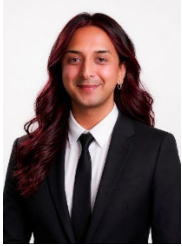


BC Cancer Summit 2026 - Speaker Biographies



Arish Alam, Radiation Therapist
BC Cancer - Victoria

Arish Alam, MRT(T), is a radiation therapist and healthcare consultant with experience in clinical operations, workflow optimization, education, research, and quality improvement. He currently works as a Clinical Implementation Consultant in Radiation Therapy with Siemens Healthineers, supporting the implementation and optimization of radiation oncology workflows and technologies.

Prior to joining Siemens Healthineers, Arish worked at BC Cancer – Victoria, where he served as a Radiation Therapist and later as the site’s Triage Radiation Therapist. In this role, he coordinated radiation therapy access and treatment readiness across Vancouver Island, working closely with radiation oncologists, therapists, clerical teams, and other clinical partners to support timely and equitable patient care. His work also included workflow standardization, clinical education, mentorship, and quality improvement initiatives.

Arish is currently completing his Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Consulting at the University of Fredericton. He is also actively involved in radiation therapy research, including work examining graduate education, advanced practice, and evolving professional roles within the Canadian radiation therapy workforce. His professional interests include healthcare transformation, clinical operations, workforce development, and advancing innovative models of radiation therapy practice.



Haneen Albayati, Spread Quality Improvement Lead
Provincial Health Services Authority

Haneen Albayati is a healthcare quality improvement professional with a background in Health Sciences and public health. She began her career in pharmacy before joining Liver Canada, where she led and supported community-based initiatives to improve liver health literacy and promote early detection across British Columbia and the Yukon.

For the past five years, Haneen has worked in healthcare quality improvement, supporting multi-site and interdisciplinary initiatives to improve clinical processes, patient experience, and health outcomes. Her work focuses on advancing system-level change, supporting the spread and sustainability of quality improvement initiatives, and fostering collaboration across teams and health authorities. She is currently completing her Master of Public Health, further strengthening her expertise in population health, quality improvement, and health-system transformation.



Ian Alberts, Nuclear Medicine Physician
BC Cancer – Vancouver



Naeema Al-Miradha, Project Leader
Provincial Health Services Authority



Dr. Helen Anderson, Senior Executive Director Systemic Therapy and Clinical Programs Medical Oncology
BC Cancer

Dr Helen Anderson completed Medical and Oncology training in Auckland New Zealand. She has a doctorate from the University of London where she did a fellowship in translational research. She has worked at BC Cancer as a Medical Oncologist since 2001. Her clinical primary interest is in lung cancer. She is the Senior Executive Director, Systemic Therapy and Clinical Programs, BC Cancer. She is a Clinical Associate Professor at UBC. She is chair of the BC Cancer Provincial Systemic therapy Network and Community Oncology Leadership Committees and a member of a number of other Provincial and National Committees. She has a special interest in Health Technology Assessment, Drug Policy and the interface between evidence and implementation.



Dr. Susan J. (Jody) Anderson, Division Head - Palliative Care
Island Health

Dr. Susan J. (Jody) Anderson is the Division Head for Palliative Care in Island Health and has been practicing palliative care on Vancouver Island for the last 13 years. She completed her medical training at UBC on Vancouver Island and Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She is grateful to live and work in Victoria BC, on the territories of the Lekwungen peoples, specifically the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations, as well as the WSÁNEĆ peoples.



Andrew Arifin, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer – Vancouver



Rupinder Atwal, Executive Director
BC Cancer – Abbotsford



Karina Austin, Clinical Dietitian
BC Cancer

Karina is a clinical dietitian who has worked at BC Cancer since 2012. She supports individuals at all stages of their cancer journey, helping them find foods that support their well-being. Her areas of focus include head and neck, prostate, and pancreatic cancers.

She also facilitates group sessions on nutrition and prostate cancer for the Island Prostate Centre and is part of the team involved in the Victoria Centre's PERT (Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy) study. Outside of work, Karina enjoys hiking and biking with her family, as well as baking and making art with her children.



Dr. Tara Baetz, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer – Victoria



Kayla Bajic, Clinical Counsellor
BC Cancer

Kayla Bajic is a Registered Clinical Counsellor with 10+ years experience providing psychosocial support to patients and families living with cancer. Living, working, and even studying in Northern British Columbia, Kayla is familiar with the challenges faced by those living and receiving cancer treatment rurally. In her current role as Provincial Professional Practice Leader, Kayla supports Professional Practice and Policy for Patient and Family Counselling at BC Cancer.



Dr. Michelle Bale, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer – Vancouver



Kate Barker, Clinical Services Manager
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Kate Barker is a Clinical Services Manager at BC Cancer – Vancouver, where she leads the Medical Secretaries and Supportive Care teams with a strong focus on person-centered care. She has recently graduated from UBC with a Masters in Health Administration and is passionate about meaningful patient partnership and improving the care experience. She currently co-chairs the Regional Patient Experience Committee with Vancouver Centre which is a role they find both deeply rewarding and inspiring!



Dr. Alan Bates, PMD Supportive Care
BC Cancer

Alan Bates, MD, PhD, FRCPC, finished a PhD focused on neuroimaging at the University of Nottingham before completing his MD and Psychiatry residency at the University of British Columbia. He then completed a fellowship in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosocial Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre. Dr. Bates has published peer-reviewed articles on topics ranging from brain imaging and artificial intelligence to psychotherapy and palliative care. He received the 2018 Canadian Psychiatric Association Early Career Achievement in Psychiatry Award and his volunteer work has been recognized through a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and participation in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. He is the Program Medical Director for Supportive Care at BC Cancer, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UBC, a past President of the BC Psychiatric Association, and was recently runner-up for “Outstanding Medical Staff” in the PHSA+ Awards.



Nathan Becker, Regional Medical Physics Leader
BC Cancer – Kelowna



Kevin Bennewith, Distinguished Scientist
BC Cancer



Dr. Brandon Bernard, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Vanessa Bernstein, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer – Victoria and Vancouver



Joy (Farhat) Bhimji, Clinical Pharmacist
BC Cancer – Surrey

Joy graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and started her retail career in Regina. Over the years, she has explored the different ways to use her degree with stints in pharmacy management, pharmaceutical sales, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC and the Ministry of Health in SK. A six-month contract in 2019 at BC Cancer made her realise that she wanted to be an oncology pharmacist when she grew up, and in 2021 she moved back to BC to work at BC Cancer Surrey. In Jan 2025, she joined TBC, supporting physicians treating primarily breast cancer but also several other tumour groups. Both of Joy's parents were patients at BC Cancer, which gives her a different perspective understanding her patients, and working here allows her to come full circle and give back.



Amrit Bhullar, Officer Research Ethics
BC Cancer

Amrit Bhullar holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Victoria and previously worked in the UBC Department of Emergency Medicine, supporting clinical research and digital health initiatives. His work included research coordination, program implementation, evaluation, and the development of digital health services. Since January 2026, Amrit has served as an Ethics Officer with the BC Cancer Office of Research Ethics, supporting the ethical review and oversight of health research.



Jessica Bigland, Director Research Ethics
BC Cancer

Jessica is the Director of Research Ethics at BC Cancer, responsible for leading and the development, planning, and implementation of Research Ethics at BC Cancer including ethics education, research, policy development/implementation, and administration. Jessica has over 10 years' experience in research ethics and regulatory administrative roles.



Kelcey Bland, Student
University of British Columbia



Jalissa Brent, Project Coordinator
BC Cancer

Jalissa Brent, BSW, MSW Candidate, is Dakelh from Nak'azdli Whut'en and belongs to the Lhts'umusyoo (Beaver) Clan. She currently lives, works, learns, and plays on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. Jalissa is a mother and carries her roles as a parent, community member, social worker, and researcher into the way she approaches her work and relationships.

Jalissa is a Research Projects Coordinator with BC Cancer, supporting the Elevating Indigenous Voices in Radiotherapy Care research project. In this role, she works alongside Indigenous communities, patients and families, healthcare partners, Knowledge Holders, and researchers to better understand the experiences of First Nations Peoples accessing radiotherapy care and to identify opportunities for meaningful, community-informed change within the cancer care system. Prior to joining the research team, Jalissa worked as an Indigenous Patient Navigator with BC Cancer, Centre for the North, supporting Indigenous patients and families throughout their cancer journeys. Her experiences working directly with Indigenous patients have shaped her commitment to improving culturally safe, accessible, and responsive healthcare and ensuring that the voices, experiences, and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples remain at the centre of work intended to serve them.

Jalissa holds a Bachelor of Social Work and is currently completing her Master of Social Work at the University of Northern British Columbia. Her graduate research is rooted in her home community of Nak'azdli Whut'en and explores grief and healing through cultural traditions, with an emphasis on Indigenous ways of knowing, relational accountability, community strengths, and the importance of culture and connection in healing.

Across her work, Jalissa is passionate about Indigenous health, community-engaged research, relationship building, cultural safety, and creating space for Indigenous voices and knowledge systems within healthcare and research. Her approach is grounded in relationships, reciprocity, respect, and a responsibility to ensure that research involving Indigenous Peoples is meaningful and accountable to the communities it is intended to benefit.



Dr. Lori Brotto, Director, UBC Sexual Health Laboratory, Distinguished University Professor, Professor and Associate head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of British Columbia



Andrew Brown, Director, Data and Analytics
BC Cancer



Sarah Buddingh-Smith, Physiotherapist, CDT
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Sarah Buddingh Smith is a Physiotherapist and Lymphedema Therapist at BC Cancer - Vancouver. In the UBC Department of Physical Therapy, she is member of Clinical Faculty and a Clinical Skills Assistant for Oncology and Chronic Pain. Prior to her role at BC Cancer, she worked in the St. Paul's Complex Pain Clinic. Motivational interviewing and pain science education are cornerstones of her practice, and she works closely with the Pain & Symptom Management and Palliative Care team at BC Cancer. She is the founder of Cancer Rehabilitation Canada, an online clinician community. She is passionate about improving the function and quality of life of people living with cancer.



Joy Bunsko, Senior Practice Leader
BC Cancer - Abbotsford



Kristin Campbell, Student
University of British Columbia



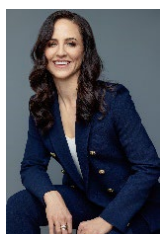
Julia Campbell, Radiation Therapist
BC Cancer

Julia Campbell MAHS MRT(T) is a radiation therapist at BC Cancer- Kelowna. Within her specialty she focuses on patient navigation and interprofessional care. She recently completed her Master's of Applied Health Science in Advanced Healthcare Practice through Western University. During her studies, she worked alongside Dr. Lauren Capozzi and the cancer rehabilitation/ physiatry team to launch the service and continues to support the program through clinical quality improvement initiatives.



Dr. Julianna Caon, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Victoria

Julianna completed her Radiation Oncology residency at UBC in 2014 and has since been practicing at BC Cancer – Victoria, where she specializes in the treatment of lung and head and neck malignancies. Alongside her clinical practice, she earned a Master of Education from Maastricht University and became board-certified by the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. Julianna is passionate about educating both her patients and colleagues about the meaningful role lifestyle interventions can play in cancer prevention and recurrence, as well as in supporting patients through cancer treatment and recovery. Outside of work, she enjoys life on her acreage in Saanichton with her husband, their two wild children, and one equally wild dog — keeping her busy running after all three.



Dr. Lauren Capozzi, Cancer Physiatrist, Provincial Medical Director of Cancer Rehabilitation
BC Cancer

Dr. Lauren Capozzi is a Cancer Physiatrist (Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation specialist) and the Provincial Medical Director of Cancer Rehabilitation at BC Cancer. She is a clinician-scientist and clinical exercise physiologist whose work focuses on integrating rehabilitation and exercise into routine oncology care to improve function, manage pain, and enhance recovery and quality of life for people living with and beyond cancer. Her

research focuses on early identification of physical impairment and the development of scalable rehabilitation models across the cancer care continuum. Dr. Capozzi has published widely, delivered over 100 research and educational presentations, and has been recognized for her leadership with awards including Avenue Calgary's Top 40 Under 40.



Cheryl Carrasco, Officer Research Ethics
BC Cancer

Cheryl has 15 years of oncology research experience and is currently an Officer, Research Ethics at BC Cancer. In this role, she supports the BC Cancer Research Ethics Board, researchers, and clinical research staff.

Cheryl originally joined BC Cancer Vancouver in 2007 as a Pharmacy Technician before moving on to work in the Clinical Trials Unit. She spent over 8 years as a Data Coordinator across multiple BC Cancer centres, gaining experience with various tumour sites. Her years as a data coordinator have given her a unique, practical perspective in her current role in research ethics.



Courtney Carroll, Nurse Clinician, Clinical Capacity Optimization
BC Cancer



Ann Case, Executive Director
BC Cancer – Prince George



Audrey Chan, Student
University of British Columbia

Audrey Chan is a cancer survivor and second-year Bachelor of Commerce student at the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business. Her experience as a patient has shaped her interests in business, healthcare, and research, particularly in how research can translate into meaningful impact for oncology patients and families. At UBC, Audrey serves as Co-President of the UBC Cancer Association (UBCCA), where she leads a student community dedicated to cancer advocacy, education, research engagement, fundraising, and peer support. Through her leadership, she works to create opportunities for students to support and advocate for those affected by cancer.

While cancer was no simple ordeal, Audrey was fortunate to experience a kind and supportive healthcare team and access to advanced treatment protocols. Going through the healthcare system as a patient sparked her interest in understanding healthcare, oncology, and research more deeply, and in exploring how her experience can help inform and improve the systems that support future patients. She hopes to contribute to improving healthcare by bringing a patient perspective to how oncology research and care are developed and delivered.



