

# Centre de recherche de St. Mary St. Mary's Research Centre

Février / February 2021

## World Cancer Day - Feb 4, 2020



*"The more we know about cancer,  
the more lives we can save"*



Dear members of the SMRC community,

February 4th World Cancer Day will have a special meaning this year, as we reflect on what it means to live with cancer during a global pandemic. I'd like to first honor oncology patients, for their ability to find the strength to fight cancer during the worst of times. Their courage and resilience are what prevent us from getting discouraged. World Cancer Day is also an opportunity to thank health care professionals that fight this battle alongside the patients. Their dedication in making sure cancer treatments are provided in a dignified manner despite COVID-19 restrictions is impressive. Their ability to rapidly develop new and creative ways to safely (and often more efficiently) care for cancer patients is inspiring.

Oncology represents a priority area for our Research Centre, and this month's newsletter reflects our contributions to the fight against cancer. The cancer clinical

trials program continues to grow under the leadership Dr Langleben. St-Mary's Hospital and its Research Centre now offer 18 active trials, covering the most common tumor sites: lung, breast, colon and bladder. These trials make innovative new treatments rapidly accessible to our patients and also consolidate St-Mary's role as an academic hospital. Recent partnerships with the McPeak-Sirois and Q-CROC collaborative trial groups will allow us to continue in that direction. Beyond treatment, the SMRC also focuses on the experience of patients and their loved ones with this terrible disease. We are all familiar with the e-IMPAQc research program lead by Drs Lambert and Faria, which focuses on how technology can help patients become true partners in their care by taking ownership of the management of often overlooked symptoms such as distress. Another example of patient-centered cancer research is the Can-Direct initiative lead by Dr McCusker, that showed how a remote, telephone-supported self-care intervention decreased depression and anxiety rates among cancer survivors. I'm proud to report that Dr McCusker's findings have been accepted for publication in the prestigious Journal of Clinical Oncology. Overall, SMRC researchers received more than \$750,000 in cancer-related research funding in 2020. Of course, all of this would not be possible without the St-Mary's Hospital Foundation. We are grateful for their support as the Research Centre continues to consolidate St-Mary's role in academic medicine.

Stay safe,

Ari Meguerditchian  
Scientific Director, SMRC

## **Oncology clinical trials – Current**

### **Lung**

#### **Sponsor : Merk**

A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind Trial of Platinum Doublet Chemotherapy +/-Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) as Neoadjuvant/Adjuvant Therapy for Participants with Resectable Stage IIB or IIIA Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind Study of Pembrolizumab plus Ipilimumab vs Pembrolizumab plus Placebo in Previously Untreated, Recurrent/Metastatic Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

A Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab in Combination with Pemetrexed/Platinum (Carboplatin or Cisplatin) Followed by Pembrolizumab and Maintenance Olaparib vs Maintenance Pemetrexed in the First-Line Treatment of Participants with Metastatic Nonsquamous Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer

A Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab in Combination with Carboplatin/Taxane (Paclitaxel or Nab-paclitaxel) Followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Maintenance Olaparib in the First-line Treatment of Metastatic Squamous Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

A Randomized, Double-blind, Phase 3 Study of Pemetrexed + Platinum Chemotherapy + Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) with or without Lenvatinib in Participants with Treatment-naïve, Metastatic Non-squamous Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

A Phase 3, multicenter, randomized, open-label trial to compare the efficacy and safety of pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with lenvatinib (E7080/MK-7902) versus docetaxel in previously treated participants with metastatic nonsmall cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and progressive disease (PD) after platinum doublet chemotherapy and immunotherapy (anti-PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitor) (LEAP-008)

### **Gastric or Gastroesophageal Junction (GEJ)**

#### **Sponsor: Astellas Pharma Global Development, Inc.**

A Phase 3, Global, Multi-Center, Double-Blind, Randomized, Efficacy Study of Zolbetuximab (IMAB362) Plus mFOLFOX6 Compared with Placebo Plus mFOLFOX6 as First-line Treatment of Subjects with Claudin (CLDN)18.2-Positive, HER2- Negative, Locally Advanced Unresectable or Metastatic Gastric or Gastroesophageal Junction (GEJ) Adenocarcinoma

## **Oncology clinical trials - Upcoming**

### **Bladder**

#### **Sponsor: Bristol-Myers Squibb**

Phase 3, Randomized, Study of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy alone versus Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy plus Nivolumab or Nivolumab and BMS-986205 Followed by Continued Post-Surgery Therapy with Nivolumab or Nivolumab and BMS-986205 in Participants with Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer

