

Ontario Cancer News



Minister Best Is One In A Million: The Ontario Breast Screening Program Celebrates its 1 Millionth Woman Screened

In April, Health Promotion Minister, the Honourable Margaret Best joined the Ontario Breast Screening Program to celebrate an important milestone for cancer screening as she became the 1 millionth woman screened by the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP).

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Ontario women. In 2009, it is projected that 8,700 Ontario women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 2,100 will die from the disease. In Ontario, it is recommended that women aged 50 and older have a screening mammogram, generally every two years.

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



Cancer System Honours Excellence in Patient Care at Cancer Care Ontario's Third Annual Human Touch Awards

This past April the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Honourable David Caplan joined Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) at the third annual Human Touch Awards to honour front-line healthcare professionals and providers who have demonstrated exemplary and compassionate care.

This year's Human Touch Awards honoured the following recipients:

- **Allison-Love Danner**, a receptionist and booking clerk at the Radiation Therapy Department at the Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton;
- **Dr. Nicole Laferriere**, a Medical Oncologist in Haematology at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre;
- **Kimberley Hill**, a clinical research assistant at Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre;
- **Dr. Richard Irvin**, a lead palliative physician at Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program and Chair of the Honorary Board at the Residential Hospice Simcoe;
- **Susan Bailey**, a palliative care nurse at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

To read more about the winners and the Human Touch Awards, please [visit CCO's website](#).



2009 Quality Index Reports on Ontario's Cancer System

The Cancer System Quality Index (CSQI) released its 2009 report on Ontario's cancer system. The CSQI found that, despite improvements to the cancer system including lower smoking rates and better screening and care for colorectal cancer patients, the increasing burden of cancer is beginning to strain parts of the cancer system.

[Read the press release on CCO's website.](#)

Web 2.0 Pilot Community on Process Improvement in the Ontario Cancer System



Dr. Sheldon Fine, Regional Vice President, Cancer Care Ontario asks:

“Are our emergency physicians too slow in processing patients (think of Lucy and the chocolate factory—if you’re old enough)? Are our in-patient stays too long? Are inappropriate patients being admitted? Is the hospital too small for the community it serves? Are there other possibilities?”

And Michael Carter, Director, Centre for Research in Healthcare Engineering says:

“Let’s begin our hunt for waste at the beginning and talk about waste from over-capacity and over-staffing.... I know what you’re thinking. There is no over-capacity or over-staffing in my department. We’re run off our feet. At first glance, it probably appears that way ...”

The Web 2.0 Pilot Community is an online community dedicated to process improvement in the Ontario Cancer System.

[Click here](#) to join the community and discussion online.



Two of Cancer Care Ontario’s Staff Recognized for their Contribution to Palliative Medicine and Psychosocial Oncology

Deb Dudgeon was the recipient of the 2009 Eduardo Bruera Award in Palliative Medicine that was presented at the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP) Annual Meeting in Sun Peaks, Kamloops, BC this past February.

Deb was chosen by her peers, the members of the CSPCP, in recognition of her contribution to palliative medicine. In particular, she was cited for her leadership as an educator, administrator and collaborator.

This annual award is given to a physician who demonstrates excellence in the field of palliative medicine as recognized by his or her peers. It honours the achievements of Dr. Eduardo Bruera, an internationally recognized palliative care physician and researcher.

Esther Green was the recipient of the 2009 Award of Excellence from the Canadian Society of Psychosocial Oncology (CAPO), presented at the CAPO annual meeting in Vancouver, BC on April 3, 2009.

Every year the association honours a CAPO member who has made an outstanding contribution to psychosocial oncology in Canada. Esther was recognized by her peers for her outstanding achievements in the advancement of psychosocial oncology.

CAPO is committed to fostering and encouraging interdisciplinary excellence in psychosocial research, education and clinical practice in oncology.



Regional Update

New e-record system used across Northwestern Ontario will set the standard for other LHINs

This past April the North West LHIN became the first cancer program in Ontario to implement OPIS 2005, a new electronic system for ordering and electronically documenting chemotherapy administration.

This Computerized Physician Order Entry system (CPOE), allows physicians, nurses and pharmacists in Thunder Bay and at regional hub sites to share standardized treatment information safely and efficiently in real-time.

[Read the press release online.](#)

The Juravinski Cancer Centre opens the Canadian Centre of Excellence in Oncology Advanced Practice Nursing (OAPN)

The Juravinski Cancer Centre (JCC) at Hamilton Health Sciences, opened the Canadian Centre of Excellence in Oncology Advanced Practice Nursing, Canada’s first research unit dedicated to improving the use of advanced practice nurses (APN) in cancer care.

The Centre’s research will focus on developing new models of patient care and delineating the APN role in cancer care.

The Centre will be led by Denise Bryant-Lukosius, an APN and assistant professor in the School of Nursing at McMaster University who is cross appointed to the Juravinski Cancer Centre.

