

Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care (SGDc) Program

Year End Report **2022**



@PMChosenFamily
Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care



Check us out on twitter and
instagram @PMChosenFamily



**Sponsored by the Department of
Supportive Care**

Dr. Camilla Zimmermann, Caitlin Doherty,
Dr Madeline Li

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Land Acknowledgment

UHN acknowledges that it operates on the traditional territory of many nations. For tens of thousands of years this land has been taken care of by the Anishnaabe, the Haudeneshane, the Huron-Wendat, and the current Treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit River and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. Today, this meeting place we call Toronto (or Tkaronto) is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are so grateful to have the opportunity to learn and work in community on this land. 2 spirit indigenous people of North America and Canada have a long history of gender fluidity and played a sacred and honoured role in their communities before colonization. We give thanks to our ancestors.



Sexual and Gender Diversity (SGD)

Sexual and gender diversity is a term used to refer to people who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and (+) any gender identities or sexual orientations not included in this acronym).

SGD is the term that our program has adopted to include all of the diverse expressions of gender identities and sexual orientations.

Health Equity

The SGDC program is committed to achieving health equity and to decrease cancer care disparities in SGDC communities. We are leaders in cancer care for 2SLGBTQIA+ patients and we collaboratively, develop innovative strategies and solutions to improve cancer care experiences for our communities.

We aim to create an environment of inclusive care, where patients and chosen families feel welcome, valued, included, and respected. We recognise the diversity of our patient population and the systems that reinforce marginalization, as well as power and privilege. These factors shape individual experiences and access to care.

Our goal is to transform cancer care by delivering high quality care that is equitable for all patients regardless of their race, ethnicity, income, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation. We acknowledge the harm that healthcare systems have caused to SGDC communities and recognise our responsibility to make changes within the system and rebuild trust. To ensure the best quality of care for SGDC patients and their loved ones, we emphasize advocating for inclusion and access to the healthcare system.

Overview of Membership

Executive Team

Christian Schulz-Quach (he/him), Program Director

Margo Kennedy (she/her), Clinical Lead

Brendan Lyver (he/him), Research Analyst

Jennifer Croke (she/her), Education Lead, e-Learning Project Committee

Gilla Shapiro (she/her), Research Lead, e-Learning Project Committee & Needs Assessment Committee

Committee Members

Tori Anderson (she/her), e-Learning Project Committee

Amanda Bolderston (she/her), Research Fellow

Rose-Marie Fraser (she/her/kwe), Presentations Team

Mason Gibson (she/her), Team Spirit Specialist

Shawn Hercules (he/they), Needs Assessment Committee

Nazlin Jivraj (she/her), Presentations Team

Thomas Kais-Prial (he/him), Finance Specialist

Paige Lau (she/her), Needs Assessment Committee

Andrew Matthew (he/him), Program Advisor

Jody Morita (he/him)

Luxshiga Premakumar (she/her)

Adrian Sacher (he/him)

Samantha Scime (she/her), Presentations Team

Marlie Smith (she/her), AYA Lead

Lauren Squires (she/they), Needs Assessment Lead, Presentation Team

Mary Stuart (she/her)

Emily Taylor (she/her), Graphic Illustrations Lead

Erin Walker (she/they), Website Lead, e-Learning Project Committee



Message from the Executive Team

Colleagues, friends, team members,

It has been an exciting and eventful year for the PMChosenFamily team! Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 has been a time for expansion, team growth and the launch of several new initiatives and activities within our group.

Throughout the year, we have been engaged in a number of innovative projects to address the needs of our SGD cancer community, within Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and the UHN Cancer Program. This inaugural annual report will highlight those projects and their impact across the organization and beyond with our national and international collaboration partners.

Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care is one element of a very complex healthcare system which is currently experiencing enormous strains. For most of us, the levels of exhaustion and grief that most of us experience are probably at a scale we have never before experienced in our professional lives. Our 2022 work as a PMChosenFamily team has provided community and opportunities for in-person contact that have not been available to everyone. As a matter of fact, we believe that the constant 'presence of absence' of virtual care and physical disconnection over the past three years has been one factor influencing our team growth. As the psychoanalyst Gianpiero Petriglieri says:

"I spoke to an old therapist friend and finally understood why everyone's so exhausted after video calls. It's the plausible deniability of everyone's absence... Our minds are tricked into the idea of being together when our bodies feel we're not. Dissonance is exhausting... It's easier than being in each other's presence, or each other's absence, than in the constant presence of each other's absence. Our bodies process so much context, so much information, in encounters, that meeting on video is being a weird kind of blindfolded. We sense too little and can't imagine enough. That single deprivation requires a lot of effort."

2022 provided the PMChosenFamily team with ample opportunities to connect through digital means but increasingly also in-person new chapter in our shared work life.

We know that improving care for SGDC communities necessitates embedding systemic change within the organization, and lasting change that will extend long past Pride month. This change requires collaboration with many departments and divisions of both Princess Margaret and UHN.

Our work is grounded in health equity, principles of IDEAA and social determinants of health, which are foundational concepts underlying our work.

We are deeply grateful to our funders, partners, donors, colleagues, community and patient partners for your continued support and collaboration as we work together to improve the cancer care experience for SGDC patients and chosen families. Together, we are becoming a proud, innovative model and influence for creating inclusive cancer care.

