

UHN Cancer Experience Program Fall Newsletter 2022



Artist: Steve Driscoll, "The wind does not move in one direction"



Supportive Communication

Ongoing discussion about how to have honest, sensitive, and empathic conversations with patients and their families is critical for providing effective care. We have begun [Project Empathy](#), a series of educational videos for oncologists and trainees that highlight important moments in oncologist-patient interactions, the challenges that they pose, and effective means to overcome them. We have partnered with oncologists at Princess Margaret (PM), internal and community organizations, and a professional production team. Filming began this month, October 2022.



Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access & Anti-Racism (IDEAA)

Dr. Gilla Shapiro, PhD, CPsych, is a Clinician Scientist at the Princess Margaret, and is now our inaugural Research Lead in IDEAA. Dr. Shapiro will lead research projects that examine IDEAA in cancer care and collaborate on IDEAA-related initiatives. Dr. Shapiro also holds a clinical appointment with the Department of Supportive Care and a research role understanding health behaviour and decision making.



Navigation

We are pleased to welcome [The Healing Beyond the Body Program \(HBB\)](#) to Cancer Experience. Led by Megan Wexler (left), HBB offers peer and emotional support to PM patients. HBB will also act as a catalyst for ongoing navigation initiatives. Proactive PSO, our Grand Challenge project co-led by Dr. Madeline Li and Megan, provides referrals to psychosocial resources like HBB to at-risk patients and is now live in gynecology. CancerSpace, a comprehensive digital navigation platform, is being developed and will provide live support to patients through HBB volunteers.



Ambience

This fall marks one year since the announcement of a formal partnership between Cancer Experience and the [Toronto Symphony Orchestra \(TSO\)](#). In the spirit of this ongoing partnership and in appreciation of our healthcare workers, the TSO generously reprised its offering of complimentary tickets for concerts at Roy Thomson Hall to Cancer Centre and Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation staff. These concerts took place between September 26 - October 15, 2022. We hope those who attended enjoyed the show!



Engagement

In September, nurses at PM received an anonymous gift of a photographic print from a former patient, who wished to extend their gratitude for the care they had received.

The gift comprised of 100 copies of a Canadian landscape print, each one in a tube with the message: "Just a quiet thanks for your skills, decency, perseverance, resilience and humanity". Cancer Experience was honoured to facilitate this gift, and we are grateful to the donor for their generosity.



[Magic Castle](#) officially reopened its doors on October 4th, 2022! Magic Castle is a free and dedicated pediatric play space on the first floor of PM. It has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic and our team has worked with UHN Infection Prevention and Control and the early childhood education service Mothercraft to ensure a safe re-opening. For more info: [Magic Castle Website](#)



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