# CANO

A community for medical oncologists in Canada

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#### Canadian Association of Medical Oncologists

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#### **President's Message**

As the summer approaches and we reflect upon our first post-COVID in-person CAMO Annual Meeting, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead.

CAMO's mission is to create a community for medical oncologists in Canada and that mission resonated strongly with this year's ASM. A recap of the ASM is included in this newsletter and my congratulations to our 2023 co-chairs, Drs. Stephanie Snow (NS) and Zachary Veitch (ON), our faculty - including Dr. Paul Wheatley-Price (ON) who delivered our keynote address on our role as advocates for cancer care – and all our presenters for their hard work and expert contributions to the success of this meeting. The enthusiasm and desire to connect amongst the over 160 participants were clearly evident!

In addition to recognizing this year's CAMO Fellowship recipient, Dr. Kevin Wang (Toronto), Fellowship Committee Chair Dr. David Dawe (MB) announced a special partnership with the K. Jill Rigby Foundation for multi-year support towards a CAMO Fellowship for rare-histology breast cancers. This opportunity was made possible through Dr. Christine Simmons' (BC) advocacy and Jill Rigby's generosity to support the advancement of our Canadian trainees and future research leaders.

Congratulations also to the nominees and recipients of this year's CAMO Achievement Awards -recognizing our peers for excellence in early career research (Dr. Aly-Khan Lalani, ON), distinguished service (Dr. Philip Champion, PEI) and volunteerism (Dr. Ghazaleh Kazemi, ON). A special thank you to Dr. Peter Venner (AB) for sharing lessons learned over his distinguished career at this year's Pioneer Lecture presentation at our gala dinner.

This year CAMO also held its first career fair led by Drs. Desiree Hao (AB), Victoria Mandilaras (QC) and Renee Lester (NL) which was very well-received, and the national mentorship program led by Drs. Andrea Fung (ON), Mac Thiessen (MB) and Desiree Hao (AB) continues into its second year. The Communications Committee led by Dr. Erin Powell (NL) has helped to launch PGYpal, a collaboration with Doctalk, to help our trainees network and prepare for the Royal College MedOnc exams. A huge thank you to our Committee members who generously volunteer their time to advance CAMO's mission.

On behalf of your CAMO Executive, I welcome your feedback on how CAMO can best support and serve our membership.



Sharlene Gill (BC), CAMO President

## **Annual Scientific Meeting Success**

For the first time since 2019, CAMO hosted its Annual Scientific Meeting in-person at the MaRS Centre in Toronto, ON. With registration of > 160 participants - it was great to reconnect and network with colleagues from all over Canada. The full day meeting was a huge success, starting with a breakfast symposium hosted by BMS on The Consult. Integrating recent immune-oncology evidence into a multidisciplinary approach to managing early-stage cancers. The top 12 abstracts were then showcased by resident and fellows followed by the poster viewing and judging. Congratulations to all presenters for their hard work and their research supervisors for their guidance! The CAMO keynote, Dr. Paul Wheatley-Price, delivered a talk on Physicians as Advocates: What can the Medical Oncologist Community do to Advance Timely and Equitable Cancer Care Access in Canada? The afternoon theme focused on Emerging Novel Systemic Therapies - Who is in Charge? Dr. Adrian Sacher talked about Emerging Adoptive Cell Therapy Strategies in Solid Tumors, Dr. Maryam Soleimani presented Bispecifics/BiTE: What a Medical Oncologist Needs to Know and Dr. Jean-Mathieu Beauregard presented a talk on Theranostics: Lu-177 PRRT & PSMA-RLT. The day finished with a panel discussion and included Drs. Mita Manna, Robyn Macfarlane, Adrian Sacher, Maryam Soleimani & Jean-Mathieu Beauregard.





**2023 Co-Chair** Dr. Stephanie Snow | Halifax, NS Dr. Zachary Veitch | Barrie, ON









CONGRATULATIONS to the best oral & poster abstract presentation



From top left to bottom right: Drs. Nupur Krishnan (best poster), Claire owne (best poster, Drs. Lauren Jones (1st ace oral), Emily Jackson (2nd place oral) Special thanks to our judges: ors. Ravi Ramjeesingh (NS), Erica Tsang (ON), Jacques Raphael (ON), Richard Lee-ging (AB)

## **Mentorship Update**

The second year of the CAMO national virtual mentorship program was another great opportunity for medical oncology residents/fellows to interact with mentors from across Canada. It was wonderful to see so many new and familiar faces during our group events.

Based on previous feedback we received, we piloted a new initiative this year where each mentee was paired with a CAMO mentor for 1-on-1 mentoring. We have heard some positive comments thus far, with many mentees and mentors having connected multiple times over the academic year. Please keep an eye out for the year end survey – we look forward to reviewing your feedback to determine whether this initiative is felt to be beneficial for oncology trainees and mentors.