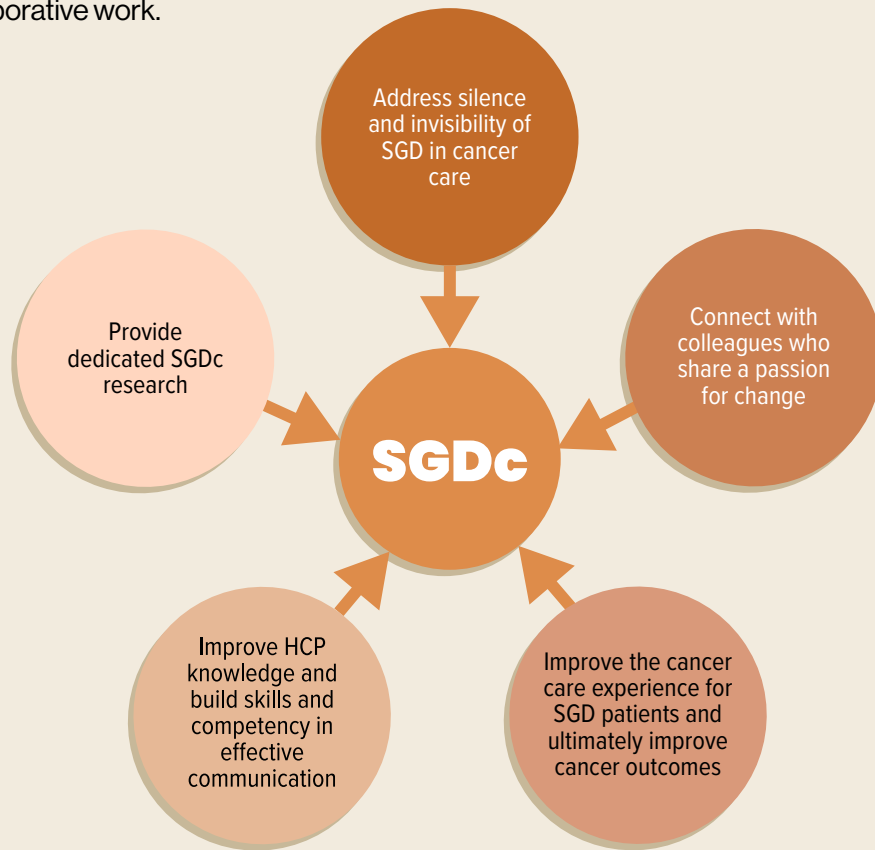
We especially extend our deepest gratitude to all of our PMChosenFamily team members, for all of the passion, time, talents and wisdom that they share. In community we feel safe and strong. And we can collaborate to the benefit of everyone. This is what makes us a PMChosenFamily!

Christian, Margo & Brendan



Our Commitments

Since first coming together over 2 years ago, the 5 commitments below continue to guide our collaborative work.



What are some of the unique challenges that are faced by SGD patients

Heteronormative practices of care

Limited inclusive cancer care support groups and tailored resources

Barriers to sharing sexual orientation & gender identity

Greater prevalence of anxiety and depression in SGD patients

Past experiences of discrimination in health care

Limited inclusion of a patient's chosen family

Healthcare providers (HCPs) varying knowledge, experience & comfort when working with SGD patients

Limitations in providing care relevant to patients' gender identities

Silence during treatment due to HCP concerned with saying "the wrong thing"

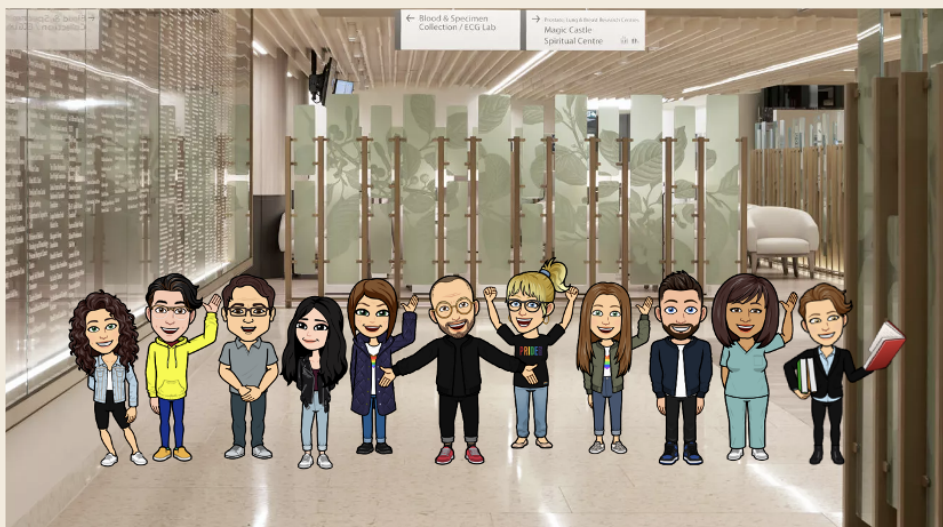
Intersections of multiple minority identities

Our Working Group

Our numbers have grown from 13 working group members in 2021 to a strong and diverse team of 23 members at the close of 2022. We have representation from the following disciplines: psychiatry, psychology, social work, medical oncology, radiation oncology, radiation therapy, nursing, research, cancer education, research fellows, and music therapy

Our SGDC Working Group gives generously of their time, pro bono, outside of paid work hours (with the exception of the .5 research analyst position and .5 clinical social work lead position). All members of our group bring a personal connection and passion to this issue; identifying as a member of the SGD community or having a close friend, loved one, child or sibling who identifies as 2SLGBTQIA+. We recognize the vulnerability experienced and often required from our SGDC patients receiving care, and we take this to heart and remind ourselves to step up and be vulnerable as well. We also acknowledge the privilege this brings, and not all staff are in a position to share their identities in all domains of their lives.