Gloria Chan, Clinical Coordinator, Registered Dietitian
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Gloria Chan is a Clinical Coordinator and Registered Dietitian at BC Cancer Vancouver Centre. Prior to joining BC Cancer in 2025, she spent 12 years at Surrey Memorial Hospital, including eight years in Internal Medicine. Gloria is passionate about advancing oncology nutrition, supporting quality improvement, and fostering

collaboration across BC Cancer sites to enhance patient-centred care. Outside of work, she enjoys calligraphy, painting, and spending time with her energetic four-year-old daughter.



Dr. Jessica Chan, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Dr. Jessica Chan is a Radiation Oncologist at BC Cancer Vancouver and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of British Columbia. Her clinical practice encompasses central nervous system and orbital malignancies. Her research program lies at the intersection of health services, health equity, and global oncology. She explores systemic, upstream, and point-of-care barriers to access, and works alongside Indigenous partners and the oncology community to strengthen how cancer services are delivered. She is Co-Chair of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology's Indigenous Care, Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Committee.



Elsie Chan, Project Manager
BC Cancer – Vancouver



Dr. Nicole Chau, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer – Vancouver



Jincheng (Tom) Chen, Software Developer
Nunez Lab



Dr. Grace Cheng, Staff Scientist
BC Cancer Research Centre

Dr. S.-W. Grace Cheng is a Staff Scientist with the Mass Spectrometry Platform for Experimental, Cellular and Translational Research Applications (mSPECTRA) at the BC Cancer Research Institute. Her research uses mass spectrometry-based proteomics to investigate how mutations in proteins, particularly cancer-associated proteins, alter protein function through changes in protein–protein interactions and post-translational modifications.

Dr. Cheng received her B.Sc. (Honours) in Biochemistry from the University of British Columbia and her M.Sc. in Chemistry from Simon Fraser University, where she used protein engineering to investigate and modify protein substrate specificity and function. She completed her Ph.D. at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, where she identified and characterized an interaction between the oncogene c-Myc and the SWI/SNF chromatin-remodelling complex. During her postdoctoral research with Dr. Michael R. Green at UMASS Medical School, she investigated how the HIV-Tat protein recruits human proteins to facilitate transcription and expression of HIV-1 genes.

Her current research focuses on developing and applying proteomic methods for quantitative, global protein profiling of limited and heterogeneous cancer samples. She combines laser capture microscopy to isolate specific regions of interest from cancer tissue sections with mass spectrometry to characterize protein expression. These approaches enable detailed investigation of intra-tumour heterogeneity and the influence of the tumour microenvironment on cancer growth and progression.



Leslie Chiang, Manager, Quality, Patient Safety & Accreditation
BC Cancer

Leslie Chiang is the Manager, Quality, Patient Safety & Accreditation at BC Cancer and holds a Master of Health Administration from the University of British Columbia. Since joining the organization, he has worked with interdisciplinary teams across the province to strengthen systems that support safe, high-quality care through patient safety reviews, quality improvement initiatives, accreditation readiness, and the advancement of culturally safe care practices.

His career spans public health, research, and healthcare quality, including earlier work in provincial tuberculosis services in both administrative and research capacities, and quality improvement in acute and long-term care within our regional health authorities. These experiences cultivated a strong interest in prevention, population health, and the ways health systems can better serve patients and communities. Leslie is particularly passionate about leveraging data, evidence, and meaningful patient partnerships to drive improvement and foster innovation, and support a more equitable, responsive, and person-centred cancer care system.



Nick Chng, Medical Physics
BC Cancer



Vince Chow, Director, Business Analytics, Data & Analytics
BC Cancer



Dr. Haley Clark, Clinical Medical Physicist, Regional Leader of Clinical Medical Physics
BC Cancer - Surrey

Dr. Hal Clark is a clinical medical physicist and Regional Leader of Clinical Medical Physics at BC Cancer in Surrey. His research explores how quantitative imaging and computation can make radiotherapy more precise and more responsive to individual patients. In particular, he investigates spatial variation in normal-tissue radiation response, with the goal of preserving salivary function after head-and-neck radiotherapy. His current work seeks to combine disparate outcomes prediction models into perturbative, patient-individualized models. Dr. Clark is an advocate of open science and leads development of open-source software.



Catherine Clellad, Medical Director
BC Cancer



Hilary Cochrane, Allied Health Educator-Speech Language Pathology
BC Cancer



Jeff Collins, Radiochemist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Nadine Colpo, Clinical Research Technologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Cristina Conati, Professor
University of British Columbia



Sara Cowan, Provincial Professional Practice Leader, Radiation Therapy
BC Cancer

Sara began her career working as a Radiation Therapist at BC Cancer Kelowna in 2007. Early on, she became interested in improving front line workflows and streamlining procedures and this led her to embark in a master's degree in Radiation Therapy. In 2012 she joined the inaugural team at Center for the North in Prince George as a Resource Therapist. It was a unique and rewarding experience to be part of a small (but mighty!) team opening a new center. She worked again in Kelowna and had the chance to grow professionally by spending time in a clinical educator role. In 2016 Sara moved to BC Cancer Victoria for a Resource Therapist role. This role provided the opportunity to lead the implementation of new technologies, evaluate and improve processes, provide coaching and mentoring to staff, and develop leadership skills. Sara moved into the Lead RTT role in Victoria in 2022 where she had the honor of supporting a team of nearly 70 RTTs. Early 2025, a new prospect presented itself and Sara accepted the role of Provincial Professional Practice Leader for Radiation Therapy. This role supports the practice of Radiation Therapists across the province in areas of professional development and education, leadership, research and innovation. This role is closely connected to the other Allied Health Provincial Professional Practice Leaders, and they aim to cross pollinate and support each other's professional practice by collaborating whenever possible.



Megan Crosby, Senior Practice Leader, Professional Practice, Nursing
BC Cancer



Dr. Janine Davies, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Lesa Dawson, MD
Vancouver Coast Health



Mario de Lemos, Professional Practice Leader & Drug Information Coordinator
BC Cancer



Stefanie Del Gobbo, Physiotherapist
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Stefanie Del Gobbo is a Physiotherapist at BC Cancer – Vancouver. She is passionate about helping people living with cancer move better, reduce pain, and improve function. She is a Certified Lymphedema Therapist and she assists as a Clinical Skills Assistance in the Physical Therapy Oncology Lab at UBC. She also has a special interest in working with the Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer group, and has been part of research projects and initiatives to further advance AYA cancer care in BC and nationwide.



Kimberly DeVries, Manager, Data and Analytics
BC Cancer

Kimberly DeVries is a Manager in Data and Analytics at BC Cancer, overseeing cancer Surveillance and Research Support. The cancer Surveillance and Research Support team is a group of biostatisticians, methodologists, and health record analysts who report on cancer surveillance statistics in the province, investigate and respond to cancer clusters in communities, and provide statistical consulting and analytic support for clinical research projects for BC Cancer faculty. She completed her MSc in Population and Public Health at UBC where she was a CIHR fellow in Population Intervention for Chronic Disease Prevention. Before becoming a Manager, Kimberly was a biostatistical analyst in the Data and Analytics team for 8 years.

She joined BC Cancer more than 15 years ago where she developed a passion for public health and improving the well-being of others. She has a keen interest in supporting data-driven decisions and research focusing on cancer trends with special consideration for geographic and social inequities.



Katia Dilkina, Patient Partner

Katia Dilkina has lived experience of breast cancer and contributes as a patient partner in a number of BC Cancer projects, including the Physiotherapy Knowledge Translation Challenge. In her professional life, she is a Psychology professor in the Open Learning division of Thompson Rivers University. In her personal life, Katia enjoys spending time with her teenage kids, playing strategy board games, and being physically active.



Katia Dilkina, Patient Partner



Dr. Yvette Drew, Medical Oncologist, Associate Professor of Medicine
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Paul Drosinis, Manager, Data and Analytics
BC Cancer

Paul Drosinis is Manager, Data & Analytics at BC Cancer, where his team specializes in acquiring and integrating clinical and operational data, as well as developing enterprise reports, dashboards, and other analytic products. He has more than 14 years of experience across healthcare analytics, primary care research, population health, and cancer care. Paul holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Public Health from the University of Edinburgh.



Sandie Du, Project Manager, Provincial Systemic Therapy
BC Cancer



Nick EbbadiCook, Leader (Moderator), Patient & Family Partnerships & Experience
BC Cancer



Marlo Edwards, Patient Partner

Marlo Edwards is a professor in the Department of Communications at Okanagan College in Kelowna, BC, where she teaches media studies, cultural theory, and professional communications.

Five years ago, at the age of 49, Marlo was diagnosed with locally advanced intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. Since then, she has undergone a range of treatments at BC Cancer and in the United States, including systemic chemotherapy, HAIP treatment at OHSU in Portland, Oregon, two liver resections, and immunotherapy. Thanks to these interventions and the support of her exceptional healthcare team, she is currently NED (no evidence of disease). As a communications specialist, Marlo has both experienced and analyzed the cancer journey from a unique perspective. She now serves as a Patient Partner with BC Cancer's Patient & Family Experience Program and with Health Quality BC's Patient Voices Network. With support from Okanagan College, she has recently begun a three-year, NSERC (CCSIF)-funded collaborative research project with BC Cancer, working alongside patient partners to co-create accessible video resources about cancer care.

Key goals of the project include translating complex health information for diverse audiences and creating pathways for patient knowledge to inform institutional practice. Her participation in the What to Expect animated video project with BC Cancer and the Emily Carr Health and Design Lab over the past year has been an inspiring example of this type of patient-centred collaboration.



Sarah Edwards, Provincial Professional Practice Leader, Pharmacy
BC Cancer

Sarah has been a pharmacist since 2007, after graduating from UBC Pharmacy and completing a hospital residency in 2008. Following a variety of acute care and leadership roles with Interior Health, she joined BC Cancer in 2025 and now serves as a Provincial Professional Practice Leader with Provincial Pharmacy, helping support pharmacy practice across BC Cancer. Sarah and her family have lived on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the syilx people, specifically snpink'tn, for over 10 years. Outside of work Sarah enjoys being active outside, exploring syilx territory with her family and dog.



Dr. Bernie Eigl, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Katey Enfield, Assistant Professor, Department of Basic and Translational Research
BC Cancer Research Institute

Dr. Katey Enfield is a Canadian researcher who completed her PhD at UBC in Vancouver under Dr. Wan Lam, where she employed a multiomics approach to discover and characterize oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes in lung cancer. She then trained as a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Charles Swanton's lab at the Francis Crick Institute in London, UK, developing expertise in spatial profiling of the lung tumour microenvironment through the TRACERx study. Dr. Enfield now leads an interdisciplinary team at the BC Cancer Research Institute and UBC, investigating how tumour microenvironment organization shapes immune responses to lung cancer and how this can be harnessed to improve immunotherapy outcomes.



Dr. Laura Evgin, Scientist
BC Cancer Research Institute

Dr. Laura Evgin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia and a Scientist at the BC Cancer Research Institute. She holds a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Cancer Immunotherapy and is a Michael Smith Health Research BC Scholar and recipient of a Gairdner New Investigator Award.

Dr. Evgin's research program focuses on improving the efficacy and accessibility of CAR T cell therapy for cancer and autoimmune disease. Her team combines molecular and genome engineering, RNA technologies, disease-relevant preclinical models, and analysis of human specimens to address barriers to effective cellular therapy. Current areas of research include using mRNA vaccines to enhance CAR T cell function; developing lipid nanoparticle and RNA-based approaches to generate CAR T cells directly in vivo; and defining mechanisms of CAR T cell resistance in lymphoma to guide new therapeutic strategies. Her program has also expanded beyond oncology to investigate CAR T cell therapy for autoimmune diseases, including systemic lupus erythematosus, through multidisciplinary collaborations with clinical and basic science investigators.



Erika Facchin, Radiation Therapist
BC Cancer - Vancouver

Erika is a radiation therapist and has worked at BC Cancer for over 15 years. She has worked in many different areas of radiation therapy, such as delivering orthovoltage, electron and photon treatments, brachytherapy treatments, CT Simulation, fabrication of immobilization devices, and clinical trials. She has worked in clinical trials since 2017 and was an oral presenter at CARO in 2019.



Jennifer Fang, Research Program Manager, Nursing Research
BC Cancer



Nicolette Fonseca, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology Scientist
University of Victoria
Deeley Research Centre BC Cancer - Victoria



Brittany Freeman, Clinical Nurse Educator
BC Cancer - Prince George

Brittany is the Clinical Nurse Educator at BC Cancer, Prince George (PG). Born and raised in PG, Brittany completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Northern British Columbia. After beginning her career in pediatrics and then rural nursing in Haida Gwaii, Brittany joined BC Cancer in 2014. Throughout her 12 years in oncology, she has worked in a variety of oncology nursing roles including Systemic Therapy, Pain and Symptom Management, and as a Clinical Nurse Leader, Program Coordinator and Sexual Health Nurse for the Prostate Cancer Supportive Care (PCSC) Program, Sexual Health Nurse for BC Cancer Prince George, and Provincial Oncology Educator. She values the patient- and family-centered approach to care at BC Cancer, and is passionate about advancing oncology nursing practice through education. She enjoys supporting nurses who are new to oncology, fostering professional growth among staff, and helping healthcare teams achieve their professional development goals. In addition to her educator role, Brittany co-facilitates sexual health education sessions for oncology patients alongside a Registered Clinical Counsellor. She is also a member of Movember's Sexual Health Advisory Group, where she supports the implementation of clinical guidelines for sexual health and prostate cancer.



