



Canadian Society  
of Surgical Oncology  
(CSSO)



(CaGCA)



# Multidisciplinary Considerations for The Treatment of Gastric Cancer

Arcadian, Toronto, Ontario, Saturday, May 4, 2024

## Final Program

# Annual Canadian Gastric Cancer Conference

### **CONFERENCE HOSTS:**

CANADIAN GASTRIC CANCER ASSOCIATION & CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

# Multidisciplinary Considerations for The Treatment of Gastric Cancer

Arcadian, Toronto, Ontario, Saturday, May 4, 2024

Dear Participants,

The CaGCA and CSSO welcome you to the Annual Canadian Gastric Cancer Conference. As you all know, gastric cancer is quite rare in Canada and many efforts and new research is continuously evolving to improve care and cancer outcomes for gastric cancer patients. This program is designed to provide a comprehensive update in the Multidisciplinary approach to Gastric Cancer management. We have a roster of excellent International and National Speakers to share their insights and present the most up to date data on gastric cancer in their relative fields from GI, Pathology, Surgery and Medical/Radiation Oncology. This half-day event will be filled with lectures, panel discussions, interactive questions and “How I do it” videos. We also have the privilege of having our patients join us via My Gut Feeling, a gastric cancer patient advocacy group, to share their perspectives with us. We are happy that you are joining us, and we wish you a great meeting!

Your Program Chairs,



**Carolyn Nessim**  
MD, MSc, FRCSC, FACS



**Natalie Coburn**  
MD, MPH, FRCSC, FACS

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Prof. Eric Van Cutsem

Eric Van Cutsem, MD, PhD, is full professor and Division Head of Digestive Oncology at University Hospitals Gasthuisberg & University of Leuven (KULeuven), Belgium and since October 2023 Professor Emeritus with tasks at the University of Leuven.

He is a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine and president of the Belgian Foundation against Cancer (Stichting tegen Kanker; Fondation contre le Cancer).

In 2018 he became doctor honoris causa of the Medical University of Warsaw, Poland and received several national and international awards, amongst which were in 2019 the ESMO Award and the European Awards in Medicine for Cancer Research.

He published extensively: >713 articles in PubMed and more than 1,400 according to Thomson Web of Science, leading to more than 113.000 citations and an H-factor of 149. He is amongst highest Cited researchers at the University of Leuven and worldwide in the domain of Gastrointestinal cancer and the top 3 most cited Medical Scientists in Belgium. His research interests are various aspects of Gastrointestinal and Digestive cancers (colorectal, gastric, pancreas, bile duct, esophageal cancer, and neuroendocrine tumors). He serves on many industry advisory boards for new anti-cancer drugs and treatment modalities and Independent Data Monitoring Committee of clinical trials.

He co-founded and is chair of ESMO/World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer in Barcelona, Spain and continues to chair ESMO GI. He serves/served on the board or key committee of ESMO (European Society Medical Oncology; executive board, several committees), UEG (United European Gastroenterology; educational committee, public affairs committee, scientific committee), ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology; program committee, international affairs committee), ENET (European NeuroEndocrine Society; advisory board), EORTC (European Organisation Research Treatment Cancer; executive board, chair of GI Cancer group), ECO (European Cancer Organisation; program committee), ESDO (European Society Digestive Oncology; president), ESO (European School of Oncology; Scientific council) and of patient advocacy groups EuropaColon (medical director) and Digestive Cancers Europe (DICE; co-founder, executive board) and the Foundation Engie (CSR) France & Belgium.

He was chairman of the governmental colon cancer prevention task force in Flanders, Belgium, was/is in Belgian active as president and treasurer of Belgian Group Digestive Oncology and as president/vice-president of Familial Polyposis Association (FAPA).

He is/was member of the Scientific Advisory board for different international hospitals/cancer centers: Institut National du Cancer (INCA), Toulouse & Paris, France; University of Ulm & Leipzig, Germany; Humanitas Hospital, Milan & Avignon, France and is member of the board of directors of the regional hospital of Halle (vice-president since 09-2023) and member of the board of CUROZ, network of hospitals, Belgium.

He is member of the governmental commission of recognition for specialists in gastroenterology/ digestive oncology.