[Read the press release online.](#)



The Canadian Centre of Excellence at the JCC is OAPN – providing leadership and innovation in oncology advanced practice nursing

Cutting the ceremonial ribbon from L-R is: Esther Green, Provincial Head, Nursing and Psychosocial Oncology, Cancer Care Ontario, Nancy Fram, Vice President, Professional Affairs and Chief Nurse Executive, Hamilton Health Sciences, Jennifer Wiernikowski, Chief of Nursing Practice, Juravinski Cancer Program, Dr. Denise Bryant-Lukosius, Director OAPN, Dr. Bill Evans, President, Juravinski Cancer Centre, Dr. Catherine Tompkins, Association Dean, Nursing McMaster University, Leslie Patry, Manager, Certification Program, Canadian Nurses Association, Dr. Daniel Billen, Vice President and General Manager, Amgen Canada Inc., Anne Snider, Director of Education, Research and Quality Improvement, JCC.

Research Update



With new funding from the Canadian Cancer Society, **Dr. Michelle Cotterchio** will be studying the link between the intake of foods containing phytoestrogens and the reduction in the risk of breast cancer.

Phytoestrogens are naturally occurring compounds found in foods such as soy, flaxseed, fruits and vegetables. The research will be hosted at Cancer Care Ontario.

[Read the news release on the Canadian Cancer Society's website.](#)

Ontario Cancer Facts



Cancer survival varies with age and has improved over time (April 2009)

Cancer survival varies considerably by age group, but has improved significantly since the early 1980s across all age groups, with the largest gains occurring in those aged 50–64.

Differences in cancer survival by age are largely due to the different types of cancers occurring by age group. The probability of surviving cancer five years beyond diagnosis, taking into account the expected survival among the general population, is highest among adolescent and young adults (15–29 years), followed by children and middle-aged adults, with older adults having the worst five-year survival.

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

New cases of colorectal cancer increasing in Ontario (March 2009)

The number of new colorectal cancer cases diagnosed in Ontario has increased by 117% over the past three decades. The estimated number of cases for 2009 is 8,555.

The rise in numbers results mainly from the increase in and aging of Ontario's population. Because older people are more likely to develop cancer, a larger population with a larger proportion of older people will have more cancers.

Ontarians' risk of colorectal cancer has not, however, increased. Incidence rates have been stable for both males and females since the mid to late 1990s, following earlier decreases. Risk is increased among people with a history of colorectal cancer in a close relative or with inflammatory bowel disease, and appears to be increased in people who are physically inactive, obese, long-term smokers, or have an unhealthy diet or more than two alcoholic drinks a day.

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

[Subscribe to Ontario Cancer Facts.](#)



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 May issue of Cancer 2020 eScoop.](#)



People News

Rick Skinner joined Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) as the new Chief Information Officer (CIO) on May 19. Skinner is a healthcare information technology (IT) executive with over 25 years experience in healthcare information systems.

Previous to his arrival at CCO, Rick was employed as a Director at Navigant Consulting, a global professional services firm specializing in healthcare and litigation support. Here he was responsible for the healthcare IT practice. Rick was also employed as Vice President for First Consulting Group, a healthcare IT-focused firm.

As well, Rick was a U.S. army officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, after leading the army's healthcare IT initiatives as a program manager and various army CIO roles. He is an author and frequent speaker on healthcare information technology and a leader in national organizations including the College for Healthcare Information Management Executives and the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology.

Rick received several awards including the John Gall Award for Healthcare CIO of the Year at the 2002 Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Conference. He has been instrumental in leading international initiatives in organizational change. His leadership experience will clearly benefit CCO.

Lisa Sarsfield joined Cancer Care Ontario on May 4 as the Director, Access to Care. In this newly created role, Lisa will be responsible for the successful leadership of the Access to Care Program, including strategy development and coordination for key stakeholder planning and engagement, budget delivery and implementation.

Lisa comes to CCO with significant experience in Ontario's healthcare sector and most recently was the Vice President, Adoption and Integration at the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN). During her six years at OTN (formerly NORTH Network) Lisa was involved in the strategic planning that resulted in the merger of three telemedicine networks into one provincial network in 2006, as well as leading the organizational and HR integration.

Lisa also gained extensive experience through her work at various hospitals in the Toronto area, including: Director of Professional Practice at Markham Stouffville Hospital; Director of Quality, Risk and Professional Practice at St. Joseph's Health Centre; and, Director of the STAR (Strategic Transformation and Redesign) Project at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Lisa holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in clinical social work. Through her various leadership positions within the healthcare sector, Lisa has established strong relationships and partnerships with hospitals, Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and healthcare providers across the province.

Kash Ahuja joined Cancer Care Ontario as Manager, IT Operational Services on May 19. In this role, Kash will provide leadership and direction to the IT Operational Services staff providing IT operational services for CCO's staff, external customers and partners.

Kash has over 10 years experience in providing IT operational services in the insurance, healthcare and financial sectors. Most recently, he has been leading an enterprise unified communications deployment at Wells Fargo in the U.S., providing technical strength and leadership in architecture and design, operational process development and improvisation, and communications and training.

Kash holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a Masters of Engineering in Computer Networks. In addition to these accreditations, Kash holds several industry certifications.



Upcoming Events

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](#).

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