

Event Details & Agenda

Friday May 24, 2024 @ 9:00am-12:15pm
Collaborative Health Education Building, Room C170
Dalhousie University

9:00am - Welcome

Insights and challenges that come with an ovarian cancer diagnosis

9:05am - Bridging the Gap live panel

Morgan Pugh-Toole, Rebekah Kukurudz-Gorowski & Members of Ovarian Cancer Canada's Patient Partners in Research Program

9:30am - Equity issues in ovarian cancer care

Dr. Robin Urquhart

The building blocks of research: the importance of knowing your audience and current research models

9:55am - Striking a balance: redefining the importance of scientific accuracy when engaging with mixed audiences

Ally Farrell & Members of Ovarian Cancer Canada's Patient Partners in Research Program

10:20am - Ovarian cancer research models

Dr. Jim Petrik

10:45am - HEALTH BREAK

Leveraging ovarian cancer biology to develop novel therapeutic strategies

10:55am - PARP inhibitors in ovarian cancer

Dr. Yvette Drew

10:55am - The biology and promise of immune therapy in ovarian cancer

Dr. Jeanette Boudreau

Careers in ovarian cancer research - the journey to becoming a PI

11:45am - The journey to becoming a PI

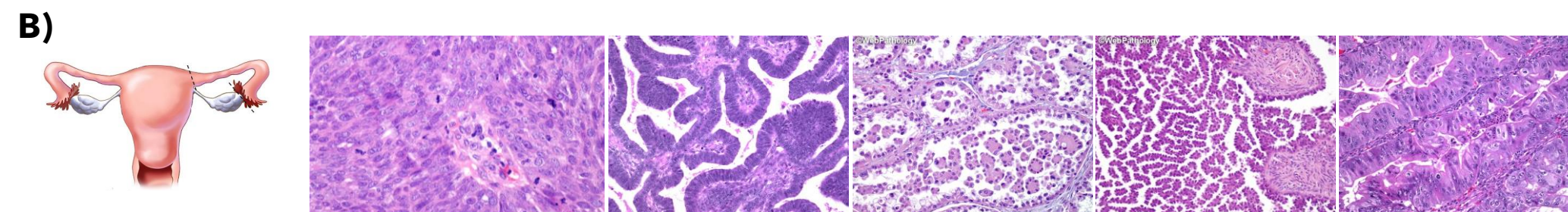
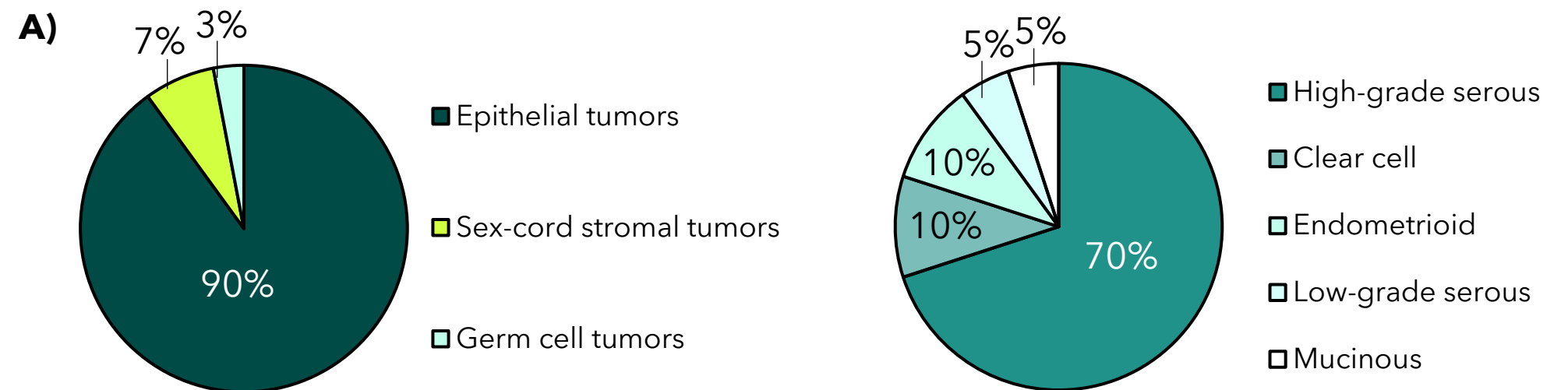
Dr. David Cook

12:10pm - Closing remarks

Contact: afarrell@ovariancanada.org

Dropbox: Full-text PDFs of all cited articles can be found [here](#)

The basics: ovarian cancer is not one disease. Ovarian cancer represents several distinct types of tumours, as summarized in (A). Key characteristics of the major types of malignant epithelial tumours ("carcinoma") are shown in (B).



