

STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

June 1, 2022
11:30 - 4:00 pm

Juravinski Cancer Centre
4th Floor Lecture Theatre Room
4-99a

699 Concession Street
Hamilton, ON
L8V 5C2



Itinerary

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| 11:30 am–11:45 am | Lunch and sign-in |
| 11:45 am–12:00 pm | Welcome from Co-Chairs Dina Khalaf, Assistant Professor Aly-Khan Lalani, Assistant Professor Department of Oncology McMaster University |
| 12:00 pm–1:00 pm | Keynote Presentation Sheila Singh, Professor Department of Surgery and Biochemistry McMaster University |
| 1:00 pm–2:00 pm | Oral Presentations |
| 2:00 pm–2:10 pm | Break |
| 2:10 pm–4:00 pm | Oral Presentations |
| 4:00 pm | Teaching Awards Presentation Sukhbinder Dhesy-Thind, Associate Professor Department of Oncology McMaster University |
| | Acknowledgements and Closing Jonathan Sussman, Chair Mark Levine, Professor Department of Oncology McMaster University |

Keynote Speaker



Sheila Singh, BSc, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Professor, Department of Surgery and Biochemistry, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, McMaster University

Dr. Sheila Singh is a professor of surgery and biochemistry, chief pediatric neurosurgeon at McMaster Children's Hospital, Division Head of Neurosurgery at Hamilton Health Sciences, and inaugural director of the new Cancer Research Centre at McMaster University. She holds a Tier 1/ Senior Canada Research Chair in Human Brain Cancer Stem Cell Biology, and is the founding Director of the McMaster Surgeon Scientist Program. Her PhD thesis described the novel identification of a population of cancer stem cells that exclusively drive the formation of brain tumours. Since 2007, Dr. Singh's lab applies a developmental neurobiology framework to the study of brain tumorigenesis. Building upon previous cell culture techniques developed for the isolation of normal neural stem cells (NSC) and applying them to brain tumours, and through development of a xenograft model to efficiently study brain tumour initiating cell (BTIC) activity, Dr. Singh's lab aims to understand the molecular mechanisms that govern BTIC self-renewal.

Dr. Singh is currently studying the regulation of BTIC signaling pathways in glioblastoma, brain metastases and childhood medulloblastoma, with an ultimate goal of selectively targeting the BTIC with appropriately tailored drug and molecular therapies. Her laboratory is funded by CCSRI, CIHR, TFRI, CRS, the Stem Cell Network, McMaster Surgical Associates, Brain Canada and the Boris Family Fund. She is scientific founder and prior CEO of a start-up company, Empirica Therapeutics, a brain cancer therapeutics company that is seeking new, data-driven and polytherapeutic treatment options for patients with Glioblastoma and brain metastases. Empirica was acquired by Century Therapeutics Inc (Philadelphia) in June 2020, resulting in the creation of a Canadian subsidiary, Century Canada, based in the McMaster Innovation Park in Hamilton.

Oral Presentations

Elham Ahmadi

Graduate Student,
Medical Sciences

1:00-1:12 pm

Evaluation of metabolic enzymes as biomarkers of risk for prostate cancer (PrCa) progression in patients managed with active surveillance

Supervisor: Theos Tsakiridis

Jonathan Bellini

Undergraduate Student,
DeGroot School of
Medicine

1:12-1:24 pm

Hepatitis B screening to reduce the risk of viral reactivation in gynecologic oncology patients receiving chemotherapy at a regional tertiary cancer centre: a quality improvement initiative

Supervisor: Lua Eiriksson

Olga-Demetra Biziotis

Graduate Student,
Medical Sciences

1:24-1:36 pm

Canagliflozin mediates effective tumor suppression and enhances the radiotherapy response in non-small cell lung cancer by targeting cell metabolism and suppressing hypoxia, survival and radio-resistance pathways

Supervisor: Theos Tsakiridis

Luisa Cardenas

Clinical Fellow, Oncology

1:36-1:48 pm

Effectiveness of first-line therapy in patients with advanced non-clear renal cell carcinoma

Supervisor: Aly-Khan Lalani

Raes Cassim
Resident, Surgery
1:48-2:00 pm

A prospective randomized parallel-controlled pilot trial of stereotactic body radiation therapy vs. radiofrequency ablation for the management of small renal masses
Supervisor: Anil Kapoor

Michela Febbraro
Clinical Fellow,
Oncology
2:10-2:22 pm

Preparedness for clinical trials in medical oncology sub-specialty training in Canada
Supervisor: Gregory Pond

