



Mesothelioma: from today's challenges to tomorrow's cure

November 26, 2019
Auditorium, Lower Level
MaRS Discovery District
101 College St.
Toronto, ON

Conference objectives:

- Provide information on early detection and innovative treatment for mesothelioma for general practitioners and specialists
- Identify the most promising research directions
- Engage key researchers and clinicians in Canada and internationally, including the CMF Scientific Advisory Committee
- Promote support in Canada for areas of interest in research, for a Canadian mesothelioma patient registry and a national mesothelioma health care network
- Link these efforts to the broader efforts to develop a comprehensive Canadian response to asbestos and asbestos disease

Agenda:

- 8:00 am** **Registration, coffee/continental breakfast**
- 8:30 am** **Dr. Eudice Goldberg, Chair Canadian Mesothelioma Foundation, Welcome**
- 8:40 am** **Dr. Paul Demers: *The incidence and prevalence of mesothelioma in Canada***
- 9:00 am** **Dr. Dean Fennell: Keynote Lecture, *Stratified Therapy for Mesothelioma***
- 10:00 am** **Session 1: *Advances in diagnosis and early detection of mesothelioma***
Moderator: Dr. Linn Holness
- Dr. Erik Vakil, *Screening for mesothelioma: when those exposed to asbestos should be investigated***
- Dr. Geoffrey Liu, *Serological and breathomic biomarkers in mesothelioma: the University Health Network experience***
- Dr. Marc de Perrot, *Circulating mesothelial precursor cells; a new opportunity to detect pleural damage and mesothelioma after asbestos exposure?***
- 10:55 am** **Refreshment and networking break**

- 11:15 am** **Session 2: *Advances in treatment of mesothelioma (part one)***
Moderator: Dr. Jocelyne Martin

Dr. Penny Bradbury, *Immunotherapy – What is now?*
Dr. Quincy Chu, *Immunotherapy – What is the future?*
Dr. Andrea McCart, *Advances in the treatment of peritoneal mesothelioma*
- 12:25 pm** **Buffet lunch and networking break**
- 1:10 pm** **Session 3: *Advances in treatment of mesothelioma (part two)***
Moderator: Dr. Erik Vakil

Dr. Camille Munro, *Advances in palliative care*
Dr. John Cho, *New developments in hemithoracic radiation for mesothelioma*
Dr. Marc de Perrot, *Targeting mesothelioma with radiation and immunotherapy*
- 2:20 pm** **Session 4: *Panel Discussion - most promising research avenues and future directions***
Moderator: Dr. Chris Lee

Panel members: Dr. Dean Fennell, Dr. Andrea McCart, Dr. Marc de Perrot
- 3:10 pm** **Refreshment and networking break**
- 3:30 pm** **Session 5: *Strengths and limitations of patient registries***
Moderator: Alec Farquhar

Dr. Paul Demers, *The Canadian cancer registry experience*
Dr. Emanuela Taioli, *An international perspective on mesothelioma registries*
- 4:15 pm** **Session 6: *In Summary and Beyond***

Drs. John Cho and Chris Lee, *What we've learned so far*
Anya Keefe, *CMF's Mesothelioma Health Network*
Alec Farquhar, *Asbestos-Free Canada*
- 5:00 pm** **Closing Remarks, Drs. Eudice Goldberg and John Cho, followed by**
Pre-theatre Reception with host bar and appetizers, performance by *Kith and Kin*
- 6:30 pm** **Canadian Debut of “Breathless”**
Introduction by Eric Jonckheere and filmmaker, Daniel Lambo, followed by Q&A