We conducted a committee survey in January 2022, to collect information about goals for the year, capacity regarding time availability for projects, what people valued most about being part of the group. Members indicated that the number one reason for joining the group was “community connection”. This led us to reflect on the impacts of COVID-19 and working in isolation, and feelings of isolation experienced by SGD staff in the workplace. We looked at this identified need and did our best to provide opportunities for more meaningful connections during our monthly virtual meetings as well as to build in opportunities for in person connections. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions, we hosted a “Pride loot bag assembly gathering” in May and walked together in our first Pride parade at the end of June. In December of 2022, we conducted an individual interview with each committee member, to gather feedback about their experience with the group, thoughts and ideas for changes and goals for 2023. Many wonderful ideas were shared through these interviews as well as important networking connections. A summary of the interview findings is currently in progress and feedback will guide our strategic directions in 2023.



Development of our SGDc Logo

We are so proud to present our new SGDc Logo! It was developed with assistance from graphic designer Keet Geniza, who was a joint presenter at the “Kimiko Does Cancer” event during Pride month.

The meanings behind the logo design:

UHN Logo: The overall circle shape embodies equality and interconnected community support. The gold color in the outer circle draws your eye down to the UHN gold leaves in the centre. This represents our connectedness with the UHN organization.

Community: The colours immediately communicate “rainbow” and “Pride”, they mirror the colors in the Philadelphia diversity Pride flag. Hands are linked to represent unity in diversity, safety, and support from PM Chosen Family.

Cancer Care: The outer ring represents both diverse people and cancer ribbons. The hearts symbolize healing, extending love, support and inclusive care to chosen family.



SGDc Patient Support and Clinical Services

Patients can self refer or be referred from their healthcare team to the SGDc Program. Patients can receive information, tailored resources, navigation and counseling from social work or psychiatry or psychology. This is a very important resource to have in place and we look forward to seeing it continue to grow and expand over the coming year.



Margo Kennedy

UHN Policy Consultation

We have been asked to provide our expertise on the following initiatives:

- Provided feedback into SGD questions on EPIC regarding recommended wording for key terms and concepts
- Provided feedback into various policy development, such as the Radiation Therapy policy about pregnancy, and the UHN Gender Identity Policy

HCP Education

This e-learning project provides an interactive “gaming” experience for healthcare providers to learn about the four pillars to provide culturally competent inclusive care. These four pillars include pronouns, sexual orientation, gender identity, and relationship diversity. HCPs will have the option to choose a patient avatar representing a unique patient identity and story. They will have an opportunity to learn and practice respectful and inclusive communication skills with virtual avatars to better support SGDc patients and families. In this module, HCPs will have the chance to converse with virtual avatars and respond to unique SGDc patient concerns. This project has truly been a collaborative experience as we have worked with and collected feedback from key stakeholders, healthcare providers and our SGDc patient partners.

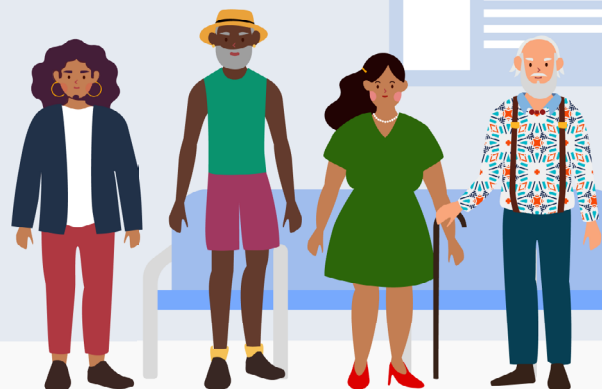
Our e-learning module is still in development but will be ready in 2023!

Inclusive Communication

Learn about communicating in an inclusive manner with virtual SGDc patients in an e-learning environment!



Which patient would you like to know more about?



Presentations & Conferences

2022 has provided opportunities to present our work at numerous PM site meetings and rounds, at grand rounds presentations, at national and international conferences as well as to community patient groups.

- The presentation themes mainly included why and how to provide inclusive care to SGDc patients and chosen families, HCP education strategies and our e-learning initiative.
- We now have a collection of over 100 power point slides to choose/adapt for presentations, depending on the audience and the topic.

Schulz-Quach, C., Kennedy, M., & Lyver, B. Sexual and Gender Diversity. Presented at the Wellspring: Be Well Talks, January 19th, 2022.

Schulz-Quach, C., Kennedy, M., & Lyver, B. Creating Inclusive Care in Cancer. Presented at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Cancer Rehabilitation and Survivorship Rounds, February 10th, 2022.

Scime, S., Jivraj, N., Croke, J., Kennedy, M., & Schulz-Quach, C. Convergence Health Care Education. Presented at the Princess Margaret Cancer Center, February 14th, 2022.