Nadine



Efe Fruci, Leader (Moderator), Patient & Family Partnerships & Experience
BC Cancer



Dr. Georgia Fung, Pharmacy Residency
BC Cancer

Dr. Georgia Fung is a recent graduate from the University of Alberta PharmD class of 2026. Returning home to BC, she is excited to start her career at the BC Cancer Pharmacy Residency. Throughout her PharmD, she completed practicums in oncology where she was moved by the patients she met and was inspired by the dedicated practice of those who work in oncology. She is passionate about pharmacist integration into the healthcare team and hopes to continue this work in oncology.



Nancy Gabor, Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice
Vancouver Coastal Health



Isabelle Gagne, Regional Leader, Physics
BC Cancer - Victoria



Ben Garbuz, Medical Student
University of British Columbia



Reegan Garrett, Manager Programs & Partnerships and Exercise Program Lead
InspireHealth

Reegan Garrett is the Manager of Programs & Partnerships and Exercise Program Lead at InspireHealth. With a background in clinical exercise physiology, Reegan leads supportive care programs and strategic partnerships that enhance wellbeing for people affected by cancer.



Pamela Guenther, Patient Partner

Pamela is a first generation Chinese Canadian from Toronto. As a child, her family relocated every 2 years until she was in high school, which was challenging but allowed her to practice adaptability and to see the world. Pamela earned her MSc (UofT) and PhD (UBC) in Arctic Ecology, spending 8 seasons in the Canadian Arctic examining goose and caribou grazing systems. She works as the Executive Director for the Environmental Managers' Association of British Columbia, where she won the 2026 inaugural lifetime achievement award for "dedication and perseverance in the environmental industry".

After being diagnosed and treated for cancer, Pamela wanted to support the other individuals and the cancer community by working together with interest holders to improve patient and care team experiences. She is in service with the BC Cancer PPFx program, including sitting on the Planetary Health Unit Provincial Steering Committee. She also participates on the UBC/VGH Breast Reconstruction Patient Advisory Committee and as a Mentor in Peerly, a nationwide Peer Support Group. Pamela believes in holistic health of the body, heart, mind, and soul, and is a Certified Lymphatic Flow Yoga teacher, Reiki Master, and Shamanic Practitioner. She is a single mother of 2 humans and 2 large dogs. She appreciates them and her other family and friends, with whom she enjoys many adventures!



Amol Gill, Director, Provincial Programs – CON
BC Cancer



Dr. Sharlene Gill, Medical Oncologist, Executive Medical Director, Medical and Staff Wellbeing and Engagement
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Sheri Grahame, Resource Radiation Therapist
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Sheri Grahame is a Resource Radiation Therapist at BC Cancer – Vancouver, where she has worked for 24 years. She has played a key role in the development and implementation of the center's Ethos adaptive radiation therapy program and has been closely involved in advancing radiation therapist-led adaptive radiation therapy clinical practice.

In 2026, Sheri completed a Master of Science in Advanced Clinical Practice Radiotherapy and Oncology with Distinction from Sheffield Hallam University. Her graduate research explored a radiation therapist-led triage model incorporating advanced palliative care training for patients referred for palliative radiation therapy for bone metastases. This work reflects her broader interest in expanding radiation therapist roles and models of care to improve patient care and clinical efficiency. Her other professional interests include the treatment of genitourinary and gynecological cancers, and radiation therapy clinical trial implementation and delivery.



Dr. Karen Goddard, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer – Vancouver



Sheri Grahame, Treatment Resource Radiation Therapist
BC Cancer – Vancouver



Alexandra Guytingco, Radiation Therapist
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Alex is a radiation therapist at BC Cancer Vancouver. Since graduating from BCIT in 2020 Alex has been exposed to different roles within RT including clinical trials and most recently RT patient navigator. Alex received her Master of Applied Health Science from Western University in 2025 where implementing the RT patient navigator role was part of her capstone project.



Ashley Haley, Interim Clinical Coordinator
BC Cancer – Victoria



Dr. Heather Halperin, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer

Heather (she/her) is a Medical Oncology resident at the University of British Columbia. She previously completed her Internal Medicine residency at the University of Calgary, and her medical school training at the University of Alberta. Heather's research interests include supportive cancer care, health-services research, and outcomes among young adults with cancer. She is also interested in the intersection of metabolic health, obesity, and cancer care. Outside of work, Heather enjoys cycling, sailing, travelling, and spending time with family and friends.



Dr. Sarah Hamilton, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer – Vancouver



Gillian Hanley, Associate Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology
University of British Columbia



Jon Hannan, Associate Dean, Master of Design
Emily Carr



Dr. Jason Hart, Hematologist/Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Victoria

Dr. Jason Hart is a hematologist and medical oncologist at BC Cancer – Victoria and is Clinical Associate Professor with the Department of Medicine at both the University of British Columbia, and University of Victoria. He attended medical school at the University of Alberta where he also completed his Hematology and Medical Oncology training.

Dr. Hart's area of clinical practice is hematologic malignancies and sarcoma. He has held medical leadership roles as Department Head of Medical Oncology and was subsequently appointed Executive Medical Director for BC Cancer - Victoria between 2018 and 2023 before returning to full time clinical practice. In addition to patient care, he is also a member of the Expert Review Committee for Canada's Drug Agency (CDA) involved in the national approval process for cancer drugs.



Sheila Hartstein, Radiation Oncology Resident
BC Cancer - Vancouver

Sheila Hartstein is a third-year Radiation Oncology resident at BC Cancer Vancouver. She completed both her undergraduate degree and medical school at UBC, making her a proud Vancouver local. She is excited to be here and to share insights into the resident experience with Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs).



Emrul Hasan, Postdoctoral Fellow, Nunez Lab
UBC / BC Cancer



Dr. Thomas Hedley, General Practitioner in Oncology
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Dr. Thomas Hedley is a General Practitioner in Oncology at BC Cancer in Vancouver. He is also board-certified in Lifestyle Medicine. His clinical experience has highlighted the important role that nutrition, physical activity, and other lifestyle behaviours can play throughout the cancer journey. Thomas is passionate about integrating Lifestyle Medicine into cancer care in a way that is practical, evidence-informed, and centred on the needs of patients. He has delivered lectures to healthcare professionals on the role of diet and exercise in cancer care. He also recently developed an educational video series on nutrition for people living with and beyond cancer.



Cheryl Heykoop, Team Lead
Anew Research Collaborative



Pamela Hinada, Quality Lead, Corporate, Medical and Academic Affairs
Provincial Health Services Authority



Chris Ho, Patient Partner

Chris Ho is a born Vancouverite who has sat in the BC Cancer chair three times: twice as a testicular cancer patient, and once at the bedside of his dad, who died of stage 4 lung cancer in 2018. Like many others impacted by cancer, those experiences have transformed how he thinks about leadership and what truly matters. He's been a Patient Partner with BC Cancer since 2018 at the Vancouver Centre, currently on the Provincial Family Advisory Panel, and helped shape the Movember Canada men's health report The Real Face of Men's Health which has led to Canada's very first National Men's and Boys Health Strategy in 2026.

Today, he uses these life experiences to make a difference in the lives of others as an ICF-certified executive coach, keynote speaker and leadership consultant through his own practice called Conscious Studio (www.consciousstudio.ca). He spends his free time running, reading and writing his first book, Conscious Leadership. He lives in East Vancouver with his partner Maggie and their two young boys Caden and Liam.



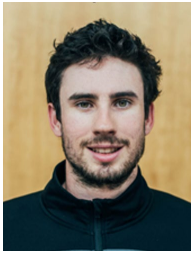
Cheryl Ho, Provincial Medical Director, Systemic Therapy Implementation and Sustainment
BC Cancer



Jaigris Hodson, Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
Royal Road University



Naushin Hooda, Provincial Pharmacy Education & Residency Coordinator
BC Cancer



Ian Horne, Program Coordinator
District of West Vancouver

Ian Horne is a Program Coordinator with the District of West Vancouver, bringing over seven years of experience in municipal health and fitness programming. He holds a Master's degree in Kinesiology. Ian has extensive experience overseeing specialized health and rehabilitation programs designed to improve quality of life for individuals living with chronic health conditions. His work includes supporting the District's Cancer Thrivers program, which provides exercise, education, and social connection for individuals living with and beyond cancer.



Xinchou Hou, Clinical Molecular Imaging and Therapy Physicist
BC Cancer

Xinchou Hou is a clinical molecular imaging and therapy (MIT) physicist at BC Cancer. She received her PhD in Medical Physics at the University of British Columbia and completed a two-year medical physics residency with the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

As a member of BC Cancer's MIT physics team, she collaborates closely with physicians, technologists, researchers, and other healthcare professionals. Her work focuses on quality assurance and equipment calibration, protocol optimization, quantitative imaging, patient-specific dosimetry, emerging technology implementation, and radiation safety and regulatory support, to help deliver high-quality healthcare across British Columbia. She also contributes to education and research by teaching and mentoring students, supporting student projects, and participating in applied research initiatives.



Schynel Howe, Research Assistant
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Bradley Hubbard, Leader Patient Safety, Quality & Accreditation
BC Cancer - Victoria

Brad is the Leader, Patient Safety, Quality & Accreditation for BC Cancer-Victoria. Drawing on a scientific background, he is particularly interested in using data and evidence-informed improvement approaches to enhance patient care and healthcare systems. Brad enjoys working with teams to solve problems, learn from experience, and turn good ideas into lasting improvements.



Naman Hundal, Student, Patient Partner

Naman Hundal is a childhood cancer survivor, currently in full remission for leukemia ALL. This experience with cancer motivated a broader interest in oncology and research and developed his long-term goal of working in healthcare. To begin his journey, he is volunteering for the Clinical Research Organization: Advancing Innovation in Medicine at Royal Columbian Hospital. He is also actively partnering with researchers at The University of Calgary, BC Children's Hospital, and SickKids Hospital, using his experience as a researcher and patient to guide the trajectory of precision oncology, psychosocial, and medical technology research. Currently, he is studying microbiology and immunology at the University of British Columbia, hoping to develop his scientific understanding to continue in the world of research.



Nikki Hunter-Porter, Provincial Clinical Nurse Specialist
BC Cancer

Nikki Hunter-Porter is St'uxwstews te Secwépemc and the Provincial Clinical Nurse Specialist for Indigenous Health and Cultural Safety with BC Cancer's Indigenous Cancer Control team. She is a Secwépemc nurse leader with advanced practice experience across rural and remote health, palliative care, mental health, and oncology. Her work focuses on strengthening culturally safe and responsive cancer care and advancing system-level change alongside Indigenous patients, families, communities, and health-care teams across British Columbia



Dr. David Huntsman, Professor Departments of Pathology, Lab Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, UBC; Director of OVCARE; Distinguished Scientist, Department of Molecular Oncology, BC Cancer Research Institute; Canada Research Chair in Molecular and Genomic Pathology, BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Paris-Ann Ingledew, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
BC Cancer

Dr. Paris-Ann Ingledew MD, MHPE, FRCPC is Executive Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer at BC Cancer. A radiation oncologist since 2007, she has practiced at three of BC Cancer's six regional centers and has held numerous provincial, national, and international leadership roles spanning clinical care, physician engagement, patient advocacy, quality improvement, and system transformation. In her current role, she leads provincial efforts to advance clinical strategy, workforce development, quality, innovation, and performance across one of Canada's largest cancer systems, serving millions of British Columbians. Dr. Ingledew is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of British Columbia and an accomplished educator, researcher, and mentor. She holds a Master of Health Professions Education and has received numerous awards, grants, and publications related to her research in digital patient education, medical learner engagement, and workforce development.

She currently chairs the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's Radiation Oncology Specialty Committee, overseeing radiation oncology residency training nationally, and serves as creator and chief editor of a widely used international oncology education platform. Throughout her career, Dr. Ingledew has been committed to advancing excellence in cancer care through collaboration, innovation, research, and education. She is passionate about partnering with health authorities, academic institutions, governments, clinicians, researchers, patients, and community organizations to improve outcomes and experiences for people affected by cancer. Her work is guided by a vision of a more connected, equitable, and compassionate cancer system for all British Columbians.



Tracy Irwin, Chief Operating Officer
BC Cancer



Elys Jamieson, Graduate Student
BC Cancer

Elys Jamieson is a UBC Medical Physics MSc student working with Drs Carlos Uribe and Francois Benard. After completing a BSc in Combined Honours Biophysics, she decided to pursue graduate research in the field of Nuclear Medicine. Her research focuses are on the development of La-133 production methods at BC Cancer, and on the clinical and preclinical PET imaging of novel radionuclides. She is also involved in the establishment of international secondary standards calibration labs for accurate activity quantification and traceability of radionuclide therapies through the PDIB project.



Yuna Jang, Clinical Nursing System Specialist
BC Cancer

Yuna Jang, RN, CON(C), is a Clinical Nursing System Specialist with BC Cancer's Provincial Systemic Therapy Program. In her role, she collaborates with regional cancer centres and provincial partners on systemic therapy projects, including outpatient EPOCHR, SCDRUGRX platinum revision, and TECTOC outpatient implementation. She is passionate about translating complex clinical and operational challenges into scalable solutions that improve patient care and support healthcare teams. Her core values include innovation, sustainability, and practicality.



Jessica L. Jimmo, Patient Partner

Jessica L. Jimmo was diagnosed with HER2/ER+ breast cancer in 2020 at age 34; the year that just kept on giving. She discovered her tumour, affectionately nicknamed “Earl” (because, sing it with me: “Earl’s gotta die!”), during the final semester of her Master of Public Policy after recently completing a Bachelor of Social Work. These experiences ultimately shaped her passion for patient advocacy.

