

# St. Mary's Research Centre

MARCH 2022

## FROM THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR



Dear members of the SMRC community,

This month's newsletter highlights SMRC-led research in the field of pelvic floor disorders.

Often neglected by health care professionals, these conditions frequently cause debilitating symptoms to an increasing number of women, such as pain and incontinence and ultimately lead to social isolation. It is fitting to shine the light on expertise in this field, both clinical and scientific.

You'll learn about Dr Maryse Larouche, a rising star in the field of urogynecology, who's efforts have led to the recent opening of 4 multi-center clinical studies in urogynecology at St-Mary's. Seed finding through a CARE grant provided by St-Mary's Hospital Foundation has allowed Dr Larouche to establish this ambitious research agenda.

The SRMC continues its transformation towards the next phase of growth at St-Mary's. Despite the pandemic, the increase in the number of research staff and graduate trainees was sustained. During the next few months, our focus will be on recovering from COVID-19, as restrictions to presence on the hospital campus are lifted and research personnel returns on-site.

I take advantage of this opportunity to thank our General Manager, Gina Costanzo, who has decided to follow a career opportunity outside of the SMRC. Gina's contributions in restructuring administrative and management processes were critical. She kept the Research Center running during very difficult times, ensuring everyone's wellness and safety. On behalf of everyone, I'd like to express my gratitude to Gina and wish her good luck.

To the researchers, staff and personnel,

Ari Meguerditchian

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# RESEARCH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: UROGYNECOLOGY

*Urogynecology research at the SMRC is led by Dr Maryse Larouche. She is the principal investigator for 3 funded studies in urogynecology and site lead for a multicenter randomized trial.*



Dr. Maryse Larouche is Academic Director, Division of Urogynecology and Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McGill University.

She received her Doctor of Medicine degree and completed her Obstetrics & Gynaecology Residency at McGill University. She then pursued a 2-year Fellowship in Urogynaecology / Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, as well as a Masters of Public Health degree, at the University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Dr. Larouche practices as an Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, and Urogynecologist at St. Mary's Hospital, and also sees pregnancies and consultations at the ELNA Décarie Medical Clinic. She leads urogynecology research at McGill.

Dr. Larouche received the Clinician-Scientist Salary Award from the St. Mary's Research Centre 2019-2022. She is also actively involved in academics through supervising trainees' research, as well as in clinical teaching of students, residents, and fellows.

I. The clinical role of standardized patient-reported outcomes before and after surgery for pelvic floor disorders to optimize communication with the treating physician and tracking of symptoms.

## **The St. Mary's SPHERE study (Surgical management of Pelvic floor disorders; Hospital patient Experience Rigorous Evaluation)**

Primary Investigator: M. Larouche

Co-Investigators: J. McCusker, L. Merowitz, J.E. Walter, J. Kildea.

Study type: Interventional

Estimated enrollment: 56-111

Allocation: Implementation study

Primary purpose: Treatment

Sponsor: C.A. R.E. grant, St. Mary's Foundation

Duration: 2019-2022



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2. Comparing two methods of determining a patient's risk of developing new urinary incontinence after prolapse surgery, with the goal of preventing it in women at high risk.



**CREDE Study: Intraoperative Crede Manoeuvre Compared to Preoperative Prolapse Reduction Stress Test to Predict Postoperative de Novo Stress Urinary Incontinence (PONSUI) at the Time of Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP) Surgery**

Primary Investigator: M. Larouche  
Co-Investigators: C. Lachance, J.E. Walter.  
Study type: Interventional (Clinical trial)  
Estimated enrollment: 100  
Allocation: Randomized  
Primary purpose: Prevention  
Sponsor: Canadian Foundation for Women's Health  
Duration: 2019-2024



Photo credit: Alexander Krivitsk

3. Determining the effect of an intravaginal neuromuscular electrical stimulation device on older women's pelvic floor strength and urinary incontinence symptoms



**Assessing the role of a personal intravaginal neuromuscular electrical stimulation device for elderly women with urinary incontinence and weak pelvic floor muscles: A pilot study**

Primary Investigator: M. Larouche  
Co-Investigators: C. Dumoulin, L. Merowitz, J.E. Walter  
Study type: Interventional  
Estimated enrollment: 20 women  
Allocation: 1 intervention group  
Primary purpose: Treatment  
Sponsor: Réseau québécois de recherche sur le vieillissement  
Duration: 2019-2022

4. Comparing two surgical techniques for the repair of uterine or vaginal prolapse.



**COMET study: Vaginal surgery for the pelvic floor: A randomized trial of synthetic mesh vs. synthetic sutures for prolapse repair**

Primary investigator: R. Geoffrion  
Local Investigator: M. Larouche  
Study type: Interventional (Clinical trial)  
Estimated enrollment: 358 across Canada (75 at SMHC)  
Allocation: Randomized  
Primary purpose: Treatment  
Sponsor: Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
Duration: 2016-2023

## SMRC NEWS

### NEW! SMRC RESEARCH TOOL DATABASE

An instrument database has been set up and we are encouraging all SMRC to make use of this developing tool. The Research Tool Database provides a record of measurement instruments (e.g., questionnaires, scales), interview guides and related documents (e.g., theoretical articles describing validity and reliability of said instruments) used or developed by researchers at St Mary's Research Centre.

If you would like to include information on an instrument that your team is using, please provide information by completing this [form](#).

