

SPRING UPDATE 2025

Management of Regional Nodes & Updates on Rare Cancers: What Do I Need to Know?



Wednesday
April 9, 2025

PROGRAM

Time	Topic	Speaker
7:30-8:00 am	Registration	
8:00-8:05 am	Welcome and Introduction	Dr. Heather Stuart
Session 1	REGIONAL NODE MANAGEMENT & THE IMPACT OF NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT	Moderator: Dr. Heather Stuart
8:05-8:25 am	Principles of Neoadjuvant Management of Breast Cancer: A Medical Oncology Perspective	Dr. Michael Humphreys
8:25-9:45 am	Breast Cancer: Management Of the Axilla	Dr. Amy Bazzarelli
9:45-10:05am	A Practical Review of Neoadjuvant Therapy in Rectal Cancer from A Radiation Oncologists Perspective	Dr. Justin Owen
10:05-10:25 am	Rectal Cancer: Management Of Lateral Pelvic Nodes	Dr. M. Sohrab Khorasani
10:25-10:45 am	Coffee Break	
Session 2	REGIONAL NODE MANAGEMENT & THE IMPACT OF NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT	Moderator: Dr. Sita Ollek
10:45-11:05 am	Melanoma: Approach To Regional Nodes	Dr. Francis Zih
11:05-12:00 pm	Case Presentations	Dr. Zarrukh Baig, Dr. Jason Park, & Dr. Heather Stuart
12:00-1:00 pm	Networking Lunch	
Session 3	UPDATES ON RARE CANCERS	Moderator: Dr. M. Sohrab Khorasani
1:00-1:30 pm	Updates In the Treatment of Peritoneal Malignancies in B.C.	Dr. Andrea MacNeill
1:30-2:00 pm	Approach To Soft Tissue Masses	Dr. Sita Ollek
2:00-2:30 pm	Neuroendocrine Tumors	Dr. Heather Stuart
2:30-3:00 pm	Appendiceal Tumors	Dr. Sita Ollek & Dr. Heather Stuart
3:00-3:15 pm	Course Evaluation/ Wrap Up	Dr. Heather Stuart

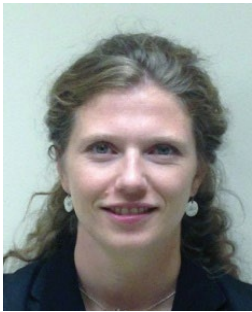
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The learning objectives of the Update, include the following:

Overall	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an understanding of when neoadjuvant therapy is appropriate for breast, melanoma and rectal cancer • Learn how the surgical approach to certain malignancies may change after neoadjuvant therapy • Review management of lymph nodes in breast, melanoma and rectal cancer • Discuss updates in surgical management of rare cancers (appendiceal, neuroendocrine, peritoneal and soft tissue) 	
Session 1 - Regional node management and the impact of neoadjuvant treatment	
Breast Cancer: Neoadjuvant Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review indications for neoadjuvant therapy in breast cancer • Describe neoadjuvant regimens (chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and hormone therapy) including timing • Highlight imaging required before and after neoadjuvant therapy
Breast Cancer: Management of the Axilla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review guidelines for when to use sentinel node biopsy • Discuss when axillary dissection should be used • Understand standard of care for management of malignant lymph nodes in patients undergoing neoadjuvant therapy
Rectal Cancer: Neoadjuvant Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review guidelines for when patients should receive neoadjuvant therapy • Describe neoadjuvant regimens and factors in selection, including for total neoadjuvant therapy • Review imaging required before and after neoadjuvant therapy
Rectal Cancer: Management of Lateral Pelvic Nodes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review anatomy of lateral pelvic lymph nodes and rectal venous drainage • Review indications for lateral lymph node dissection • Discuss surgical technique and when to refer to high volume center
Session 2 - Regional node management and the impact of neoadjuvant treatment	
Melanoma: Approach to regional nodes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss which patients should be referred for consideration of neoadjuvant therapy • Review indications for excisional node biopsy vs lymphadenectomy after neoadjuvant therapy • Review imaging required before and after neoadjuvant therapy
Session 3- Updates on rare cancers	
Peritoneal Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss which primary cancers may be surgical candidate in the setting of peritoneal disease (e.g. appendiceal, colon, etc.) • Describe how to document extent of peritoneal disease • Review what to do in the setting of unexpected peritoneal disease
Approach to Soft Tissue Masses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review malignant imaging features of extremity and abdominal/retroperitoneal soft tissue tumors • Discuss approach to work up of soft tissue tumors • Discuss when to refer to sarcoma surgeon and/or center
Neuroendocrine Tumors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review staging of patients with suspected or known neuroendocrine tumors • Discuss surgical approach for local regional disease • Highlight surveillance guidelines after complete resection of neuroendocrine tumors
Appendiceal Tumors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review types of appendiceal tumors • Discuss surgical options for local and regional appendiceal tumors based on primary tumor type • Discuss when to refer to medical oncology or high-volume center

SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PANELLISTS

DR. HEATHER STUART



Dr. Stuart is a Surgical Oncologist at BC Cancer and Vancouver General Hospital with an interest in GI and cutaneous malignancies. She completed medical school and a Master of Science at the University of British Columbia, and general surgery residency at the University of Calgary. During her surgical oncology fellowship training at the University of Miami, she spent time in Uppsala, Sweden developing a focus in neuroendocrine tumors. Her current research focuses on clinical outcomes for patient's adrenal and gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors and cutaneous malignancies. She is currently the chair for the Continuing Professional Development & Knowledge Transfer (CPD-KT) Committee for BC Cancer Surgery, the resident research lead for the UBC General Surgery Residency Program and the co-chair for the BC Cancer GI Clinical Outcomes Unit.

DR. AMY BAZZARELLI



Dr. Bazzarelli is a General Surgeon and Breast Surgical Oncologist. She completed her medical training at the University of Alberta and her General Surgery residency at the University of Ottawa. She then completed subspecialty training in Breast Surgical Oncology at the University of Toronto. Prior to medical school, Dr. Bazzarelli obtained a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Alberta and worked as a physiotherapist at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. Since she began working at Providence Health Care, Dr. Bazzarelli has completed a Masters of Science in Healthcare Quality from Queen's University and has completed the Physician Led Quality Improvement Program in British Columbia. She is the physician lead pioneer in introducing the magnetic seed localization technology to the province of British Columbia.

DR. JUSTIN OWEN



Dr. Owen is a practicing Radiation Oncologist at BC Cancer Kelowna since 2021. He completed medical school at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 2012 followed by an internship and general medical training at Trinity College Dublin. The additional training in Ireland exposed him to surgical oncology, gynaecologic oncology, radiation oncology and medical oncology rotations. This inspired him to pursue a career in Radiation Oncology. He subsequently completed his RadOnc residency at the University of Manitoba in 2021. His practice is focused on gastrointestinal, genitourinary and the central nervous system with a subspecialty focus on stereotactic radiation techniques.

DR. M. SOHRAB KHORASANI



Dr. Khorasani is a surgical oncologist practicing in Victoria, BC. He completed general surgery residency training at University of British Columbia in 2017, and surgical oncology fellowship at University of Toronto in 2019. His surgical oncology practice is broad, and includes complex GI, skin, and breast cancer. His clinical interest is in management of gastric and lower GI cancer, and his research interest is in multidisciplinary translational biomedical research in the field of cancer management.

SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PANELLISTS

DR. FRANCIS ZIH



Dr. Zih is a surgical oncologist at Surrey Memorial Hospital and BC Cancer Surrey. He is the department head of surgery at Surrey Memorial Hospital. He completed his surgical oncology fellowship at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. He sits on the Royal College general surgical oncology exam board. He chairs the multidisciplinary GI tumour conference at Fraser Health. He is currently working on a physician quality improvement project initiating a rapid assessment clinic for melanoma in Fraser Health.