Before finishing treatment, Jessica joined the BC Cancer Patient and Family Partner (PFP) Program in 2021. Since then, she has collaborated with BC Cancer to present to executives, healthcare professionals, policymakers, ministers, and fellow Patient Partners, sharing insights from her lived experience.

Her advocacy focuses on:

- Increasing awareness of breast self-exams, particularly given the limitations of mammography for people with dense breast tissue.
- Improving access to supportive care services.
- Advancing the development of a dedicated Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer program within BC Cancer.

Professionally, Jessica works as an Advocate with the Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS), supporting individuals in British Columbia who have experienced workplace sexual harassment or sexual assault. She is passionate about helping people access information, support, and justice. Jessica encourages organizations, healthcare teams, and leaders to consider how Patient Partners can be meaningfully involved in shaping innovative services, policies, and programs to improve outcomes for those they serve.



Sarah Johnston, Patient Partner

Sarah Johnston is participating as a Patient Partner, drawing on her lived experience as a cancer survivor, patient advocate, and contributor to patient-centered care initiatives. Born and raised in Kelowna, BC, she continues to live there with her supportive husband, their two children, and an energetic Yellow Lab. An outdoor enthusiast, she enjoys hiking the region's trails and spending time on the golf course with family and friends.

Sarah spent more than 20 years building a successful career in banking and finance, developing expertise in relationship management, strategic planning, and community engagement. Four years ago, at age 44, a breast cancer diagnosis changed the direction of her life and gave her a firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by patients and families navigating cancer.

Inspired by her experience, Sarah became actively involved in the cancer community as a Patient Partner, a member of the Kelowna Regional Patient Experience Committee (RPEC), and a Wayfinder at the BC Cancer Centre in Kelowna. Through these roles, she supported patients, contributed to initiatives that enhanced the patient experience, and helped ensure patient perspectives were reflected in healthcare planning and decision-making.

In January 2026, Sarah joined the BC Cancer Foundation as Associate Director, Interior & North, where she combines her professional expertise with her lived experience as a cancer survivor. Sarah is passionate about connecting families to a cause that touches so many lives and helping ensure that the patient voice remains central to cancer care, research, and system improvement.



Dennis Joseph, Elder

Xwechtaal (kwitchtaal) is an Elder Statesman from the Squamish Nation. Where he worked for 40 years and served 28 consecutive years on Chiefs and Council. A founding volunteer member of Squamish Nation Peacekeepers where their mandate was to observe, record and report. The Peacekeepers worked with local police detachments to keep their communities safe.

Dennis has a deep commitment to his community, his culture, his family and he is an ambassador for the Squamish Nation. Dennis is a visionary and has been taught from his youth by his parents, his aunts, uncles and his grandparents to always look ahead and work for generations that will come behind him.

After spending 28 years in his political career, he now works to educate others on who we are, what we have lived, how to make changes and work as allies in this world as Indigenous people. Dennis also has 5 national championships in lacrosse and continues to be a contributor to the sport as a teacher.

Dennis' community impact extends to his heritage as a multi-generational musician. Among the first to be taught English by French Nuns at the turn of the 20th century, Dennis' maternal Grandfather Andrew Paull was a self-taught musician who went on to be conductor of The Squamish Band/Orchestra.

Music was encouraged at home, where his father, Willard, passed on foundational lessons of brass instruments to him, while his mother, Yvonne's musical support derived from her choir experience.

Today Dennis can be found collaborating with an artist from Haida Gwaii, Jamie Thompson, on his recordings as the duo known as the "Hitchhikers," amongst other supportive roles as the harp player and backup vocalist for two additional groups including Bitterly Divine and Whyte Feather.



Isha Joshi, Coordinator Patient and Family Experience and Partnerships
BC Cancer

Isha is the Coordinator, Patient and Family Experience and Partnerships at BC Cancer. She holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Simon Fraser University (SFU) and a Bachelor of Science (BSc) from George Mason University (GMU) in Virginia. In her current role, Isha supports the day-to-day coordination of the Patient & Family Partnerships and Experience program and the BC Cancer Patient and Family Partner Network. She

supports meaningful patient and family partner engagement across provincial and regional initiatives, helping to ensure that the voices of patients and families inform cancer care, research, education, and system improvement. Her work focuses on building strong partnerships, supporting engagement opportunities, facilitating collaboration between partners and teams, and advancing patient- and family-centred care throughout BC Cancer and PHSA.

Before joining BC Cancer, Isha contributed to a range of community-engaged and patient-oriented health initiatives, building expertise in partnership development, research collaboration, and interest-holder engagement. As Manager of the Centre for Lung Health (CLH), she co-led the Legacy for Airway Health Community Partner Committee (CPC) and the Community Advisory Network (CAN) for the Canadian Registry for Pulmonary Fibrosis (CARE-PF) alongside patient and family partners. As a member of CLH's Research Support Unit (RSU), she facilitated collaborations with patient partners, identified and secured funding opportunities, and contributed to knowledge translation and dissemination activities. She also coordinated RespNetBC, a province-wide network dedicated to fostering collaboration and advancing respiratory health research across British Columbia. In her free time, Isha enjoys taking long walks, spending time with family and friends, and swimming whenever the weather permits.



Adam Kahnamelli, Director Clinical Operations Hereditary Cancer
BC Cancer

Adam Kahnamelli is the Clinical Operations Director for BC Cancer's Hereditary Cancer Program, where he provides strategic and operational leadership for provincial hereditary cancer services. He works closely with medical leaders, clinicians, researchers, patients, and health system partners to strengthen patient access, quality, and coordination across genetic assessment, testing, counselling, and high-risk cancer care.

Adam's current priorities include expanding equitable and timely access to hereditary cancer testing, improving patient navigation and digital services, developing sustainable models for longitudinal high-risk care, and building the workforce and infrastructure required to meet growing provincial demand. His work emphasizes thoughtful implementation, partnership, and the translation of emerging evidence and technology into practical improvements for patients and families.

At the 2026 BC Cancer Summit, Adam will help present on the Hereditary Cancer Program's evolution, its priorities, and opportunities for partners to align expertise, resources, and provincial mandates to shape the future of hereditary cancer care in British Columbia.



Chirag Kariya, Clinical Research Leadership Committee
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Jagbir Kaur, Clinical Nurse Specialist
BC Cancer



Ege Kaya, Graduate Research Assistant
University of British Columbia



Kate Kennedy, Physiotherapist
Treloar Physiotherapy Clinic

Kate Kennedy (she/her) is a physiotherapist at Treloar Physiotherapy Clinic in Vancouver, where she provides specialized rehabilitation services for oncology patients. With more than 35 years of experience in clinical practice and clinical education, Kate brings deep expertise in supporting people throughout cancer treatment and recovery. Her work focuses on helping patients address mobility and functional challenges, manage the physical side effects of treatment, and safely integrate exercise into their care. She uses individualized exercise prescription, manual therapy, education, and empowerment-based strategies to support strength, confidence, treatment tolerance, and quality of life. Known for her compassionate, client-centred approach, Kate works collaboratively with each person to develop practical rehabilitation plans that reflect their goals, abilities, and stage of recovery. She is a strong advocate for the role of movement and rehabilitation in improving health outcomes and supporting well-being for people living with and beyond cancer.



Chelsea Kenny, Graduate Research Assistant
University of British Columbia



Aissa Keulen, Provincial Educator Radiation Therapy
BC Cancer

Aissa began her career as a Radiation Therapist in 2009 at the Vancouver and Victoria cancer centres. Following her work as a Learning Specialist with the CST project, she returned to Vancouver as a Resource Therapist and later a Clinical Educator. She currently serves as a Provincial Educator with the Radiation Therapy Practice and Learning Team, supporting provincial initiatives such as Mepitel Film implementation and student education documentation. Most recently, she served as Radiation Therapy Chair for the CAMRT Conference in Victoria, BC. Aissa is passionate about advancing radiation therapy education and practice through patient-centred, collaborative leadership. Outside of work, she enjoys surfing, swimming, spending time outdoors, and travelling with her family.



Maya Kevorkova, Program Coordinator Hereditary Cancer
BC Cancer

Maya Kevorkova is a Program Coordinator at the BC Cancer Hereditary Cancer Program (HCP), Vancouver. At HCP, she coordinates and provides support for the program's operations as well as clinical and educational initiatives. Maya is passionate about translational research in addition to improving equitable and inclusive access to care. Maya obtained a M.Sc. in Interdisciplinary Oncology from the University of British Columbia where she studied the initiation of Lynch Syndrome associated endometrial cancer; she holds a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from the University of Lethbridge.



Hanna Kim, Registered Dietitian
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Hanna Kim is a Registered Dietitian at the BC Cancer Vancouver Centre. Her area of focus includes lymphoma, myeloma, esophageal, and gastric cancers across both outpatient and inpatient services. Prior to joining BC Cancer in 2024, she was at Royal Columbian Hospital working in various areas such as surgery, general medicine, renal, and diabetes. Hanna is passionate about helping cancer patients navigate their nutrition during and after treatment and supporting them in improving their health and quality of life. Outside of work, Hanna enjoys being active. She loves running and training for races. She also enjoys dancing and hiking in beautiful BC with her husband and golden retriever, Maple!



Summer Konechny, Patient Partner

Summer is a writer, advocate, and stage four osteosarcoma patient living in Vancouver, Canada. She was diagnosed initially in early 2022, and underwent ten rounds of inpatient chemotherapy and limb salvaging surgery on her left leg. Since then, she's faced multiple recurrences, the most recent one being deemed incurable. When she's not busy keeping her cancer at bay, Summer spends her time collaborating with the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network as a member of their precision medicine patient working group. She can also be found working with the Terry Fox Foundation, with the BC Cancer Patient & Family Partnerships program, or on various other research projects. She is a member of the BC Cancer Research Ethics Board, as well as a member of the BC Cancer Vancouver Centre's Regional Patient Experience Committee.

She has special interests in AYA cancer, survivorship, sarcoma and precision medicine, and prides herself on being unapologetically loud about her cancer experience, often using humour and creativity to cope. Outside of the cancer world, Summer enjoys baking, painting, gardening, and spending time with her husband and their two cats.



Dr. Timothy Kong, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Oksana Korolova, Manager, AC Clinical Research Unit
BC Cancer



Dr. Robert Kosztyla, Medical Physicist
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Dr. Robert Kosztyla is a medical physicist at BC Cancer Vancouver and an Honorary Lecturer in the Department of Physics & Astronomy at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Since joining BC Cancer in 2016, he has played a key role in advancing radiation therapy through clinical innovation, quality assurance, and the implementation of emerging technologies.

Dr. Kosztyla earned a PhD in Physics from UBC in 2014 and completed his Radiation Oncology Physics Residency at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary, Alberta, in 2016. He achieved Membership in the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine in Radiation Oncology Physics (MCCPM) in Radiation Oncology Physics in 2017. His clinical practice spans treatment planning and consultation, adaptive radiation therapy, radiation oncology systems administration, deformable image registration, eye plaque brachytherapy, and quality assurance of linear accelerators. He led the commissioning and implementation of Ethos linear accelerators in Vancouver (2023-2024) and now serves as physics lead for adaptive radiation therapy. He also leads the physics quality assurance team and contributes to resident and graduate education through mentorship and lectures.

Dr. Kosztyla's research interests include automation in radiation oncology treatment planning, adaptive radiation therapy, and medical physics education. He has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications and has held leadership roles within the British Columbia Association of Medical Physicists.



Sandy Kwong, Social Worker and Chinese Language Counsellor
BC Cancer - Vancouver

Sandy Kwong, MSW, RSW is a Social Worker with Patient and Family Counselling Services at BC Cancer Vancouver Centre, where she provides psychosocial counselling and supportive care to individuals and families affected by cancer. For more than 20 years, Sandy has facilitated Chinese-language support groups for cancer patients and caregivers, creating culturally responsive spaces for connection, education, and mutual support. Since 2019, she has led an 8-week Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) program for Chinese-speaking cancer patients, adapting this evidence-based intervention to enhance accessibility and cultural relevance for Chinese communities.

Sandy is a Certified MBSR Teacher, having completed teacher training through the Centre for Mindfulness Studies in Toronto. She further deepened her practice through the two-year Committed Practitioners Programme with Bodhi College (UK), focusing on mindfulness, compassion, and the early Buddhist teachings from which contemporary mindfulness-based approaches are rooted.

In addition to her clinical practice, Sandy has developed innovative supportive care initiatives at BC Cancer, including the Be Active Psychoeducation Program for cancer survivors and a Peer Navigation Program to enhance patient engagement and access to support. Her professional interests include culturally responsive psychosocial oncology care, mindfulness-based interventions, group facilitation, and promoting resilience and well-being throughout the cancer journey.



Dr. Jennifer Laidlaw, Psychiatrist
Surrey Memorial Hospital

Dr. Jenny Laidlaw began her career as Head of Adult Consultation-Liaison (CL) Psychiatry at Surrey Memorial Hospital, where she developed a highly collaborative CL psychiatry service. She received a Doctors of BC Facilities Engagement Grant to develop a framework for managing vulnerable patients seeking to leave hospital. She published this work in the British Columbia Medical Journal and presented it to audiences across BC. Jenny joined BC Cancer in 2019, where she continues to teach psychiatry residents as a UBC Associate Clinical Professor and Fellow of the Canadian Psychiatric Association. She was selected to pilot a collaborative care model within BC Cancer Psychiatry, providing evidence-based mental health care while improving access to psychiatry through a shared-care approach with a collaborative care counsellor.