	High-grade serous	Endometrioid	Clear cell	Low-grade serous	Mucinous
Origin	Fallopian tube (majority); ovary (minority)	Endometriosis	Endometriosis	Ovary or fallopian tube	Unknown
Precursor lesions	Serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma	Endometrioid borderline tumour	Clear cell borderline tumour	Serous borderline tumour	Mucinous borderline tumour
Inherited syndromes/genetic risk	BRCA1/2, Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer	Lynch Syndrome	Lynch Syndrome	Unknown	Unknown
Typical stage of diagnosis	Late (III/IV)	Early (I/II)	Early (I/II)	Late (II-IV)	Early (I/II)
Response to chemotherapy	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor
Overall prognosis	Poor (80-90% will die; median survival ~4 years)	Good	Poor	Short-term: good Long-term: poor	Mixed

Ovarian cancer pathobiology & genomics

REQUIRED READING: Köbel et al. The Evolution of Ovarian Carcinoma Subclassification. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2022;14(2):416. PMID: [35053578](#)

Bowtell et al. Rethinking ovarian cancer II: reducing mortality from high-grade serous ovarian cancer. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2015; 15(11): 668-79. PMID: [26493647](#)

Slomovitz et al. Low-grade serous ovarian cancer: State of the science. *Gynecol Oncol*. 2020;156(3):715-725. PMID: [31969252](#)

Cochrane et al. Clear cell and endometrioid carcinomas: are their differences attributable to distinct cells of origin? *J Pathol*. 2017; 243(1):26-36. PMID: [28678427](#).

Färkkilä et al. Pathogenesis and treatment of adult-type granulosa cell tumor of the ovary. *Ann Med*. 2017; 49(5):435-447. PMID: [28276867](#)

Tischkowitz et al. Small-Cell Carcinoma of the Ovary, Hypercalcemic Type- Genetics, New Treatment Targets, and Current Management Guidelines. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2020; 26(15):3908. PMID: [32156746](#)

VIDEO: GCI Research Rounds - "Ovarian cancer subtypes reframed as distinct oncogenic journeys: A post-genomic approach to research" presented by Dr. David Huntsman, MD. [[link here](#)].

Established and emerging treatment options

DiSilvestro et al. Maintenance Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Advanced Ovarian Cancer: Time for a Paradigm Shift? *Cancers (Basel)*. 2021; 13(22):5756. PMID: [34830911](#)

Konstantinopoulos et al. PARP Inhibitors for Ovarian Cancer: Current Indications, Future Combinations, and Novel Assets in Development to Target DNA Damage Repair. *ASCO Educational Book 40* (April 30, 2020) e116-e131. PMID: [32364757](#)

Leary A, Tan D, Ledermann J. Immune checkpoint inhibitors in ovarian cancer: where do we stand? *Ther Adv Med Oncol*. 2021; 13: 17588359211039899. PMID: [34422119](#)

Kasherman et al. Angiogenesis: A Pivotal Therapeutic Target in the Drug Development of Gynecologic Cancers. *Cancers* 2022, 14(5), 1122; PMID: [35267430](#)

Moujaber et al. New therapeutic opportunities for women with low-grade serous ovarian cancer. *Endocr Relat Cancer*. 2021;29(1):R1-R16. PMID: [34636747](#).

Pugh-Toole et al. Natural Killer Cells: the Missing Link in Effective Treatment for High-Grade Serous Ovarian Carcinoma. *Curr. Treat. Options in Oncol*. 23, 210-226 (2022). PMID: [35192139](#)

Ovarian cancer prevention

Finch et al. Impact of oophorectomy on cancer incidence and mortality in women with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014;32(15):1547-53. PMID: [24567435](#)

Hanley et al. Outcomes From Opportunistic Salpingectomy for Ovarian Cancer Prevention. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2022; 5(2):e2147343; PMID: [35138400](#)

Temkin et al. Ovarian Cancer Prevention in High-risk Women. *Clin Obstet Gynecol*. 2017; 60(4):738-757. PMID: [28957949](#)

VIDEO: GCI Research Rounds - "Hereditary Gynecologic Cancers: Testing, Prevention and Management" presented by Dr. Lesa Dawson [[link](#)].

