

Ontario Cancer News



Cancer Care Ontario Announces First Research Chairs

Cancer Care Ontario announced the 2008 recipients of the Cancer Care Ontario Research Chairs, a program that will further strengthen Ontario's cancer research capacity.

The program, launched in February, is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and aims to attract leading new scientists to Ontario and support outstanding scientists already working in the province. The seven Cancer Care Ontario Research Chairs are:

Cancer Imaging

Dr. Kristy Brock, Princess Margaret Hospital
Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute *

Patterns of Care

Dr. Christopher Booth, Queen's University
Dr. David Hodgson, Princess Margaret Hospital
McMaster University *

Population Studies

Dr. Rayjean Hung, Mount Sinai Hospital
Dr. Scott Leatherdale, Cancer Care Ontario

* Awarded a license to recruit a particular type of scientist into the Research Chair position.

- [Read the news release](#)
- [Read more about the Research Chairs Program and 2008 Recipients](#)



Web-based Report Shows Ontarians Receiving Faster and Safer Cancer Services

The Cancer Quality Council of Ontario, in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario, launched the 2008 Cancer System Quality Index in May. Results of the Index show that key cancer services in Ontario are more accessible, timely and safe, while additional effort is needed to raise screening rates and address the needs of Aboriginals and other underserved communities. Ontarians need to take steps to reduce their risk of cancer including alcohol consumption, sun exposure and smoking.

According to this website on Ontario's cancer system performance, wait times for radiation and cancer surgery continue to decrease, and despite fast rising demand for cancer drugs, chemotherapy wait times remain stable. The quality and safety of cancer services also continue to improve as more cancer drugs are ordered and managed electronically and more services are being delivered according to evidence-based quality standards.

For more information, view the [Cancer System Quality Index highlights](#).

The Index was launched in 2005 by the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario, in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario. Now in its fourth year, the Index presents a rolling snapshot of activity in 32 key indicators that cover the spectrum of cancer services, from prevention through to end-of-life care.

Link to the Cancer System Quality Index via the Cancer Care Ontario website at www.cancercare.on.ca.

AGM Focuses on Primary Care



At Cancer Care Ontario's Annual General Meeting in April, President and CEO Terrence Sullivan reviewed progress over the past year, and discussed the important role of primary care across the cancer journey.

- [View the presentation on CCO's website](#)



Ontario Nurses Given More Opportunities for Cancer Education

The Ontario Government has committed \$15 million over the next five years to the Anna Maria de Souza Knowledge Transfer Centre for Oncology Nursing. Cancer Care Ontario and Princess Margaret Hospital are partners in the Centre, which aims to provide specialized education for new graduates and nurses working in cancer programs to help them meet the complex needs of the growing cancer patient population.

Oncology nurses play a vital role for all cancer patients and their families throughout the cancer continuum of prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and palliation. Currently, nursing graduates do not have the specialized knowledge or clinical experience to manage and care for the increasing cancer population.

The Centre will be located at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) but will be accessible to nurses across the province through e-learning and will also include on-site education programs at PMH and other regional cancer programs across Ontario.

The aim over the next five years is to create a state-of-the-art Centre for educating oncology nurses by:

- Preparing 120-60 nurses to write the Canadian Nurses Association Certificate exam in Ontario within five years
- Having up to 1,000 Ontario nurses participate in oncology nursing continuing education programs
- Training 50-80 new oncology nurse educators in communities across Ontario
- Ensuring five per cent of new Oncology Certified Nurses are enrolled in a Masters program

For more information, [read the news release](#) on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's website.



Regional Update

Pilot project in North East Ontario will spread the word about colorectal cancer prevention and screening in First Nations communities

The North East Regional Cancer Program, Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital and Cancer Care Ontario's Aboriginal Cancer Care Unit (ACCU) are collaborating on a pilot project to take the message of colorectal cancer prevention and screening directly to First Nations communities.

The ACCU has enlisted the assistance of the hospital's new Aboriginal Cancer Prevention and Screening Coordinator, Brian Slegers, to travel to local communities to deliver the Community Learning Series, an education initiative to provide frontline service providers information on colorectal cancer prevention and the province's new screening program, ColonCancerCheck.

Slegers was recently on Manitoulin Island and has visited the Garden River, Nipissing First Nations and several James Bay coast communities. Findings of the pilot implementation will help inform the planned provincial roll-out of the program, expected in the Fall of this year.

For more information, [read the news release](#) on Cancer Care Ontario's website.

People News



Sandra Sinclair has joined Cancer Care Ontario as Director of Operations for the Ontario Cancer Cohort.

Sandra brings outstanding skills to the cohort and CCO, and a strong record of accomplishments that will enable the cohort program to progress through the next critical period of development and operations. Sandra worked for many years at the Institute for Work and Health in Toronto, where as Director of Operations she was recognized for her many significant accomplishments that contributed greatly to the Institute's success.

The Ontario Cancer Cohort is a research project that brings together a large multidisciplinary group of scientists from across the province to improve our understanding of the risk factors that lead to cancer and other chronic diseases. More than 150,000 Ontarians will be asked to take part in the study, which will involve ongoing tests, follow-up and health examinations for as long as 20 years yielding an unprecedented wealth of new information about the health of Ontarians.