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Dean Fennell is Professor & Consultant in Thoracic Medical Oncology, and Director of the Leicester Mesothelioma Programme based at the University of Leicester/University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. He is an internationally recognised key opinion leader in thoracic oncology and is currently leading the UK portfolio of studies in relapsed mesothelioma including the pivotal phase III immunotherapy study CONFIRM, and world's first stratified umbrella study for mesothelioma, MiST. He is a planning committee member of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), mesothelioma taskforce member for the IASLC, member of the Cancer Research UK population research committee, and steering committee for the British Lung Foundation mesothelioma research network. He has been past-president of the International mesothelioma interest group, past-chair of the NCRI mesothelioma subgroup, and co-author of both the European and UK mesothelioma treatment guidelines. Prof. Fennell is currently the Leicester lead for the groundbreaking Cancer Research UK TraceRx/Darwin/PEACE phylogenetic studies. Prof. Fennell held two prestigious CRUK clinician scientist and MRC doctoral fellowships. He originally trained in pharmacology (1st class) and medicine at UCL where he was awarded several prizes. He completed medical training in the London Golden circuit (Hammersmith, Brompton, Guy's, St Thomas's), and completed his specialist training at Barts Hospital. Prof. Fennell has published over 100 peer reviewed articles in journals including The Lancet, Lancet Oncology, New England Journal of Medicine, Nature, Nature Reviews Cancer, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Conference Speakers (alphabetical, by last name)



Dr. Penelope Bradbury is a staff medical oncologist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada; Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, and adjunct Associate Professor within the Department of Oncology at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. After obtaining her medical degree from the University of Cardiff, UK, and fellow in medical oncology from the Australasian College of Physicians, she undertook postgraduate fellowships at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and the Canadian Cancer Trials Group, ON, Canada. She was previously a senior investigator within the Canadian Cancer Trials Group for the thoracic and investigational new drugs program, during which time she held a Cancer Care Ontario Research Chair in Experimental Therapeutics. She has a research interest in the evaluation of new therapies for the management of thoracic malignancies and clinical trial methodology and is the current chair of the Canadian Cancer Trials Group Thoracic Disease Site Committee.



Dr. John Cho received his M.D. from Queen's University, Kingston in 1995. He completed his residency training in Radiation Oncology at University of Alberta, Edmonton in 2000. He received his Ph.D from the University of Amsterdam in 2004. He is presently at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and is an Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology. Research interests include malignant pleural mesothelioma and high precision radiotherapy. He, along with his surgical colleague, Dr. Marc de Perrot, are investigators of the Surgery for Mesothelioma After Radiation Therapy (SMART) study which is evaluating short accelerated hemithoracic radiation followed by extra-pleural pneumonectomy.



Dr. Quincy Chu has been a medical oncologist at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, Alberta since April 2005. He trained in medical oncology in London, Ontario and did clinical research fellowship in novel anti-cancer drugs at the Institute for Drug Development in San Antonio, Texas from 2002 to 2005, one of the largest and most prominent phase I units in the world. Dr. Chu's current clinical and research interests encompass phase I and II studies with novel anti-cancer agents, development of novel anti-cancer drugs in lung and sarcoma as well as biomarker development. Since 2006, in collaboration with Drs. Michael Sawyer, Jennifer Spratlin and Randeep Sangha, Dr. Chu has established a phase I unit at the Cross Cancer Institute. Collaborative preclinical research in the discovery of biomarker and novel anti-cancer targets are ongoing with both basic scientists and translational scientists in the

University of Alberta and other institutions. Dr. Chu serves as a scientific advisor to various pharmaceutical companies, Lung Cancer Canada, the Canadian Mesothelioma Foundation and other patient support organizations to enhance research and timely access to both novel diagnostic and therapeutic advances in anti-cancer treatment. Dr. Chu is a reviewer for peer review of top rated oncology journals, including Journal of Clinical Oncology, Clinical Cancer Research, Clinical Lung Cancer, Investigational New Drugs, and an associate editor for the Journal of Clinical Oncology and Sarcoma.



Dr. Paul Demers is the Director of the Occupational Cancer Research Centre, based in Cancer Care Ontario, and a Professor with the Institute for Medical Sciences and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He has a Ph.D. in epidemiology and a M.Sc. in Industrial Hygiene, both from the University of Washington. His research has focused on occupational and environmental cancer, lung disease, and heart disease. In addition, he has an interest in both occupational carcinogen and cancer surveillance. Paul is internationally recognized for his expertise on the health effects of workplace exposures and has been a member of many national and international expert panels dealing with occupational and environmental cancer, including the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the U.S. National Toxicology Program, the U.S. Institute of Medicine, the Royal

Society of Canada, and the Council of Canadian Academies. Over his academic career he has held numerous research grants, supervised many graduate students and has published extensively.