## Speakers



### **Dr. Lorenzo Ferri, MD, FRCSC**

Lorenzo Ferri is the David S. Mulder Chair in Surgery and a tenured Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Oncology at McGill University in Montreal Canada. He is director of the Division of Thoracic and Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery and heads the Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Program at McGill University. Dr Ferri couples this clinical activity with an active translational and fundamental research program investigating the mechanisms of therapy resistance in gastro-esophageal adenocarcinoma and the inflammatory basis of cancer progression for which he is the

recipient of numerous peer review grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canadian Cancer Society, United States Department of Defense, and a Grand Challenge from Cancer Research UK.



### **Dr. Lucy K Helyer MD MSc FRCS**

Completed medical school, residency in Family Medicine and General Surgery at Dalhousie University. She went on to attend the University of Toronto for a Master's in Clinical Epidemiology and a Fellowship in Surgical Oncology.

Dr Helyer returned to Halifax to join a general surgery oncology practice focusing on gastric cancer, recurrent rectal and breast cancer, as well as being a member of the endocrine surgery group doing thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal surgery. She is currently the Head of the IWK Breast Health

Clinic and Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program.

Dr Helyer has held many National and Provincial positions including President of the CSSO and Vice-Chair of the Royal College specialty committee in Surgical Oncology. Dr Helyer has participated in many National trials and research endeavors and is a passionate advocate for resident education.



### **Dr. Trevor Hamilton, MD, MSc, FRCSC**

Dr. Trevor Hamilton is a Surgical Oncologist and Clinical Associate Professor at Vancouver General Hospital and BC Cancer. He completed his medical school at Dalhousie University and General Surgery at the University of Calgary. He completed a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the University of Toronto and an international fellowship at Severance Hospital/Yonsei Cancer Center in Seoul, Korea. He has a Master's of Science in Clinical Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.

He is the chair of the BC Cancer Gastric Cancer Surgical Tumor Group and the co-chair of the BC Peritoneal Malignancy Program. He is also the Program Director for the Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship at UBC.



### **Katy Kosyachova, Vice-Chair & Co-Founder, My Gut Feeling**

Katy is a ten-year stomach cancer survivor. She was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2011 when she was 21 years old. She underwent a total gastrectomy with both chemotherapy and radiation (Macdonald Protocol). At the time of her diagnosis there were no stomach cancer organizations in Canada. Frustrated by the lack of support, Katy reached out to others virtually. Her pursuits to help others led her to find Teresa. My Gut Feeling originated through their ongoing peer-to-peer support.

Katy is a Physician Assistant in Toronto and holds an Honours BSc in Health Sciences and Psychology. She has volunteered with multiple cancer organizations including the Canadian Cancer Society, Gilda's Club and Trillium Hospital Mississauga Cancer Centre. Her cancer experiences allow her to relate to her patients and provide patient-centered care.



### **Dr. Howard Lim, MD, PhD, FRCSC**

Howard Lim, a Clinical Associate Professor with the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Medicine, is a medical oncologist at the B.C. Cancer Agency specializing in gastrointestinal cancer.

Through his work at the BC Cancer Agency, and as co-investigator of the clinical research initiative known as Personalized OncoGenomics (or POG), Dr. Lim is helping to revolutionize our understanding of cancer diagnosis, while seeking to pioneer a new — and personalized — approach to treating cancer.

Dr. Lim is also passionate about training the next generation of physicians, serving as the director of UBC's Medical Oncology Residency Program.



### **Dr. Lloyd Mack, MD, FRCSC**

Dr. Mack is the current Chair of the Division of Surgical Oncology, Academic Deputy of the Department of Oncology, President of the Alberta Association of General Surgeons, and Medical Lead of Cancer Surgery Alberta.

He is a dedicated member of the Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology and the Canadian Hipec Collaborative Group.

His areas of clinical and research interest include the treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis (including for gastric cancer), the role of synoptic operative reports and the treatment of soft tissue sarcoma and related malignancies.



**Dr. Adam Meneghetti, MD, MHSc, FRCSC**

Dr. Adam Meneghetti is an Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia. He completed his MD and general surgery training at the University of British Columbia along with a Master's in Health Science. He then completed his fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery at the University of California San Francisco. In 2019 he completed training in Gastric Oncology surgery at Seoul National University Hospital, Korea. He has also completed training in transanal endoscopic surgery and with the da Vinci Robotic surgical system. His clinical interests include colorectal surgery, gastric cancer surgery, foregut, laparoscopic and robotic surgery. His research interests include surgical education, technology in surgery and clinical outcomes. He is also the director of the UBC Advanced MIS Fellowship Program that was established in 2006.

Dr. Meneghetti is a past Program Director for the UBC General Surgery Residency Program. He is also a past president of the BC Surgical Society. He is actively involved in various local, national, and international committees. He is a member of the CAGS MIS Committee and the Canadian Endoscopy Committee. He was also the Program Chair for the CSF meeting in 2021.