Remembering our Past



In 1972, The Ontario Cancer and Research Foundation (Cancer Care Ontario's predecessor) acquired its first computer, the GE 265 Mark I Computer, a gift from the Canadian General Electric Company. This unit was not a laptop or even a desktop but filled an entire room at the GE office on King Street in Toronto. The OCTRf office and the clinics throughout the province were linked to the unit by telecommunication.

The computing capacity of this large Mark I was but a tiny fraction of the capability of our current laptops but it allowed the organization to officially enter the information technology era. Such was the beginning of the sophisticated communication systems we have today.

Now, Cancer Care Ontario is a leader in creating information management systems that improve the safety and experience of cancer patients.

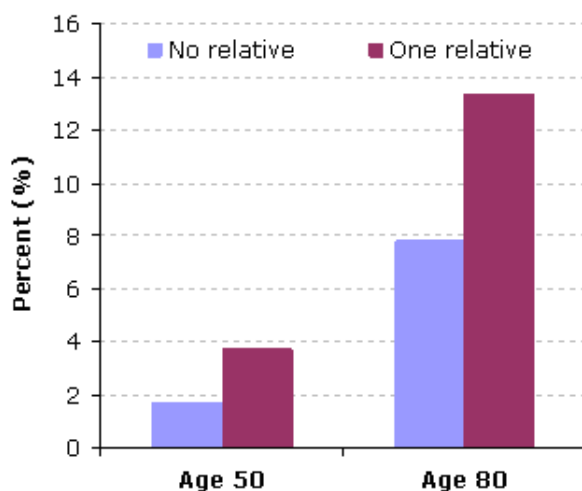
Ontario Cancer Facts



A woman's risk of developing breast cancer is increased if she has a family history of the disease. Family history refers to breast cancer in a first-degree relative (mother, sister(s) or daughter(s)). Nearly 4% of women who are free from breast cancer at age 20 and who have one first-degree relative with breast cancer will develop breast cancer by the age of 50 compared to 2% of those with no such family history. The risk is higher at age 80: 13% of women with a family history will develop breast cancer by 80 years of age compared to 8% of women without a family history. Women with two or more first-degree relatives with breast cancer have a higher risk of developing the disease than women with one first-degree relative.

Most women who develop breast cancer do not have a family history of the disease. About 13% of women who develop breast cancer have one or more first-degree relatives with breast cancer, while only 1% have two or more first-degree relatives with the disease.

Percent of women who will develop breast cancer at age 50 and 80 with and without one first-degree relative with breast cancer



Source: Collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors in Breast Cancer, 2001.

A number of genes have been identified as influencing breast cancer risk; the best known are BRCA1 and BRCA2. Women who test positive for BRCA mutations will not necessarily develop breast cancer: about 65% of women with a mutation in BRCA1 and 45% of those with a mutation in BRCA2 will do so by the age of 70. These mutations are, however, relatively rare (less than 1% of women) and explain only a small proportion of breast cancers. A few other known genes that influence the risk of breast cancer are more common in the general population than the BRCA genes but carry a much lower risk of breast cancer.

Women with a personal or family history of breast cancer can speak to their oncologist or family physician about a referral to an Ontario regional genetics or familial cancer genetics clinic. At the clinic, they will receive advice about breast cancer screening and the availability and implications of genetic testing.

For more information, talk to your health care provider or call the Cancer Information Service (1 888 939-3333).

References:

- Collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors in Breast Cancer. Familial breast cancer: collaborative reanalysis of individual data from 52 epidemiological studies including 58,209 women with breast cancer and 101,986 women without the disease. *Lancet*. 2001;358(9291):1389-99.
- Antoniou A, Pharoah PD, Narod S, Risch HA, Eyfjord JE, Hopper JL, et al. Average risks of breast and ovarian cancer associated with BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations detected in case series unselected for family history: a combined analysis of 22 studies. *Am J Hum Genet*. 2003;72(5):1117-30.

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If you have questions about this Cancer Fact, contact cancerfacts@cancercare.on.ca. If you have questions about Ontario cancer statistics, please see <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/english/toolbox/systeminfo/requestccodata/>.



Cancer 2020 e-Scoop

Cancer 2020 e-Scoop is a monthly bulletin from Cancer Care Ontario's Division of Preventive Oncology, consisting of regional and provincial news, initiatives, events and resources relevant to those working in cancer prevention and screening.

- [Read the May issue of Cancer 2020 e-Scoop](#)
- [Read the June issue of Cancer 2020 e-Scoop](#)



Upcoming Events

UICC World Cancer Congress, August 27-31, 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

This biennial international event will focus on public health, prevention, cancer and tobacco control, palliative care and patient advocacy as they apply to high and resource-constrained countries alike. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.worldcancercongress.org/uicc-congress08.html>.

17th International Congress on Palliative Care, September 23-26, 2008, Palais des Congrès, Montréal

This biennial international congress is presented by the Palliative Care Division of the Departments of Medicine and Oncology of McGill University. Poster abstracts may be submitted until May 28, 2008. For more information, to register or to submit an abstract, please visit <http://www.pal2008.com/> or call 450-292-3456 ext. 227.

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