

WINDSOR ONCOLOGY



IMPACT REPORT

RESEARCH. EDUCATION. PROGRESS.



INTRODUCTION

Over the past five years, Windsor Oncology has accomplished remarkable progress.

From bestowing knowledge onto the new generation of medical learners, to contributing to the vast field of research, the team strives towards one shared goal: to provide the best care to our patients.



“As WRH develops its Academic and Research vision, I am proud of all of the great work being done by our Windsor Oncology Group. Your contributions illustrate the commitment and excellence that I want to see replicated across the organization. Thank you for all that you do and we look forward to many more great accomplishments.”

DR. WASSIM SAAD, MD, FRCPC, FACP

Chief of Professional Staff,
Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH)



“So impressed with the passion for research from the cancer professionals that I work with – evidenced in this publication. Not only tireless clinicians, but also dedicated to moving science forward with local cancer research initiatives.”

DR. CAROLINE HAMM, MD, FRCP (C)

Chair of Oncology Department,
Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH)



“We value the exceptional research and education initiatives within the Windsor Division and the many collaborative relationships built with other Divisions in the Department of Oncology. The passion and enthusiasm for research and education among the faculty and scientists within Windsor Oncology is reflected in their outstanding accomplishments!”

DR. GLENN BAUMAN, MD, FRCP (C)

Chair of the Department of Oncology,
Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University

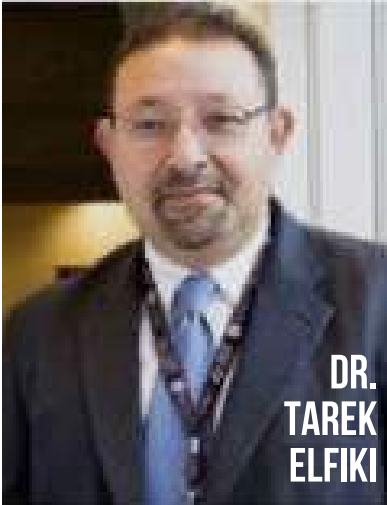
RESEARCH PROFILES

Laura D'Alimonte is the Radiation Clinical Practice Manager at the WRH Cancer Centre. Her research interests include improving care for patients undergoing radiation therapy for prostate and gynecological cancers, and developing new ways to educate patients on all facets of radiation therapy.

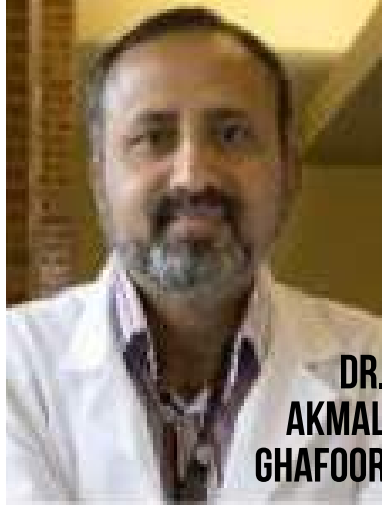


**LAURA
D'ALIMONTE**

Dr. Elfiki is a medical oncologist and the Physician Lead for Systemic Therapy at the WRH Cancer Centre. He is involved in education, working with numerous undergrad medical students and residents during their electives. His research interests include pancreatic, and head and neck cancers.



**DR.
TAREK
ELFIKI**



**DR.
AKMAL
GHAFOOR**

Dr. Ghafoor's research interests include colon cancer, pancreatic cancer, and prostate cancer. He is also involved in giving a variety of academic presentations, and is the Grand Rounds Chair at the WRH Cancer Centre, organizing educational sessions for the entire Oncology Department.



**DR.
RASNA
GUPTA**

Dr. Gupta is the Undergrad Education Lead for the Windsor Oncology program. She has guided over twenty undergrads in oncology. She is the Windsor Lead for the Schulich Wellbeing Program and has led many local wellness initiatives. Her research interests are breast, lung and hematologic cancers.

Dr. Kanjeekal is the Chief of the Oncology Department. Her research focuses on genitourinary and hematologic cancers, with studies on cancer cell biology, socio-economic factors and cancer treatment, and clinical trials for myeloma & lymphoma. She is a member of the Myeloma Cancer Research Network.