DR. ANDREA MACNEILL



Dr. MacNeill is a Surgical Oncologist at Vancouver General Hospital and BC Cancer, and a clinical associate professor at the University of British Columbia where she specializes in sarcoma and peritoneal malignancies. She co-directs the BC Peritoneal Malignancy Program with Dr. Trevor Hamilton and together they coordinate surgical care for patients with peritoneal malignancies from B.C. and Yukon. Her academic interests centre on mitigating the environmental harms of health services delivery. To that end, she is the principal investigator of the UBC Planetary Healthcare Lab, the Medical Director of Planetary Health for Vancouver Coastal Health, and co-chair of the UBC/Yale-led Lancet Commission on sustainable healthcare.

DR. SITA OLLEK



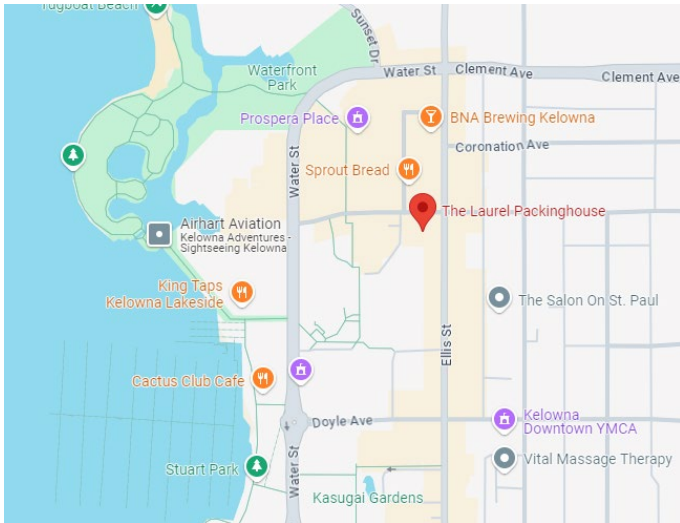
Dr. Ollek is a Surgical Oncologist and General Surgeon in Kelowna. She completed general surgery residency at the University of Saskatchewan followed by a fellowship in complex general surgical oncology at the University of British Columbia. Her clinical interests include melanoma, breast cancer, sarcoma and GI malignancies. She is the Sarcoma Surgical Tumor Group Chair for the province and Co-chair of the Interior Health Breast Tumor group. She has an interest in quality improvement and current research interests include evaluating patient satisfaction and experience after breast cancer surgery, and examining delays in care faced by patients with retroperitoneal sarcoma in the province.

DR. MICHAEL HUMPHREYS



Dr. Humphreys is a Medical Oncologist at BC Cancer Vernon, and a Clinical Instructor at the University of British Columbia. He completed his medical degree at the University of Toronto, and his fellowship at the Cross Cancer Institute at the University of Alberta. Dr. Humphreys practices in a community based oncology setting treating multiple sites (Breast, GU, Lung and Melanoma). He has a special interest in immunotherapy and developed and initiated an immunotherapy program and protocols for outpatient immuno-oncology delivery in Vernon in 2012. Outside of work Dr. Humphreys is busy coaching his youngest son's Vernon United club soccer team, supporting all 5 kids playing soccer, skiing/snowboarding, volleyball, musical instruments, and enjoys getting out into nature for an alpine hike or mountain bike.

LOCATION



IN PERSON

Laurel Packinghouse
1304 Ellis St.
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 1Z9

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Heather Stuart, Chair – Continuing Professional Development and Knowledge Transfer Committee (CPD-KT), BC Cancer Surgery Network

Dr. Sita Ollek, Member - CPD-KT Committee, BC Cancer Surgery Network

Dr. Mohammadali Sohrab Khorasani, Member - CPD-KT Committee, BC Cancer Surgery Network

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