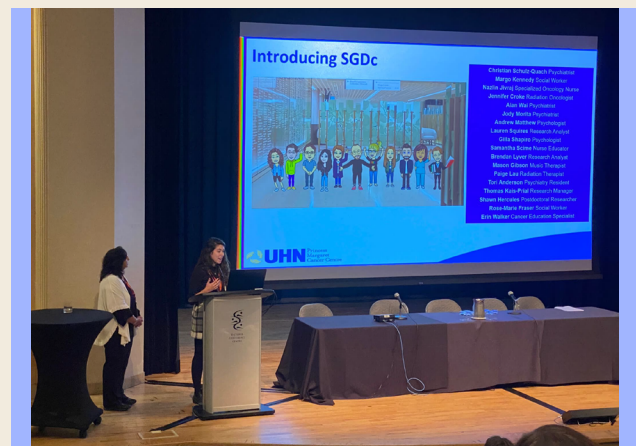
Shapiro, G. K. Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care. Presented at the University Health Network Psychology Day, February 24th, 2022.

Kennedy, M. Teaching Healthcare Providers about Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care. Presented at the Teaching for Transformation Conference, March 30th, 2022.

Schulz-Quach, C., Kennedy, M., & Lyver, B. Creating Inclusive Care in Cancer. Presented at the University of Toronto Queering in Psychiatry Rounds, March 31st, 2022.

Schulz-Quach, C., Kennedy, M., & Lyver, B. Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care. Presented at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Department of Supportive Care Grand Rounds, April 28th, 2022.

Lyver, B., & Squire, L. Creating Inclusive Care. Presented at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Cancer Rehabilitation and Survivorship Rounds, May 6th, 2022.



Schulz-Quach, C., Kennedy, M., & Lyver, B. Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Young Adults with Cancer. Presented at the Young Adult Cancer Canada Primetown Conference, June 2nd, 2022.

Kennedy, M., Dang, R., Lyver, B., Squire, L., Lau, P., Croke, J., Jivraj, N., Scime, S., & Schulz-Quach, C. Community Connections. Presented at the ELLICSR Community Connections Cancer Education Series, June 16th.

Kennedy, M., Lyver, B., Scime, S., Papadakos, J., Papadakos, T., & Schulz-Quach, C. Presenting Kimiko Does Cancer with Kimiko Tobimatsu and Keet Geniza. Presented at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, June 22nd, 2022.

Lau, P. A needs assessment of 2SLGBTQ+ Education for Radiation Therapist at a Canadian at Centre. Presented at the RTi3 National Innovation Conference, June 22nd, 2022.

Lyver, B., & Squire, L. Creating Inclusive Care. Presented at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Cancer Rehabilitation and Survivorship Rounds, August 25th, 2022.

Squire, L., Kennedy, M., Scime, S., & Lyver, B. Communicating in an Inclusive Manner Workshop. Presented at the International Psycho-Oncology Society Conference, August 29th, 2022.



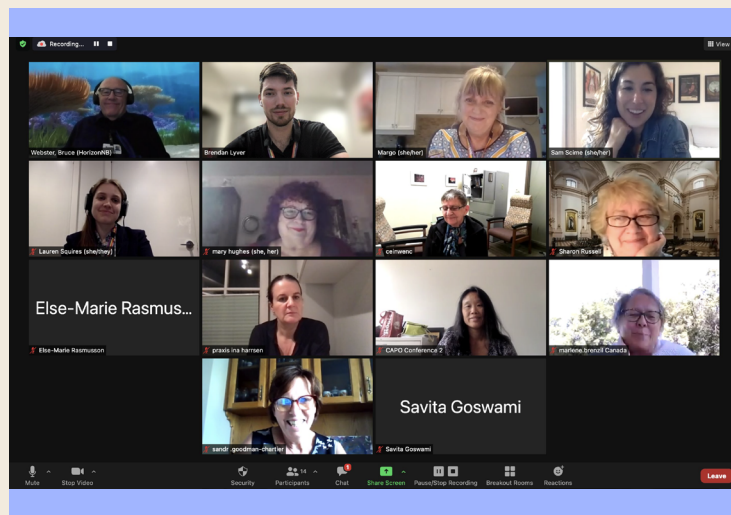
Lau, P., Kennedy, M., Lyver, B., Scime, S., Croke, J., Squire, L., Jivraj, N., Dang, R., Shapiro, G. K., & Schulz-Quach, C. Identifying and Responding to the Unique Needs of Sexual and Gender Diverse Patients with Cancer and their Chosen Families. Presented at the International Psycho-Oncology Society Conference, August 30th, 2022.

Lyver, B. Using Social Media to Educate Healthcare Providers on Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care. Presented at the International Psycho-Oncology Society Conference, August 31st, 2022.

Schulz-Quach, C., & Kennedy, M. Introduction to Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care. Presented at Ontario Health, September 15th, 2022.

Kennedy, M., & Schulz-Quach, C. Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care Workshop. Presented at the Association of Medical Hematologist of Quebec, October 18th, 2022.

Kennedy, M. Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care. Presented at the University Health Network Social Work Council, October 26th, 2022.

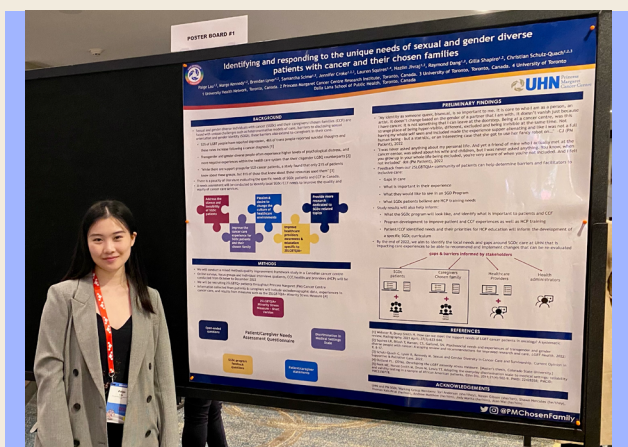


Jivraj, N., & Scime, S. Connection, Reflection and Celebration: Coming Together to Develop a Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cance Care Program. Presented at the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology, October 29th, 2022.