Tracey Huber
Graduate Student, Nursing
2:22-2:34 pm

Ambulatory 5-Fluorouracil Infusors: Experiences of Patients Diagnosed with Gastrointestinal Cancer
Supervisor: Denise Bryant-Lukosius

Sara Pishyar
Graduate Student,
Biochemistry & Biomedical
Sciences
2:34-2:46 pm

Prospective Isolation of Measurable Residual Disease in Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Supervisor: Tobias Berg

Pradhariny Prabakaran
Graduate Student,
Biochemistry & Biomedical
Sciences
2:46-2:58 pm

Friends or foes? Acute myeloid leukemia and the bone marrow microenvironment
Supervisor: Tobias Berg

Daniel Schep
Resident, Oncology
2:58-3:10 pm

Statin therapy in patients undergoing short-course neoadjuvant radiotherapy for rectal cancer
Supervisor: Raimond Wong

Kanwaldeep Singh
Post-Doctoral
Researcher,
Oncology
3:10-3:22 pm

The LSD1 inhibitor Bomedemstat and Venetoclax synergistically target cellular metabolism in Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Supervisor: Tobias Berg

Kurt Van Delinder
Resident, Medical
Physics
3:22-3:34 pm

A comparison of portal dosimetry for the Varian Halcyon 2.0 and multiple detector systems
Supervisor: Roxana Vlad

Yu Yan
Graduate Student,
Medical Sciences
3:34-3:46 pm

LSD1 Inhibition Enhances AML Immunogenicity for Maintenance after Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation
Supervisor: Tobias Berg

Arman Zereshkian
Resident, Medicine
3:46-3:58 pm

Nivolumab in Squamous Cell Carcinomas of the Head and Neck (SCCHN): A real world outcome study in Ontario, Canada
Supervisor: Sebastien Hotte

Oral Presentation Judges

Mohammed Aljama

Assistant Professor, Oncology
Division of Malignant Hematology
McMaster University

Tobias Berg

Associate Professor, Oncology
Division of Malignant Hematology
McMaster University

Valerie Francescutti

Associate Professor, Surgery
Division of General Surgery
McMaster University

Sebastien Hotte

Associate Professor, Oncology
Division of Medical Oncology
McMaster University

Brandon Meyers

Associate Professor, Oncology
Division of Medical Oncology
McMaster University

Online Posters

Hanad Adan

Graduate Student, Biology

The role of Kaiso and TGF-Beta signalling in TNBC aggressiveness and metastasis
Supervisor: Juliet Daniel

Amr Ali

Graduate Student, Medical Sciences

Canagliflozin, an SGLT2 inhibitor, inhibits growth and improves prostate cancer response to radiation therapy
Supervisor: Theos Tsakiridis

Stephanie Ali Fairbairn

Graduate Student, Biology

Correlation of Kaiso expression with Androgen receptor expression in triple-negative breast cancers
Supervisor: Juliet Daniel

Gregory Anagnostopoulos

Undergraduate Student, Health Sciences

Revamping the Hematology Training Academic Program: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Academic Half Days in Canadian Hematology Residency Programs
Supervisor: Christopher Hillis

Levi Burns

Undergraduate Student, DeGroote School of Medicine

Natural language processing applied to breast cancer radiology reports: a systematic literature review
Supervisor: Ashirbani Saha

Lindyann Lessey

Graduate Student, Biology

Kaiso, intestinal inflammation and tumorigenesis
Supervisor: Juliet Daniel

Luisa Cardenas

Clinical Fellow, Oncology

Utilization of systemic therapies for metastatic renal cell carcinoma in the Canadian health care system
Supervisor: Aly-Khan Lalani

Sze Wah Samuel Chan

Resident, Internal Medicine

Overall survival of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease receiving immunotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer: a population-based analysis in Ontario, Canada
Supervisor: John Goffin

Jayco Cheng
Undergraduate Student,
Biology

Elucidating the Role of Kaiso in regulating PD-L1 expression in Triple Negative Breast Cancer
Supervisor: Juliet Daniel

Courtney Coschi
Resident, Oncology

A Retrospective Chart Review Investigating the Use of Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor and Outcomes in Patients Admitted to Hospital with Febrile Neutropenia
Supervisor: Bindi Dhesy-Thind

Sahar Darvish
Resident,
Medical Physics

Radiation Dose to Organs At Risk after High Dose Rate Brachytherapy for Esophageal Cancer Patients
Supervisor: Tom Farrell

