

Ontario Cancer News



65 years of innovation, evolution and collaboration

This year marked Cancer Care Ontario's 65th anniversary. While improving the cancer system in Ontario is an ongoing evolution, CCO is proud of all we've accomplished to-date and we invite you to explore our interactive timeline, which charts milestones over the past 65 years.

[View the interactive timeline](#) on Cancer Care Ontario's website.



Visionaries and pioneers

To celebrate CCO's 65 years of success and innovation in cancer control, we are recognizing those exceptional men and women whose work have, in one way or another, influenced the course of cancer care and research in the province and, in some cases the world.

To honour the innovative spirit of these exceptional individuals, we shine a spotlight on six trailblazers who, along with many other leaders, have made tremendous contributions in our epic struggle against cancer, and to improve the delivery of cancer care for Ontarians:

Henry John Cody (1868–1951): Henry John Cody had very little experience in health care. Yet his influence on cancer care in Ontario is still being felt nearly 60 years after his death. In fact, it was one of the recommendations from the Cody Commission that led to the creation of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, now known as Cancer Care Ontario.

Dr. Gordon E. Richards (1885–1949): The first managing director of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Treatment Foundation – which later became Cancer Care Ontario – Dr. Gordon E. Richards played a pivotal role in recognizing, developing and organizing radiation therapy in Canada.

Dr. William Boyd (1885–1979): Dr. William Boyd is well remembered for his virtuoso teaching, his writings, and his oratory. What is often forgotten, however, is his significant role in creating the National Cancer Institute of Canada. A great debt is owed to William Boyd, the man with the silver tongue, the golden pen, and a brilliant vision for cancer research and control.

Dr. Alfred Hardisty Sellers (1907–1988): Over the four decades of his exemplary career, Dr. Alfred Hardisty Sellers pioneered the establishment of systems for collecting and recording data about patients with cancer in Ontario. He was someone who understood before many in the field of cancer control that you can't fix what you can't measure

Dr. Vera Peters (1911–1993): Curious and dogged, Mildred Vera Peters changed the management of Hodgkin's disease and breast cancer. She is remembered by the international medical and scientific community for her seminal contributions to the medical science, and her unique, patient-centred philosophy.

Harold Elford Johns (1915–1998): Harold Elford Johns was the most influential medical physicist in Canadian history. His groundbreaking innovative thinking led to the development of the "cobalt bomb," a nuclear radiation device that revolutionized the treatment of cancer located deep in the body, where previous radiation therapies had been proven ineffective.

[Read more about these six visionaries and pioneers](#) on Cancer Care Ontario's website.

2008 Colorectal Cancer Symposium



Cancer Care Ontario hosted its first Disease Pathway Management symposium on December 5, focusing on colorectal cancer, the first disease site to be addressed by the Disease Pathway Management Initiative.

The Colorectal Cancer Symposium provided an opportunity for Ontario's colorectal cancer stakeholders to meet, exchange knowledge and discuss the patient journey from prevention to recovery. The symposium's interactive sessions allowed attendees to provide feedback on the priorities for action identified by Cancer Care Ontario's Colorectal Cancer Team, which are intended to guide improvements in quality, processes and patient experience.

Disease Pathway Management aims to develop a disease-focused analytic framework to measure, evaluate, and improve the performance and quality of care for specific cancers every step of the way.



2008 Quality and Innovation Awards

Health system front line providers were recognized for their contributions towards improving cancer care at the third annual Quality and Innovation Awards, presented at CCO's Cancer Leadership Forum, which brings together health system leaders who work towards improving Ontario's cancer system.

Innovation Awards reward creative health leaders who improve cancer care performance in Ontario. Quality Awards aim to recognize, encourage and reward the development of quality improvements and projects designed to improve the performance of the cancer system in Ontario.

The awards are sponsored by the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario, the Ontario division of the Canadian Cancer Society, and Cancer Care Ontario.

[Read about the award recipients](#) on CCO's website.



Atlas provides a snapshot of surgical practice in Ontario

The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), recently released the *Cancer Surgery Atlas*, which provides baseline information about the cancer surgery landscape in Ontario.

The Atlas looks at data from 2003-2004 and focuses on breast, prostate, lung, colon, and female genital tract cancers.

[Read the ICES Cancer Surgery Atlas](#) online.



Cancer Drug Benefits Navigator helps patients figure out drug coverage options

One of the challenges a newly diagnosed cancer patient faces is trying to understand which drugs are covered by the government, special drug programs, or private insurance. Fortunately, there are tools available to help patients so they are able to focus on the care and treatment they need.

Cancer Drug Benefits Navigator



Re-launched this fall, Cancer Care Ontario's Cancer Drug Benefits Navigator (CDBN), is a free service dedicated towards helping Ontarians, affected by cancer, navigate the drug coverage system to maximize their drug coverage.

CDBN is:

- Staffed by registered nurses who provide personalized, confidential support.
- Available to anyone with questions about coverage on all cancer and cancer related drugs.

- Able to help callers by coordinating private insurance claims, completing government forms, and accessing special publicly-funded programs.
- Available in 170 languages.

Patients, caregivers or family members can contact the CDBN, Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm by calling toll-free 1-877-681-6551.

