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Patient and Family Advisory Council

Cuthbert Lab & Oncology Outcomes

Welcome

We submitted two new grant applications during the month of October, focusing on optimizing the use and quality of cancer and non-cancer preventive care among cancer survivors, and on improving colorectal cancer screening for Albertans. The projects focus on cancer prevention and recurrence prevention, and therefore we are hopeful we will have good news to share! We anticipate learning the results of these submissions by March 2023.

We are still actively recruiting for two new members (cancer patients, survivors, or family members) to join our council. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining, please ask them to email Christie at christie.farrer@ucalgary.ca. We also have this [poster](#) which can be shared within your networks.

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Oncology Outcomes

We are collaborating with Alberta Precision Laboratories on a project to evaluate the impact of molecular testing in cancer care. Molecular testing has become an essential component in high quality care for a variety of tumors and has become increasingly common for select tumors in Alberta's cancer care service delivery. Cancer care's molecular testing data is collected by Alberta Precision Laboratories, and is currently stored in databases. Presently these databases are not connected to health outcomes data for cancer patients, so the benefits of molecular testing in the province are not well understood. This project will conduct exploratory analyses of the role of molecular testing in the receipt of quality care among all cancer patients seen at any Alberta Health Services location over an extended period. In doing so we will gain a better understanding of indicators of quality care and the individual-level and health-system benefits of increased molecular testing in Alberta.

Cuthbert Lab

We have a new Masters Student joining our team! Hannah Harsanyi, BSc, is a student in the Department of Community Health Sciences thesis-based Master's program at the University of Calgary. Her research is centered on understanding opioid prescribing for patients with advanced cancers, and investigating the trade-off between pain analgesia and opioid-induced adverse events within this population. Hannah completed her Bachelor of Science at the University of British Columbia, with a major in Biochemistry and minor in English Linguistics. She has since worked as a trainee and research assistant at Cancer Care Alberta in the department of Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research (CEPR). Hannah has experience working with large administrative health datasets, using statistical software, carrying out literature reviews, and preparing scientific manuscripts. Her research interests are interdisciplinary, and primarily focus on patient-reported outcomes, cancer pain management, and quality of life for patients with advanced cancers. Through her research, Hannah hopes to inform the improvement of patient-centred care and outcomes for patients living with chronic cancer.

Our team is also working on a project to evaluate the impact of COVID on cancer care. We identified that during the lockdowns, cancers that had organized screening programs saw a drop off in diagnoses. The healthcare system needs to be mindful of this, get people back to screening, and be prepared from the care perspective for these high volumes.

We are also working on projects that address social inequality and cancer outcomes in Alberta, as well as the impact of age (early-onset and older patients) on outcomes in Alberta. These projects take a comprehensive deep dive across multiple cancer sites and multiple outcomes in Alberta.

Study Recruitment



We continue to actively recruit participants for several studies right now, including:

- Healthcare Provider and Patient Views on Prescribing Opioids for Cancer Patients. [Poster Link to Share](#)
- Patients Perspectives of Value Frameworks Used to Guide Oncology Treatment Decisions [Poster Link to Share](#)

If you think the studies might be relevant to your contacts, please feel free to share the website or poster links.

For the additional details on each study click [here](#).

Get to Know



Council Member Christie Farrer Rogers



I love being active outside, whether it be paddleboarding in the summer, cross-country skiing in the winter, or long walks with my dog year-round. My favourite places I've ever traveled to are Indonesia, Panama, Grenada, and Maui (I love the ocean!). However, my favourite place in the world is Kananaskis. I love reading and have finished 47 books this year so far.



Member Spotlight



Coming Up

The next newsletter will release in **November 2022**.

Previous issues of the PFAC newsletter have been posted online: <https://www.cuthbertlab.com/advisory-council>

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