Jenny is passionate about evidence-based group psychotherapy. As a Mind Space facilitator, she leads CBT Foundations groups for individuals living with a cancer diagnosis and ADHD Skills for Success groups, combining her interest in the biopsychosocial treatment of ADHD with group-based care. Jenny completed the PHSA Level 3 Physician Quality Improvement Training course and received Shared Care funding for her PQI project. The project increased referrals of BC Cancer patients to evidence-based group psychotherapy (cognitive behavioural therapy - CBT) by 300%. A key outcome was the design and delivery of a CBT course within BC Cancer, improving access to group psychotherapy while incorporating patient feedback on their needs and preferences.



Dr. Matther Laing, Family Physician
Vancouver Coastal Health



Wan Lam, Distinguished Scientist, Basic and Translational Research
BC Cancer



Leah Lambert, Senior Scientist, Nursing Research
BC Cancer



Dr. Janessa Laskin, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Robin Latondresse, Senior Executive Director
Provincial Health Services Authority

Robin Latondresse brings over 20 years of expertise in the planning, design, and construction of healthcare facilities. As Senior Executive Director with the Provincial Health Services Authority, he provides governance and leadership for complex capital programs, ensuring sustainable, patient-centered solutions. Robin has directed landmark projects including the Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment and the North Island Hospitals Project, both among the largest healthcare investments in British Columbia. Known for his collaborative leadership style, he excels at aligning stakeholders, anticipating challenges, and guiding multidisciplinary teams to deliver innovative facilities that enhance healthcare delivery.



Robyn Latt, Oncology Drug Information Specialist
BC Cancer

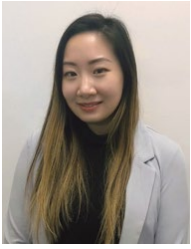
Robyn is an Oncology Drug Information Specialist with the BC Cancer Provincial Pharmacy Team. She collaborates on the development, dissemination, and maintenance of information resources, to optimize the safe and effective delivery of cancer treatment to patients at the BC Cancer regional sites and across the province. With experience spanning two continents in public health promotion, hospital and community pharmacy, Robyn's love for learning has opened opportunities for precepting, research and publication. Outside of work, Robyn's passion is to actively enjoy the outdoors – from skiing fresh Okanagan snow to snorkeling remote reefs; she is happiest when surrounded by nature



Dr. Madeline Lauener, Researcher
City of Hope National Medical Center, UBC

Dr. Madeline Lauener, PhD is a Postdoctoral Fellow and Thymus-Immunology Research Team Lead in the Department of Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation at City of Hope National Medical Center. Her research focuses on the mechanisms that regulate immune balance, with particular expertise in thymus biology, transplantation immunology, immune tolerance, immune reconstitution, and regulatory natural killer (NK) cell biology. She leads research programs investigating how the thymus and immune regulatory pathways can be leveraged to develop novel cellular therapies for transplantation complications and immune-mediated disease. Dr. Lauener completed her PhD in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of British Columbia and BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, where she pioneered studies identifying and characterizing regulatory NK cells associated with protection from chronic graft-versus-host disease. Her work has resulted in numerous peer-reviewed publications, national and international awards, invited presentations, and a patent application related to regulatory NK cell therapies. She is currently leading translational efforts toward the development of a first-in-human regulatory NK cell therapy at City of Hope, and holds an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship focused on harnessing these cells to improve outcomes following cancer treatment and transplantation.

A cancer survivor and passionate advocate for science communication, mentorship, and patient-centered research, Dr. Lauener is committed to translating fundamental immunology discoveries into therapies that improve the lives of patients.



Kristina Lee, Project Manager Talent Acquisition
BC Cancer Redevelopment

Kristina Lee is the project manager of Talent Acquisition for BC Cancer Redevelopment. She is responsible for leading talent acquisition initiatives for redevelopment projects and helping build the workforce needed to support this important work.

Kristina has been with PHSA since January 2024 and has been a valued member of the BC Cancer team, working as a talent acquisition advisor supporting recruitment initiatives across the organization. Prior to joining PHSA, Kristina spent 10+ years in leadership roles managing agency recruitment, strategically supporting both public and private sector organizations with their recruitment challenges.



Ben Lee, Director, Provincial Programs
BC Cancer



Tim Lee, Research Scientist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Shaina Lee, Fellow
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Jacob Lemire, Dietitian
BC Cancer - Victoria



Dr. Michelle Leslie, Family Physician
Vancouver Coastal Health



Dr. Natalie LeVasseur, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer



Amy (Jihyun) Lim, Cancer Drug Manual Writer, Provincial Pharmacy
BC Cancer



Fei-Fei Liu, Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Cancer Research
University Health Network



Dr. Samantha Lloyd, Senior Medical Physicist
BC Cancer – Kelowna

Dr. Samantha Lloyd is a Senior Medical Physicist at BC Cancer – Kelowna, and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Radiation Oncology at UBC. After completing degrees at TRU and UVic, and a Radiation Oncology Physics Residency at UC San Diego, Sam has worked as a radiation oncology physicist for eight years in St. John's, Vancouver and now Kelowna. Sam is currently the Director of Brachytherapy Education for the BC Cancer Medical Physics Residency Program, and Chair of the COMP Professional Affairs Committee.



Emily Lonsdale, Project Manager, Nursing Research
BC Cancer



Harvey Lui, Dermatologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Monical Luo, Student
BC Cancer Research Centre



Miller MacPherson, Executive Director Clinical Medical Physics
BC Cancer

Miller MacPherson joined BC Cancer as Executive Director of Clinical Medical Physics in 2026. He received his Ph.D. from Carleton University. He went on to work for ten years as a staff radiotherapy physicist at The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre, where he implemented programmatic initiatives in automated workflow, radiation treatment planning, and IMRT, and developed research interests in rotational radiation therapy and integrated planning and delivery strategies. In 2008, he joined Princess Margaret Hospital and was named Head of Physics at the Carlo Fidani Peel Regional Cancer Centre at Credit Valley Hospital, where he oversaw a rapid expansion of radiation infrastructure and technology deployment. In 2014 he became Head of Physics at The Ottawa Hospital, where he set new directions in delivery standardization, expansion into MR-guided radiation therapy, and automated pre-treatment workflow.



Marlene Manson, Coordinator, Office of Research Administration
BC Cancer



Dr. Kari Marken, Professor
University of British Columbia

Dr. Kari Marken teaches Creativity and Communications at the UBC Sauder School of Business. Her academic work examines how metaphor, mindset, and storytelling shape organizational learning cultures. In July 2025, Kari was diagnosed with a dedifferentiated liposarcoma in her left thigh. After radiation, limb-saving surgery, and rehabilitation with an oncology physiotherapist, she is now in remission. Treatment gave her a new space to test the ideas she teaches her MBA students: how creativity and communication function inside systems built for efficiency rather than human connection. As a way to cope, she tracked the moments that sparked creativity and connection in her exchanges with BC Cancer staff, clinicians, and fellow patients. Framing her experience as a one-woman case study helped her stay present enough to keep going, and gave her a way to bring her loved ones into what she was living through.

At the BC Cancer Summit, Kari speaks as both academic and patient. She brings her framework for creativity and communication into direct contact with the cancer care system, showing where communication broke down, where it held, and what small shifts changed the outcome. Her talk offers cancer care professionals one patient's perspective on how creativity and communication shape the experience of diagnosis and treatment, along with a few quick-win suggestions, drawn from her professional expertise, for creating more of these moments within the system.



Citili Marquez, ComSS Pr Lab General
BC Centre for Disease Control



Dr. Kristin Marr, Pediatric Oncologist
BC Children's Hospital



Dr. Corinne Maurice-Dror, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Chris Maxwell, Professor
University of British Columbia

Dr. Chris Maxwell is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and an Investigator in the Michael Cuccione Childhood Cancer Research Program at BC Children's Hospital (BCCH), where he is Lead of the Childhood Cancer and Blood Research group. At BCCH, Dr. Maxwell helped to initiate a precision oncology initiative termed Better Responses through Avatars and Evidence (2017 – present) and was

the Interim Director of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Research from 2021 to 2023. Dr. Maxwell was co-Chair for the national Developmental Therapeutics committee within the C17 Council from 2019 to 2024, wherein he initiated the national Pediatric Cancer Models and Mechanisms network.

Dr. Maxwell received his Ph.D. in Medical Sciences from the University of Alberta in 2004 and completed post-doctoral studies in radiation biology at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley, USA) and in molecular oncology at the Catalan Institute of Oncology (Barcelona, Spain) before initiating his independent research program at BCCH and UBC in 2009. His research program aims to better understand cell division at the molecular level and apply that knowledge to improve the treatment and, ultimately, to prevent the development of hereditary breast cancers.



Dr. Jessica McAlpine, Gynecologic Oncologist, Translational Researcher, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UBC; Director of Ovarian Cancer Research – OVCARE, BC Cancer – Vancouver



Colleen McGahan, Manager, Cancer System Intelligence
BC Cancer



Dr. John Paul McGhie, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Victoria



Dr. Michael McKenzie, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver

Dr. McKenzie has been a radiation oncologist at BC Cancer - Vancouver since 1991. At BC Cancer, he is currently Interim Senior Executive Medical Director for Quality. He also serves as PHSA's Medical Director for Medical Assistance in Dying. He has had a career-long interest in supportive cancer care and is Co-Chair of the Canadian Cancer Trials Group's Supportive Care Committee.



Nancy McKinstry, Strategic Advisor, Patient Partner



Dr. Helen McTaggart-Cowan, Scientist
BC Cancer

Dr. Helen McTaggart-Cowan is a Scientist at BC Cancer and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in the Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU. She leads an independent research team with a focus on cancer survivorship, patient engagement, and health outcomes. Her research has been funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research BC, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, Canadian Cancer Society, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada.



Laura Mercer, Clinical Resource Nurse
BC Cancer

Laura is a long time Oncology RN who has a passion for supporting patients and families through the transitions that a cancer diagnosis inevitably brings. She is currently working with the BC Cancer Virtual Health team on the Provincial Nursing Line.



Laurie Mercer, Patient Partner

Laurie Mercer, a member of the Nisga'a people in Northwest BC. Laurie was happily going about her life and career when she found herself diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma on June 5, 2023. Like others diagnosed with cancer, Laurie found a way to live with the disease after the shock wore off. Laurie retired 2 years ago so she could focus on healing and spend time doing the things she loves, which is spending time with her husband of 39 years, their four adult children and three grandchildren. Laurie recently took up rod fishing and loves it, it pairs nicely with her love of camping and being outdoors. Laurie also loves traveling, she and her husband toured London, Paris, Vienna and Rome last October and this summer they took their family to Disneyland. Laurie readily shares her experience with hopes of helping others and she's a member of BC Cancer's Regional Patient Experience Committee.



Renelle Meyers, Interventional Respiriologist, Clinical Associate Professor, Bronchoscopy Director
Vancouver General Hospital, BC Cancer Research Institute
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Sandra Meyers, Regional Leader Clinical Medical Physics
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Dr. Meyers is the Regional Leader of Clinical Medical Physics at BC Cancer Vancouver, starting in this role in September 2025. Originally from Vancouver, she completed her PhD in medical physics at the University of British Columbia, with a focus on MRI. She then transitioned to the field of radiation therapy and completed a medical physics residency at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Prior to BC Cancer, she was an Associate Professor and Vice-Chair of Physics & Technology Research at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Meyers' research is internationally recognized, particularly in the development of AI-driven treatment planning and decision-making tools for gynecologic brachytherapy. Her work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Varian Medical Systems and other agencies. She is a leader in the scientific community and national professional organizations, serving as an editor for the journal Practical Radiation Oncology, grant reviewer for the NIH, and chair of the Women's Professional Subcommittee of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.



Dr. Stacy Miller, Executive Medical Director, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Victoria



Cara Miller, Dietitian
BC Cancer - Victoria



Dr. Zahi Mitri, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Stefanie Montgomery, Psychiatrist
BC Cancer - Victoria



Mary Munroe, Clinical Research Leadership Committee
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Rachel Murphy, Senior Scientist
BC Cancer Research Institute

Dr. Rachel Murphy is a Senior Scientist at the BC Cancer Research Institute and an Associate Professor at the School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Precision Public Health Nutrition. Her research program is centred on the intersection between nutrition, public health and cancer prevention with the goal of achieving healthy lives for all. Research projects include leadership of the largest ever collection of dietary intake and movement behaviour among Canadians across all provinces within the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow's Health cohort, and two CIHR team grants that aim to understand biological mechanisms linking dietary intake and development of cancer in diverse populations.



Maxwell Murray, Provincial Clinical Coordinator Medication Reconciliation
BC Cancer

Max is the Clinical Coordinator for Medication Reconciliation with BC Cancer Provincial Pharmacy. He completed his BSc (Pharm) at UBC in 2003 and his Master of Cancer Sciences at the University of Melbourne in 2023. With over 20 years of experience, he has practiced pharmacy in retail, acute care, and ambulatory oncology settings in Alberta and BC. In his current role, he is leading the development of a new pharmacy-based medication reconciliation program to support safe, effective, patient-centred care at BC Cancer. He is an uninvited settler of Scottish and Irish ancestry and is grateful to live with his family on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan people in what is colonially known as Penticton.



Richard Musoke, Biostatistical Analyst, Data and Analytics
BC Cancer



Thiru Nadesan, Data Scientist
BC Cancer

Thiru is a Data Scientist at BC Cancer, specializing in the development and operationalization of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence solutions that support healthcare operations and decision-making. His interests span applied AI, data science, and the translation of advanced analytical methods into practical healthcare solutions. Thiru holds a Doctorate in Engineering, with a specialization in Fluid Mechanics.



