

# SPRING UPDATE 2023

## Palliative Oncology & Geriatric Care



**SATURDAY  
APRIL 22, 2023  
HYBRID EVENT**

**MORE INFO AT [WWW.BCCANCER.BC.CA/SURGERYNETWORK](http://WWW.BCCANCER.BC.CA/SURGERYNETWORK)**

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**After the completion of the course, participants will be able to do the following:**

- Recognize the most common surgical oncology presentations that may require palliative surgery
- Discuss the role of palliative surgery in improving survival
- Identify the indications for mastectomy in the setting of metastatic breast cancer
- Discuss the risks and benefits of a mastectomy in the setting of metastatic breast cancer
- Recognize the most common symptoms requiring palliative surgery in rectal cancer
- Discuss the options for palliative surgery for rectal cancer
- Discuss the presentation of advanced gastric cancer
- Describe the indications, risks and benefits of a palliative gastrectomy
- Describe what is meant by palliative radiation and how it differs from therapeutic radiation
- Describe in what situations radiation can help with palliation
- Describe some of the contra-indications for receiving palliative radiation
- Discuss some of the complications of palliative radiations
- Define goal concordant care
- Define MAID
- Discuss eligibility criteria for a patient to be considered for MAID
- Discuss how surgeons can identify patients who may be candidates for MAID and contribute to informing them about their option to consider MAID
- Discuss how “urgent” MAID consults can be obtained
- Describe general outcomes for geriatric surgical oncology population
- Discuss need to full staging to establish prognosis and surgical approach
- Discuss treatment options other than surgery and when appropriate
- Discuss approach to pre-operative work up of older patients and risk assessment
- Discuss complications specific to older patients perioperatively (e.g. delirium)
- Describe strategies to optimize physical and mental wellbeing in older patients
- Describe physical limitations that older patients may encounter (e.g. balance, strength, etc.)
- Discuss an approach to optimizing older patients fitness pre and post operatively
- Discuss what options are available for rehabilitation and how to access these
- Analyze multidisciplinary assessment of patients
- Discuss how treatment options for the same problem may vary between patients

# PROGRAM

Time	Topic	Speaker
7:30-8:00 am	Registration	
7:50-8:00 am	Welcome and Introduction	Dr. Heather Stuart
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>PALLIATIVE SURGICAL ONCOLOGY</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Sita Ollek</b>
8:05-8:50 am	Palliative surgery for survival	Dr. Shaila Merchant
8:50-9:10 am	Mastectomy in metastatic breast cancer	Dr. Jieun Newman Bremang
9:10-9:35 am	Palliative surgery for rectal cancer	Dr. Jason Park
9:35-10:00 am	Palliative gastrectomy for gastric cancer	Dr. Sohrab Khorasani
10:00-10:30am	Coffee Break	
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>PALLIATIVE ONCOLOGY</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Sohrab Khorasani</b>
10:30 -11:05am	What surgeons should know about Palliative Radiation?	Dr. Shilo Lefresne
11:05-11:45	Delivering patient-centered care in the era of MAID	Dr. Michael McKenzie
11:45-12:45pm	Networking Lunch	
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>GERIATRIC SURGERY</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Heather Stuart</b>
12:45-1:30 pm	Surgical oncology considerations in the geriatric population	Dr. Tyler Chesney
1:30-2:00 pm	Medical and frailty considerations in older adults undergoing surgery	Dr. Tracy Zhang
2:00-2:25 pm	Pre and Post-Surgical Rehabilitation in a Geriatric Population	Sarah Buddingh Smith
2:25-3:00 pm	Case presentation – combined palliative/geriatrics	Surgical Oncology fellows
2:50-3:00 pm	Course Evaluation/ Wrap Up	

REGISTER HERE

Please note that the speaker presentations will be posted on the Surgery Network website after the event at [www.bccancer.bc.ca/surgerynetwork](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/surgerynetwork)

# SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PANELLISTS

## DR. SHAILA MERCHANT



Dr. Shaila Merchant is a fellowship-trained surgical oncologist, with clinical areas of interest in gastrointestinal and breast cancers. She works as part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide thoughtful and high-quality cancer care to patients with complex cancer needs.

Dr. Merchant completed medical school and General Surgery residency training at the University of British Columbia. She then went to Southern California to complete an accredited two-year fellowship in Complex Surgical Oncology. She holds certifications in General Surgery and Surgical Oncology in Canada (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada) and the United States (American Board of Surgery). She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at Queen's University, Kingston, ON.

Dr. Merchant is involved in Health Services Research and has graduate degrees in basic science and clinical epidemiology and statistics. Her research is focused on compassionate care at the end-of-life, potentially aggressive end-of-life care, palliative care, symptom management, the effectiveness of palliative interventions for incurable disease, increasing psychosocial support and improving patient-physician communication for patients with cancer. She has published extensively in the scientific literature and has presented at national and international venues. She also serves on several national and international cancer committees.