Lyver, B., Fraser, R. M., & Schulz-Quach, C. Educating Healthcare Providers through e-Learning. Presented at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Pain and Symptoms Management Grand Rounds, November 22nd, 2022.

Kennedy, M., Scime, S., Taylor, E., & Papadakos, J. Creating Inclusive Patient Education Materials for Sexual and Gender Diverse Communities. Presented at the Ontario Health, November 24th, 2022.

Lyver, B., Kennedy, M., Shapiro, G. K., Croke, J., & Schulz-Quach, C. Educating Healthcare Providers through e-Learning. Presented at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Elders Young leaders Competition, December 16th, 2022.



“Will avoid assuming a patient's gender and sexual orientation. Will appreciate additional struggles that patients in the LGBTQIA2S+ community goes through as cancer patients”.

“We really can't thank you enough for the presentation today. The feedback was incredible. Our director was unable to attend but has already listened to it and she was blown away and said that she learned so much and thinks everyone in our entire clinical portfolio should listen to it!”

“Very educational and interesting presentation”

“Subject little discussed in the various training courses offered to doctors, thank you for having opened yours to all specialties”

“Informative presentation and excellent discussion”

Awards, Grants & Funding

- Recipient of the Young Leader Grant. \$20,000 towards e-learning project for HCPs
- Funding from Department of Supportive Care for a .5 clinical Social Work position
- Funding for a 0.5 Research Analyst position

Over \$5000 fundraiser from Kilimanjaro Climb



Team UHN Local Impact Award Recipient

Princess Margaret Sexual & Gender Diversity Cancer Working Group was recognized for working across the cancer centre from a variety of disciplines to provide inclusive care to sexual and gender diverse patients, families and chosen families through health care provider education and by changing the culture and environment to foster messages of visibility, inclusion and belonging.



Research

Pilot of our Patient & Caregiver Needs Assessment: In December we will be piloting our survey for SGDC patients and caregivers. The survey addresses a number of components such as minority stress, discrimination in health care settings, confirmation of key findings related to needs sited in previous research from the US, feedback about gaps in care, feedback about what patients would like to see from our SGDC Program. We look forward to launching this study officially in 2023 and collecting key feedback from our community to shape our program development.

Our first ever...
COLLABORATION!




Queering Cancer
@QueeringCancer

Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care
@PMChosenFamily

The SGDc Program will be collaborating with Queering Cancer to further research on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Cancer Care!

Dr. Amanda Bolderston



The SGDc Program is honoured to have the opportunity to work with Queering Cancer's co-founder Dr. Amanda Bolderston from the University of Alberta. Dr. Bolderston and the SGDc will investigate 2SLGBTQIA+ oncology healthcare providers' experiences disclosing their sexual orientation and gender identity in their workplace and whether this may impact their relationship with patients and coworkers.

We are very excited to have Dr. Bolderston at the Princess Margaret Cancer Center and look forward to future opportunities to work with the entire Queering Cancer team!





@QueeringCancer @PMChosenFamily UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA @QueeringCancer @PMChosenFamily

In July we welcomed our inaugural visiting research scholar, Dr. Amanda Bolderston. She is one of the co-founders of Queering Cancer, and has initiated a research study related to exploring the experience of staff who identify as part of the SGD community, being out at work to colleagues and patients. We worked with Amanda throughout the summer and continue to be involved in this ongoing qualitative study.

Publications

Jivraj, N., Shapiro, G. K., Schulz-Quach, C., Van de Laar, E., Zhiu, A., Weiss, J., & Croke, J. (2022). Optimizing patient-centered, inclusive care in oncology: Healthcare professionals' knowledge, attitudes, and practices in caring for LGBTQ2+ individuals. *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*, 114(1), e12.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2022.07.967>

This paper was led by our very own Nazlin Jivraj, Gilla Shapiro, Christian Schulz-Quach and Jennifer Croke! The purpose of this paper was to evaluate healthcare providers' knowledge, attitudes, practices and education interest in LGBTQ2+ cancer care. Through the results of a mixed methods study, the authors identified the following two themes; healthcare providers are concerned that their lack of knowledge will result in offending their 2SLGBTQIA+ patients and there is a desire for education related to 2SLGBTQIA+ for healthcare providers.

Schulz-Quach, C., Kennedy, M., & Lyver, B. Sexual and gender diversity in cancer care and survivorship. *Current Opinion in Supportive and Palliative Care*, 10-1097.

DOI: 10.1097/SPC.0000000000000628

This review was a collaborative effort between three of our executive members, Christian Schulz-Quach, Margo Kennedy and Brendan Lyver. The authors provided a narrative review of recent literature related to 2SLGBTQIA+ and cancer care. This review covered many topics including intersectional identities, specific psychosocial disparities unique to the 2SLGBTQIA+, salutogenic factors in SGDc patients, the impact of survivorship on the quality of life of SGDc patients and survivors and recommendations for improving inclusive care.