Lynne Nakashima, Senior Director, Provincial Pharmacy, Pharmacy Residency Program Director
BC Cancer



Nadine, Patient Partner

Nadine is a patient partner whose passions connect lived experience with cancer research. A survivor of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, she brings personal experience, social work training, and a perspective on how lived experience can meaningfully shape pre clinical research. Nadine has served as a mentor, collaborator, and partner on multiple research teams, contributing her lived experience to research. She is also the Co Lead of the BC Co Mentorship Pilot Program with BC Cancer, an initiative that pairs patient partners and trainees to strengthen early stage research through bi directional learning. Nadine lives in the Okanagan, where she enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband, Toby.



Dr. Lucia Nappi, Medical Oncologist - Clinician Scientist, Assistant Professor
BC Cancer – Vancouver
University of British Columbia

Dr. Lucia Nappi is a medical oncologist - clinician scientist, MD and PhD. She is an assistant professor in the department of Urologic Sciences at the University of British Columbia and a senior research scientist at the Vancouver Prostate and works as medical oncologist in the GU group at the BC Cancer in Vancouver. Her main research focus involves the discovery and validation of biomarkers in GU cancers, mainly in prostate and testis cancer patients.

She has got several grants and awards including the Prostate Cancer Challenge Award (2024) , CIHR operational grant (2021), the R37 NIH grant (2022) and the career development award from the US department of defense (2022). She is a Michael Smith health professional scholar. She is the vice-chair of the SWOG Adolescent and Young Adults (AYA) committee and the chair of the international SWOG- S1823 / CCTG GCC.1 and GCC.2 clinical trials.



Dylan Narinesingh, Medical Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Surrey



Brad Nelson, Director Deeley Research Centre
BC Cancer



James Newell, Manager, Business Analytics, Data & Analytics
BC Cancer



Thi Phoung Nghiem, Senior Methodologist
BC Cancer



Trang Nguyen, Health Promotion Specialist
BC Cancer



Dr. David Nguyen, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Kelowna

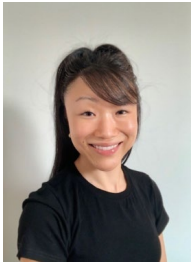


Saroj Niraula
BC Cancer - Kelowna



Jessica Noble, Provincial Cancer Care Coordinator
BC Cancer

Jessica Noble, PMP, is the Provincial Cancer Care Coordinator for BC Cancer's Community Oncology Network. With more than ten years of experience in cancer care, healthcare operations, and provincial programs, she leads initiatives that improve access to high-quality oncology services across British Columbia. Jessica's work focuses on whole system coordination, process improvement, multi-health organization engagement, and the development of sustainable solutions that enhance both patient and provider experiences as well as the oncology treatment system as a whole.



Misuzu Noguchi, Registered Dietitian, Allied Health Educator
BC Cancer

Misuzu Noguchi (she/her) is a Registered Dietitian, Allied Health Educator with BC Cancer's Practice & Learning team. Prior to her current role, she was the Nutrition Clinical Coordinator at BC Cancer – Vancouver, after spending 11 years as an inpatient oncology dietitian at Fraser Health's Surrey Memorial Hospital. Misuzu enjoys collaborating with colleagues across BC Cancer and seeing innovative ideas come to life through teamwork and partnership. She is also dedicated to advancing dietetic education through student and preceptor support, and is a Clinical Instructor with the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

Outside of work, Misuzu is passionate about dog rescue and is a board member for a local rescue organization that helps dogs from remote northern communities in Canada find safe and loving homes in BC.



Jennifer Nuk, Practice Leader - Genetic Counselling
BC Cancer

Jennifer Nuk is a certified genetic counsellor and Practice Leader with the BC Cancer Hereditary Cancer Program and clinical assistant professor with University of British Columbia's Department of Medical Genetics. Interests include alternative service delivery models, public and provider education, health care quality and increasing access for underserved populations.



John-Jose Nunez, Associate Medical Director, Supportive Care
BC Cancer

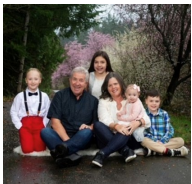


Sabrina Nurmohamed, Dermatologist
University of British Columbia



Dr. Theodora Olivotto, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Victoria

Dr. Theodora Olivotto is a radiation oncologist at BC Cancer Victoria. She treats patients with breast and GI malignancies. She is the chair of the breast radiation oncology provincial group. She has a special interest in palliative care and patient-centered collaborative care.



Louise Osmond, Patient Partner

Louise Osmond is a 58-year-old mother, grandmother, patient partner, and cancer survivor who approaches life with resilience and a commitment to finding moments worth celebrating, even in the most difficult times. Diagnosed with invasive ductal carcinoma in January 2024, she underwent surgery in March, chemotherapy beginning in May, and radiation in December, completing hospital based treatment in January 2025. She proudly lives NED and continues to mark each milestone of her journey with gratitude and celebration.

Louise has built three careers: starting as a hairdresser, retraining as a family counsellor supporting children and youth with complex developmental and behavioural needs and at risk families, and later turning her passion for wine into facilitating wine education seminars.

She is a mother of two and grandmother of four, aged four to fourteen, who were a constant source of strength throughout her treatment. Her husband remained her unwavering support and the backbone of their family.

Today, Louise is a patient partner, dedicated to giving back to the healthcare system that supported her and improving the experience of future patients.



Michelle Padley, Nurse, Research Projects Manager
BC Cancer

Michelle Padley, RN, BScN, MN, is a Métis nurse and Research Projects Manager with BC Cancer, where she supports Indigenous-led research focused on improving Indigenous Peoples' experiences within cancer care. She currently manages the Elevating Indigenous Voices in Radiotherapy Care research project, working alongside Indigenous communities, healthcare partners, Knowledge Holders, and researchers to better understand and address barriers to accessing radiotherapy services in British Columbia.

Michelle brings experience in Indigenous health research, project leadership, community engagement, relationship and partnership development, and knowledge translation. Her approach is grounded in Indigenous Research Methodologies and a commitment to relational, community-engaged, and distinctions-based research that centers Indigenous voices and knowledge systems.

In addition to her role with BC Cancer, Michelle is a PhD student in Nursing at the University of Victoria and a Research Affiliate with the BC Indigenous Health Nursing Research Chair. Her doctoral research explores Métis youth experiences transitioning out of the foster care system, with a focus on wellness, identity, belonging, and mental health.



Anika Patel, Manager, Provincial Systemic Therapy
BC Cancer



Anika Paton, Ophthalmologist
Vancouver Coastal Health



Dr. Michael Peacock, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver

Dr. Michael Peacock attended UBC Medical School and graduated in 2010. He completed his Radiation Oncology residency at UBC in 2015. He then completed a brachytherapy fellowship at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. He has been working at BC Cancer Vancouver Centre since 2016 specializing in genitourinary and gastrointestinal treatments. He is a clinical assistant professor in the UBC Department of Surgery. He is currently involved in clinical research including clinical trials for patients with advanced prostate cancer. Currently over 30 peer reviewed publications. He is also the present Radiation Oncology Residency Program Director at the University of British Columbia overseeing the training of the next generation of radiation oncologists.



Samantha Pollard, Investigator, Assistant Professor (SFU)
BC Children's Hospital Research Institute



BC Pomeroy, MAiD Lead
Provincial Health Services Authority

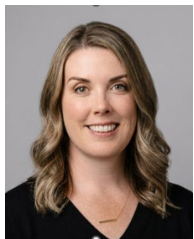
BC Pomeroy leads the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Program and Care Coordination Office at Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), advancing a compassionate, ethical, equitable, and person-centred approach to MAiD within a learning health system. Their work focuses on strengthening clinical practice, policy, education, and system-wide collaboration to support high-quality, relational care.



Dr. Vincent Poon, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Zia Poonja, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Victoria



Kathryn Proudfoot, Senior Director, Patient & Family Experience & Partnerships
Provincial Health Services Authority

Kathryn Proudfoot is the Senior Director of Patient & Family Experience & Partnerships for the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA). A Registered Dietitian with a Master of Science in Community Health and Epidemiology, she brings a collaborative, evidence-informed approach to advancing person-centred care, health equity and meaningful patient and family partnerships throughout cancer care. Her work strengthens how patient and family perspectives shape healthcare planning, decisions and improvements, helping translate lived experience into better care.

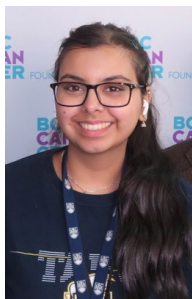


Caylee Raber, Director Health Design Lab (HDL)
Emily Carr University of Art and Design

Caylee Raber is Director of the Health Design Lab (HDL) at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. HDL is a research and design center which specializes in the use of participatory design methods to catalyze, support and amplify local initiatives that address complex health challenges. Her work centers on engaging people with lived experience to co-create stronger health services, experiences, and programs in collaboration with communities, health authorities, and academic institutions. Caylee also teaches in the Faculty of Design and Dynamic Media and Faculty of Graduate Studies at Emily Carr University.



Dr. Srinivas Raman, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Jasmine Rehal, Student
University of British Columbia

Jasmine Rehal is a fourth-year Combined Honours Biophysics student at UBC. Nearly three years ago, after months of excruciating pain, she was diagnosed with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) and secondary central nervous system lymphoma (SCNSL). She underwent months of chemotherapy, experienced neurological complications, and received an autologous stem cell transplant at Vancouver General Hospital. At just 20 years old, she found herself away from school, work, and the life she had expected to be building.

Her experience as a young cancer patient has profoundly shaped her perspective on both healthcare and research. Upon returning to university, she transferred from Physics into Biophysics and completed a co-op placement in MacAulay's Lab at BC Cancer, where she worked with hyperspectral imaging datasets in lung cancer research. She now explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and cancer care, including how AI chatbots can support patients and caregivers. Her lived experience has heightened her awareness of the people behind every research question and continues to influence the questions she pursues as a researcher.

Jasmine created this session to explore how cancer affects young people beyond treatment, including its impact on education, career development, identity, and sense of direction. As increasing numbers of adolescents and young adults face cancer diagnoses, she examines how resources and support can be brought closer to the frontlines for students and young people navigating these challenges. Most importantly, she creates space to reflect on how the experience of cancer can shape the research we pursue, the advocacy we undertake, and the people we become.



Shauna Remin, Registered Nurse Provincial Nurse Line
BC Cancer

Shauna Remin is an employee with BC Cancer for over two decades, having started in the diagnostic imaging department in Vancouver, then in health records/HIM, then for many years as medical secretary for multiple centres and the FPON provincial program. Shauna returned to school to complete a nursing degree after she (along with her supportive husband) could raise her two children. Shauna has worked with BC Cancer as a nurse since 2019 at BC Cancer Surrey, as a Nurse Educator with BC Cancer Surrey, and as an RN with the Provincial Nurse Line. Shauna's Master of Nursing work with the University of Victoria centred around Body Image and Breast Cancer using the method of Photovoice. Shauna is grateful for the opportunity to share alongside Patient Partners and participants learnings from this study. Shauna continues her work in oncology undertaking PhD studies at the UVic. Shauna has a keen interest in matters that are important to those with and affected by cancer. Shauna considers herself an advocate for improving the experiences of people cancer, their families, and those involved with their care. Shauna received the Lieutenant Governor Medal in 2019 for her advocacy work and academic merit during her undergraduate studies, and a Research Award in 2025 from the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO/ACIO) for her Master's work. Shauna is grateful for the support from the John Jambor and McCarthy family, and Stephen Berg Foundation that have made her work possible. Shauna thanks the many mentors that have come alongside to shape who she is today



Dr. Daniel Renouf, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Kristen Renwick, Clinical Coordinator
BC Cancer - Kelowna



Dr. Julia Ridley, Provincial Medical Director, Pain & Symptom Management / Palliative Care
BC Cancer

Dr. Julia Ridley is a palliative care physician, medical educator and Provincial Medical Director for Pain and Symptom Management/Palliative Care at BC Cancer. She has clinical experience across acute care, community settings, and outpatient oncology clinics in Ontario and BC. She was previously program director for the Subspecialty Palliative Medicine residency program at UBC, and continues as Medical Education Lead for the BC Centre for Palliative Care. While not working she is often found at concerts, sewing and building with her 2 boys.



Shelby Ritchey, Clinical Nursing System Specialist
BC Cancer

Shelby Ritchey is a Clinical Nursing System Specialist with BC Cancer's Provincial Systemic Therapy Program. She has worked in oncology nursing since 2017, with experience spanning direct patient care, clinical education, and provincial program coordination and implementation.

In her current role, Shelby supports the development and implementation of provincial clinical workflows and programs, working collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams across BC to promote safe, consistent, and patient-centred care. Her work includes supporting the implementation and coordination of cancer therapies, with a focus on improving communication, education, and care processes across sites.

Shelby is currently completing her Master of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan, further building her knowledge in nursing leadership, research, and healthcare systems.



Dr. Jennifer Ritonja, Scientist
BC Cancer Research Institute

Dr. Jennifer Ritonja is a Scientist at the BC Cancer Research Institute and an Assistant Professor (Partner) in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia. Her research focuses on identifying modifiable risk factors for cancer prevention in women, with a particular emphasis on how exposures across the life course shape cancer risk. Using a range of epidemiologic methods, she aims to generate evidence that informs more effective prevention strategies. Dr. Ritonja completed her MSc and PhD in epidemiology at Queen's University, and postdoctoral training at McGill University and the



Dr. Andrew Robertson, Medical Physicist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. David Robertson, MAiD Medical Director
Island Health

Dr. David Robertson was born and raised in the UK through to completion of his medical degree. Immigrated into Canada in 1983 and attended Dalhousie University as a resident in Anesthesiology, 1983 to 1987. During this time, he married Heather. They now have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Worked as a full-time anesthesiologist in Nova Scotia 1987-2006 and then on Vancouver Island until 2015. Held a variety of medical leadership positions since 1992 leading to a 7-year full-time position as an Executive Medical Director for Island Health from 2014 to 2021. Now semi-retired, he has led the Island Health MAiD program since it was created in the autumn of 2015. Heather and David live in Duncan where, among other things, he is just about finished renovating a 1970 Airstream in his spare time.



