



St. Mary's Research Centre



FROM THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Dear members of the SMRC community,

This newsletter edition introduces Dr. Talia Malagón, the newest addition to the SMRC as an Associate Member and Assistant Professor at McGill University. Her recruitment aligns with the SMRC's objective to enhance research capabilities by bringing in high-level researchers that produce influential scientific work. Dr. Malagón is an up-and-coming figure in cancer epidemiology with expertise in decision modeling of cancer prevention, survival, and diagnostic/treatment pathways. Her research focus on the organization of cancer services for vulnerable immigrant women is in line with the priorities of the SMRC. Notably, Dr. Malagón is a Senior Editor for Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, and Prevention.

In addition, the SMRC would like to extend gratitude to all researchers, clinicians, and research professionals who contributed to the strategic planning work groups during March and April. A total of 28 participants provided valuable insights into the future of the SMRC. A highly productive workshop took place on Monday, May 1st, and the SMRC looks forward to sharing the outcomes of this exercise in the near future. Lastly, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all the mothers at the SMRC in celebration of Mother's Day. We recognize and appreciate your hard work and the sacrifices you make.

Ari Meguerditchian, MD
Scientific Director

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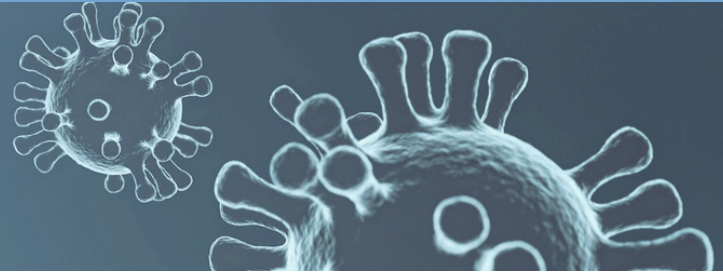
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HIGHLIGHT: WELCOME DR TALÍA MALAGÓN



Dr. Talía Malagón joins St. Mary's Research Centre as an Associate Scientist on May 1st, 2023.

Background

Dr. Talía Malagón is an epidemiologist and mathematical modeller. She has a B.Sc. in biology from the University of Ottawa (2010), and a Ph.D. in epidemiology from Université Laval (2016). She teaches graduate-level and resident courses in cancer epidemiology in the Departments of Oncology and the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health. She is a senior editor of *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention* (2022-), a reviewing editor at *eLife* (2020-), and a Board member of the International Papillomavirus Society.

Her expertise includes using decision models, repeated and correlated events analyses, multilevel mixed effects modeling, generalized estimating equation, meta-regression models, multi-state Markov models, transmission dynamic models, and Bayesian analyses for answering causal questions in the fields of oncology and infectious diseases.



Research focus

Dr. Malagón work focuses on the following themes:

- Prevention and epidemiology of human papillomavirus (HPV) infections and their associated cancers,
- Decision modeling of cancer prevention, survival, and diagnostic and treatment pathways, and the influence of social determinants of health on cancer risk.

As a member of the McGill Department of Oncology COVID-19 and Cancer Program, her recent research goals also include generating evidence to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer-related services to inform decision-making for the resumption and improvement of cancer-related services.

CARE 2023-2024

THE 2023-2024 CARE COMPETITION IS OPEN! PROJECT PROPOSALS ARE WELCOME

The Competition Attracting Research Excellence (CARE) is a research grant program available to St-Mary's Hospital Centre health care professionals and researchers who are looking for funding to support the development of clinical and health services research at St. Mary's Hospital Centre.

Launched over 15 years ago by St. Mary's Research centre and St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, this annual competition is an ideal opportunity for members of the hospital community to get first-hand experience as researchers. All applicants will receive mentoring from a senior, experienced researcher, and support from the SMRC team.

Letters of intent should be submitted by May 17, 2023. See guidelines online for more details.