Social Media

Just over one year ago, the SGDC started their first-ever social media accounts on both Twitter and Instagram. It has been a tremendous opportunity to connect with 2SLGBTQIA+ groups and healthcare providers, promote inclusivity, provide 2SLGBTQIA+ cancer resources, and, most importantly, connect with our SGDC patient community. Check us out on Twitter and Instagram @PMChosenFamily



BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

- **445** combined followers in our first year
- established a global audience with followers from more than **10** different countries

A YEAR IN REVIEW

- **233** tweets on Twitter
- **112** posts on Instagram
- **77655** views on Twitter
- engagement rates of up to **30%**

Check out our top tweet of 2022!



MONDAY'S CHALLENGE

Our Monday Challenge posts aim to provide healthcare providers with a deep understanding of SGDC patients' perspectives and emphasize inclusive care. This year we created **35** challenges for healthcare providers to learn from.

THURSDAY'S RESEARCH

Our Thursday Research post puts a spotlight on cancer research with a 2SLGBTQIA+ focus. This year we shared **33** incredible publications by researchers putting an emphasis on inclusivity!



SPREADING AWARENESS

We used social media to spread awareness of important events in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. This included Chosen Family Day, International Women's Day, Lesbian Week of Visibility, Non-Binary Awareness Week, Bi+ Visibility Week, Transgender Day of Remembrance, World Aids Day, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and more!

SHARING OUR PRIDE

This year we used social media to show our pride with **45** tweets and posts about our Pride events, community connections and our amazing SGDC community resulting in over **16000** views on Twitter and over **200** likes on Instagram!



Pride Activities

This year our Pride Working Group successfully implemented a number of successful Pride initiatives and events. Our theme this year was “Chosen Family”. Below are highlights from some of the activities:

- Developed a new “Chosen Family” Pride slide show of 9 slides, for large TV screens at PM, that were shown throughout June
- Added a pride shelf in the Patient and Family library
- An info card was developed to explain pronouns and directing staff to more information on our UHN website

Pronouns

The Princess Margaret Cancer Centre is working to provide care that inclusive to all of our diverse patients.

Many staff wear a pronoun button or rainbow lanyard to show support to our 2SLGBTQIA+ patient communities.

Staff don't know a person's pronouns by their name or how they look. Staff often introduce themselves by sharing their name and pronouns. You can share your pronouns as well so that staff refer to you correctly.

UHN Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Get in touch with the Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care Program

The SGDC is a program at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. The SGDC aims to support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community at the hospital. The SGDC can:

- Provide you with cancer information
- Connect you with support and services tailored to your needs

To Learn More:

Phone: 416-946-4501 x 4728
Email: SGDC@uhn.ca

Follow on Twitter and Instagram
@PMChosenFamily

UHN Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

3 Princess Margaret Pride Activities

- Collaboration with ELLICSR Kitchen for a Chosen Family Pride inspired BBQ cooking demo and being the featured community connections partner, which was the debut of our SGDC program video
- Virtual Pride presentation featuring the author and illustrator of a graphic novel called “Kimiko Does Cancer”. This is the story of a young, mixed race queer woman and her experience with breast cancer. She is also a former radiation patient at PM
- For the very first time our working group participated in the Toronto Pride Parade. It was a wonderful experience to see our patients along the parade route



Pride Activities

Distributed Pride Items

250

Pride loot bags to screeners and PFC's/front facing reception staff in outpatient and inpatient units



2000

Rainbow @PMChosenFamily lanyards
(450 went to PM nurses at nursing education day in May)



1000+

Rainbow masks



2000

Pronoun buttons, created by PM patient partner Catherine Jones



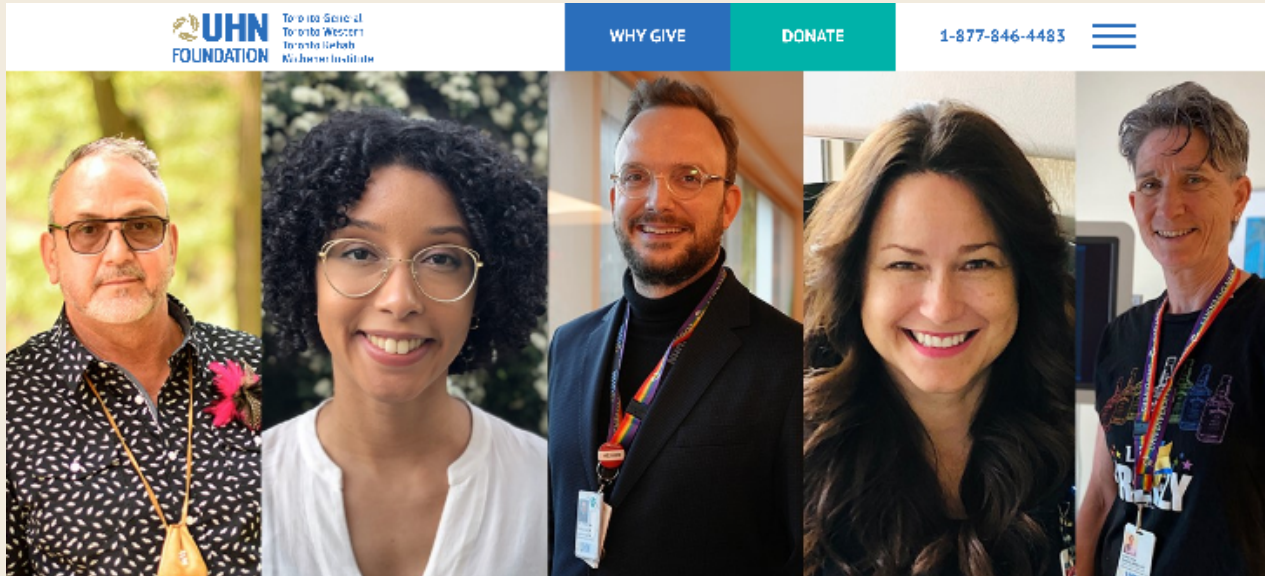
500
Pride flags



Pride Activities

Celebrating Pride Month at UHN

Part of a five part series. Five members of TeamUHN's 2SLGBTQIA+ community shared their thoughts on Pride



