

Department of Medicine

Division of Medical Oncology Education Committee

Aspire to Inspire



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Spring 2025

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Editorial



Happy Spring Teachers!

Our winter felt longer and more snowy than years past. We eagerly await the warmth and sun of spring and the many meetings / projects our members are currently pursuing.

In this edition of our education newsletter, we will be providing an update on Teacher Evaluations by students and what the Department of Medicine is planning. We will be highlighting some projects that our members are working on, including the Academic Clinician Teacher Project and the EPA Feedback and Guidelines Project.

Dr. Khanna will be providing updates on our Medical Oncology Academic Half Day Teaching Session, Royal College Updates, and introducing a new project to showcase member educational projects.

We would like to welcome Sabrina Staher as our new admin support for our committee, approved by the Division of Medical Oncology. Our newsletters are now currently accessible on the University of Toronto Medical Oncology website. We are very excited about the support our committee is receiving from our Division. Stay tuned as we will be adding a Medical Oncology Education tab to the website as well.

Finally, in our Spotlight on Clinician Teachers, we will be learning about Dr. Ronita Lee, Dr. Raymond Jang, Dr. Vikaash Kumar, Dr. Thiago Muniz, and Dr. Nazanin Fallah-Rad.

Sincerely,
Dr. Susanna Cheng & Dr. Suneil Khanna



Teacher Effectiveness

Dr. Susanna Cheng



The Department of Medicine held a meeting with clinician teachers / educators on January 31, 2025. We talked about the current LACT (Learner Assessment of Clinician Teacher) and possible need for revisions. We spoke about issues including low student completion of LACT, negative feedback, anonymity of students without consequences, etc.. We heard a lot about how the current use of TES of promotional purposes did not fare. Options include use of peer consultations on teaching and other teacher assessments. For now, all teachers are encouraged to make sure they are registered on POWER for students to evaluate, to review their TES on POWER available at certain intervals quarterly during the year and, to appeal any unfair negative student comments. They encourage use of myTEprof.com to get additional student evaluations to supplement POWER evaluations.

The Department of Medicine remains committed to help with finding innovative ways to assess teacher effectiveness. The next steps will be to meet with student and teacher focus groups to determine the recommended actions.

EPA Feedback and Guidelines Project

Dr. Susanna Cheng, Dr. Ronita Lee, Dr. Meredith Li

Ronita Lee, Meredith Li, and Susanna Cheng met to discuss EPAs. It appears that our Division of Medical Oncology EPAs have a surprisingly high percentage of entrusted EPAs compared to other Divisions. The comments written for students are often minimal or unhelpful.

Our project will be to review the EPAs data and find opportunities to improve. This may include allowing students to write comments in the EPA as a form of self-reflection, or providing standard comments for busy teachers to select from.

Academic Half Day Updates

Dr. Suneil Khanna

2024 - 2025 was our rollout year for the new AHD Curriculum and a huge thank you goes out to our Chief Residents, Arman Zereshkian and Patrick Hoang, for all of their hard work and coordination as well as to all the staff and fellows who volunteered their time to give talks.

The curriculum is now split into 6 blocks (GI, GU, Lung, Heme, Breast, and Rare Tumours) with additional time allocated to Applied Science, EDI, Special Situations (Geriatrics, Younger Populations, Indigenous Populations), Palliative Care, and Cancer Control / Epidemiology. This year, we were also able to hold two multidisciplinary AHD sessions with our colleagues from surgical oncology and radiation oncology.

We are looking forward to next year and hope to continue developing the curriculum and have the opportunity to bring back the molecular oncology series.

Royal College Updates

Dr. Suneil Khanna

Raymond Jang and Suneil Khanna both serve on the Royal College Medical Oncology Subspecialty Committee. Medical Oncology has expanded rapidly in recent years; we're now up to 16 accredited training programs across the country. Note that starting July 1, 2025, the Medical Oncology Competencies, Training Experiences, and Standards for Accreditation are all being updated.

The U of T Medical Oncology Training Program will be going through an Internal Review on May 12, 2025. Please mark this day in your calendars and note any meeting invites. If you can, please review the Medical Oncology Competencies prior to the Internal Review.



Database of Education Projects from Members

Dr. Suneil Khanna

The Education Committee is putting together a database showcasing the amazing work done by our teaching faculty. This will include educational scholarship/publications, CPA (Creative Professional Activity), Committee Work, and Teaching Awards.

We hope that the database can serve as a way to promote collaboration and mentorship within the Division.

Division of Medical Oncology Education Website

We have been given the support to expand our presence on the Division of Medical Oncology, Department of Medicine University of Toronto website. Dr. Cheng, Dr. Khanna, and Dr. Jason Fan (PGY4 Med Onc) will be working on what tabs and content should be added. More details to come!



