of Health, since 2005.



Dr. Kumar was Head of the Department of Oncology, and Medical Director of the Oncology Program at the Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation, Saint John, NB, from June 1994 to March 2009. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Dalhousie University.

A graduate of St Johns Medical College at Bangalore University, India, Dr. Kumar obtained his Fellowship in Radiotherapy and Oncology from the Royal College of Radiologists, London, UK in 1982. He has been practicing as a Radiation Oncologist in Saint John, New Brunswick, since 1984 with a special interest in the management of breast cancer, lymphomas, GU cancer and thyroid cancer.

He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies (CAPCA) as well as the Board of

Directors of Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). He also serves as a surveyor for Accreditation Canada.

Dr. Kumar has been an active volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society for over sixteen years and was the President of the New Brunswick division from 2007 to 2009. He has been on the National Board of the Canadian Cancer Society for the last six years.

**Dr. Robin McLeod  
(Special Session)**



As Vice-President, Clinical Programs and Quality Initiatives at Cancer Care Ontario, Robin McLeod works with clinical leaders across the province to improve the quality and coordination of cancer care. Previously, she served for 7 years as Surgical Lead, Quality and Knowledge Transfer. In that role, Robin led or co-led a number of initiatives including the regionalization of hepatobiliary pancreas and thoracic surgery in Ontario, the development of evidence-based guidelines in cancer surgery, the development of a gynecological oncology organizational guideline, and the development of quality-based procedure funding for cancer surgery.

Robin received a BSc and MD from the University of Alberta. Following this, she completed training in general surgery at the University of Toronto, colorectal surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, and did training in clinical epidemiology at McMaster University before joining the faculty at the University of Toronto in 1985.

**Dr. Michael Sherar (Keynote Plenary)**

Michael Sherar is President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario, a role he was appointed to in 2011. From 2006-2011 he was the Vice-President, Planning and Regional Programs for Cancer Care Ontario, leading the development of Regional Cancer Programs, including capital planning for cancer services across the province.

Dr. Sherar is an Affiliate Scientist at the Techna Institute University Health Network where he carries out research and development of minimally invasive thermal therapy technologies for cancer, including radiofrequency ablation.



Dr. Sherar received a BA in Physics from Oxford University in 1985 and his PhD in Medical Biophysics from University of Toronto in 1989.

Keep an eye on our website at <http://cc-arcc.ca/arcc-conference-2016/> for additional details, including detailed speaker and program information.

## Member Spotlight

We would like to introduce you to ARCC Work Placement student Katerina Pagura, who is a co-op student from the University of Waterloo. Katerina is working at ARCC-ON with Kelvin Chan's team, and has been helping Rebecca with Network recruitment, the 2016 ARCC Conference, and social media.



### Describe your current training

I am currently a second year undergraduate student at the University of Waterloo (UW) working towards my degree in Health Studies. Beyond my studies I have pursued other activities, which have broadened my interests in non-profit organizations, health care, and patient treatment. My past placement

volunteering was at UW-Well Fit where I assisted cancer patients in remission and in treatment exercise. With my interest in the area of health I hope to pursue a career in health policy. During my placement at ARCC and Cancer Care Ontario, I am excited to learn about the multidisciplinary areas within cancer research.

### What are your overall research interests?

I am particularly interested in the health-care system in relation to policy. It interests me to see how policies are put into place and how they function on a systemic level. Overall the main part of policy that appeals to me is the changes that it can make to our health-care system.

### What is your favourite hobby?

In my spare time, I enjoy playing and watching basketball. Hopefully sometime this term I can find a good Raptors game to attend. I also love seeing movies on the big screen so when I am not studying or working usually I am watching some film.

## Recent Publications

Do you have a recent publication you would like us to list here? Please send the details to [ARCC@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:ARCC@cancercare.on.ca)

*Authors names in bold indicate ARCC membership*

**Barbera L**, Seow H, Sutradhar R, Chu A, Burge F, Fassbender K, **McGrail K**, Lawson B, Liu Y, **Pataky R**, Potapov A. Quality of end-of-life cancer care in Canada: a retrospective four-province study using administrative health care data. *Current Oncology*. 2015; 22(5): 341-355.

Fogliano S, Bravi F, Carretta E, Fantini M, **Dobrow M**, **Brown A**. The relationship between integrated care and cancer patient experience: A scoping review of the evidence. *Health Policy*. 2015; 120(1): 55-63.

Ho M, **McBride M**, Gotay C, **Grunfeld E**, Earle C, Relova S, Tsonis M, Ruan J, Chang J, **Cheung W**. A qualitative focus group study to identify the needs of survivors of stage II and III colorectal cancer. *Psycho-Oncology*. 2015:e-pub ahead of print 20 SEP 2015.

Jia J, Barbera L, Sutradhar R. Using Markov Multistate Models to Examine the Progression of Symptom Severity Among an Ambulatory Population of Cancer Patients: Are Certain Symptoms Better Managed Than Others?. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2015; 51(2): 232-239.

Keim-Malpass J, Stegenga K, Loudin B, **Kennedy C**, Kools S. "It's Back! My Remission Is Over": Online Communication of Disease Progression Among Adolescents With Cancer. *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*. 2015; e-pub ahead of print 19 OCT 2015.