Hannelore Roos, Patient Partner

Hannelore Roos, aka Hanna, has been a patient partner with the BC Cancer Patient and Family Experience Program since December 2023. As a breast cancer survivor and ovarian cancer previvor, she is missing some body parts and chemical substances that once contributed to her overall well-being. With the support of her medical team and some kick-ass physiotherapists, she learned new ways to beat the lingering brain fog, cancer fatigue and radiation stiffness so she can remain a happy and functional family member.

Today, she is still waiting for the results of a biopsy for what appears to be basal cell carcinoma. When she is not waiting in line at LifeLabs or making good use of her health benefits at her favourite physiotherapy and massage clinic, she works as an Executive Assistant at the University of British Columbia.

More recently, she discovered the joy of dragon boating with her new breasties on the Fort Langley-based Abreast With FORTitude dragon boat team on the Fraser River. Her favourite things in the world are paddle boarding with her 12-year-old son and going for walks with her husband and their goofy Goldendoodle, named Peaches. Before becoming a migrant herself, she was a cultural mobilities and migration scholar at KU Leuven and a qualitative research instructor at Hasselt University in Belgium. In January 2023, bald-headed and surrounded by family, she celebrated becoming a Canadian citizen in Vancouver. Although she thought her life was ending at the time, she now realizes it had only just begun.



Kim Sanderson, Patient Partner

Kim is a proud “Triple Positive” woman. Diagnosed with Triple Positive Breast Cancer in September 2024, she faced a lumpectomy, mastectomy, chemotherapy, Herceptin, reconstruction and reduction—and now hormone therapy—with a positive attitude and determination through every challenge.

Retired from a career consulting with Ministries of Health across Canada and Health Canada (with the exception of Quebec), Kim spent her career creating social marketing campaigns and school programs focused on tobacco prevention, tobacco cessation, second-hand smoke, alcohol and drug abuse prevention for youth. She worked alongside leading advertising agencies and directly with governments to develop campaigns designed to make a difference.

Kim and her husband Paul are proud parents and even prouder grandparents to four wee boys—making it more important than ever to keep moving forward with the belief that cancer is behind her and cancer advocacy is ahead of her.

Today, Kim is incredibly proud to be a Patient Partner, bringing her professional experience, personal journey and, most importantly, her positive attitude to helping others navigate their own healthcare journeys.



Raman Sandhu, Nurse Clinician, Clinical Capacity Optimization
BC Cancer

Raman Sandhu is a dedicated oncology nurse with over a decade of experience at BC Cancer working in the medical daycare, outpatient clinics and systemic therapy treatment unit. Her passion and commitment for staff mentorship, clinical education and quality improvement was further enhanced while serving as a Clinical Nurse Educator as part of the Professional Practice nursing group in BC Cancer Vancouver where she was regularly involved in the review and development of provincial policies and guidance for oncology nurses. In her current role as Nurse Clinician with Clinical Capacity Optimization – Provincial Programs BC Cancer, she is working in collaboration with Systemic Therapy programs across all BC Cancer centers to support several continuous improvement optimization initiatives.



Heather Sapruff, Research Project Manager
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Devin Schellenberg, Senior Executive Medical Director - Radiation Therapy, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Surrey



Brittney Schichter, Lead, Advance Care Planning
Provincial Health Services Authority

Brittney Schichter is the Lead, Advance Care Planning at PHSA. Brittney is a lawyer by training and completed a fellowship in clinical ethics with PHSA's Ethics Service in 2025. Prior to this role, Brittney worked in the areas of research ethics, research privacy and patient engagement. She is passionate about person-centered care and improving patient experiences of the health system by promoting relational approaches.



Intan Schrader, Co-Medical Director, Hereditary Cancer Program
BC Cancer



Blair Schumacher, Patient Partner

He returned to BC Cancer as a patient for a second time during the COVID-19 pandemic. The care he received was extraordinary and inspired him to become a volunteer at the Victoria Centre. He considers it a privilege to give back while working alongside the same team that once supported him through treatment.

He also volunteers with, and serves on the Board of Directors of, the Cancer DriveLine Society, helping patients access reliable transportation to and from their appointments. Becoming a Patient Partner was a natural next step in his journey. It provides another meaningful way to give back to a community that has supported him so generously. The experience has been deeply meaningful, grounding, and genuinely rewarding.



Dr. Inna Sekirov, Medical Microbiologist
BC Children's and Women's Hospital

Dr. Inna Sekirov is a Medical Microbiologist at the BC Children's and Women's Hospital and a Clinical Associate Professor with the University of British Columbia's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Her work bridges diagnostic assay development, genomics and next generation sequencing technologies, with a consistent focus on translational potential of research initiatives and their implementation within accredited clinical laboratories. She has a particular interest in the research field of human microbiome and its impact on disease progression.

Dr. Sekirov is currently co-leading research projects that examine the role of vaginal microbiome in HPV infection progression. She is also seeking to establish a clinically relevant microbiome research program focused on vulnerable pediatric populations, such as the contributions of gut, respiratory and skin microbiome to sepsis, invasive fungal infections, colonization with multidrug resistant organisms and other relevant outcomes in

hematological malignancy patients and neonates. She has extensive previous experience with mycobacterial genomics, including epidemiology and diagnostics, as well as with serological approaches to viral infections diagnostics and serosurveillance.



Su Yeun (Anne) Seol, Master's Student
Emily Carr



Claudine Sevilla, Patient Partner

Claudine was a young adult in the midst of pursuing her dreams when life decided to build her resilience by throwing cancer into the mix. Grateful for the care she received as a cancer patient, Claudine tries to give back by participating in engagements with the Patient & Family Partner Network. Knowing how confusing and scary a new diagnosis can be, this project is very close to Claudine's heart, as this video will bring assurance and comfort to new patients that a great team at BC Cancer will be there for them throughout their cancer journey.



Matt Sha, Student
University of British Columbia

Matt Sha (He/him) is a medical student at the University of British Columbia. During his undergraduate degree, he was diagnosed with a rare type of sarcoma called myxoid liposarcoma and successfully treated. Following his treatment, he began volunteering as a patient partner at BC Cancer. Matt is a proud member of the Sarcomies, a group of like-minded individuals making the most of life after a sarcoma diagnosis.



Nivan Sharma, Patient Partner

Nivan Sharma is a UBC Family Medicine Resident and an osteosarcoma survivor. He received chemotherapy and reconstructive leg surgery at BC Children's Hospital and VGH. Although his treatment went smoothly, witnessing his friends deteriorate and pass away from their own cancers deeply affected him. This experience motivated Nivan to pursue a career in medicine, aiming to help patients overcome cancer and provide the same compassionate care he received during his treatment. After completing his residency in Nanaimo he will return to his remote hometown of Prince Rupert to provide cancer care for an underserved community.



Monica Shin, Officer, Research Ethics
BC Cancer

Monica joined the BC Cancer Research Ethics Office in 2022 as a Research Ethics Officer. She supports the Research Ethics Board (REB) in its review and oversight of health research involving human participants. Her work spans the full lifecycle of ethics oversight: developing and maintaining guidance documents for the research community, administering annual renewal and post-approval activity processes in RISE, and facilitating workshops that help researchers and trainees prepare stronger submissions. As part of her role, Monica develops written guidance and shares it through workshops and direct consultation, aiming to build ethics literacy across the research community.

Monica came to research ethics as a researcher herself. She completed a master's degree in neuroscience at McGill University, where she prepared her own ethics submissions and navigated the review process from the applicant's side. That experience shapes how she approaches her current work.



Dr. Rosie Shrout, Assistant Professor of Psychology
University of British Columbia

Dr. Rosie Shrout, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of British Columbia. She is a social-health psychologist with specialized training in psychoneuroimmunology, dyadic methods, and behavioural medicine. Dr. Shrout's research examines how stress affects relationships and health among those with cancer and chronic illness. Her work shows that the quality of people's relationships influences psychological and physical health, including the gut microbiome and immune, endocrine, and cardiovascular functioning. Her research has been recognized with the Association for Psychological Science Rising Star Award, a KL2 Early Career Investigator Award, and the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Emerging Scholar Award.



Tracy Shu, Pharmacy Resident
Pharmacy



Shian Shuel, Medical Education Lead
BC Cancer

Sian completed medical school at the University of Manitoba and Family Medicine Residency through the University of British Columbia. After completing BC Cancer's General Practitioner in Oncology (GPO) Education, she started her career as a rural Family Physician and community GPO on Vancouver Island. Upon moving to back to the Lower Mainland, she worked as a family medicine locum before joining the local palliative care team, earning her Certificate of Added Competence in Palliative Care. Sian is now the Medical Education Lead for BC Cancer Primary Care Program's Family Practice Oncology Network, and a GPO in systemic therapy at BC Cancer Abbotsford. She is also a clinical advisor, Models of Care with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. When not at work, she can be found at the volleyball court or baseball diamond cheering her boys on.



Vishaldeep Sidhu, Manager, VC Clinical Research Unit
BC Cancer



Satnam Sidhu, Leader, Patient & Family Partnerships and Experience
BC Cancer - Victoria

Satnam Sidhu, RD, is the Leader of Patient & Family Partnerships and Experience at BC Cancer – Victoria. A Registered Dietitian with more than 20 years of healthcare experience, she is committed to advancing person-centred cancer care through meaningful patient and family partnerships and engagement. Since joining BC Cancer in 2010 as a member of the Victoria Nutrition team, she went on to lead the program as Clinical Coordinator for seven years before assuming her current role. She works collaboratively across the cancer system to advance the integration of lived experience into the design, delivery, and quality improvement of cancer care. She co-chairs the BC Cancer Victoria Indigenous Cultural Safety Committee and was recognized with the 2023 BC Cancer Excellence Award for Patient Care Champion for her commitment to person-centred care and health equity.



Jon Simkin, Director, BC Cancer Registry
BC Cancer



Marcus Sonier, Regional Leader, Clinical Medical Physics
BC Cancer – Abbotsford

Marcus Sonier is the Regional Leader of Clinical Medical Physics at BC Cancer Abbotsford. He completed his MSc and PhD education at the University of British Columbia and Medical Physics Residency at the Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Center in Toronto, Ontario. Marcus is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM) and is a current member of the Board of Directors in the role of Chief Examiner with the responsibility of certifying all physicists across Canada. He is also involved in the BC Cancer Residency Program where he has held various positions over the years including Associate Director roles and Program Director.



Sally-Anne Stelling, Co-Director, Exercise and Education Team Lead, Physiotherapist
University of British Columbia



Elizabeth Stevenson, Provincial Clinical Educator – Radiation Therapy
BC Cancer

Liz is a Provincial Clinical Educator in Radiation Therapy with BC Cancer's Professional Practice and Learning team. She brings more than 17 years of experience as a Radiation Therapist and has taken on a variety of roles throughout her career, including Resource Radiation Therapist and Clinical Educator. Passionate about lifelong learning, Liz is dedicated to supporting the growth and development of others while continuing to advance her own practice. More recently, she has become increasingly involved with the national professional association, helping to promote the profession and contribute to its ongoing evolution. She values collaboration, enjoys connecting people and ideas across teams, and is committed to keeping patient-centred care at the heart of clinical education and practice.



Rajesh Sthankiya, Director, Provincial Programs MIT
BC Cancer



Eleah Stringer, Dietitian
BC Cancer – Victoria

Eleah (she/her) has been a dietitian at BC Cancer – Victoria since 2014. Her research, funded by Michael Smith Health Research BC, the Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation, and the BC Cancer Foundation, investigates dietary interventions that trigger metabolic adaptations with potential implications for cancer prevention and control. She is currently leading a series of trials alongside Dr. Nicol Macpherson, Medical Oncologist at BC Cancer – Victoria, and Dr. Julian Lum, Senior Scientist at BC Cancer's Deeley Research Centre. Inspired by patient-identified information needs, Eleah is also coordinating the development of a decision support tool for patients with head and neck cancer, in collaboration between BC Cancer and the University of Victoria. Grounded in

relational and patient-oriented methodologies, she is keen to further engage and collaborate with patients, communities, and academia.



Heather Stuart, Surgical Oncologist
Vancouver General Hospital



Robin Suprun, Data Scientist, Data Analytics
BC Cancer

Robin Suprun is a Data Scientist with BC Cancer's Advanced Analytics team. Over 16 years in health analytics, he has worked across modelling, forecasting, simulation, operational planning, and machine learning and AI. His role focuses on helping translate health-system needs into analytical solutions that support operational and strategic decision-making. He holds a Master of Operations Research and a Bachelor of Science from the University of British Columbia.



Dr. Matthew Ta, Psychiatrist
BC Cancer - Kelowna and Abbotsford

Dr. Matthew Ta graduated from Dalhousie Medical School, completed his psychiatry residency at the University of Toronto, and is a psychiatrist working for the psychosocial oncology department at both BC Cancer Kelowna and Abbotsford. He has special interests in CALM therapy, Meaning Centered Psychotherapy, psychodynamic therapy, interpersonal group therapy and psychedelic assisted psychotherapy.