Fellowships Available

General Oncology Education / Transition to Practice Fellowship (GU / GI / Lung / Breast)

Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre : 1-2 years available.

<https://deptmedicine.utoronto.ca/general-oncology-educationtransition-practice-fellowship-gugilungbreast>

The Clinician Teacher Track in Academic Medicine: An Assessment of Trainees' Current Awareness and Future Needs

Dr. Geoff Watson, Dr. Meredith Li, Dr. Coralea Kappel, Dr. Kevin Fan, Dr. Thiago Muniz, Dr. Christine Elser, Dr. Susanna Cheng

This project aims to assess the awareness, attitudes, and knowledge of the Clinician Teacher track amongst various levels of trainees across University of Toronto's Department of Medicine (DoM) Program, particularly within the Division of Medical Oncology & Hematology (DMOH). Surveys will be created and distributed to residents (PGY 1-3 GIM & PGY 4-5 residents in Medical Oncology), clinical fellows and junior faculty. The surveys are designed to assess awareness, attitudes and perceptions of the Clinician Teacher Track at U of T. The primary goal is to further understand motivations, barriers, and preparedness for pursuing this career path.

These results will be used to guide recommendations to improve support and awareness for trainees interested in the Clinician Teacher track. Protocol submission to REB is currently in progress and data collection is planned to start in April-May 2025.



Dr. Ronita Lee is a medical oncologist at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto. She completed her medical school, internal medicine, and medical oncology training at the University of Toronto. She subsequently completed the Master Teacher Program and the New & Evolving Academic Leaders (NEAL) program at the University of Toronto.

She is the Competency by Design lead and the St. Michael's Hospital rotation coordinator for the Medical Oncology Training Program at the University of Toronto. She is the recipient of numerous teaching awards at the University of Toronto, including the Division of Medical Oncology Faculty Award in Education, Outstanding Teaching Award (Medical Oncology) and Outstanding Postgraduate Teaching Award (Department of Medicine).



Dr. Raymond Jang is a gastrointestinal medical oncologist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. He completed his medical school, internal medicine, and medical oncology training at the University of Toronto and subsequently completed the Master Teacher Program at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Jang is the current Program Director for the University of Toronto Medical Oncology Training Program.



Dr. Vikaash Kumar is a Clinician Teacher at Princess Margaret Hospital since June 2022. His clinical sites of focus include Breast and GU. He is currently involved in Clinical skills teaching, (ICE yr1), Co-Chair of DMOH Medical Grand Rounds, PM Global Cancer Program Advisory Lead DMOH, and Interim DMOH Breast Fellowship Coordinator.

Dr. Vikaash Kumar has been nominated for the medical oncology teaching award in 2023 and 2024.



Dr. Thiago Pimentel Muniz is a Medical Oncologist at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network. He completed his medical school at the Federal University of Para, Brazil. He had his General Internal Medicine training at the Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Medical Oncology Residency training at AC Camargo Cancer Centre, Brazil. He moved to Canada in 2019 and completed his Fellowship training in melanoma and cutaneous malignancies, as well as central nervous system tumors. He currently sees patients from both sites and also has a special interest for patients with brain metastases.

He is currently leading the uptake of the Observership Program at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and he is helping to connect the institution with learners across the globe.



Dr. Nazanin Fallah-Rad is a Medical Oncologist at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (PMCC) with a focus on treatment of genitourinary (GU) malignancies. She is a clinician teacher and assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She has a special interest in treatment of Renal Cell Carcinomas and participates as Co-Investigator in multiple clinical trials at PMCC. She completed medical school at the University of Manitoba; Internal Medicine residency at Queen's University; Medical Oncology Residency at the University of Toronto; and Fellowship at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Additionally, Dr. Fallah-Rad has completed a Master's in Education at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. She has served as a Foundations Clinical Skills tutor for the Undergraduate Medical Program at U of T for several years. She is the program director for the Adolescent and Young Adults (AYA) with cancer palliative medicine fellowship program at U of T. She is a frequent speaker at Oncology Education conferences and is passionate about medical education. She has been nominated for and received multiple Medical Oncology Residency Training Program Teaching Awards.



Communication and Future Meetings

Division of Medical Oncology Education Committee

Main Meeting: Wednesday April 23, 2025 (2:30 - 3:30 pm) Zoom

Mini Meeting: Tuesday May 6, 2025 (5:00 - 5:30 pm) Zoom

Annual Research & Education Day - Division of Medical Oncology

Friday June 13, 2025

The Great Hall, Hart House Circle

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Future In-Person Get Together Dinner

Fall 2025.

Stay tuned for details!

New Members Welcome!

Please share this QR code with anyone who would like to join the Education Committee.