Mohammad Gouran-Savadkoohi
Clinical Fellow, Oncology

Utilization of systemic therapies for metastatic renal cell carcinoma in the Canadian health care system
Supervisor: Aly-Khan Lalani

Hsin-pei (Spencer) Hu
Resident, Oncology

Biochemical Disease Control Outcomes of Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) for Low and Intermediate-Risk Prostate Cancer (PrCa) in LHIN4: Retrospective analysis of 10 year experience
Supervisor: Theos Tsakiridis

Anna Hwang
Undergraduate Student,
DeGroot School of
Medicine

Performance of 18-FDG PET/CT for the detection of distant metastasis in breast cancer patients: a systematic review
Supervisor: Mark Levine

Russell Leong
Undergraduate Student,
Health
Sciences

6-Month Clinician and Patient Experience in the Serious Illness Care Program at the Juravinski Cancer Centre

Clinician Training Experience in the Serious Illness Care Program at the Juravinski Cancer Centre
Supervisor: Oren Levine

Yuchen Li
Resident,
Oncology

A Rare Case of Immune-Related Sclerosing Cholangitis
Supervisor: Elaine McWhirter

Case of a Patient with Mysterious Brain Lesions

Real World Efficacy of Docetaxel in Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer—A Single Institution Study at Juravinski Cancer Centre
Supervisor: Rosalyn Juergens

Aruz Mesci
Clinical Fellow, Oncology

Contemporary outcomes of a systematic prostate cancer active surveillance program: Results from the Niagara Health System, Ontario, Canada
Supervisor: Theos Tsakiridis

Sneha Mukherjee
Undergraduate Student,
Health Sciences

PSMA-PET-detected patterns of prostate cancer recurrence in patients treated with definitive radiotherapy in LHIN4. Early results from the PREP registry
Supervisor: Theos Tsakiridis

Matthew Pasquali
Undergraduate Student,
DeGroot School of
Medicine

Impact of Prospective Frailty Assessments on Treatment of Elderly Patients with AML
Supervisor: Dina Khalaf

Megan Smith-Uffen
Resident, Internal Medicine

The ABCs of Serious Illness: piloting a serious illness communication training curriculum among internal medicine residents
Supervisor: Hsien Seow

Evangelia Tsakiridis
Graduate Student,
Medicine

Investigating the combined effects of tyrosine kinase therapies and salicylate for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma
Supervisor: Gregory R. Steinberg

Ka-Kit (David) Yeung
Resident, Oncology

Incidence and Management Trends in Advanced Head and Neck Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer
Supervisor: Justin Lee

Teaching Awards

Medical Oncology Teaching Award, 2021-22
Department of Oncology, McMaster University

Rosalyn Juergens, B.S. (Hons), MD., Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Oncology, McMaster University
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Oncology, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institute

Dr. Juergens received her medical degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She was an intern and resident in the Osler Internal Medicine Training Program at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, and completed a fellowship in medical oncology with a focus on upper aerodigestive malignancies as well at Johns Hopkins. Additionally, she completed her Ph.D. in Clinical Investigation at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her areas of research expertise involve improving therapeutics and diagnostics in cancer, and her research focus has been in developmental therapeutics with a concentration on Phase I and II clinical trials. She has published her work in prominent journals such as the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Cancer Discovery*.

Radiation Oncology Teaching Award, 2021-22
Department of Oncology, McMaster University

Kara Schnarr, B.S. (Hons), MD., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Oncology, McMaster University

Dr. Schnarr is a long time McMaster Alumni, completing her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Medical Physics. After completing her Ph.D., she received her medical degree from St. George's University in Grenada. She returned to McMaster to complete her Radiation Oncology training, followed by a fellowship in Image Guided Adaptive Gynecologic Brachytherapy. Dr. Schnarr has a passion for education and was awarded the PARO resident teaching award in 2017. Her research interests are Gynecological cancers, SBRT and Health Research Methodology, and has collaborative projects through the ICES Research program at McMaster. She is currently working on the launch of the Advanced Gynecologic Brachytherapy program at McMaster, and is excited for this important program to return to the Juravinski Cancer Centre.

The Department of Oncology and Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University are grateful to the following organizations for their support of Student Research Day



The Stuart Jay Cohen Memorial Fund

Online poster presentations:



<https://macdrive.mcmaster.ca/d/9865c385907042fd9611/>

Student Research Day online evaluation:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LR6VXNJ>