## DR. JIEUN NEWMAN BREMANG



Dr. Jieun Newman-Bremang is a general surgeon and a fellowship-trained breast surgical oncologist. She is a graduate of the breast surgical oncology fellowship at the University of Toronto and completed her residency training in general surgery at the University of British Columbia. She graduated from medical school at the University of Toronto, and completed additional training in health systems leadership as a LEAD Scholar at UofT. She also holds a Master of Science (Neuroscience) degree from McGill University and a Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) degree from McMaster University.

As a senior resident at the University of British Columbia, Dr. Newman-Bremang found her passion for surgical oncology and breast cancer research. She won the best oral presentation award at the BC Surgical Society meeting in 2019. She has since presented her research work internationally and continues to be involved in the breast surgical oncology community across Canada and abroad. Her areas of research include innovative delivery models in breast cancer care, with a focus on patient centred care. Dr. Newman-Bremang provides individualized care for every patient using oncoplastic surgical approaches to maximize patient satisfaction.

## DR. JASON PARK



Dr. Jason Park is a Surgical Oncologist at Vancouver General Hospital and a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at UBC. He serves as BC Cancers' Regional Cancer Surgery Lead for Vancouver Coastal Health. He completed a Fellowship in Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Master's Degree in Education at the University of Toronto.

He serves as current President of the Canadian Society for Surgical Oncology (CSSO). He is also an Expert Clinical Advisor to the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), Assistant Chair of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Surgical Oncology Exam Committee, and Associate Editor for the Canadian Journal of Surgery.

## SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PANELLISTS

### DR. MOHAMMADALI KHORASANI



Dr. Mohammadali Khorasani is a surgical oncologist practicing in Victoria, BC. He completed General Surgery residency training at University of British Columbia in 2017, and Surgical Oncology fellowship at University of Toronto in 2019. His surgical oncology practice is broad, and includes complex GI, skin and breast cancer. His clinical interest is in management of gastric and lower GI cancer, and his research interest is in multidisciplinary translational biomedical research in the field of cancer management.

### DR. SHILO LEFRENSE



Dr Shilo Lefresne is a radiation oncologist at Vancouver Cancer Centre and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia. Her clinical practice focuses on thoracic and gastrointestinal malignancies. She has a special interest in palliative care and is the department lead for the Vancouver Rapid Access (VARA) Clinic which offers urgent and comprehensive care for patients with newly diagnosed, incurable lung cancer.

Her clinical trials research has focused on the management of brain metastases, palliative radiotherapy and patient reported outcomes, and the role of SABR for the management of oligometastatic disease. She is also one of the founding members of the BC Cancer Planetary Health Unit which aims to decrease the ecologic impact of health care service delivery and engage health care providers in the fight against the climate crisis.

### DR. MICHAEL MCKENZIE



Since Dr. McKenzie became a radiation oncologist at BC Cancer-Vancouver in 1991, he has maintained an active academic interest in supportive cancer care. Currently, he serves as Co-Chair of the Canadian Cancer Trials Group's Supportive Care Committee. More recently, he developed an interest in quality improvement (QI). From July 2018 through November 2019, he served as BC Cancer's Vice President Quality. Until it concluded very recently, he was Project Lead for BC Cancer's Early Symptom Indicators for Cancer Care Screening Program; a provincial QI project piloting the formalization of a palliative approach to care, including the facilitation of effective transitions of care from cancer centre to community for patients with advanced cancer and their families. After serving on the Ministry of Health's Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Operations and Oversight Advisory Committees for several years, very recently, he became PHSA's Medical Director for MAID.



## SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PANELLISTS

### DR. TYLER CHESNEY



Tyler Chesney is a colorectal and gastrointestinal surgical oncologist at St. Michael's Hospital, Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto in the Department of Surgery. He completed medical school at McMaster University and a Master of Science at Queen's University focusing on knowledge translation in cognitive aging and dementia. He completed residency in General Surgery at the University of Toronto, and Complex General Surgical Oncology at the University of Toronto in 2020.

He has a longstanding commitment to caring for older adults including volunteer work with Alzheimer Society and Hospice, leadership of the geriatrics interest group in medical school, and research and clinical activity as a surgical trainee. Now, he is a member of the Canadian Network on Aging and Cancer (CNAC), the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) Surgical Ad-Hoc Committee, and the Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology (CSSO) Executive Committee. His ongoing clinical and scholarly work aims to build clinical capacity of geriatric surgical oncology and advance the care of older adults with cancer. At St. Michael's he is helping to build the Older Adults Surgery & Oncology Program (OSOP), and creating cross-specialty learning events between surgery and geriatrics trainees.