Previously funded projects :

- Isabelle Leblanc (2022). **Too much pain doctor!: Training clinicians to detect expressions of psychological distress in patients of diverse ethnocultural groups**
- Rick Mah (2020). **Predicting adverse outcome in elderly patients by pattern of Emergency Department visits**
- Jennifer Marandola (2020). **Implementation of 24-Hour Newborn Weight Loss Reference Calculation on a Mother-Baby Unit and Impact on In-hospital Formula Supplementation**
- Maryse Larouche (2018). **The St. Mary's SPHERE (Surgical management of Pelvic floor disorders; Hospital patient Experience Rigorous Evaluation) Project**
- Jennifer Somera, Marie-France Brizard (2016). **Introducing a Quiet Time on a Maternity Ward: Engaging Patients and Staff to Assess Benefits and Barrier.**

SMRC NEWS

WOLFE CHAIR GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP 2023-2024



Congratulations To Nina Morena on being selected for a Wolfe Chair Graduate Fellowship 2023-2024 in the amount of \$8,570.

Nina Morena is a PhD student in Communication Studies. She holds an MA in Media Studies from Concordia University and a BA in English Literature from McGill University. Her doctoral research explores the ways in which breast cancer patients seek and share health information on social media and how this impacts their disease management.

FRQS DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to Antoine Przybylak-Brouillard on receiving a three year scholarship through FRQs for his research with the eIMPAQc program.

Antoine is a PhD student in the McGill Institute of Health Sciences Education and is supervised by Drs. Peter Nugus and Sylvie Lambert. His thesis title is: Learning to implement eHealth technologies: Healthcare professionals' perceptions and experiences of embedding Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) in cancer care.

ACADEMIC OUTPUT

Scientific Publications

Martinez C, Meterissian S, Saidi A, Tremblay F, **Meguerditchian AN**, Fleischer D, Lambert C, David M, Panet-Raymond V, Abdulkarim B, Hijal T. Targeted intra-operative radiotherapy during breast-conserving surgery for patients with early-stage breast cancer: A phase II single center prospective trial. *Advances in Radiation Oncology*. 2023. DOI:10.1016/101236

Morena N, Ben-Zvi L, Hayman V, Hou M, **Nguyen D**, Rentschler CA, **Meguerditchian AN**. How reliable are post-mastectomy breast reconstruction videos on YouTube? CSSO Annual Spring Meeting, Toronto, ON, April 28, 2023

Oral Presentation

Morena N, Ben-Zvi L, Hayman V, Hou M, Nguyen N, Rentschler CA, **Meguerditchian AN**. How reliable are post-mastectomy breast reconstruction videos on YouTube? 90e Congrès de l'ACFAS, Montreal, QC. May 12, 2023.

Poster

Morena N, Ben-Zvi L, Hayman V, Hou M, Nguyen N, Rentschler CA, **Meguerditchian AN**. How reliable are post-mastectomy breast reconstruction videos on YouTube? American Society of Clinical Oncology, Chicago, IL. June 2-6, 2023

ROSTER OF ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS

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]

Breast cancer

"A Clinical Trial to Determine the Efficacy of Five Years of Letrozole Compared to Placebo in Patients Completing Five Years of Hormonal Therapy Consisting of an Aromatase Inhibitor (AI) or Tamoxifen Followed by an AI in Prolonging Disease-Free Survival in Postmenopausal Woman with Hormone Receptor Positive Breast Cancer" [NSABP-42]

A Randomized Phase III Trial of Adjuvant Therapy Comparing Chemotherapy Alone (Six Cycles of Docetaxel Plus Cyclophosphamide or Four Cycles of Doxorubicin Plus Cyclophosphamide Followed by Weekly Paclitaxel) to Chemotherapy Plus Trastuzumab in Woman With Node- Positive or High-Risk Node-Negative HER2-Low Invasive Breast Cancer [NSABP-47]

A Phase III Study of Trastuzumab Deruxtecan (T-DXd) with or without Pertuzumab vs Taxane, Trastuzumab and pertuzumab in HERs-Positive, first-line Metastatic Breast Cancer [Destiny]

A Phase III, Randomized Open-Label Multicenter Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Adjuvant Giredestrant compared with Physicians Choice of Adjuvant Endocrine Monotherapy in patients with Estrogen Receptor-Positive HER-Negative Early Breast Cancer [TRIO045]

Identification and evaluation of patients at risk of developing cardiotoxicity after receiving chemotherapy for breast cancer, leukemia or lymphoma [CarChem]

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 Non squamous Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer [MK7339-006]

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) [MK7339-008]

A Phase 3 Randomized, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Pemetrexed + Platinum Chemotherapy + Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) with or without Lenvatinib (E7080/MK-7902) as First-line Intervention in Participants with Metastatic Non squamous Non-small Cell Lung Cancer [MK7902-006]