DR. SINDU KANJEEKAL

Dr. Hirmiz is involved as the Local Principal Investigator on many multi-centre clinical trials, especially research on lung cancer. He is the lead for the Family Medicine Academic Half Day Oncology Program. He is also a Supervisor for the Translational Health Sciences Master's Program at UWindsor.



**DR.
KHALID
HIRMIZ**

RESEARCHER PROFILES CONTINUED

Krista Naccarato is the Manager of the Clinical Trials Unit at the WRH Cancer Centre. She is focused on ensuring that the Department is successful in offering patients access to clinical trials as treatment options. She is a Co-Investigator and Care Grant recipient for a current study on clinical trials accrual.

**KRISTA
NACCARATO**

Dr. Schneider was previously the Chief of Oncology at WRH. He is now the clinical lead for the Radiation Oncology Program. His research focuses on clinical trials to optimize treatment for head and neck, breast, gynecologic and brain cancers. He represents WRH at the National Cancer Institute of Canada.

**DR. KEN
SCHNEIDER**

Dr. Pan's research is focused on quality of life in patients with prostate cancer, and clinical trials for patients with advanced oropharyngeal cancer, prostate cancer and inoperable non-small cell lung cancer. He is a recent Seeds4Hope grant recipient for artificial intelligence (AI) in radiation treatment planning.

**DR.
MING
PAN**

Dr. Springer's research is focused on prostate cancer, and he was the local principal investigator for a national trial comparing radiation therapy with and without brachytherapy in men with prostate cancer. He was previously the Undergraduate Medical Education Director at Schulich.

**DR.
COLVIN
SPRINGER**

**DR. ESMAEEL
GHASRODDASHTI**
Head of Physics

JOHN AGAPITO
Senior Physicist

LUC SERRE
Physicist &
Resident Lead

SARAH MUSHTAQ
Patient Education
Information
Coordinator

The Medical Physics Department implements clinical trials, which involves training & education of the radiation oncologists, treatment planners, physicists & radiation therapists. The team is also involved in research on colon & cervical cancer screening. They host physics residents as part of the CAMPEP* accredited Karmanos/Wayne State University residency program.

Dr. Woldie's research focuses primarily on hemoglobinopathies. He is a recent recipient of a Seeds4Hope grant for research in multiple myeloma. He is the Windsor lead for the Schulich hematology course, and is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Wayne State University, conducting research projects both in Windsor and Detroit.

**DR.
INDRYAS
WOLDIE**

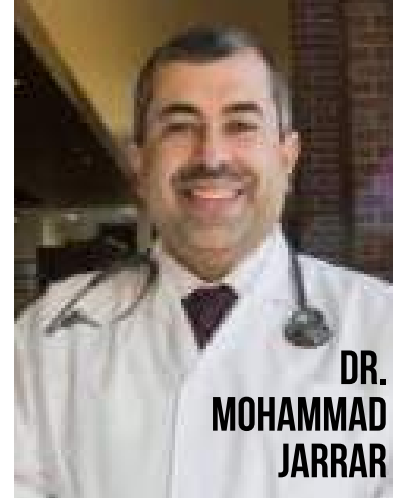
Dr. Yousuf's research focuses on prostate cancer, for which he is also working towards database development. He is involved in teaching residents, and was also a member of the Radiation Oncology Residency Program Committee for Schulich until 2019.

**DR.
JUNAID
YOUSUF**

Dr. Huang's research focuses on novel treatments for lung cancer. She is currently the Windsor lead for the Radiation Oncology Residency Program at the Schulich School of Medicine.



Dr. Jarrar's research focuses on Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) leukemias & lymphomas. He is involved in medical education in both the Pediatric & Oncology Departments, hosting students in clinic and on the Pediatric CTU*, and giving lectures for the hematology course & pediatrics clerkship course at Schulich*.



