



## 2025 APPHON/ROHPPA Conference

**IWK – 5850/5980 University Ave, Halifax NS | Virtual via MS Teams**

---

### Meet Your Presenters

---

**Thursday, May 1**

#### ***Hem/Onc Case Review***

**Dr. Lisa Goodyear**, MD, FRCPC is a Pediatric Hematologist Oncologist at the Janeway Child Health and Rehabilitation Centre and a Clinical Assistant Professor (Pediatrics) with the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She completed her Medical School and Pediatrics training at Memorial University of Newfoundland and went on to complete her fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT at University of British Columbia.

#### ***Chronic Transfusion Therapy***

**Jill Mitchell** is an RN in Newfoundland and Labrador. She received her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2003 and became a certified APPHON Chemotherapy & Biotherapy Instructor in 2017. Jill worked on the inpatient hematology/oncology unit as a staff nurse for nearly eighteen years and has volunteered at Camp Delight and sits on the board for directors of the Islaview Foundation, a local organization that aims to financially assist families with a child diagnosed with a life-threatening condition. In January 2021, Jill joined APPHON/ROHPPA as our Levels of Care Coordinator in NL along with being the first ever provincial pediatric Hematology Nurse Coordinator in the province.

**Chantale Deyoung**, BScN, RN Hemoglobinopathy Nurse Coordinator 6 North Clinic IWK. Originally from Labrador, Chantale moved to Halifax in 2008 to start her nursing career at the IWK. She started off working on the Birth Unit, and as well did nursing locums in the NWT. In 2014, Chantale transitioned to pediatric Hematology/ Oncology/ Nephrology where she developed a deep commitment to caring for young patients with cancer, hematological disorders, and kidney disease. Since 2021, Chantale has been working as the Hemoglobinopathy nurse coordinator in the 6-North clinic, managing the care of patients with complex conditions such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia. Currently she oversees all the chronic transfusions for our patient population in the Maritimes.

#### ***Ironing out Iron Deficiency***

**Dr. Lisa Pinto** completed her medical degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland, prior to completing a residency in Pediatrics and subspecialty residency in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the University of Ottawa. She has since returned to her home province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and is practicing as a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist at the Janeway Children's Hospital.

**Friday, May 2**

#### ***Cardio Oncology***

**Mary Stuart.** No direct financial relationships of honoraria. Member of the International Cardiology Oncology Society. On: survivorship committee, Nursing Research Committee, and CORE program

developing curriculum for Health care providers - non paid affiliation. Mary Stuart is a Family Nurse Practitioner. She has worked in Hem Onc since 1997 at Sick Kids Hospital. She worked in Adult Hematology at Southlake for several years. Since 2016, Mary has worked in Pediatric Survivorship and with Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer. She joined ICOS (International Cardiology Oncology Society/Global Cardiology Oncology Society) GCOS in 2022.

### ***When a child or parent says 'no' to treatment***

**Dr. Amanda Porter** is an Assistant Professor and Health Care Ethicist in the Department of Bioethics at Dalhousie University. As part of this role, she is involved in medical education and is a member of the Ethics Collaborations Team that provides clinical and organizational ethics support to Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health. Previously, Amanda worked as a Policy Analyst for the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists and as a Clinical Ethicist in Alberta Health Services. Amanda did her Clinical Ethics Fellowship and PhD in moral and political philosophy in London, Ontario. She previously served on the Canadian Bioethics Society-Société Canadienne de Bioéthique Board of Directors and on the CAPHE-ACCESS Code of Ethics working group.

### ***GUEST SPEAKER***

### ***Improving Symptom Control in Pediatric Cancer Patients with SSPedi and SPARK***

**Dr. Lillian Sung** is a Professor, Senior Scientist and the Chief Clinical Data Scientist at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She is certified in the specialties of pediatrics, infectious diseases, hematology and clinical investigation. She completed a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Toronto. She has a clinical research program focused on improving supportive care for children with cancer and implementing machine learning. Her methodological focus is on randomized and observational trials, meta-analysis, and patient-reported outcomes. She holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Pediatric Oncology Supportive Care, and she is the principal investigator on multiple operating grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

### ***Precision Medicine in Pediatric Oncology: Expanding the Playing Field, or a Whole New Game?***

**Dr. Chelsea Ash** joined the IWK as a Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist in July 2024. She is originally from Newfoundland, where she attended Memorial University for her BSc and MD. She completed her General Pediatrics residency and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology subspecialty training at McGill University, and subsequently did a fellowship in Pediatric Cancer Survivorship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Concurrent with her clinical training, she completed an MSc in Precision Cancer Medicine at the University of Oxford, UK. Chelsea now co-leads the pediatric Targeted Therapy Clinic, and is the physician lead for the Long-Term Follow-Up Program at the IWK.

