



CANCER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

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HOLIDAY EDITION
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Cancer Experience Program (CEP) Overview

Welcome to the Holiday Edition of the Cancer Experience Newsletter! This November marked one year since the launch of the Cancer Experience Program, and we are proud to highlight important initiatives that we have supported. All of these fall within our SuNDAE framework of Supportive Communication; Navigation; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Access; Ambience; and Engagement.

Academic and community outreach has been a priority of the CEP. To this end, we launched the Leading Edge Lecture Series, featuring experts who stimulated discussion regarding opportunities, innovations, and partnerships in the experience of cancer care for patients, families, healthcare workers and trainees. The first of these lectures was on Race and Structural Barriers to Cancer Care with Dr. Juliet Daniel (McMaster University) and the second on Improving Supportive Communication: Clinicians, Culture, Leadership, and Systems with Dr. Anthony Back (University of Washington). The audience reported that they found this Series to be meaningful and informative, and we look forward to continuing it in the new year.

To enhance the ambience of the cancer centre, we have established key partnerships with the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO), and the University of Toronto Faculty of Music. Details of these partnerships are provided later in this edition.

This Fall also saw the launch of the Grand Challenge Projects in Cancer Experience: The Human Touch in Cancer Care. This competition sponsored by CEP supported the following four projects, led by faculty from Cancer Education, Radiation and Medical Oncology, Digital Technology, and Supportive Care.

A PM Family Caregiver Support Program • *Drs. Janet Papadakos, Meredith Giuliani, Sarah Hales, Rinat Nissim, Breffni Hannon, & Jennifer Croke*

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity & Digital Health Equity • *Drs. Ale Berlin & Stephanie L'heureux*

Proactive Access to Psychosocial Care for All Patients • *Dr. Madeline Li & Megan Wexler*

The LIFT: Responsive Wellbeing Practices Delivered to Healthcare Workers • *Drs. Mary Elliot & Ale Berlin*

These projects hold great promise for improving critical aspects of the cancer experience for patients, families, healthcare workers, and trainees. All of these initiatives are now underway and we will provide updates on the progress in the near future.

Lastly, you may have noticed the new logo for our program. We believe that it is unique, inviting, and fitting for Cancer Experience. We hope you like it!

We wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season!

Featured Initiatives

Staff Well-Being Initiative



In the summer of this year, The Princess Margaret (PM) partnered with the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre to conduct a Well-Being Index Survey (WBI) for clinical staff at our cancer centre. Aggregate results from the completed survey have been shared with PM leadership and will be disseminated to departments and work groups in the new year. The CEP Staff Well-Being Initiative – led by Dr. Mary Elliott -- will also follow up in the new year with individual and group interviews with staff at PM to better understand current facilitators and barriers to workplace satisfaction, efficiency, and collegiality. We hope that this will help us to identify practical strategies to enhance the well-being and professional satisfaction of staff. We will then bring forward recommendations derived from these interviews to appropriate PM leaders to prioritize and implement solutions.

Toronto Symphony Orchestra Collaboration and Training

This Fall, the CEP announced a formal partnership with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) to enhance the role of the arts in cancer care in a unique and mutually rewarding way. TSO musicians have already begun to perform “symphonies for the soul” in areas of PM where patients may spend many hours or days receiving care. Dr. SarahRose Black, certified music therapist and registered psychotherapist in the Department of Supportive Care developed and facilitated formalized training for the orchestra musicians who are tailoring the music to the TSO’s own upcoming projects and to the needs of patients at PM. We are delighted to have begun this journey with the TSO and to amplify the role of the arts in healthcare.

To celebrate this formal partnership, the TSO graciously offered complementary tickets to UHN Cancer Program Staff for concerts at Roy Thompson Hall in November. We hope those who attended enjoyed the show!



Leading Edge Lecture: Supportive Communication



Our program hosted its second Leading Edge Lecture last month, with distinguished speaker Dr. Anthony Back who spoke on *Improving supportive communication: Clinicians, culture, leadership & systems*. Dr. Back is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Washington and a leader in research and training on communication skills in oncology. Dr. Back spoke about the current state of communication skills training in oncology, and the challenge of scaling communication training interventions within a cancer network. In discussions with faculty and staff that followed, potential approaches were considered to enhance training in communication skills at PM and to ensure high uniform standards of care in this area.