SIX RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS

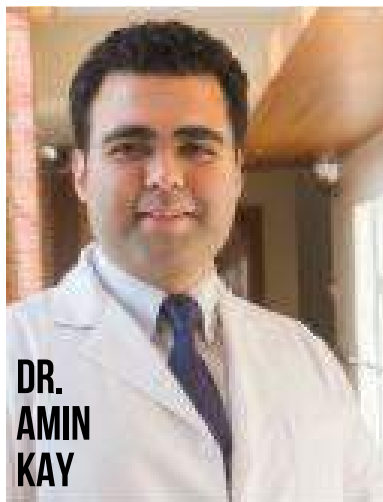
TEN MEDICAL ONCOLOGISTS/ HEMATOLOGISTS

The Windsor Oncology team is dedicated to providing outstanding care for patients and their families. Through their clinical work, teaching and research endeavours, the team ensures that all patients receive the care and support they need throughout their cancer journey.



Dr. Hamm is a founding member of the Windsor Cancer Research Group and chair of the WRH Academic and Research Committee. Her research interests include clinical trials accrual and triple negative breast cancer. She is the lead of the new Schulich Medical School Experiential Learning Course.

Dr. Kay is involved in many clinical trials investigating therapeutics for lung and breast cancer. From 2015-2018 he was the Physician Lead of Clinical Trials at the Cancer Centre, where he ensured financial sustainability, engaged physicians, and increased patient enrollment in trials.



Dr. Kulkarni is Head of Clinical Trials. Her research focuses on lung & breast cancer, and glioblastoma multiforme. She is the local investigator for international research on new treatments for advanced lung cancer, the Windsor lead for CBME*, and members of the Medical Oncology Residency Program Committee and the Ontario Cancer REB*.



Dr. Mathews is the Regional Systemic Lead for Erie St. Clair. He has extensive leadership experience in the medical oncology program. He is involved in education and research at all levels of the Cancer Program.

***CAMPEP** Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs; **CTU** Clinical Teaching Unit; **Schulich** Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University; **CBME** Competency-based Medical Education; **REB** Research Ethics Board

EDUCATION AND TRAINEES

Over the past
five years....

840 CLINIC RESIDENTS & FELLOWS
332 DAYS WITH MEDICAL STUDENTS

WRH also welcomes medical
physics residents from Wayne
State University for 2-year terms

8 PRECLERKSHIP
27 CLERKSHIP
3 VISITING

*medical
students*



33 LOCAL & 6 VISITING
RESIDENTS
FAMILY & INTERNAL MEDICINE



"From treatment consultations, radiation treatment design, and follow-up appointments, I gained an understanding of how to approach diagnosis and treatment. I was able to build a deep appreciation for a person's journey through a uniquely complex and emotional life experience."

Crystal Leung,
Schulich Medicine Class of 2021
Oncology Clerkship Student



"The best part about working on research in the Cancer Centre is realizing how much of an impact a study can have. There is the potential to change treatment protocols and more, which is really empowering."

Vanessa Montemurri,
Schulich Medicine Class of 2023
SROP Grant Recipient



THIRTY-TWO
UNDERGRADUATE
OR MEDICAL

*research
students*



COMPETENCY-BASED
MEDICAL EDUCATION

Starting in 2020, the Cancer Centre
will be welcoming first and second
year medical students to take part in

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Consisting of an original research project
developed with a mentor and delivered in
teams of two to four students.

WCRG CONFERENCE

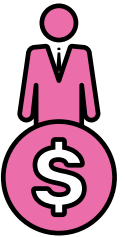


The Windsor Cancer Research Group Conference has been occurring biennially since 2012. The last conference in 2018 was attended by **over 150 guests from across Ontario and Michigan.**

17 oral presentations
nine rapid-fire presentations
57 poster presentations



12 sponsors
six research ambassadors

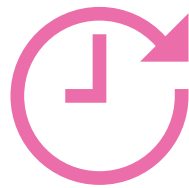


CANCER EDUCATION DAYS

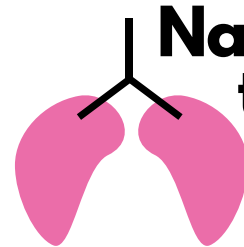
Since 2015, these continuing medical education days are held semi-annually to keep local physicians informed on new ways to detect and treat cancer. Our last event in December 2019 hosted **over 100 attendees including primary care providers, oncologists, medical students, residents & nurses.**



Breast Cancer & Patient Wellness



The Future of Oncology



Navigating the Lung Cancer Journey

As the Director of the Academic Half Day for Oncology lecture series program conducted for Family Medicine Residents, **Dr. Hirmiz ensures soon-to-be primary healthcare providers are properly educated** on important topics in oncology.