For information on how to join the mentorship program, please visit the <u>CAMO website</u>. If you have any questions about 1-on-1 mentoring, contact us at <u>info@camo-acom.ca</u>. You can also reach out to our enthusiastic group of mentors anytime – a list of mentors and contact information can be found on the CAMO mentorship member portal.

Watch your email for the year-end survey of Year 2 of the mentorship program!

Thank you to all who have participated in the mentorship program thus far. We look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Mentorship Program Co-Leads: Drs. Desiree Hao (AB), Andrea Fung (ON), Mac Thiessen (MB)

## **Inaugural Career Fair**

CAMO held its first Career Fair on April 21, 2023, co-hosted by Drs. Victoria Mandilaras (QC), Renee Lester (NL) and Desiree Hao (AB). There was HUGE interest in the event with participation from over 7 regions/centres, *we even had a wait list*! Over 40 participants registered and were able to get tips from recent grads, hear a presentation on Interview the Interviewer and ask guestions to regions/centres.

Stay tuned for event number 2!



# **CAMO Achievement Awards**

Congratulations to the Recipients of the CAMO 2023 Achievement Awards

Rising Star

Distinguished Service

Volunteer of the Year



Dr. Aly-Khan Lalani Hamilton, ON



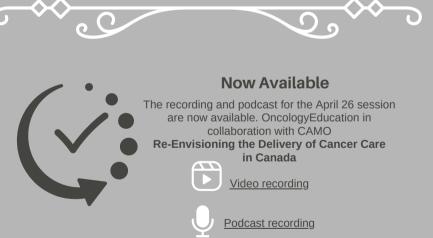
Dr. Philip Champion Charlottetown, PEI

Dr. Ghazaleh Kazemi CPD Committee Chair Hamilton, ON



**Rising Star** Dr. Katarzyna Jerzak | Toronto, ON

Distinguished Service Dr. Charles Butts | Edmonton, AB Dr. Scott Ernst | London, ON Dr. Natasha Leigh | Toronto, ON Dr. Scott North | Edmonton, AB



#### **Community Oncology Bursaries**

The fellowship committee has been working hard at creating a competition for a **Community Oncology Bursary** for a rotation at a non-academic site.

The goals of the *Community Oncology Bursary* are to help increase the knowledge and interest in a community practice and to provide exposure that trainees wouldn't normally get. The hope is to improve the understanding of what community oncology looks like and the benefits.

For more information visit the <u>CAMO website</u>!

# TIME TO TALK

Encouraging serious illness conversations.

Navigating serious or progressive chronic illness is stressful for patients and their loved ones. For clinicians and patients, this is a crucial time to talk.

While many with serious illnesses want to avoid tests and treatments that may cause harm, particularly at the end of life, many end up receiving them because their wishes are not known. Earlier and better conversations about values, goals, and wishes ensure patients receive the care they want, feel less distress, and avoid treatments that are potentially harmful.

Taking the time to talk can help to avoid potentially harmful or overly aggressive tests and treatments that may not align with a patient's goals and wishes. That's why over 30 national clinician societies support a new <u>Choosing</u> wisely Canada recommendation on encouraging these important conversations.

In addition to the new recommendation, these tools and resources can help get these important conversations started:

<u>Serious Illness Conversation Guide</u> <u>Four Questions to Ask Your Patients (For Clinicians)</u> <u>Patient Pamphlet – Time to Talk</u> Four Questions to Ask Your Health Care Providers (For Patients)

To learn more about these efforts, visit Choosing Wisely Canada's website.

The Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre (DGLDUHC) in Moncton, New Brunswick, is seeking to recruit a full-time salaried Medical oncologist. The DGLDUHC is a level 3 trauma centre and medical training centre affiliated with the Université de Sherbrooke.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Diploma from an approved school of medicine supplemented by post-graduate study in the area of specialization (Oncology);

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certificate (FRCPC);

Eligible for a licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New-Brunswick;

Ability to work independently and as part of a team;

Physical ability to perform the assigned work;

Good work history (performance and attendance);

Adherence to professional ethical principles, the Network's management philosophy, and organizational values;

Compliance with the rules of confidentiality set by Vitalité Health Network;

Written and spoken competence in English and French is required.

#### **RECRUITMENT INCENTIVES:**

This position is eligible for a recruitment incentive of \$100,000, offered by the Department of Health. Recruitment incentive offers are conditional on the reception of an employment offer from one of the Regional Health Authorities and are subject to approval from the Department of Health. Physicians will be required to sign a Return-of-Service agreement and practice in the province for four (4) consecutive years.

The successful candidate is also eligible to receive an allowance for moving related expenses.

For more information about this opportunity, please contact Raphaël Albert, Medical recruitment strategy specialist at <u>Raphael.Albertevitalitenb.ca</u>. Physicians interested to apply for this opportunity are invited to <u>click here</u>.