Health Equity Research Project

Health equity is fundamental to patient-centred cancer care and in clinical research. There are many benefits to patients and to the advancement of knowledge from participation in clinical trials, but there has not been equity in access to them. In a collaborative study with the Cancer Clinical Research Unit, Global Cancer Program, and the Cancer Experience Program, Drs. Danielle Rodin and Gilla Shapiro will examine disparities in access to clinical trials at PM based on social determinants of health (SDOH) at the patient, provider, and organizational levels. Dr. Jennifer Jones will lead a parallel study examining equity in access to the Cancer Survivorship and Rehabilitation at PM.



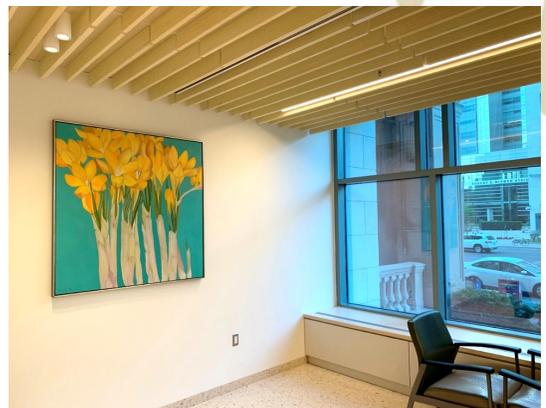
Cancer and the Arts

The ambience of PM is a critical dimension of the cancer experience and can significantly affect the well-being of patients, families, healthcare workers, and trainees. CEP is working with multiple partners to create an atmosphere at PM that promotes comfort and confidence for everyone who receives care, works or trains there. We have established a Cancer and the Arts working group, comprised of members from CEP, the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships, patient partners, and volunteers. Some of the initiatives now in planning or progress are:

First Floor Refresh: This initiative enhanced the first floor space at PM with new art, to help welcome patients, families, healthcare workers, and trainees into the cancer centre. In fact, seven unique pieces of art have been installed in key areas on the main floor.



610 University Avenue entrance
Helen Lucas - Purple Carnation
Ray Cattell - Untitled



Near 610 University Avenue entrance
Helen Lucas - Daffodils

AGO Artworks: Through our collaborative agreement with The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) and generous donor support, we have also installed two world-class signature pieces of art in the cancer centre this Fall.

Right: K.M. Graham, *Benedicte, Omnia Opera (Second Arctic Series)*, 1973. Acrylic on canvas. Collection Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. Purchase, 1973. © Art Gallery of Ontario.



Sean and Peta Boyd
 Lounge
 Artist Unknown
Puvirnituaq, Quebec
Mother with Children
 Stone



Rosen Family Lounge
 Paulosie Sivuak,
 1930 - 1986
Puvirnituaq, Quebec
Family
 Stone

Promoting Cultural Safety for Diverse Communities: Artworks from diverse populations and communities will be installed to enhance the atmosphere of PM and the sense of cultural safety. Decisions about these installations will be determined by a review conducted by the Cancer and the Arts group, that includes feedback from patient partners, and professional and volunteer stakeholders at UHN. As a first step, Inuit statues from the Fehelley Gallery, donated by a PM patient, will be located at PM. A translation in Inuktitut (Nunavik) will be engraved on the accompanying plaque.

The Cancer and the Arts team will continue to focus on curating hallway galleries at PM and seeking opportunities to further enhance Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) across PM and UHN – part of the centre-wide goal of promoting a universal design of space that reflects and welcomes our community.

Introducing New Team Members

Richa Srivastava, MPH



Research Coordinator, Cancer Experience Program Grand Challenge Projects

Richa is a public health professional passionate about program delivery and health equity, particularly in cancer care. Richa graduated from Western University with distinction and holds an Honours Bachelor of Medical Science degree and a Master of Public Health degree. She is keen to use her professional experience and lived experience as a family member impacted by cancer to drive patient-centered initiatives.

Miah Zammit, BA (Hons)



Project Coordinator, Cancer Experience Program and GIPPEC

Miah is an experienced project coordinator with a BA (Hons) in Health Studies from Queen's University and more than three years of accumulated experience working in a health care setting. She is passionate about contributing directly to life-changing cancer support services, something personally important to her with many family members impacted by cancer.

For more information about the Cancer Experience Newsletter and Program,
please contact cancerexperience@uhn.ca.