Christian Schulz-Quach:

Pride is a celebration of social change, a reminder of our history and the many difficult chapters which preceded the joy, liberation and freedom we experience today. It is a reminder that nothing lasts unless we invest, engage and courageously commit ourselves over and over again. Pride is therefore also a performative embracing of grief and loss. Pride is an invitation to go one step further in challenging myself to reflect on my own unconscious biases, the location of self I inhabit and the privileges with which I go through life. Pride is a reminder that there are many folks out there who remain scared, bullied, threatened and worse. Pride is an existential invitation to embrace the courage to be, to live and to not just exist. Pride is an invitation to keep searching for and believing in the possibility of finding the safe and collaborative community we all need.

[Link to full piece](#)

Patient Partners

The SGDC Interviews Ross Harrison: My Experience with Prostate Cancer

“When someone identifies as 2SLGBTQIA+ and is seeking health care many barriers may be faced; homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, stigma, lack of access to appropriate medical services, heightened concerns about confidentiality and fear about talking about your sexual orientation and practices. Even though In Ontario, many healthcare providers have 2SLGBGQIA+ positive spaces where health professionals deliver appropriate care, many healthcare providers do not and do not discuss sexual orientation or gender identity with patients. Sharing information opens the door to a more trusting patient-provider relationship.



Click to watch Ross' video

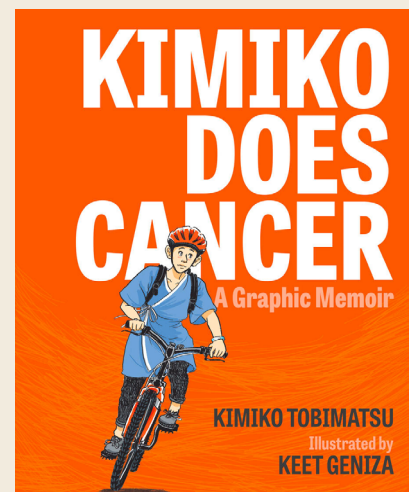
As a man who identifies as 2SLGBTQIA+ and uses the pronouns he/him and has a primary care physician where openness and honesty of self-identification are key to providing care, I was taken back that as a prostate cancer patient there was no language or indication that I would be recognized for my identity and I felt I was “passing” for straight. Accordingly, I never asked healthcare questions about how my treatment would affect my sexual health. I had to use my own resources to seek answers.

I welcome with open arms the SGDC at UHN. This is a giant step forward in providing comprehensive health care”

My brother was treated at PM 10 years ago, and he would have loved to see this rainbow shelf here in the library... he wouldn't believe it... it is wonderful!

Brother of Princess Margaret cancer patient

“Kimiko Does Cancer” presentation with Kimiko Tobimatsu and Keet Geniza



Expansion of the SGDC Website

In June, with the help of our colleagues from Cancer Education, we launched an update and new information and resources on our SGDC Website:

- Added new info on pronouns and Chosen Families
- 2 new patient/staff resources: Language, terms and concepts, as well as “Queerly Coping” booklet for Pride month
- Updated the Guide to SGDC Resources in the Community, 25 new resources were added
- Resource Guide is now available through EPIC
- Rainbow heart link button added to UHN main page to take viewers to the SGDC webpage
- Developed a 1 hour video about our SGDC program for Pride month
- Developed a patient experience video – patient interview with Ross who identifies as a gay man treated for prostate cancer at PM
- Developed a brochure, poster and postcard about the SGDC Program to distribute to clinical and patient clinical areas, to be completed by the end of the year
- SGDC program is now permanently added to PM Digital screens

[Link to website](#)

Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care (SGDC)

The Princess Margaret Cancer Program (PM) takes pride in caring for patients who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and (+) any gender identities or sexual orientations not included in this acronym).



We understand that people use many words to describe sexual orientation and gender identity. The term we use to include all of the diverse expressions of gender identities and sexual orientations is **Sexual and Gender Diversity (SGD)**.

Contact the Sexual and Gender Diversity in Cancer Care Program for more information or to get involved.

Email: SGDC@uhn.ca

Phone: 416 946 4501 ext. 4728

Instagram/Twitter: @PMChosenFamily



Pride 2022 - June is Pride Month!



- ▶ [Find out about upcoming events hosted by the Princess Margaret and other organizations](#) »
- ▶ [View a Pride Month slideshow created by the SGDC Program](#) »

Cancer Resources for Members of SGD Communities



SGD and Cancer: A Guide to Resources in the Community

This guide can help you learn more about inclusive cancer care resources, services and programs for SGD communities.

[Download a copy of the SGD and Cancer Resource Guide](#) >



QueeringCancer.ca

[QueeringCancer.ca](#) provides SGD information, a blog, patient stories and education resources for healthcare providers. You can also find a database of SGD cancer resources including research articles, webinars, videos, news and media stories.



Need A Break From Cancer?