### DR. TRACY ZHANG



Tracy Zhang is a geriatrician practicing at Providence Health Care, serving as an inpatient geriatric medicine consultant and providing geriatric preoperative assessments and postoperative co-management in older adults undergoing surgery. She is a University of Alberta MD graduate and completed her Internal Medicine Residency and Geriatric Medicine Fellowship at the University of British Columbia. She has a special interest in dementia care, frailty, and cancer care in older adults. She is currently involved in a trial providing personalized geriatric assessments in older adults undergoing treatments for metastatic breast cancer.

### SARAH BUDDINGH SMITH



Sarah Buddingh Smith is a Physiotherapist at BC Cancer Vancouver. She brings to oncology her experience in acute, outpatient and residential care settings. She is certified with PINC&STEEL International in oncology rehabilitation, and has extensive continuing education in chronic pain. Motivational interviewing and pain science education are cornerstones of her practice, and she works closely with the Pain & Symptom Management and Palliative Care team at BC Cancer. With the pandemic, her role has expanded from inpatient and in-person outpatient settings to include virtual care, allowing her to better serve the geriatric population and those in rural and remote locations. She is passionate about improving the function and quality of life of those living with cancer.

# SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PANELLISTS

## DR. HEATHER STUART



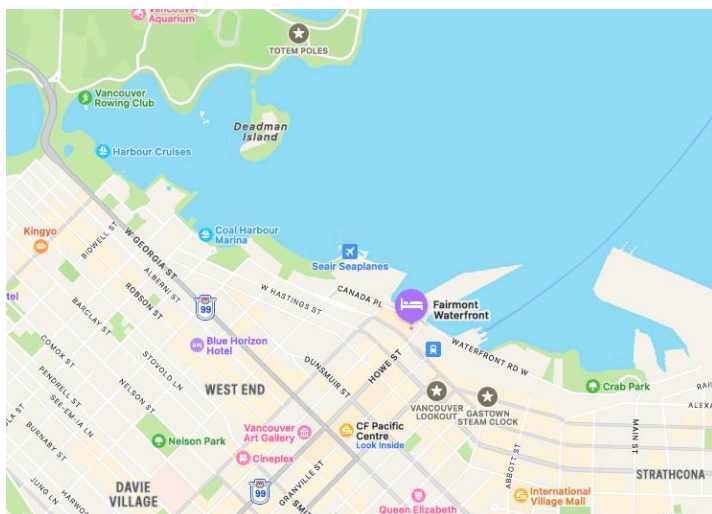
Dr. Heather Stuart is a Surgical Oncologist at BC Cancer and Vancouver General Hospital with an interest in GI and cutaneous malignancies. She completed Medical school and Master of Science at the University of British Columbia and General Surgery residency at the University of Calgary. During her Surgical Oncology fellowship training at the University of Miami she spent time in Uppsala, Sweden developing a focus in neuroendocrine tumors. Her current research focuses on clinical outcomes for patient's adrenal and gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors and cutaneous malignancies. She is currently the chair for the Continuing Professional Development & Knowledge Transfer (CPD-KT) Committee for BC Cancer Surgery, the resident research lead for the UBC General Surgery residency program and the co-chair for the BC Cancer GI clinical outcomes unit.

## DR. SITA OLLEK



Dr. Sita Ollek is a Surgical Oncologist in Kelowna. She completed medical school at the University of British Columbia and general surgery residency at the University of Saskatchewan. She then completed a fellowship in complex general surgical oncology at the University of British Columbia. Her clinical interests include melanoma, breast, advanced GI malignancies and soft tissue malignancies. She is the co-chair of the Interior Health Breast Tumor group. She is a consultant surgical oncologist at Kelowna General Hospital and the BC Cancer Kelowna Centre.

# LOCATION



## IN PERSON

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel  
900 Canada Place Way  
Vancouver, BC  
V6C 3L5

## ONLINE

Zoom for healthcare

## ACCREDITATION

### Accredited by UBC CPD



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

The University of British Columbia Division of Continuing Professional Development (UBC CPD) is fully accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CACME) to provide study credits for continuing medical education for physicians. This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and has been approved by UBC CPD for up to **5.5 MOC Section 1** Group Learning credits. Each physician should claim only those credits accrued through participation in the activity.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Heather Stuart, Chair – Continuing Professional Development and Knowledge Transfer Committee (CPD-KT), BC Cancer Surgery Network

Dr. Sita Ollek, Member - CPD-KT Committee, BC Cancer Surgery Network

Dr. Mohammadali Sohrab Khorasani, Member - CPD-KT Committee, BC Cancer Surgery Network

## SPONSORS

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