

Cancer SCN – 2017 Seed Grant Project Outcomes

Defining Energy Requirements during Cancer Trajectory; Dr. Prado, University of Alberta.

The objective of the project was to characterize energy needs of patients with colorectal cancer and colorectal cancer survivors to inform nutrition interventions and guidelines using state-of-the-art techniques. Findings allowed the validation of a novel, practical, and cost-effective tool proposed to be useful in oncology settings to estimate patient's energy needs. The project contributed to better understanding of nutrition requirements of patients with cancer, which can alleviate symptom burden, improve health across the cancer continuum and support cancer survivorship. A video related to the project can be found here: https://youtu.be/pDSX_jaDCDM

Test of cure: Use of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing to optimize the cervical cancer screening clinical pathway post-treatment; Drs. Kopciuk and Yang, University of Calgary.

The objective of the research project was to fill in the evidence gaps necessary for Alberta to consider adopting HPV co-testing into the cervical intraepithelial neoplasia post-treatment pathway. The study team worked in collaboration with the Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program, the Provincial Colposcopy Quality Improvement Committee, provincial colposcopists, the Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund, laboratory pathologists and primary care practitioners to identify, develop and deploy revised pathways for optimal patient care following colposcopy treatment.

Surgical Decision Making in the Management of Metastatic Bone Disease: Matching Patient Expectations with Surgical Goals; Dr. Monument, University of Calgary. This project focused on understanding how surgical-decision making for patients with metastatic bone disease (MBD) can be optimized and aligned with patient-focused goals and expectations. The project was a patient-engagement research initiative and involved partnerships with the Alberta SPOR Unit and W21C (University of Calgary). Findings supported the effective alignment of surgical treatment strategies with patient goals and expectations by highlighting the importance of multidisciplinary discussions of MBD cases, and the need for improved discussions about treatment plans, and enhanced patient education.

Feasibility of Guiding Systemic Therapy for Colorectal Cancer based on Response-Associated Changes in Circulating Metabolites; Dr. Bathe, University of Calgary. The objective of the project was to develop a new diagnostic blood test that allowed oncologists to tailor therapy in colorectal cancer using a biomarker that identifies changes in the levels of metabolites that occur with effective chemotherapy. The team has identified unique changes in blood metabolites that appear in individuals that are not benefiting from chemotherapy in less than four weeks after starting chemotherapy. This biomarker represents an improvement upon current radiographic methods assessing response to treatment by rapidly identifying who is or is not benefiting and responding to chemotherapy, before severe toxicities occur.

