

ACD Program

- Design workshops occurred in August and September to build out the specific functions of the ACD Program. These functions are being tested with users to ensure they are meeting the needs of Primary Care, populations identified in our initial engagement, and the health system. This process, known as prototype testing, will occur until November. Results will be incorporated into the ACD Program.
- The Evaluation Sub-Working Group has developed two frameworks to evaluate 1) Implementation of the ACD Program 2) Engagement and design of the ACD Program.
- The CSCN is collaborating with Dr. Lee Green to understand how Primary Care and allied health professions approach the cognitive work, or mental models, to diagnose cancer. To date, six interviews have been completed. If you are a Primary Care physician and are interested in participating, please contact Lynn Toon at toon@ualberta.ca.
- Abstracts summarizing findings from the engagement with older adults will be presented at the International Psychosocial Oncology Society conference and in the Journal of Geriatric Oncology. The ACD Program design principles were presented at the Caregivers Alberta Virtual Conference.

Lymphoma and Colorectal Cancer Diagnosis Pathway

- The Lymphoma Diagnosis Pathway has been completed and successfully transitioned to operations to continue in perpetuity. The High-Risk Rectal Bleeding and Iron Deficiency Anemia Pathways have been completed and successfully transitioned to operations in Edmonton and Calgary to continue in perpetuity.
- Final reporting has been submitted and approved by the funding partners, Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services, as part of the Health Innovation, Implementation and Spread Fund.
- The CSCN will continue working with the operational leaders on an ongoing basis to support data collection, analysis, and tweaks to the pathway going forward.

Cancer Unknown Primary Diagnosis Pathway

- The CUP Pathway Working Group has developed the initial draft of the pathway structure and eligibility criteria.
- Working Group meetings will be paused during November as Connect Care rolls out across Cancer Care Alberta; however, the CSCN will continue work on refining the pathway, developing the algorithm, and drafting the evaluation framework and metrics.

Head and Neck Cancer Diagnosis Pathway

- The Head and Neck Diagnosis Pathway Working Group has formalized its membership, which includes dentists and dental specialists, patient representatives, oncologists, family physicians, surgeons, and otolaryngologists. It is developing the initial draft of the pathway structure and eligibility criteria.

CSCN Research

- The CSCN partnered with the Alberta Registered Nurses Educational Trust (ARNET) to understand the perspectives of patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer in emergency departments and hospitals (Rockyview Hospital).
 - ARNET funding provides research support for Alberta's registered nurses and nurse practitioners. The CSCN is pleased to support that goal.
- Dr. Carla Prado was awarded a CSCN grant to study the importance of muscle mass for cancer patients. Her team published "The High Protein Cookbook for Muscle during Cancer Treatment". More than 1,000 printed copies have been distributed to oncology dietitians across Alberta, not-for-profit cancer support centres, and other stakeholders. The book is also available online free of charge at the [University of Alberta Library](#). The CSCN is pleased to recognize this very tangible example of translating nutrition research into a practical and accessible resource for oncology healthcare providers and patients.
- Dr. Sangjune Laurence Lee completed his CSCN-funded project to compare overall survival of patients who have their esophageal cancer treated with trimodal therapy or chemoradiotherapy. No difference in overall survival was detected between the two treatments.
- The AHS Research Challenge ~ Best Care through Research is a capacity building program for front-line healthcare providers. Successful teams are paired with an academic mentor and receive education and funding to complete small, clinically relevant research projects. This AHS initiative is designed to encourage and support inquiry, with the ultimate goal of enhancing care.
- The CSCN is participating in national discussions to advance recommendations made for cancer-related health services and policy research (HSPR) in Canada: "[Recommendations to Guide Implementation Planning for Cancer Health Services and Policy Research in Canada](#)".
- The CSCN is working to identify the strengths and assets within rural/remote and newcomer-dense communities that contribute to improved cancer diagnosis outcomes. Clinical decision support tools and educational materials will be co-developed with Primary Care providers to enable better patient experiences.