ROSTER OF ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS

Lung cancer - continued

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 Non squamous Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer [MK7339-006]

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) [MK7339-008]

A Phase 3 Randomized, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Pemetrexed + Platinum Chemotherapy + Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) with or without Lenvatinib (E7080/MK-7902) as First-line Intervention in Participants with Metastatic Non squamous Non-small Cell Lung Cancer [MK7902-006]

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 Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and progressive disease (PD) after platinum doublet chemotherapy and immunotherapy [MK7902-008]

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 1b/2 Study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Pembrolizumab in Combination with Investigational Agents for the treatment of Participants With PD-1/L1-refractory Extension-Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer in need of Secondary-Line Therapy [MK3475-B98]

A Phase 2 Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Pembrolizumab plus Investigational Agents in Combination with Etoposide and Cisplatin or Carboplatin for the first line Treatment of Participants with Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer [MK3475-B99]

A Randomized Open Label Phase 3 Study of SAR408701 vs Docetaxel in Previously treated Metastatic Non-Squamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer patients with CEACAM5 Positive Tumors [EFC15858]



Information:
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EVENTS

THURSDAYS
SMRC SCIENTIFIC SERIES
12PM-1PM



EXPLORING BLACK CARE-GIVING IN QUEBEC PREDATING THE 20TH CENTURY

Dorothy Williams , PHD

On April 20, 2023, Dr. Dorothy William presented an eye-opening narrative of the prevalent assumptions about the history of Black caregiving in Quebec. Dr. Williams described historical myths and erasures, painting a nuanced and more complex picture of the way in which Black caregivers have been intimately tied to Quebec's labour force developments and migration laws in Quebec.

Dr. Williams is a historian who specializes in Black Canadian history. She holds a Master in History from Concordia University and a PhD in Library and Information Studies from McGill University.

*This presentation can be credited to clinical staff (continuing medical education)

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EVENTS

St. Mary's Research Centre is pleased to announce that our scientific series have been accredited for professional development credits from Royal Collage of Physicians and Surgeon.

The scientific series continues to be a venue for prominent experts in a variety of fields to share their latest research and insights. The aim of the program is to foster an environment of collaboration and knowledge sharing for scientists, healthcare professionals, research assistants, students, staff, and the wider community at St. Mary's and beyond.

The series covers a range of topics touching on patient-centred mental health services, digital health and the challenges and opportunities in delivering high quality care to all of our community.

We hope that these talks will provide an opportunity to engage in lively discussions, exchange ideas and foster partnerships and we look forward to seeing you there!

The series has been accredited for continuing education credits by the Royal College of physician and surgeons. We offer all our conferences in a hybrid format.





EVENTS

Next upcoming event:

Self-care for mental health: concept definition and models

By

Hinatea Lai, M.Sc.

&

Bertine Sandra Akouamba, Ph.D , LSSGB

ON MAY 18, 2023

The purpose of this conference is to present the results of the Self-Care in Mental Health project. The results of this work have led to the development of a definition of self-care and the proposal of an ecological model of self-care in mental health.

30 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, DR. JANE MCCUSKER RETIRES!

On April 12 2023, St. Mary's Hospital Foundation invited esteemed members of the community to celebrate Jane McCusker's career and contributions. The "Dr. Jane McCusker" conference room was inaugurated and serves as a reminder of Dr. McCusker's ability to foster collaboration and her commitment to developing and sharing knowledge.



Dr. Ari Meguerditchian, the current Scientific Director of the Research Centre, took the time to remind the audience present at the ribbon cutting ceremony of the impact that Dr. McCusker's work has had on patients and caregivers.



Dr. McCusker's colleagues at the centre, like Dr. Jeannie Haggerty (left) and Dr. Sylvie Lambert (right), were present to thank her for her work and to wish her continued success in the next chapters of her life.



St. Mary's Hospital Foundation has been an ardent supporter of research at the Hospital over the past 30 years. Cynda Heward described how Dr. McCusker laid the cornerstones and brought about a culture of research at the institution.

On April 13, a lunch was also hosted by the Research Centre. Old and new members of the Research Centre community gathered to share stories and enjoy each other's company. Research staff having worked with Dr. McCusker over the years spoke about the positive impact and value of Dr. McCusker's leadership.