Marie Grace Taccayan, Registered Nurse
BC Cancer – Kelowna

Marie Grace Taccayan, RN, BScN, MScN, is a Registered Nurse at BC Cancer – Kelowna, specializing in Radiation and Cancer Rehabilitation Nursing. She has been among the pioneers in the development of Cancer Rehabilitation in British Columbia and played a key role in building and advancing the Cancer Rehabilitation Program at BC Cancer – Kelowna.

Marie is committed to supporting patients throughout and beyond their cancer treatment journey. Her work focuses on addressing the physical, emotional, functional, and supportive care needs of people living with and beyond cancer through an integrated, patient-centred approach. She is passionate about advancing the role of nursing in cancer rehabilitation and survivorship care and is dedicated to improving patient outcomes through education, collaboration, and innovative approaches to care. Through her clinical practice, Marie continues to advocate for rehabilitation as an essential component of comprehensive cancer care.



Isabella Tai, Senior Scientist, Genome Sciences Centre
BC Genome Sciences Centre



Dr. Yuka Takemon, Computational Scientist and Research Associate
Michael Smith Laboratories, UBC
BC Cancer Research Institute

Dr. Yuka Takemon (they/them) is a computational scientist in Dr. Marco Marra's group at the Michael Smith Laboratories at UBC and BC Cancer Research Institute, specializing in cancer genomics and the discovery of new therapeutic vulnerabilities in cancer cells. Working closely with BC Cancer's Precision OncoGenomics (POG) program, their research aims to expand the number of patients who may benefit from precision cancer genomic medicine.

Dr. Takemon's work focuses on finding useful information within parts of the cancer genome that are not routinely used to guide treatment decisions. In particular, they study synthetic lethality, genetic weaknesses that arise when cancer cells lose the function of certain genes, and use large-scale genomic and functional data to identify potential new treatment strategies for patients with advanced and metastatic cancers.



Michelle Tam, Leader, Patient Safety, Quality, & Accreditation
BC Cancer



Isabela Tan, Leader, Patient Safety, Quality, & Accreditation
BC Cancer



Cherie Taylor, Executive Director, Clinical Operations & Capital Redevelopment
BC Cancer



Heidi Taylor, Manager, Clinical Services
BC Cancer - Victoria



Steven Thomas, Senior Medical Physicist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Dr. Anna Tinker, Medical Director, Clinical Planning – Redevelopment
BC Cancer

Dr. Anna Tinker is the medical director, Clinical Planning – Redevelopment, providing physician leadership and clinical expertise for the new BC Cancer centres in Surrey, Nanaimo and Kamloops.

A medical oncologist and respected clinical leader at BC Cancer, Dr. Tinker serves as provincial chair of the Gynecologic Oncology Tumour Group, vice-chair of the Medical Advisory Committee and vice-chair of the Research Ethics Board. She also co-chairs the Canadian Cancer Trials Group Ovarian Cancer Working Group and remains actively involved in research and mentorship.

Outside of work, Dr. Tinker is a proud mother of two daughters and an avid field hockey player. She recently represented Team Canada at the Masters Field Hockey World Cup in the Netherlands.



Haaris Tiwana, Senior Project Manager, Strategy, Planning & Implementation
BC Cancer



Nadine Truter, ACP & MAID Coordinator
Provincial Health Services Authority



Carlos Uribe, Leader, Clinical Molecular Imaging and Therapy Physics
BC Cancer



Lindsay Van der Meer, Provincial Professional Practice Leader, Nutrition and Speech Language Pathology
BC Cancer

Lindsay (she/her) is the Provincial Professional Practice Leader for Nutrition and Speech Language Pathology (SLP), where she works to support the great work of BC Cancer Dietitians and SLPs across the province. She brings diverse experiences as a dietitian to this role, having practiced in oncology for more than 16 years.

Lindsay is a Clinical Instructor with UBC's Faculty of Land and Food Systems. She is actively involved with preceptoring dietetics students through their research projects and sees practice-based research as an opportunity to increase engagement and advance dietetic practice.

Outside of work Lindsay enjoys being active outside and spending time with her family and her new puppy.



Anneke Vink, Director, Learning & Development
BC Cancer



Roberta Walker, Patient Partner

Her husband was diagnosed with prostate cancer five years ago and has undergone surgery and several forms of treatment since his diagnosis. As a retired hospital social worker, she believed she understood what to expect and how to effectively navigate the healthcare system. However, the experience revealed challenges and complexities she had not anticipated.



Jacqueline Walter, Allied Health Educator-Patient & Family Counselling
BC Cancer



Leslie Warner, Registered Clinical Collaborative Care Counsellor, Provincial Programs- Supportive Care
BC Cancer - Surrey

Leslie started at BC Cancer- Prince George in 2016 as part of the Patient and Family Counselling team where she supported patients across northern BC- from 100 Mile House to Dease Lake to Hadaí Gwaii. In her time at Patient and Family Counselling, Leslie provided individual, couples and family therapy and developed patient education sessions for patients across the north.

In 2025, Leslie transitioned to the BC Cancer Psychiatry team as a Collaborative Care Counsellor, a newly created role which integrates the Collaborative Care Model into psychosocial oncology services at BC Cancer. Working as part of the BC Cancer Surrey psychiatry team, she provides team-based individual and couples counselling for patients receiving psychiatric care. Leslie is particularly passionate about collaborative, patient-centered care and has found this approach deeply rewarding.

With the intention of providing further stepped mental health care at BC Cancer, Leslie has worked to co-develop and facilitate the BC Cancer CBT Group as part of a provincial Psychiatry Services working group. Leslie also has a special interest in sexual health and cancer. She has pursued advanced training and has co-developed and regularly facilitates educational programming to support both people with cancer and their loved ones in the area of sexual health, intimacy and wellbeing.



Juliet Choi Webster, BSc, PharmD Student
University of British Columbia

Juliet Choi Webster is a fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy student at the University of British Columbia and a member of the Lower Nicola Indian Band. Her professional interests include oncology pharmacy, Indigenous health, medication safety, and improving equitable access to pharmacy care.

Juliet's involvement with BC Cancer began through a Directed Studies research project focused on medication reconciliation and pharmacy care for Indigenous patients with cancer. Through this work, she contributed to efforts to better understand barriers to medication access and identify opportunities to support culturally safe and equitable pharmacy care. She is continuing this work with BC Cancer as a pharmacy student project assistant, contributing to ongoing initiatives related to medication reconciliation and pharmacy services for Indigenous patients.

Throughout her PharmD program, Juliet has also been involved in student leadership and community engagement. She previously served as Social Chair of the Indigenous Pharmacy Students Club and held Fundraising Officer and Retreat Officer positions with Lambda Kappa Sigma, a professional pharmacy fraternity. She has also gained experience across community and hospital pharmacy settings.

Juliet is particularly interested in the intersection of oncology, Indigenous health, and health equity and hopes to continue contributing to initiatives that improve medication-related care and experiences for Indigenous patients. She expects to graduate from the UBC PharmD program in May 2027.



Kathleen Wee, Research Associate- Clinical Informatics
Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre



Dr. Alison Wepler, Medical Oncologist
BC Cancer – Vancouver

Dr. Alison Wepler completed her clinical training in Medical Oncology in Vancouver, BC. She then did a three-year translational fellowship in Immuno-Oncology and Melanoma at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia. During that time, she also completed a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at Harvard University. Dr. Wepler now works as a staff medical oncologist at BC Cancer – Vancouver Centre, treating melanoma and other skin cancers.



Nicole Wikjord, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Serious Illness and Palliative Care
First Nations Health Authority

Nicole Wikjord, RN, MSN, CHPCN (C), Clinical Nurse Specialist, Serious Illness and Palliative Care at First Nations Health Authority; Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing at University of British Columbia. Nicole has worked in palliative care for 22 years, in various roles: staff nurse, educator, Patient Care Coordinator and 17 years as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. Prior to palliative care, Nicole worked as a staff nurse on medical units in acute care, and as a Home Care Nurse.



Jennifer Wolfe, Program Coordinator
Anew Research Collaborative



Alice Wong, Counsellor
BC Cancer

Alice Wong, MSW, RSW, CCC, is a counsellor at BC Cancer, supporting Chinese-speaking individuals and families affected by cancer. Originally from Hong Kong, she was raised, educated, and began her professional career there before continuing her work in Canada. With training in social work and counselling, she has worked with people from diverse cultural backgrounds and across different stages of life.

Alice has a particular interest in group work and values the opportunities that therapeutic groups and mutual support provide for connection, reflection, and personal growth. Over the years, she has facilitated a variety of groups for bereaved families, youth, multicultural communities, and individuals facing health and life challenges.

Through her own meditation practice, Alice has developed an interest in how mindfulness can support greater awareness, self-compassion, and resilience in everyday life. She is currently completing Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) teacher training through Brown University and is qualified as a Level 1 MBSR teacher. Since joining BC Cancer in 2024, she has co-facilitated MBSR programs and patient support groups for Chinese-speaking participants.



Calvin Wong, Physiotherapist
Vancouver Prostate Centre



Michelle Woo, Program Manager
BC Cancer Research Institute



Heather Wood, Executive Director
BC Cancer - Victoria



Ryan Woods, Executive Director, Data and Analytics
BC Cancer

Ryan Woods is the Executive Director, Data and Analytics at BC Cancer. He also holds a Scientist appointment in the department of Population Health Sciences within the BC Cancer Research Institute and is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Population and Public Health at UBC and an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University.

Ryan's educational background is in mathematics and statistics; he holds an MSc in Statistics and a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics both from the University of British Columbia. He has more than 20 years of experience in analytics roles from academia, the private sector and supporting health care operations. Ryan's research interests include cancer outcomes research, measuring equity in the cancer system, and cancer surveillance and epidemiology.



Zhenguo Wu, Postdoctoral Fellow
University of British Columbia



Amanda Wurz
University of the Fraser Valley



Saori Yamamoto, Leader, Patient & Family Partnerships and Experience
BC Cancer

Saori brings over 20 years of experience supporting interest-holder engagement in healthcare. As a Leader, Patient & Family Experience & Engagement at BC Cancer, she supports meaningful partnerships with patients and families to help improve care experiences and outcomes.

Prior to joining BC Cancer, Saori managed the Primary Care Network Network Engagement team at the Vancouver Division of Family Practice for 5 years and led Patient & Family Engagement as part of Vancouver Coastal Health's Community Engagement team for over 10 years.

Saori is deeply passionate about bringing voices together to strengthen the healthcare system and drive people centred change. She lives in East Vancouver with her husband, their two children and their cat, Oreo.



Saba Yassemi, Leader of Quality, Patient Safety, and Accreditation
BC Cancer

Saba Yassemi is the Leader of Quality, Patient Safety, and Accreditation at BC Cancer Vancouver Centre, where she leads and supports patient safety event reviews, quality improvement initiatives, accreditation activities, and efforts to strengthen patient- and family-centred care. She works collaboratively with clinical teams, operational leaders, and patient and family partners to identify opportunities for improvement and support a culture of safety, learning, and continuous improvement.

Saba joined PHSA in 2019, with previous roles at BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services and PHSA's provincial Accreditation & Patient-Centred Measurement team. In these roles, she supported quality and patient safety initiatives, coordinated provincial patient-reported experience and outcome measurement, and helped PHSA programs and Board of Directors prepare for Accreditation Canada surveys.

Across her work, Saba is particularly interested in making quality improvement practical and approachable, bringing people together around everyday challenges, learning from different perspectives, and helping move ideas toward meaningful improvements in care. She is also passionate about culturally safe, equitable, and person-centred healthcare.



Karen Yendley, Lead Radiation Therapist
BC Cancer - Kelowna

Karen Yendley, RTT, BSc, is the Lead Radiation Therapist at the BC Cancer Kelowna. Karen has worked for BC Cancer for over 30 years and has experience in both radiation therapy treatment planning and radiation therapy treatment delivery. Karen enjoys leading new initiatives and is particularly interested in projects related to radiation therapy professional practice and projects that involve a multidisciplinary approach. Since 2022, Karen and Dr Nathan Becker have co-led the implementation of the Adaptive RT Program at BC Cancer Kelowna.



Fereshteh Yousefirizi, Staff Scientist
BC Cancer Research Institute



Kendra Zadravec, Physiotherapist, PhD Candidate
University of British Columbia

Kendra is a PhD candidate in the Cancer Exercise and Physiotherapy Lab at the University of British Columbia, where her research focuses on self-managed prospective surveillance for upper extremity issues related to breast cancer treatment. Her work explores how people with breast cancer can independently monitor and manage arm and shoulder symptoms, with the goal of improving long-term outcomes and quality of life after treatment.

A licensed physiotherapist, Kendra brings clinical experience in oncology and neurological rehabilitation, as well as musculoskeletal private practice with a focus on runners. This clinical background grounds her research in real-world practice. She completed her Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences in 2020 and her Master of Physical Therapy in 2023, both at UBC.

Kendra is passionate about bridging the gap between research and clinical care, particularly in ensuring that survivorship-focused interventions are practical, accessible, and grounded in patients' lived experience.



Theresa Zapach, Senior Practice Leader, Professional Practice, Nursing
BC Cancer



Jiao Zeng, Data Scientist
Nunez Lab, University of British Columbia, BC Cancer



Haifeng Zhang, Staff Scientist, Molecular Oncology
BC Cancer Research Institute



Yuci (Jenny) Zhang, Data Scientist
Nunez Lab, University of British Columbia, BC Cancer



Thomas Zhang, PhD candidate
University of British Columbia



Dr. Tina Zhang, Radiation Oncologist
BC Cancer - Vancouver



Jianhua Zhao, Research Associate
University of British Columbia



Andy Zhao, Master's student
University of British Columbia