If you are interested in consulting the content in the database so far, please contact the Scientific Information Officer, [Isabelle Crépeau](#)

## STAFF NEWS



**Dr. Ari Meguerditchian** continues his engagement in leadership activities at McGill University. He has been appointed member of the General Surgery Competence Committee. It is a three-year term effective July 1st 2022.



Our manager, **Gina Costanzo** last day will be March 18, 2022. During her year at SMRC, Gina helped restructuring the administrative departments of the research center: finance, human resources and communications. She implemented the Lift wellness program, the Heritage project, the project management platform Teamwork, supervised the transfer of the website onto the CIUSSS platform, consolidated the use of social media and other communication tools. She hired about 40 employees, chaired the Telework Task Force and ensured the application of COVID security measures. Gina has laid strong foundations for the SMRC move forward. From all of us, thank you Gina!



**Matthew Mullins** M. Biot. joins Dr. Antonia Arnaert's team. He is studying the development of a Community Paramedicine program in New Brunswick with Dr. Arnaert. At this moment, he is reviewing data for a literature review on the current state of Community Paramedicine. Matthew holds a master's of biotechnology from the University of Guelph and a Bachelors in Psychology from Brock University. [LinkedIn](#)

## ACADEMIC OUTPUT

## Peer-reviewed article

Wilchesky M, Ballard SA, Voyer P, **McCusker J**, Lungu O, Champoux N, Minh Vu, T.T., **Cole MG**, Monette J, **Ciampi A**, **Belzile E**, Carmichael P-H, McConell, Ted. The PREvention Program for Alzheimer's Related Delirium (PREPARED) cluster randomized trial: A study protocol. BMC Geriatrics. 21(1):645, 2021. DOI: 10.1186/s12877-021-02558-3



## Presentations

**Larouche M**, Mo S, Lachance C, Walter E. The intra-operative crede maneuver to detect latent stress urinary incontinence: Technique and outcomes. [Video presentation]. The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada/[Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference 2022](#); June 7-10; Quebec City, Canada, 2022

**Morena M**, Ahisar Y, Wang X, **Nguyen D**, Rentschler CA, **Meguerditchian AN**. Are YouTube videos a reliable information source for young women with metastatic breast cancer? European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Breast Cancer Congress May 3-5, Berlin, Germany, 2022. [Poster display].

## Grants awarded

McGill Task Force on the impact of COVID-19 on cancer control and care: Generating evidence and developing strategies to mitigate future cancer risk for Canadians.

Franco E, Aprikian A, El-Zein M, Malagon T, **Meguerditchian AN**, Miller W, et al.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Addressing the Wider Health Impacts of COVID-19.

2 years

\$249,580 CAD

Music interventions for the facilitation of sleep in the acute geriatric setting.

**Chabot, J**, Mondestin S, Hintermayer M, Roth J.

St. Mary's Foundation

1 year

\$15,000 CAD

Academic output in  
March at SMRC

Grants awarded

2

Manuscripts under review

4

Abstracts under review

12

# ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS

## Lung cancer

A phase 3 study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Olaparib vs concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Durvalumab in participants with unresectable, locally advanced, stage III non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). [MK 7339-012]

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Olaparib (MK-7339), compared to concurrent chemoradiation therapy alone in participants with newly diagnosed treatment-naïve limited-stage small cell lung cancer (LS-SCLC). [MK 7339-013]

A phase 2 precision oncology study of biomarker-directed, Pembrolizumab- (MK-3475, SCH 900457) based combination therapy for advanced non-Small cell lung cancer (KEYNOTE-495; KeyImPaCT). [MK-3475-495]

## Bladder cancer

A 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 and BMS-986205 in participants with muscle-invasive bladder cancer. [CA017-078]

Contact information: [franca.cantini.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:franca.cantini.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

## RESEARCHER PORTRAIT

### Dr. JENNIFER MUTCH



Dr Jennifer Mutch completed her medical school at McGill University, followed by Orthopaedic Surgery training at the University of Montreal and subspecialty training in upper limb sports, trauma and reconstruction at the Detroit Medical Centre in Michigan and Sunnybrook Trauma Center in Toronto.

She worked with several sports teams during her training including the Detroit Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers and the Detroit Pistons and was consultant physician for the Toronto Roller Derby league (ToRD).

She is actively involved in surgical teaching through the St-Mary's Hospital-McGill University Orthopaedic Residency and Sports Medicine programs. She was awarded the Sylvain Gagnon Prize in 2014 and the Top Paper Award at the MAOA in Florida 2016.

## COMING UP! LUNCH & LEARN 12PM-1PM

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

March 17 12:30pm	<a href="#">Madison Leggatt, MSc candidate</a> Department of Family Medicine McGill University
March 24	<a href="#">Helen-Maria Vasiliadis PhD,</a> Faculté de médecine et des sciences de la santé Université de Sherbrooke
April 21	Rebecca MacDonald & Team Direction de l'Enseignement et de la recherche Montreal West Island CIUSSS
May 19	<a href="#">Dr. Hannah Schwartz</a> Department of Psychiatry St. Mary's Hospital Center
June 16	<a href="#">Marie-Pierre Gagnon PhD</a> Faculté des sciences infirmières Université Laval

## SAVE THIS DATE!

The McPeak-Sirois Group is organizing an event entitled: Colloquium on research that treats breast cancer, **Saturday April 30, 2022** which will be both face-to-face (location to be determined) and accessible in real time on the internet.



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### [C.A.R.E. Grants](#)

Extended deadline  
to **May 31, 2022**  
full application



### [Project Grants Spring 2022 - CIHR](#)

**March 16, 2022**  
full application