As the Windsor Campus Wellness Program Representative at Schulich School of Medicine, and through her work with the OMA, **Dr. Gupta is a local leader in physician wellness** and advocates for initiatives to improve the well being of local physicians.

As the Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) Lead at Schulich School of Medicine, **Dr. Kulkarni helps ensure effective curriculum changes to better educate medical students**, and make them more prepared for the real world of medicine.

PUBLICATIONS AND POSTERS

31

Article
Publications

13

Abstracts

28

Different
Journals

*Publication
highlights*

*Poster
highlights*

**MOLECULAR AND
CLINICAL ONCOLOGY**
SPANDIDOS PUBLICATIONS

Survival of patients with pancreatic cancer treated with varied modalities: A single-centre study

Authors: Michael Blaszkak, Maher El-Masri, Khalid Hirmiz, John Mathews, Abeer Omar, Tarek Elfiki, Rasna Gupta, Caroline Hamm, Sindu Kanjeekal, Amin Kay, Swati Kulkarni, Akmal Ghafoor

Journal of Clinical Oncology*
An American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal

Outcomes of patients with triple-negative breast cancer compared to non-triple negative breast cancer: A single-center study.

Caroline M. Hamm, Maher El-Masri, Rasna Gupta, Swati Kulkarni, Akmal Ghafoor, Pamathy Yivekjohn Mathews, Yasmin Alam, Tarek A. Elfiki, Sindu Mary Kanjeekal, Ken Schneider, Ming Pan, Khalid Hirmiz, Colvin Springer, Junaid Yousuf

The Oncologist/ Early View

A Practical Approach to the Management of Cancer Patients During the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) Pandemic: An International Collaborative Group

Humaid O. Al-Shamsi, Waleed Alhazzani, Ahmad Alhuraiji, Eric A. Coomes, Roy F. Chermak, Meshari Almuhamma, Robert A. Wolff, Nuhad K. Ibrahim, Melvin L.K. Chua, Sebastian J. Hotte, Brandon M. Meyers, Tarek Elfiki, Giuseppe Curigliano, Cathy Eng, Axel Grothey, Conghua Xie



A Prospective Non-Randomized Clinical Trial of Adjuvant Carboplatin in Triple Negative Breast Cancer

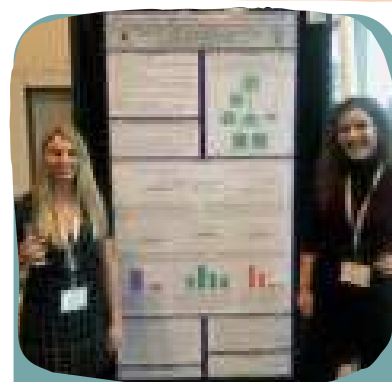
C HAMM, S KULKARNI, R GUPTA, J MATHEWS, A KAY, A HUSSEIN, L PORTER

CARO 2016 IN BANFF

Outcome of Stage 4A and 4B Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Single Institution Experience with Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy and Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy

M PAN, K SCHNEIDER, S KULKARNI, D SOUTHCOTT, R NISSAN, R GUPTA, A GHAFOR, J MATHEWS, T ELFIKI, S KANJEEKAL, A KAY, K HIRMIZ, J YOUSUF, C SPRINGER, C HAMM

ARCC 2019 IN HALIFAX



Vital Signs in Relation to ICU Admission in Treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia

K MCLAUGHLIN, A STOJCEVSKI, I WOLDIE, C HAMM

SABCS 2018 IN SAN ANTONIO

\$405 554

Seeds4Hope Grants

from the Windsor Cancer Foundation

\$1 770 200

CIHR Grants

\$109 000

SWORP & SROP Grants

to promote medical student research

RESEARCH GRANTS

NATIONAL DISEASE BASED REGISTRIES

The WRH Cancer Centre is participating with registries for Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) & Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL)