Dr. Marc de Perrot obtained his Medical Degree and completed his Surgical Residency at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. In 2000, he began his Clinical and Research Fellowship in Thoracic Surgery at the University of Toronto and obtained his Masters degree in the Thoracic Surgery Laboratory in 2002. In 2004, Dr. de Perrot complemented his training by obtaining a Fellowship in Thoracic and Vascular Surgery at Hospital Marie-Lannelongue in Paris, France. In 2005, he joined the Division of Thoracic Surgery as a staff surgeon and Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. In 2009, he was appointed Associate Professor of Surgery based on his research and clinical work. Dr. de Perrot's surgical expertise focuses on

surgery for end-stage lung diseases such as lung and heart-lung transplantation as well as pulmonary endarterectomy for chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension. He is also the Head of the Toronto Mesothelioma Program and is involved in basic science research, new treatment with immunotherapy and combined modality therapy. Dr. de Perrot is a prolific author with over 100 peer reviewed articles as well as several book chapters and state-of-the-art review.



Alec Farquhar is a lawyer with a long career involved with asbestos disease compensation and prevention. He is currently coordinator of Asbestos Free Canada. Previously, Alec was Director of the Office of the Worker Adviser (OWA), an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Labour which advises and represents non-unionized workers in their workers' compensation claims and appeals. Alec came to the OWA from the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers where he was Managing Director, and before that from the Ontario Ministry of Labour where he was the Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch. In both of these positions, Alec was extensively involved in detection and prevention of asbestos disease as well as related regulatory enforcement. Alec has extensive experience in both workers' compensation and occupational health and safety. A graduate of Princeton University, Alec also has an L.L.B. from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. He has served on the Executive of the Ontario Bar Association Workers' Compensation Section and has received the section's Ron Ellis award for excellence.



Anya Keefe has degrees in Chemical Engineering and Occupational Hygiene, both from the University of British Columbia. Her initial career was with the BC Cancer Agency, where she performed retrospective exposure assessments for occupational epidemiological studies in British Columbia and internationally (including an international study of pulp and paper workers conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer). Between 1997 and 2004, she worked at WorkSafeBC – first as a policy analyst working on both the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* and occupational disease compensation policies, then taking on responsibility for creating and implementing a systematic process for research, knowledge transfer and strategic initiatives. Since 2006, she has worked on contract for a number of organizations, including the Canadian Mesothelioma Foundation; the Occupational Cancer Research Centre; CAREX Canada; the International Agency for Research on Cancer; and, the BC Cancer Agency. Since 2014, she has provided *pro bono* assistance to workers diagnosed with occupational diseases (or their surviving spouses), helping to identify possible sources of exposure and working with them to create comprehensive occupational histories to support their claims for workers compensation.



Dr. Christopher Lee graduated with a degree in Medicine in 1991 from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia and subsequently specialized in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology. Since 1998, he has been a Medical Oncologist with BC Cancer and Surrey Memorial Hospital. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia and a member of several societies and committees, including the Quality of Life Committee of the Canadian Cancer Trials Group. He is the outgoing Chair of the Mesothelioma and Thymoma Working Group, a subcommittee of the Canadian Cancer Trials Group Lung Disease Site Committee.



Dr. Geoffrey Liu graduated sum laude from the University of Toronto medicine program, followed by residencies at the University of Toronto and a fellowship at the Dana Farber Harvard Cancer Center in Boston. He was Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School before returning in 2006 to the Ontario Cancer Institute–Princess Margaret Hospital. Dr. Liu’s major research focus is in molecular prognostic factors and pharmacogenomics of lung and esophageal cancer, with additional interest in head and neck, pancreatic, ovarian and testicular cancers, mesothelioma and thymoma. Trained in clinical and molecular epidemiology, he is the principal investigator of over two dozen completed, ongoing and upcoming cancer pharmacogenomic and molecular epidemiologic analyses of cancer observational studies and clinical trials funded by the National Cancer Institute (US),

National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group, Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, the Canadian Institute of Health Research, the Ontario Institute of Cancer Research, Cancer Care Ontario, Doris Duke Foundation and the Lung Cancer Foundation of America. He has research interests in epidemiological outcomes database methods, novel analyses of high dimensionality biologically rich data, pharmacogenomic analyses of conventional and molecularly targeted agents using primary human xenograft models, patient-reported outcomes in pharmacogenomics, and knowledge translation of personalized medicine and pharmacogenomic algorithms into clinical practice.