Brochures and pamphlets about the program were distributed to Ontario's hospital pharmacies in November.

To learn more about this program, [visit Cancer Care Ontario's website](#).



Cancer Care Ontario and Xwave receive prestigious technology award

Cancer Care Ontario and Xwave received the prestigious Canadian Healthcare Information Technology Trade Association (CHITTA) Award for Project Implementation Team of the Year for their innovation and successful development and implementation of the Wait Time Information System.

Cancer Care Ontario and Xwave were also recognized for their collaborative effort from the public and private sector in delivering a health-IT solution on time and within budget.

CHITTA is the leading voice for the health informatics industry in Canada and the awards showcase excellence in leadership, innovation and performance.

In the news...



Researchers from Ottawa and Toronto played a key role in an international team that identified four new genes for colorectal cancer.

The discovery, published online in *Nature Genetics* on November 16, examined 38,710 genetic markers in 13,315 individuals from four countries. A total of 10 genes have now been linked to colorectal cancer, and together these genes could predict up to a six fold increase in the lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer.

[Read the news release](#) on Cancer Care Ontario's website.



Research update

By Dr. Joe Pater

2009 CCO Research Chairs Competition

CCO will fund another cohort of research chairs in 2009. Applications from all four research theme areas (cancer imaging, health services, population studies and experimental therapeutics) will be considered in this competition.

Program details and application forms are available on the [Cancer Care Ontario website](#).

Experimental Therapeutics

During the past six months, I have been consulting with investigators and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OIRC) to determine what the future focus of the Experimental Therapeutics theme should be. This process has recently been facilitated by the appointment of Dr. Janet Dancey as Director of High Impact Clinical Trials at OICR.

With Dr. Dancey's appointment, we have decided that the focus of this Cancer Care Ontario theme should be on the early clinical investigation of therapeutic agents, biomarkers or imaging techniques in settings where the utility of one or more can be accurately evaluated. Dr. Dancey will be the lead for the Cancer Care Ontario research network in this area and will participate in the selection process for Cancer Care Ontario chairs according to focus and content types.

Research Infrastructure

Cancer Care Ontario has made a commitment to develop a new program for supporting research infrastructure. Sufficient funds are now available to begin this undertaking. In 2009, support will be directed toward the programs of the successful 2008 research chairs. Funding details will be available shortly. The nature and scope of the infrastructure program after 2009

will be determined by the outcome of the provincial program review (see below).

Research Networks

Research Networks are an important component of Cancer Care Ontario's overall strategy. Currently, three networks (population health, health services, and experimental therapeutics) are under development or re-development, and will be announced soon. The cancer imaging network will be holding another project competition this year. Program details and application forms are posted on [Cancer Care Ontario's website](#).

Review of Provincial Programs

Cancer Care Ontario has supported six provincial research programs for some time. The CCO Board has approved the recommendation that these programs be reviewed by international experts with a view to assessing both their scientific quality and their contribution to meeting Cancer Care Ontario's research goals within the theme areas. This review will take place within 12 months, and its results will substantially influence how the organization supports both of these programs and provides future infrastructure funding.

For more information, please contact Connie Marano at: connie.marano@cancercare.on.ca.



Regional update

The Grand River Regional Cancer Centre celebrated its fifth anniversary this October. The anniversary celebration also included the official opening of the new high dose rate brachytherapy service at Grand River Hospital, a further enhancement to the specialized services provided at the cancer centre.

[Read the news release](#) on the Grand River Hospital website.



Ontario Cancer Fact

The most common types of cancer vary by age. More than half of cancers diagnosed in adults aged 30 and older occur in the prostate, breast, lung and colon/rectum. In adolescents and young adults, the most common cancers are very different: lymphomas, thyroid cancer, testis cancer and melanoma of the skin. Common childhood cancers also vary; more than 60% are leukemias, brain cancers or lymphomas.

Common cancers in adolescence and young adulthood represent a transition between those found in children and older adults. Some, like thyroid cancer, are like adult types in that they begin in cells that line organs. Some, such as lymphomas and germ cell cancer of the testis, are more like childhood cancer types, arising in developing cells.

[Read November's Ontario Cancer Fact](#) on Cancer Care Ontario's website.

[Subscribe to Ontario Cancer Facts](#) online.



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 November issue of Cancer 2020 eScoop](#)

People news



Ken Sutcliffe will join Cancer Care Ontario on January 6 as Director of Information Technology (IT) Operations. Ken will be responsible for overseeing Application Development Services, IT Project Support, IT Operations, Networking and the Service Desk departments. In addition, Ken will provide information system management to Cancer Care Ontario and key partner organizations on specific information management and IT initiatives.

Ken brings to the position over 30 years of experience in health care. Ken has had an accomplished career as Director of IT Services at the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres (OACCAC). He has a BHSc in Nursing and a Certificate in Business Information Systems from the University of Victoria, and holds a variety of process and technology certifications.

Upcoming events

National Non-Smoking Week (NNSW) 2009



- Date: January 18 – 24

For more information, visit the website at: <http://www.nnsw.ca/index.html>

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 at: <http://events.cmetoronto.ca/website/index/MED0922>.

Contact Us

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