### ***Hodgkin's Lymphoma Update***

**Dr. Ketan Kulkarni** is currently a clinician researcher and Professor of Pediatrics, Pathology, Medicine and Pharmacy in the division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology and Department of Pediatrics at IWK Health. His main clinical interests are (i) leukemia, (ii) clinical outcome and supportive care research in pediatric oncology, and (iii) thrombosis in pediatric oncology and high-risk pediatric populations. Dr. Kulkarni's research interest align very closely with his clinical interests. With an overarching theme of supportive care and drug toxicity research in pediatric oncology, he is actively engaged in basic and translational research to find innovative ways of improving the care of pediatric hematology oncology patients. Dr. Kulkarni's long-term goal is to integrate the use of advanced technologies to improve the



treatment and supportive care of oncology patients. A specific focus of his work has been assessing the role of genome and microbiome in treatment related toxicities and outcomes in pediatric oncology patients.

### ***COG updates: Spring 2025***

**Dr. Craig Erker** is an associate professor at the IWK in the division of pediatric hematology/oncology. In addition to medical and pediatric training, he completed a fellowship in pediatric neuro-oncology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre. Craig is the site principal investigator for the COG at the IWK. He enjoys the team at the IWK and spending time with his family.

**Saturday, May 3**

### ***Blinatumomab in the Community***

**Marjorie McGibbon** is a graduate of St. Francis Xavier University's Nursing program and has dedicated over 20 years of her career to Women's and Children's Health. Her clinical experience in Pediatric Oncology and Neonatal Intensive Care began at the IWK Health Centre in 2004. Marjorie is passionate about supporting families throughout the continuum of care for children facing chronic, life-limiting, and terminal illnesses.

She is the Pediatric Oncology Patient Navigator at Horizon Health in New Brunswick, where she works in close collaboration with pediatric teams across Horizon and the IWK to support children with cancer and their families during treatment and into survivorship or palliative care. Marjorie sits on the Advisory Council for the Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network (APPHON), represents New Brunswick on the Executive Board of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Nurses, and is a member of the Maritime Children's Hospice Society. She also presently sits on the Executive Board for Canada's Pediatric Palliative Care Alliance.

She lives in Petitcodiac, New Brunswick, with her husband of 20 years and their two children. They enjoy spending time as a family on the beaches of the Miramichi, competing on the Maritime Quarter Horse Show circuit, and exploring the dirt bike trails of New Brunswick.

**Misty Spencer** is celebrating her 25th year with Horizon Health at The Moncton Hospital, where she has built a diverse and impactful career in pediatric and women's health. Her roles have included Pediatric Nurse, Staff Educator in Women and Children's Health, and currently, Nurse Manager of Ambulatory Care. Misty is passionate about advancing patient care through the development of educational resources and the implementation of best practices within her departments.

Misty lives just outside Moncton with her husband of 25 years, their 14-year-old twins, and two energetic Yorkies. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and travelling to warm destinations near the equator.

**Tonette Despres**, RN, BN, CNeON(C), is a Registered Nurse with 29 years of clinical and leadership experience in women's and children's health. She has worked the majority of her career in Neonatal Intensive Care and Pediatrics.

Currently, Tonette serves as the Nurse Manager for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the Pediatrics Unit, and the Pediatrics Ambulatory Care Unit at Horizon Health's Moncton Hospital. In this role, she is responsible for leading clinical operations, advancing evidence-based practices, and supporting the ongoing education and development of nursing staff.

Additionally, Tonette has been the New Brunswick Liaison for the Canadian Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Steering Committee for five years.