### **Breast**

#### **Sponsor: Bristol-Myers Squibb**

A Randomized, Multicenter, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Phase 3 Study of Nivolumab Versus Placebo in Combination With Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy and Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy in the Treatment of High-risk, Stage II-III Estrogen Receptor-Positive (ER+), Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2-Negative (HER2-) Breast Cancer

#### **Sponsor: Roche**

A Phase III Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of GDC-9545 Combined with Palbociclib Compared with Letrozole Combined with Palbociclib in Women with Estrogen Receptor-Positive, HER2-Negative Locally Advanced or Metastatic Breast Cancer

#### **Sponsor: Sanofi**

A randomized, multicenter, double-blind phase 3 study of SAR439859 plus palbociclib versus letrozole plus palbociclib for the treatment of premenopausal and postmenopausal women with ER (+), HER2 (-) breast cancer who have not received any prior systemic anticancer treatment for advanced disease EFC1593

**Sponsor: Sermonix**

An Open-label, Randomized, Multicenter Study Evaluating the Activity of Lasofoxifene Relative to Fulvestrant for the Treatment of Pre- and Postmenopausal Women with Locally Advanced or Metastatic ER+/HER2- Breast Cancer with an ESR1 Mutation

**Sponsor: Olema**

A Phase I/II Open-label, First-in-Human, Multicenter, Dose Escalation and Dose Expansion Study of OP-1250 monotherapy in adult subjects with advanced and/or metastatic Hormone Receptor (HR)-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer

**Colorectal****Sponsor: MedImmune**

A Phase 1b/2, Two-stage, Open-label, Multicenter Study of Novel Oncology Therapies in Combination with Chemotherapy and Bevacizumab as First-Line Therapy in Metastatic Microsatellite-Stable Colorectal Cancer

**Lung****Sponsor: Bristol-Myers Squibb**

A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-blind Study of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy plus Nivolumab versus Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy plus Placebo, followed by Surgical Resection and Adjuvant Treatment with Nivolumab or Placebo for Participants with Resectable Stage II-IIIB Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

**Sponsor: Merck**

A Phase 2 Precision Oncology Study of Biomarker-Directed, Pembrolizumab- (MK 3475, SCH 900475) Based Combination Therapy for Advanced Non- Small Cell Lung Cancer

**Sponsor: Sanofi**

Randomized, Open Label Phase 3 study of SAR408701 versus Docetaxel in previously Treated metastatic nonsquamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer patients with CEACAM5 positive tumors

**Prostate****Sponsor: Merck**

Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab/Placebo plus Enzalutamide plus ADT in mHSPC

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## CanDirect : 219 study completers and what's next

**can**DIRECT



The CanDirect trial, funded by the Canadian Cancer Society and led by Dr Jane McCusker and her team, has wrapped up with 219 study completers. The study evaluated an innovative self-care approach for cancer survivors with symptoms of depression, and involved a set of tools plus telephone coaching by a trained lay coach. Participants allocated to receive the intervention had significantly better outcomes after 6 months than those receiving usual care: reduced severity of depression and anxiety symptoms, improved mental health-related quality of life, and improved confidence in self-care. A paper has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. A webpage containing the intervention materials will be made available soon.

## Cancer related initiatives – SMRC in the news



[Breast Cancer in Women](#) by Health Experience.ca : 35 women across Canada share their experiences with breast cancer



[Looking Forward series of booklets](#) offering information, support and resources for patients completing active cancer treatment. Listen to a short [video](#) to see what the Looking Forward kit is all about





[e-IMPAQc projects description](#), [tools](#) and short [video](#) (2.20min) on Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO)



[TEMPO](#) - helping individuals affected by prostate cancer. New [video](#) (2 min)



Lambert, S. (2020). [Demystifying the symptoms of cancer patients](#). [Interview]. F. Donat. Montreal, Oncopole. Actualités.



Lambert, S. (2020). [Researchers develop online support for patients with prostate cancer and their caregivers](#). [Interview]. L. Starr, McGill Health e-

News

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## Cancer related academic contribution in 2020

### Funding received

**Lambert, S., G. Chaput, R. Faria, Z. Rosberger, J. Kildea, T. Hijal, J. McCusker and C. Bouchard** (2020). Implementing a mobile-based symptom screening program for tailored treatment and care of women with breast cancer. Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation, Grant awarded. June 2020: \$200,000 CAD.