Experimental models: the tools of discovery

Sauriol et al. Modeling the Diversity of Epithelial Ovarian Cancer through Ten Novel Well Characterized Cell Lines Covering Multiple Subtypes of the Disease. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2020;12(8):2222. PMID: [32784519](#)

Yee et al. Three-Dimensional Modelling of Ovarian Cancer: From Cell Lines to Organoids for Discovery and Personalized Medicine. *Front Bioeng Biotechnol*. 2022;10:836984. PMID: [35223797](#)

Dorrigiv et al. Microdissected Tissue vs Tissue Slices-A Comparative Study of Tumor Explant Models Cultured On-Chip and Off-Chip. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2021;13(16):4208. PMID: [34439362](#)

Kopper et al. An organoid platform for ovarian cancer captures intra- and interpatient heterogeneity. *Nat Med*. 2019;25(5):838-849. PMID: [31011202](#)

McCloskey et al. Ovarian Cancer Immunotherapy: Preclinical Models and Emerging Therapeutics. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2018;10(8):244. PMID: [30049987](#)



Our philosophy & mission

Women living with ovarian cancer are integrated throughout all aspects of OCC/OvCAN, keeping the voice of those with lived experience at the forefront. This patient-centered approach prioritizes research that patients and their loved ones deem relevant and meaningful. Engaging ovarian cancer patients (and their loved ones) as partners in research reflects our philosophy that scientific and clinical inquiry can be enhanced by valuing and uplifting the unique perspectives of those affected by this disease. The role of the PPiR program is to complement and maximize the impact of research being done by OCC/OvCAN-supported scientists.

Our team

Our PPiR team is the largest in Canada, currently consisting of 23 women from seven provinces; all but one of the members have been personally diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The team is co-led by two ovarian cancer survivors (currently Donna Pepin and Shannon Kadar). The full PPiR team attends monthly meetings, where they hear from scientific experts, participate in ongoing education and prepare for engagement opportunities.

Examples of patient partner activities

- ✓ Collaborated with researchers and staff to advocate for ovarian cancer research funding, resulting in the \$10M federal investment to OCC for OvCAN
- ✓ Inclusion of 17 patient reviewers on international review panels tasked with awarding OvCAN grants
- ✓ Participated as reviewers for 21/22 Anita Unruh competition
- ✓ Participation of 10 patient partners in interactive sessions with research trainees at the virtual CCOCR in May 2021
- ✓ Participation of 11 patient partners as panelists at national Ovarian Cancer Canada symposia to date
- ✓ Embedding of 6 patient partners as team members on OvCAN-funded clinical trials
- ✓ Consultation on funding proposals, patient surveys and educational tools under development
- ✓ Participation in collaborative research grants with OCC and external partners
- ✓ Participation in OvCAN Bridging the Gap session with clinical trial team members
- ✓ Speaking about the benefits/challenges of patient engagement in research at an international conference

Publications & presentations

Baugh et al. Advocacy in Action: Leveraging the Power of Patient Voices to Impact Ovarian Cancer Outcomes in Canada. *Curr. Oncol.* 2022, 29(2), 1252-1261; PMID: [35200605](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35200605/)

Tone et al. Understanding the Experience of Canadian Women Living with Ovarian Cancer through the Every Woman Study. *Curr. Oncol.* 2022, 29(5), 3318-3340; [[link](#)]

VIDEO: OCC's Fall Symposium: "The power of genetics: What it means to you and your family." November 6, 2021. [[here](#)]

VIDEO: OCC's World Ovarian Cancer Day Symposium: "Meet the OvCAN Patient Partners in Research." May 8, 2021. [[here](#)]

Let's connect: Bridging the Gap

We are looking to meet with interested clinical and pre-clinical/translational research teams, to create connections between the scientific and patient community. These connections are mutually beneficial, leading to an improved understanding of each unique perspective and new sources of hope and motivation.

Session details:

- 45-60 mins, via Zoom
- Introduction by research team and 2-3 patient partners
- Mutual Q&A

Please contact atone@ovariancanada.org if you are interested in meeting with our team!