**Dr. Dan Schiller, MD, FRCSC**

Dr. Dan Schiller is a Surgical Oncologist working at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and an Associate Professor with the Department of Surgery at the University of Alberta. After completing an undergraduate Bachelor of Engineering degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Ottawa in 1992, he obtained his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Western Ontario in 1996. Dr Schiller completed post-graduate training in General Surgery and a Master's degree in Experimental Surgery at the University of Alberta between 1996 and 2003.

After completing residency, Dr. Schiller worked for 2 years at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton before going to the University of Toronto for a 2-year Fellowship in Surgical Oncology. Currently, he works in the Division of General Surgery with an interest in Gastrointestinal Surgical Oncology and Sarcoma.

Dr. Schiller served as the Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program at the University of Alberta from 2008-2013 and was the Site Section Head for General Surgery at the Royal Alexandra Hospital from 2012-2020. He is also the current Chair of the Specialty Committee for Surgical Oncology at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Site lead for Surgery at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.



### **Dr Stephanie Snow, MD, FRCSC**

Dr. Stephanie Snow is a staff Medical Oncologist at the QEII hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia, treating thoracic and GI malignancies. After pursuing undergraduate training at McGill, she completed her training at Dalhousie, where she is now a full professor in the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Snow has a strong interest in Medical Education and is Vice Chair of the Royal College Medical Oncology Examination Board.

From a research perspective she is involved in clinical research, is Associate Editor of the peer reviewed journal *Current Oncology* and has been widely published in prominent journals. Finally, Dr. Snow is active in-patient advocacy, serving as the current President of Lung Cancer Canada, and sits on the medical advisory committees of several other patient advocacy groups in colorectal and gastric cancer.



### **Teresa Tiano, Chair & Co-founder, My Gut Feeling**

Teresa Tiano is a 12 ½-year stomach cancer survivor. In 2011 she was diagnosed with Stage 2B adenocarcinoma of the stomach. Teresa had a laparoscopic partial gastrectomy, removing 80% of her stomach, followed by chemo and radiation. At the time there was very little in the way of support or awareness for this disease, so she wanted to change that. In 2016, she and Katy Kosyachkova co-founded My Gut Feeling - Stomach Cancer Foundation of Canada the first and only volunteer-led non-profit organization dedicated to those who are on the stomach cancer journey.

Teresa also has Lynch Syndrome, a genetic syndrome which puts her at high-risk patient for many types of cancer and is a 7x cancer survivor. Teresa has 30 years of experience in the non-for-profit world, and 15 years of governance, strategic and administrative experience in the cancer sector directly. Through her patient advocacy she has brought the patient voice to the forefront by being a member of international research projects and speaker about the patient experience at national and international conferences. Most importantly, her volunteer work with My Gut Feeling for the past 8 years has allowed her to support patients, survivors, and caregivers so that no-one must go through this journey alone.

## Accreditation (CME Credits)

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 approved by Canadian Association of General Surgeons. You may claim a maximum of 3.5 hours.

## Overall Meeting Objectives

By the end of this all-day meeting the participants will be able to:

- Describe the new indications for targeted therapy and immunotherapy in gastric cancer.
- Describe the findings of the latest clinical trials with regards to Systemic Treatment of Gastric Cancer
- Discuss Survivorship Issues for Gastric Cancer Patients
- Discuss the evidence on HIPEC in Gastric Cancer

## Registration

- Attendee - Faculty - \$100
- Trainee - Resident, Fellow, Medical Student - FREE
- Speaker - FREE
- Sponsor/Exhibitor – FREE (within the allowable package)
- Sponsor Exhibitor - \$150 (additional charges beyond package agreements)
- Patients - FREE

## Cocktails & Dinner

After the closing remarks there will be an hour-long cocktail social in the Exhibit space followed by a dinner talk in the adjacent room.

To attend the dinner, you must add a free dinner ticket to your registration.

## Refund Policy

Please note that no refunds are being offered for the conference. Any questions or concerns about this policy can be directed to [info@gastriccancer.ca](mailto:info@gastriccancer.ca).