Kumachev A., **Trudeau M. E.**, **Chan K. K. W.** Associations among socioeconomic status, patterns of care and outcomes in breast cancer patients in a universal health care system: Ontario's experience. *Cancer*. 2015; e-pub ahead of print 22 DEC 2015.

Rubin G, Berendsen A, Crawford S, Dommett R, **Earle C**, **Emery J**, Fahey T, Grassi L, **Grunfeld E**, Gupta S, Hamilton W, Hiom S, Hunter D, Lyratzopoulos G, Macleod U, Mason R, Mitchell G, Neal R, Peake M, Roland M, Seifert B, Sisler J, **Sussman J**, Taplin S, Vedsted P, Voruganti T, Walter F, Wardle J, Watson E, Weller D, Wender R, Whelan J, Whitlock J, Wilkinson C, de Wit N, Zimmermann C. The expanding role of primary care in cancer control. *The Lancet Oncology*. 2015;16(12):1231-1272.

**Seow H**, **Barbera L**, **Pataky R**, Lawson B, O'Leary E, **Fassbender K**, **McGrail K**, Burge F, **Brouwers M**, **Sutradhar R**. Does Increasing Home Care Nursing Reduce Emergency Department Visits at the End of Life? A Population-Based Cohort Study of Cancer Decedents. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2015; 51(2): 204-212.

Shen A, **Howell D**, Edwards E, Warde P, Matthew A, Jones J. The experience of patients with early-stage testicular cancer during the transition from active treatment to follow-up surveillance. *Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations*. 2015.

**Tan PS**, Lopes G, Acharyya S, Bilger M, Haaland B. Bayesian network meta-comparison of maintenance treatments for stage IIIb/IV non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients with good performance status not progressing after first-line induction chemotherapy: results by performance status, EGFR mutation, histology and response to previous induction. *Eur J Cancer*. 2015; 51:2330-2344.

## Conference Report

In October, ARCC researcher Linda Rozmovits attended Qualitative Health Research Conference (QHRC) in Toronto and reported back to ARCC her experience.

The Qualitative Health Research Conference is hosted annually by the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology (IIQM) at the University of Alberta. The IIQM is an inter-disciplinary hub for qualitative inquiry and, in addition to hosting this annual conference, offers a variety of training and networking opportunities. This year marked the event's 21st anniversary and the conference theme was "Informing Practice, Policy and the Preferred Future of Healthcare."

QHRC 2015 was a three-day event with an additional two days of pre-conference workshops geared to graduate students or others wishing to develop their qualitative knowledge and skills. Keynote addresses at the conference were delivered by Dr. Geoff Wong, on realist meth-

odology and Dr. Carole Estabrooks on modes of discovery and the interweaving of science and action.

The Qualitative Health Research Conference is a large international event attended by researchers from around the world and there was an impressive array of studies presented by colleagues working outside Europe and North America. There were also sessions presenting innovations in qualitative practice including arts-based approaches and digital story telling. Of particular interest to ARCC members were sessions on end-of-life care, patient engagement, and complex cancer experiences such as dealing with cancer in rural settings and parental experience of caring for children with cancer.

The 22nd QHRC will be held in Kelowna, British Columbia, October 17-19, 2016.

## Recent Grants

ARCC is proud to announce that in collaboration with the McMaster Health Forum we have been awarded \$800,000 in funding from CPAC to engage Canadians on their priorities for cancer drug funding decisions. Lead investigators **Dr. Stuart Peacock** (ARCC Co-Director), Julia Abelson (CHEPA/McMaster Health Forum), and **Michael Burgess** (ARCC Investigator) will lead this pan-Canadian initiative with the assistance and extensive collaboration of their research teams. This funding support builds directly on a 2014 public deliberation event held in BC on the topic of decision making for funding for cancer drugs. Dr. Peacock led the BC event as part of a CIHR-PHSI grant.

Six public deliberation events across four provinces are planned for 2016. Anticipated deliverables for this project will include:

- A set of recommendations from each deliberative public engagement event to guide cancer drug funding decisions within the

different provincial jurisdictions (recommendations are generated by participants at each event and will be directly included in the provincial guidance)

- A synthesis of recommendations and guidance from across the provincial jurisdictions, including areas of agreement and persistent disagreement (the synthesis includes results from the provincial events, including the 2014 BC deliberation and a pan-Canadian deliberative event)
- The development of tools and strategies to help support provincial funding decisions on cancer drugs

We are very excited to be involved in this collaboration and are looking forward to the next steps in this research! Special congratulations to Dr. Peacock and Dr. Burgess for their roles in preparing this successful proposal. Information about the deliberative events will be placed on the [CanEngage.ca](http://CanEngage.ca) website.

## Congratulations

Do you know an ARCC Member who deserves to be acknowledged for a recent accomplishment?

Please send the details to [ARCC@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:ARCC@cancercare.on.ca)

- Dr. Lisa Barbera, whose publication "Quality Indicators of End-of-Life Care in Patients with Cancer: What rate is right?" was named one of the Top 10 Canadian Cancer Society funded research stories of 2015
- Dr. Eva Grunfeld, who was recently presented with an Arthur Award from Stuart McLean during the October 11, 2015 edition of CBC's The Vinyl Cafe
- Reka Pataky, ARCC Health Economist and Data Lead, who we join in celebrating the birth of her son Casper James Louman-Gardiner on January 19th, 2016.