**Lambert, S. D., J. Kildea and M. Magalhaes** (2020). e-IMPAQc: A real-world implementation and evaluation of features to facilitate social distancing measures for cancer patients through a mobile phone-based program. S. D. Lambert and J. Kildea. Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). Grant awarded. May 2020: \$94,325.00 CAD

**Lambert, S., R. Faria, J. McCusker, T. Hijal, M. Yaffe and D. Tremblay** (2020). Improving the care of cancer survivors and their caregivers: In partnership with cancer survivors, caregivers and healthcare professionals for developing and evaluating electronic patient- and caregiver-reported outcome programs to capture the long-term effects of cancer and provide self-management support. Fonds de recherche Santé Québec - Priorité patient - La recherche au service des besoins des patients en oncologie, Grant awarded. June 2020: \$250,000 CAD.

**Lambert, S., P. Nugus, J. McCusker, M. Yaffe, J. Kildea, T. Hijal, J. Haggerty, A.**

**Ciampi, Z.** Rosberger and D. Tremblay (2020). The integration of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in cancer care: learning from real-world implementation in cancer centres across Quebec. Fonds de recherche du Québec en santé (FRQS). Innove-Onco - Optimizing the Integration of Innovation in Oncology, Grant awarded. March 24, 2020: \$850,000.800.

## Publications



Hallward, L., K. Chemtob, **S. D. Lambert** and L. R. Duncan (2020).

[Prostate cancer survivors' and caregivers' experiences using behavior change techniques during a web-based self-management and physical activity program: A qualitative study.](#) *Journal of Clinical Medicine* 9(10): 3244.



Moldoveanu, D., V. Pravongviengkham, G. Best, C. Martinez, T. Hijal, **A. N. Meguerditchian**, M. Lajoie, S. Dumitra, I. Watson and S. Meterissian (2020).

[Dynamic Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio: A Novel Prognosis Measure for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer.](#) *Ann Surg Oncol* 27(10):4028-4024



**Ormel I, Magalhaes M,** Josephson D, Tracey L, **Law S.** (2020) [How to know what to know: Information challenges for women in the diagnostic phase of breast cancer.](#) Patient Education & Counseling, 2020. DOI:

10.1016/j.pec.2020.06.030



Ugalde A, Blaschke SM, Schofield P, **Lambert, SD**, Aranda S, Boltong A, Chambers SK, Krishnasamy M, Livingston P. (2020) [Priorities for cancer caregiver intervention research: A three-round modified Delphi study to inform priorities for participants, interventions, outcomes and study design characteristics.](#)

*Psycho-Oncology.* 6p. 2020 May 4. DOI: 10.1002/pon.5404.

## Invited presentations

**Doussau, A.** (2020). Physician diagnosed with advanced cancer challenges clinical trials' eligibility criteria: Ethical implications of requiring patients to undergo standard chemotherapy before being eligible for novel immunotherapy clinical trials: An ethics consultation requested by a patient-physician. St. Mary's Seminar Series. Montreal, Quebec.

**Faria, R., S. D. Lambert, J.** Kildea, Z. Rosberger, T. Hijal, **J. McCusker**, L. Hendren and M. Magalhaes (2020). Facilitating comprehensive, person-centered, and evidence-based real time symptom management in cancer care across Quebec with mobile technology: The e-IMPAQc Project. [Poster] American Psychosocial Oncology Society 2020 Virtual Conference.

Kurteva, S., R. Tamblyn and **A. N. Meguerditchian** (2020). Opioid prescription

characteristics associated with frequent emergency department use among hospitalized cancer patients: A comparative cohort study. [Oral Presentation] American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Virtual Meeting. San Diego, CA

**Lambert, S. D., R. Faria, J. Kildea, Z. Rosberger, T. Hijal, J. McCusker and M. Magalhaes** (2020). Partnering with cancer patients and their caregivers to improve outcomes and patient/caregiver experience: How patient-partner experiences on the e-IMPAQc project can be used to model patient partnerships. [Poster] Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology Conference (CAPO) virtual conference. July 14 - 16, 2020

**McCusker, J., J. Jones, M. Li, R. Faria, M. Yaffe, S. Lambert, A. Ciampi, E. Belzile and M. de Raad** (2020). Effectiveness of a telephone-supported depression self-management intervention for cancer survivors. [Oral presentation]. Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology Conference (CAPO) virtual conference. July 14 - 16, 2020

**McCusker J, Jones J, Li M, Faria R, Yaffe M, Lambert S, Ciampi A, Belzile E, de Raad M.** To assess the effectiveness of a telephone-supported depression self-management intervention for cancer survivors in comparison to usual care only. [Short oral presentation]. Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology Conference (CAPO) virtual conference. July 14 - 16, 2020

**Meguerditchian, A. N., [Moderator], M. Brackstone, M. L. Quan and S. Wong** (2020). Breast cancer: Old disease, new challenges. [Webinar]. Webinar hosted at the Canadian Association of General Surgeons and the Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology.

