

Ontario Cancer News

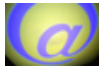


Cancer Care Ontario celebrates 65 years

This year marks the 65th Anniversary of Cancer Care Ontario, formerly known as The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation (OCTRF). The OCTRF was created in 1943 by an Act of the Ontario Legislature to establish and conduct a program of research diagnosis and treatment in cancer.

From this modest but ambitious beginning, the OCTRF has grown into the Cancer Care Ontario we know today - a vital provincial agency responsible for directing and overseeing close to \$700 million public healthcare dollars.

Cancer Care Ontario will be launching an interactive timeline to highlight key events and milestones of our 65 year history. Keep an eye on CCO's website.



CCO Launches 2008-2011 Information Strategy

Cancer Care Ontario's 2008-2011 Information Strategy sets out the five priorities that will guide CCO's Information Management, Information Technology and eHealth initiatives over the next three years. These priorities support CCO's mission and help drive the goals in the 2008-2011 Ontario Cancer Plan. The launch of the Information Strategy coincides with the recent announcement of the new provincial e-Health agency.

Cancer Care Ontario's IM, IT and eHealth initiatives support cancer service planning and delivery, local system integration, research, performance measurement and management, and quality improvement across the cancer system.

View the [2008-2011 Cancer Care Ontario Information Strategy](#) online.



CCO Launches the new Primary Care and Cancer Strategy

Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) launched a Primary Care and Cancer Strategy to strengthen the connection between family medicine and the cancer system. Family physicians and nurses play a critical role in cancer screening and throughout the cancer journey. They greatly influence patient screening behaviours and help to make sure that the cancer system meets local patient care needs.

CCO has appointed a provincial lead for primary care and a regional lead in each Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). Together they will form a Provincial Primary Care Network and act as local contacts for primary care providers and regional cancer centres in Ontario.

The members include:

- Dr. Cheryl Levitt, Provincial Clinical Lead, Primary Care, CCO
- Dr. John Day, Erie St. Clair LHIN;
- Dr. Sophie Wilson, Waterloo Wellington LHIN;
- Dr. Michael Mills, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN;
- Dr. Sandy Buchman, Toronto Central LHIN;
- Dr. Marla Ash, Central LHIN;
- Dr. Sheila-Mae Young, Central East LHIN;
- Dr. Hugh Langley, South East LHIN;
- Dr. Lee Donohue, Champlain LHIN;
- Dr. Leslie Hutchings, North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN;
- Dr. Amanda Hey, North East LHIN; and
- Dr. Heather McLean, North West LHIN.

Click here to read the [news release](#)



October is Breast Cancer Awareness month

Screening saves lives. Many studies have shown that regular mammograms for women aged 50-69 reduce deaths from breast cancer by up to a third. Close to 63 per cent of Ontario women are being screened for mammograms every two years but we need to do better. Dr. Verna Mai, Director of Screening, discusses some common reasons why women don't get screened and explains why they should.

Read the Ontario Breast Screening Program [news release](#).



People News

After four years of leading and building the CIO Portfolio at Cancer Care Ontario, **Sarah Kramer**, Vice President and Chief Information Officer will be leaving Cancer Care Ontario to take on the role of President and Chief Executive Officer at eHealth Ontario, effective Monday, November 3.

As Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Sarah led the development and implementation of the information infrastructure to support Ontario's Wait Time Strategy, including the establishment of the province-wide e-health application – the Wait Times Information System (WTIS) – and the Provincial Client Registry. Her leadership success in reducing wait times in Ontario resulted in Cancer Care Ontario gleaning national recognition and being awarded the Gold Award for Innovative Management from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) and the prestigious Diamond Award at the Canadian Information Productivity Awards (CIPA).

Sarah has been playing an active advisory role with the development of the new provincial eHealth agency and her achievements and contributions to Cancer Care Ontario have led to her being appointed to this new role. eHealth Ontario will play a critical role in achieving the government's overall health strategy of building a safer and sustainable healthcare system to improve patient care.

During this transition period, **Denise Zarn** will take on the role of Acting CIO until a replacement is found. Before joining Cancer Care Ontario, Denise was a partner at Accenture. In this capacity, she helped CCO define and build its 2008-2011 Information Strategy. Through this work, Denise became very familiar with the organization, the CIO portfolio, and many of the individuals within it. Denise has an extensive background in information technology and business intelligence in several sectors. Most significantly, Denise has worked in health care and has advised Cancer Care Ontario on its IM and IT initiatives over the past few years.

A nation-wide search has been initiated to recruit a new Vice President and Chief Information Officer.

Brenda Mitchell will be joining Cancer Care Ontario as Director, Prevention and Screening Operations, effective December 1st. This position is responsible at a provincial level for the operational implementation and management of the prevention and screening programs, including the Ontario Breast Screening Program and the ColonCancerCheck program. This unit will also address the operational engagement with Regional and other service delivery partners for the delivery of these programs.

Brenda brings to the position broad policy and operations experience from having worked in many parts of the health system. Her academic preparation includes a Bachelor of Arts, and Masters of Business Administration as well as graduate course work in epidemiology, biostatistics and health policy. Her health sector employment experience began with a Winnipeg teaching hospital, and since then she has held several positions with increasing responsibility within several different ministries of the Ontario government and in the broader public sector. Brenda has a background of providing leadership for new and innovative program development, including Ontario's tobacco reduction strategy.

Brenda joins us from the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care where she was the first Director of Environmental Health, and was responsible for bringing a human health perspective to policy and programs addressing environmental exposures and health hazards.

Remembering our Past



Gordon Richards – our first leader

The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation/Cancer Care Ontario has had outstanding leadership since its inception in the mid-1940s. The first of these was Dr. Gordon E. Richards, who served as Managing Director (CEO in present day terms) until his death in 1949.

Concurrently, Richards was head of the Ontario Radiotherapy Institute (Princess Margaret Hospital), in the Toronto General Hospital. Richards was not the first to use X-rays and radium in Canada to treat cancer, but he was the first to develop a sound academic and organizational base for the specialty. He trained individuals who became outstanding leaders and investigators in oncology.

To honour Dr. Richards, CCO funds an annual Gordon Richards Memorial Lectureship. The event takes place in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncologists.



Cancer 2020 eScoop

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 October issue of Cancer 2020 eScoop](#)



Upcoming Events

OHA Health Achieve - Inspiring Ideas and Innovation 2008

- **Date:** November 3-5, 2008
- **Location:** Toronto, Ontario

Join Cancer Care Ontario at the Ontario Hospital Association's annual conference and exhibition. CCO will be hosting a session on November 4th from 2 - 5 p.m. entitled Reorganization of Cancer Services: how Ontario hospitals are organizing and innovating to deliver better cancer care. [Click here to view CCO's session agenda.](#)

For more information, or to register go to the [OHA website](#).

Toronto Myelodysplastic Syndromes Symposium 2009

- **Date:** May 21 – 22, 2009
- **Location:** The Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto ON

For more information on the program and registration visit the [event website](#).

Contact Us

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