The "Need A Break From Cancer?" resource is meant to support self-care and coping for SGD patients. The resource includes a list of activities to try when you need a break from thinking about cancer, or a rainbow-inspired distraction.

[Download the Need A Break From Cancer? resource](#) >

Pride beyond June

Initiated a number of quality improvement initiatives, that last beyond Pride month

Partnership with PM Cancer Education to develop a permanent SGDc designated shelf within the Patient Family Library. Five books were donated to start the new initiative on behalf of the committee. SGD brochures were purchased from Rainbow Health Ontario and available to patients (cancer screening, stop smoking, general health info brochures with cancer content related to specific SGD populations). Over 150 brochures were picked up by patients. This also helped to increase a message of inclusion and visibility.



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INCLUSIVE INTAKE FORMS AT THE UHN

The UHN has recently changed over to a new health information system that provides patients with the option to state their sexual orientation and gender identity!

SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY IN CANCER CARE | @PMCHOSENFAMILY

Participation in EPIC development committee – provided input on allowing patients to add their pronouns, sexual orientation, gender identity and relationship diversity to their story board in their electronic health record, if they choose.

Initiated the development of 7 all-gender washrooms with signage on the main floor of PM, developed posters for the large gender segregated washrooms with a message of safety and inclusion, provided info on the SGDc website, and an article in UHN News



SGDc Community Connections: Partnering for Impact

YACC: Strengthened our relationship with YACC, collaborated in their patient conference by participating on a panel, sharing resources and brainstorming about SGDc AYA patient needs

Queering Cancer: Collaboration with Queering Cancer's Amanda Bolderston on her post-doctoral fellowship

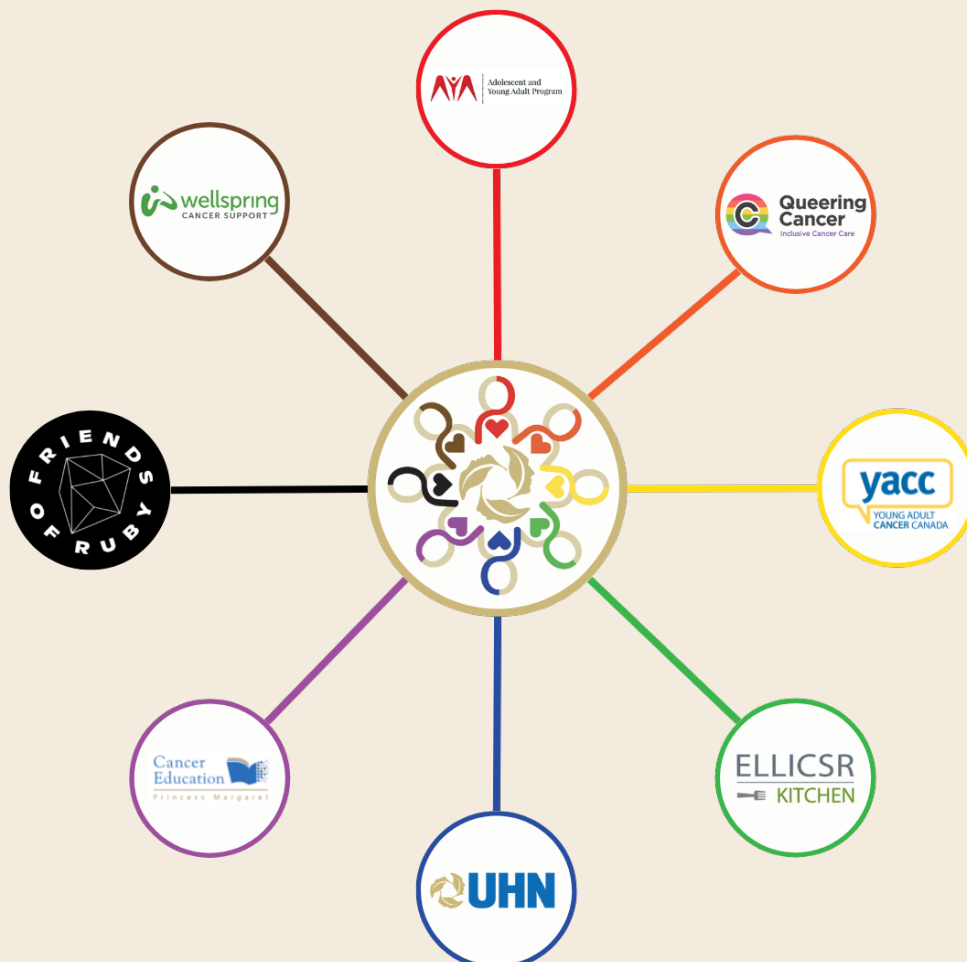
Wellspring: Collaborating with Wellspring to potentially develop an SGDc patient group

Friends of Ruby: Outreach to Friends of Ruby to support their holiday giving campaign as well as a potential workshop for youth in 2023

PM AYA Program: Outreach to PM's AYA Program to collaborate in 2023 to support our AYA SGDc population

PM Sexual Health Clinic: Established a partnership with PM's Sexual Health Clinic

Plans are currently underway to connect with other PM and UHN programs in 2023.



We are looking forward to continuing our work in 2023, to create inclusive cancer care at the Princess Margaret and within the UHN Cancer Program. We are eager to keep learning, growing and expanding further to make a difference to the patients and chosen families who we care for. Through our passion, community and collaborations, we are transforming cancer care for our communities, together.



Credits:

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