**Meguerditchian, A.N.** “A Million to Find the Cure” 2020 edition. Chair of the research grants peer review committee for the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation

**Ormel, I.** (2020). Tailoring information for women with breast cancer using a recommender system (Netflix oriented technology). [Oral presentation] St. Mary's Research Centre Seminar Series. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

## Call for participation in cancer research



Dr Sylvie Lambert's team is now recruiting cancer patients and their primary support person (spouse, family member, friend) to test the Coping Together intervention! Participants receive 6 booklets, a workbook and phone coaching. The booklets are designed to help participants learn skills to:



cope with anxiety, better communicate and support each other, make shared decisions, effectively manage symptoms, work with their health care team and find community resources. Please share the information with anyone who might be interested: <https://www.facebook.com/CopingTogether.SMRC/>

## Grants awarded

**Lambert, S. D.** & Duncan, L. (2021, January). Open Access Publication Support for :” A study protocol for a multi-centre randomized pilot trial of a dyadic, tailored, web-based, psychosocial and physical activity self-management program (TEMPO) for men with prostate cancer and their caregivers”. Internal Competition, Ingram School of Nursing Collaborative, McGill University, \$3,000 CAD

## Recently published / In press



Clover, K., **Lambert, S. D.**, Olmeadow, C., Britton, B., King, M. T., Mitchell, A., Carter, G. [Apples to apples? Comparison of the measurement properties of Hospital Anxiety and Depression-Anxiety subscale \(HADS-A\), Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale-Anxiety subscale \(DASS-A\), and Generalised Anxiety Disorder \(GAD-7\) scale in an oncology setting using Rasch analysis and diagnostic accuracy statistics.](#) *Current Psychology*. DOI: 10.1007/s12144-020-00906-x



**Lambert S, McCusker J, Belzile E, Yaffe M, Ihejirika C, Richardson J, Bartlett S.** (2021) [Using confirmatory factor analysis and Rasch analysis to examine the dimensionality of The Patient Assessment of Care for Chronic Illness Care \(PACIC\).](#) *Quality of Life Research*, 10p. DOI: 10.1007/s11136-020-02750-9



Mohsen, K., Kildea, J., **Lambert, S. D.**, & Laizner, A.M. [Exploring cancer patients' perceptions of accessing and experience with using the educational material in the Opal patient portal.](#) *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 2021. DOI: 10.1007/s00520-020-05900-4

## Under review



Boureanu, M., **Ould Brahim, L., Apedaile, D., Wasserman, S., Magalhaes, M., Belzile, E., Frati, F. Y. E.,**



& Lambert, S. D. Environmental scan and review of online, publicly available cancer-related educational and self-management resources for symptom management. *Psycho-Oncology*



**Ould Brahim L, Lambert S**, Feeley N, Coumoundouros C, Schaffler J, **McCusker J**, Moodie E, Kayser J.W, Kolne K, **Belzile E**, Genest C. The effects of self-management interventions on depressive symptoms in adults with chronic physical disease(s) experiencing depressive symptomatology: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMC Psychiatry*



Smith, A. B., Wu, V., **Lambert, S.**, Leske, S., Girgis, A. An updated and expanded systematic mixed studies review of fear of cancer recurrence in families and caregivers of adults diagnosed with cancer. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship*



Tejera D, Rana M, Basik M, Boileau JF, Margoless R, Ipshita P, **Meguerditchian AN** et al. Population-based analysis of nonoperative management and treatment patterns in older women with estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*



## Job posting

[Site Research Assistant / Assistant de recherche sur site](#)

## Librarian's Corner

Bergerot CD, Philip EJ. (2021) [Emotional Burden Associated with COVID-19: Trust and Communication in Cancer Care](#), *Cancer Investigation*, 39:1, 1-2

## FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

### Lunch & Learn ~ February 4, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409644888>

What organizational conditions and processes shape cancer care for marginalized patients?: Advancing Video-Reflexive Ethnography for complex care with

Antoine Przybylak-Brouillard

**Lunch & LOVE ~ February 18, 2021**

Stay posted!

**Wellness Talk ~ February 11, 2021**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81384972391>

Stay posted!

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St. Mary's Research Centre / Centre de recherche de St. Mary

**February Newsletter**

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