Dr. Andrea McCart completed medical school and General Surgery training at the University of Western Ontario. During residency she undertook research training and obtained her MSc in cancer research. Following residency she completed a surgical oncology fellowship focused on regional therapies of cancer at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda Maryland. While there she also did post-doctoral research in the laboratory of Dr. David Bartlett, investigating gene and viral therapies for cancer. Dr. McCart moved to Toronto following her fellowship where she is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery and a Clinician-Scientist at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute. Dr McCart is a surgical oncologist at

Mount Sinai Hospital and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre where she started the Peritoneal Malignancy Program in 2011. Her clinical interests include the treatment of peritoneal malignancies and other gastrointestinal cancers. Her research laboratory is developing novel viral-based therapeutics for peritoneal and other malignancies.



Dr. Camille Munro is an Assistant Professor and a Clinician-Teacher with the Division of Palliative Medicine at the University of Ottawa, effective August 1, 2012. A native of Chester, N.S., Dr. Munro received her medical degree from Dalhousie University in 1991. She did a rotating internship at Royal Columbian Hospital, University of British Columbia. She then moved to Ottawa and worked as a Clinical Assistant in Geriatrics followed by part-time Family Practice for 16 years while raising her children. Dr. Munro’s long-time interest in Palliative Care led her to return to the academic setting in 2010 as a General Practitioner in Oncology and then in Palliative Care. During this time, she pursued the alternate route of

certification for the College of Family Practice certification. In 2016, she was appointed Medical Director of the Supportive and Palliative Care Team at The Ottawa Hospital, and in 2018, appointed as Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for the Department of Medicine. In 2018, she became a member of the Canadian Mesothelioma Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee. She was the Palliative Medicine Co-chair Scientific Committee for 14th International Mesothelioma Conference in Ottawa in 2018.



Dr. Emanuela Taioli received her M.D. from University of Milan in 1981. She then attended Columbia University where she received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Epidemiology. In 2015 Dr. Taioli joined Mount Sinai as Professor of Population Health and Science and of Thoracic Surgery and the Director of the Institute for Translational Epidemiology, and as Director of the Center for the Study of Thoracic Diseases Outcomes. Recently, she was named Associate Director for Population Science of The Tisch Cancer Institute (TCI). Dr Taioli also co-leads the Cancer Prevention and Control Program. Prior to joining the School, Dr. Taioli was the Chief of Epidemiology for the Northwell Health System at Hofstra School of Medicine.

She established herself as a pioneer in pooling large datasets and establishing the first international pooled analysis of studies on gene-environment interaction, which lead to the formation of large consortia investigating cancer outcomes on an international level. Among her most important contributions are those to the field of cancer prevention, including the study of cancer risk factors in healthy populations, cancer predisposing factors, hormone metabolism and genetic susceptibility to environmental exposure. She is a well-recognized expert in cancer survivorship and the effect of lifestyles changes on the risk for cancer recurrence and the development of new secondary cancers. Moreover, she has worked extensively on health disparities, access to care in minority populations, and chronic diseases prevention in the underserved.



Dr. Erik Vakil is an Interventional Pulmonologist and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary. His practice is focused on the diagnosis and treatment of thoracic cancers. He attended Medical School at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and completed his post-graduate training in the United States. He is American board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care Medicine. He also completed sub-specialty fellowship training in Interventional Pulmonology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and is board certified by the American Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology. His research interests are focused in thoracic oncology, particularly medical thoracoscopy in cancer patients, the optimal diagnostic and staging pathways for patients with suspected lung cancer, and quality improvement in multi-disciplinary thoracic cancer care.