2025 APPHON/ROHPPA Conference



**DALHOUSIE**  
UNIVERSITY

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT &  
MEDICAL EDUCATION

## ***Blinatumomab, part 2***

**Dr. Joanne Delaney** completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of New Brunswick and received her Doctor of Medicine from Memorial University of Newfoundland. She completed residency training in pediatrics at the Janeway Child Health and Rehabilitation Center followed by subspecialty training in pediatric hematology-oncology at the McGill University Health Center in Montreal. She concurrently obtained a Master of Health Professions Education at Queen's University. She went on to complete fellowship training in Bone Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapy at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto and subsequently spent time working as an attending physician within the SickKids Blood and Marrow Transplant / Cellular Therapy section. Most recently, Dr. Delaney joined the hematology/oncology team at IWK Health in October 2024. Her clinical and academic areas of interest are in bone marrow transplant and cellular therapy, hematologic malignancies, bone marrow failure, and hemoglobinopathies.

## ***Oncofertility***

**Sarah Keeping** is a registered nurse with 5 years of experience in pediatric hematology/oncology at the IWK. Sarah received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Nursing from Dalhousie University and is currently a PhD in Nursing student. She currently holds the role of Oncofertility Project Navigator for IWK/APPHON and is a certified pediatric hematology/oncology nurse (CPHON).

**Toni Leamon** received her Bachelor of Arts (English and French) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Accelerated Option) from Memorial University of Newfoundland, where she will also be beginning her Master of Science in Nursing (Practicum Option) in the Fall. She is a Registered Nurse at the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre with experience in pediatric medicine/surgery, oncology, and is an APHON certified chemotherapy/biotherapy provider. Toni's current role is as the Newfoundland and Labrador Oncofertility Nurse Coordinator/Navigator for the APPHON/CPAC project for pediatric and young adult fertility preservation in Atlantic Canada.

## ***Pediatric Oncology Palliative Care in Atlantic Canada: A Needs Assessment***

**Erin Thorne** is a second-year medical student at Dalhousie University. Erin completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Dalhousie University, graduating in 2020, following which she began working as a Registered Nurse at the IWK on the Medical Surgical Neuroscience Unit. During her work as a pediatric nurse, Erin developed a deep appreciation for the importance of interprofessional collaboration in providing comprehensive pediatric care. Her exposure and participation in quality improvement activities and time spent as a nursing clinical instructor further nurtured her passion for education and academia. These experiences ultimately inspired her to pursue a career in medicine, where she hopes to continue bridging clinical practice, education, and research. For her Research in Medicine Project, Erin is exploring the current needs, gaps, and barriers in pediatric palliative care for pediatric oncology patients in Atlantic Canada through a qualitative mixed-methods study. In this presentation, Erin will be sharing preliminary findings from the study, focusing on emerging qualitative themes and subthemes identified through thematic analysis of survey responses from healthcare providers across the region.

## ***The financial impact of pediatric cancer treatment to families treated at the IWK***

**Zara Forbrigger** has been a research assistant at the IWK Health since 2016. Zara primarily has been an RA for oncology but has also worked with the Centre for Pediatric Pain Research. In 2021, Zara started her MSc degree in Pathology at Dalhousie university and was awarded the Canadian Institute of Health Research Canadian Graduate Student – Masters award. Her MSc project focused on looking at dietary asparagine and the effects on asparaginase therapy. She completed her degree in 2023 and in 2024 began



her Ph.D. in Pharmacology. Her current PhD project is bioinformatics based and will be looking for biomarkers for WILMS tumor. Zara has also been a member of the IWK Research Ethics Board since 2021. Zara is the proud mom of two cats, Edgar and Yenn, as well as a planted fish tank.

### ***Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada***

**Brooke Dewhurst** is a young professional with a background in Global Development studies, and several years of experience in community education and health promotion. After starting a mutual aid group, years of community advocacy, a short stint in farming, and coordinating a harm reduction program for women, Brooke cemented her love for education and strengthening any community she finds herself in. She now works as the Community Service Lead the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada, where she provides support for people impacted by blood cancers and education for healthcare providers across Atlantic Canada.

### ***Guidelines Update***

**Dr. Tamara MacDonald** obtained her doctorate in pharmacy in 2003. She has been in the role of Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at IWK Health since 2004 and Guideline Development Coordinator for APPHON since 2008. In these roles, Dr. MacDonald has been instrumental in developing best practices for supportive management of children with cancer in the Atlantic Provinces. Dr. MacDonald's research interests include improving supportive care to children with cancer and the relationship of chemotherapy, infectious complications, and the microbiome. Dr. MacDonald holds an appointment at Dalhousie University.