## Evaluation

Please take the time to complete the conference evaluation, as this information is key to the planning process and gives speakers important feedback. [Complete the evaluation.](#)





# AGENDA

12:00 - 12:15

## Welcoming Remarks

Program Chairs: Dr. Carolyn Nessim and Dr. Natalie Coburn

“My Gut Feeling” - Teresa Tiano and Katy Kosyachkova, Gastric Cancer Survivors and Co-Founders of My Gut Feeling

12:15 - 1:10

Lunch – Sponsored Symposia

*Details can be found on page 12.*

## UPDATES IN GASTRIC CANCER

1:10 - 1:30

**Her2-targeted treatments in Gastric Cancer** – Dr. Eric Van Cutsem

Moderator – Dr. Shaqil Kassam, Medical Oncologists, Southlake Regional Health Center, Newmarket, ON

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this talk the learner will be able to:

- Discuss the role of Her-2 targeted therapy in gastric cancer.
- Discuss the newest combination of Her-2 targeted therapy with immunotherapy in gastric cancer.

1:30 - 1:40

Discussion/Questions

1:40 - 2:00

**Updates on Neoadjuvant therapies in Gastric Cancer** – Dr. Howard Lim, Medical Oncologists, BC Cancer – Vancouver, Vancouver, BC

Moderator – Dr. Stephanie Snow, QEII Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, NS

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this talk the learner will be able to:

- Describe the recent data of peri-operative immunotherapy in gastric cancer.
- Discuss peri-operative systemic therapy in gastric cancer.

2:00 - 2:10

Discussion/Questions

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2:10 - 2:40

### Optimizing Nutrition in Gastric Cancer Management

**Surgical Considerations** - Dr. Adam Meneghetti, General, Vancouver General Hospital and UBC Hospital, Vancouver, BC

**Nutritional Considerations** - Dr. Farhana Shariff, Surgical Oncology, Winnipeg, MB

Moderators – Katy Kosyachkova, Dr. Christine Brezden-Masley

#### Learning Objectives

By the end of this talk the learner will be able to:

- Describe the different potential nutritional deficiencies after gastric cancer surgery.
- Discuss the management of nutritional deficiencies after gastric cancer surgery.

2:40 - 2:50

### Discussion/Questions

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2:50 - 3:05

**CaGCA Database Update** – Dr. Daniel Schiller, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

Moderator – Teresa Tiano

#### Learning Objectives

By the end of this talk the learner will be able to:

- Discuss the development of a nation-wide database.
- Discuss the scope of the Canadian Gastric Cancer Database

3:05 - 3:15

### Discussion/Questions

**3:15 - 3:30**

### **BREAK**

3:30 - 4:05

### How can we better select patients for systemic treatments? –

Dr. Lorenzo Ferri, Head, Division of Thoracic Surgery, McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, QB

Moderator – Dr. Winson Cheung, Professor, Cumming School of Medicine, Department of Oncology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB

#### Learning Objectives

By the end of this talk the learner will be able to:

- Describe how to select patients for the appropriate management when considering their genetic subtype.
- Discuss the newest approaches to tailored medicine based on molecular subtypes of gastric cancer.

4:05 - 4:15

### Discussion/Questions

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4:15 - 4:50

**DEBATE: Should HIPEC be offer to gastric cancer patients?** – Dr. Llyod Mack vs Dr. Lucy Helyer

Moderator – Dr. Trevor Hamilton, Surgical Oncology, Vancouver Coastal Health. Vancouver, BC

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of this talk the learner will be able to:

- Discuss the latest data on the role of heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) for patients with gastric cancer.
- Discuss the possible indications/ contra-indications to consideration of referral of gastric cancer patients for surgery with HIPEC.

4:50 - 5:00

**Discussion/Questions**

**5:00 - 5:10**

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Carolyn Nessim and Dr. Natalie Coburn

5:10 - 6:30

**Social Reception**

Cocktails and canapes will be served in the Exhibit space adjacent to where dinner will be held.

Dinner seating will begin immediately following the reception.

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## Sponsored Lunch Symposia *(Unaccredited activity)*

12:15 - 1:10

### Multi-disciplinary Tumor Board Discussion of Challenging Cases

Panel: Dr. Carolyn Nessim, Dr. Shaquil Kassam, Dr. Lucy Helyer, Dr. Eric Van Cutsem, and Dr. Trevor Hamilton

Generously sponsored by:



## Sponsored Dinner Keynote *(Unaccredited activity)*

7:30 - 10:00

**Hope or Hype? New therapies for Gastric Cancer** – Prof. Eric Van Cutsem, Gastroenterology / Digestive Oncology, University Hospitals Gasthuisberg / Leuven & KULeuven, Belgium

Moderator: Dr. Shaquil Kassam, Elena Elimoval

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