DR KANJEEKAL

Identifying a genetic signature to predict bladder cancer progression

DR KULKARNI

Targeting cell cycle checkpoints in glioma

DR WOLDIE

Investigating new therapies for multiple myeloma

DR PAN

Using artificial intelligence to map tumours on CT scans

Recent Projects

Sierra Sutcliffe: Secondary malignancies in patients with lymphoma treated at the Windsor Regional Hospital

A FEW SWORP PROJECTS

Sanam Gurm & Richard Low: Diversity and Cancer Outcomes in Windsor

Elise Quint: Retrospective chart review examining variables related to outcome for patients treated for acute leukemia at the Windsor Regional Cancer Centre



BECAUSE OF
THIS PROGRAM
WE HAVE
MORE THAN
DOUBLED
CLINICAL
TRIALS
ACCRUAL

Recently piloted in Windsor-Essex with CARE grant funding, this program aims to connect cancer patients to clinical trials throughout Canada

Developed to increase awareness, understanding and accessibility of clinical trials

Clinical Trials Navigator

**SROP RESEARCH
SUPERVISOR
AWARD**

DR. YOUSUF (2015)

**GLEN SAWYER
OMA SERVICE
AWARD**

DR. HAMM (2018)

*3 Windsor
Awards of
Excellence in
Medical Education*

DR. YOUSUF (2015)

DR. GUPTA (2019)

DR. WOLDIE (2020)



**HUMAN TOUCH
AWARD** FOR SERVICE &
INNOVATION
IN CANCER
CARE

DR. HAMM (2018)

**DE SOUZA NURSE
DESIGNATION**
ONCOLOGY SPECIALTY
CERTIFICATION

TATJANA BEHRINGER (2020)

**3 SCHULICH ONCOLOGY AWARDS
OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

DR. HAMM (2015), DR. HIRMIZ (2018), DR. KULKARNI (2019)

*Awards &
Appointments*

16

**SCHULICH
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE**

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

1 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

7 ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

8 ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

**ONE APPOINTMENT AT
WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

CLINICAL ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR

Appointments

10 **AT THE
UNIVERSITY
OF WINDSOR**

1 CLINICAL PROFESSOR

9 ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

The Academic Leadership Committee meets once a month to engage physicians and staff in research initiatives, with the goal of improving patient outcomes.

Committee members are involved in facilitating research initiatives by coordinating various efforts. These efforts include promoting multi-disciplinary research projects by identifying research grant opportunities, coordinating medical student and resident trainee research projects, creating and implementing knowledge translation strategies, and organizing and building the research and education program in oncology. Recent initiatives include a workshop on the SWORP research program for medical students, Seeds4Hope grants and enrolling patients in national registries.

In order to better support medical student researchers in their projects,

doctors at the Cancer Centre attended a SWORP workshop, intended to help inform preceptors on how to help their students with receiving ethics approval, access to hospital resources, and seeing their project to completion.

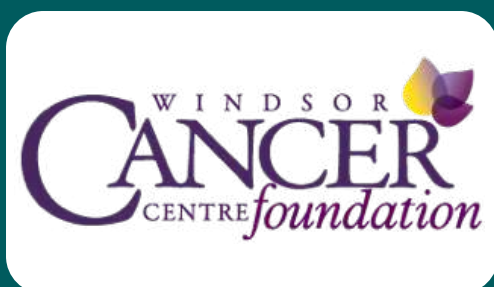
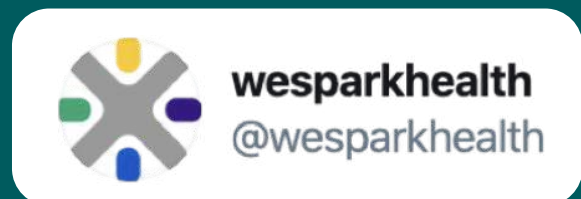
To increase funding for cancer research in the Windsor-Essex region,

a workshop facilitation is in progress for doctors at the Cancer Program to help support in the grant writing process.



Process Development

We would like to thank all of
the generous sponsors who
have contributed to our
research efforts.



This Impact Factor Report was brought to you with help from....



DEVINDER MOUDGIL, PH.D.

Research Associate
Windsor Regional Hospital Cancer Program



KATIE MCLAUGHLIN

MD Class of 2021
Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry



AMANDA STOJCEVSKI

MD Class of 2021
Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry

