

Feb 2023 | ISSUE #17

# Patient and Family Advisory Council

Cuthbert Lab & Oncology Outcomes

## Welcome

We are pleased to share that our teams have been successful in obtaining funding for two projects submitted to the CIHR Project Grant this Fall. The first, “Improving Patient Outcomes among Early-Age-At-Onset Colorectal Cancer Patients Using Real-World Data” will be led by Dr. Darren Brenner and will focus on colorectal cancer treatment for younger patients. The second, “CRC-Tai Chi: Colorectal Cancer survivors participating in Tai Chi to manage long-term changes to bowel function”, led by Dr. Colleen Cuthbert, received bridge funding to help obtain pilot data in order to strengthen our re-submission.

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# Oncology Outcomes

## Artificial intelligence and computer vision approaches to improve cancer screening in Alberta

Medical images are routinely collected in Alberta for cancer screening purposes. These images include breast mammograms for breast cancer, colonoscopies for colorectal cancer, chest CT for lung cancer, and digitized Pap tests for cervical cancer. Our proposed study will leverage these high-quality databases of images to develop models that can improve precision oncology initiatives in Alberta. We will use these data to develop cancer-specific models using state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) techniques that can accurately identify breast, colorectal, lung, and cervical cancers based on medical images from the provincial screening programs.

We intend to combine the results from our AI models with regularly collected clinical data to develop models that improve our ability to detect cancer earlier. This research has the capacity to greatly improve precision medicine initiatives in Alberta by developing models to support clinical decision-making using leading-edge artificial intelligence and machine learning approaches. This study may lead to the development of new clinical tools that can help identify cancers at earlier stages to improve early detection and prognosis across multiple cancer sites.

## Cuthbert Lab

We have officially submitted our grant application for the project “Exploring Patient and Family Advisory Councils: A Symposium to Disseminate Knowledge and Plan for Future Opportunities to Measure Impact.”. If successful, this project will allow us to bring together members from various PFAC to discuss best practices and evaluation methods. We would like to thank everyone for the discussion at our last meeting that helped to shape the priorities for this project. We have also submitted an abstract along the same vein to the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics Conference this summer. Finally, we are actively re-working the CRC-Tai Chi project as listed above so we can re-submit for the full funding amount.

## 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](#).

# Coming Up

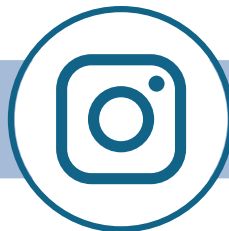
The next newsletter will release in March 2023.

Previous issues of the PFAC newsletter have been posted online:

<https://www.cuthbertlab.com/advisory-council>

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