



*In Review: the latest news, views and announcements*

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**Occupational  
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Medical Oncologists**

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## **Re-envisioning Our Future**

Now more than ever, medical oncologists face new and pressing challenges in delivering cancer services to meet the growing needs of cancer patients across the country. Since CAMO was originally founded in 1990 the landscape of cancer care in Canada, and around the world, has changed dramatically, creating both new opportunities and challenges. CAMO is committed to engaging its members to determine how best to meet their evolving needs.

As a first step, the CAMO executive has worked on updating our Vision, Mission, and Value (MVV) statements to help shape the organization's strategic direction. We want to clearly define for ourselves, and communicate to others, why CAMO exists (mission), where the organization is going (vision) and what it stands for (values). This spring, leading up to the annual general meeting on April 22nd, I invite you to share your thoughts about the future of our professional organization.

Please use this [link](#) to share your feedback on the updated mission, vision, value statements.

With the expansion of CAMO's organization structure (from two to six committees, with new committees in four key areas of membership, communication, advocacy and human resources) our updated MVV will serve to guide major decisions including which new programs and projects to undertake. Our intent is to be inclusive and transparent, both in our processes and our services, such that all members are supported by a strong network of resources.

Desiree Hao (AB)  
CAMO President



# CAMO to Launch New Mentorship Program

As recent graduates, CAMO members Drs. Andrea Fung (Queen's) and Maclean Thiessen (Manitoba) understand firsthand the value of mentorship through training and in the transition to junior faculty. To share their passion for education and mentorship, Drs. Thiessen and Fung were eager to join CAMO's newest initiative for trainees. Slated to launch later this summer, CAMO will pilot a new national, virtual, mentorship program open to medical oncology residents and fellows training in Canada.

Mentorship has been cited as an important factor in career advancement, productivity, and personal growth, and has been proposed as a possible protective strategy against burnout. Mentorship may also impact on a physician's professional identity and aid in maintaining physician wellness. Interest in a national, virtual mentorship program was high in a two-part needs assessment sent to both Canadian Medical Oncology Training Program Directors and medical oncology trainees. Trainees expressed interest in both group and one-on-one mentorship, and most respondents wanted to address topics such as fellowship options, career planning, research opportunities, financial planning, and physician wellness.

The current pandemic has taught us all to adapt to the virtual environment. In these times the need for mentorship and support is even more important, thus CAMO embraced the opportunity to create a national network of mentors for virtual mentoring.

## Membership Benefits

Did you know CAMO members are entitled to:

- Reduced Annual Meeting registration fee
- Opportunities for research fellowships
- A discounted membership fee to the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)
- Apply for support for regional oncology endeavours
- Streamlined accreditation of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events towards fulfilling the Royal College Maintenance of Certification Program
- A 15% discount on article processing charges to publish in Current Oncology. For the discount code and detailed instructions, please contact the CAMO office at [info@camo-acom.ca](mailto:info@camo-acom.ca)

Becoming a CAMO member is

- An investment in your career and supports your profession
- Connects you with a national network of your peers
- A chance to shape the future of your profession / organization by participating in committees
- Supporting the Medical Oncology Royal College training program through representation on Specialty Committees

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Stay connected.

Did you know you can save  
5% or 10% off

your CAMO membership by  
renewing for a 3- or 5-year term?

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW TODAY!](#)

# Thank you from CAMO's 2020 Fellowship Recipient

I am exceedingly grateful to have received the CAMO 2020 Fellowship award, which has allowed me to pursue additional research training at the University of California San Francisco. I am excited to pursue a career as a clinician scientist, and funding from the CAMO Fellowship award has been integral to my training. Since starting my fellowship, I have had the opportunity to work with various GI Oncology thought leaders, and have also gained hands-on experience designing and running clinical trials. We are also in the process of starting to recruit patients for one of my primary projects studying the role of ctDNA in patients with pancreas cancer. I am most thankful for this unique and exceptional opportunity that the CAMO Fellowship award has allowed me to pursue!

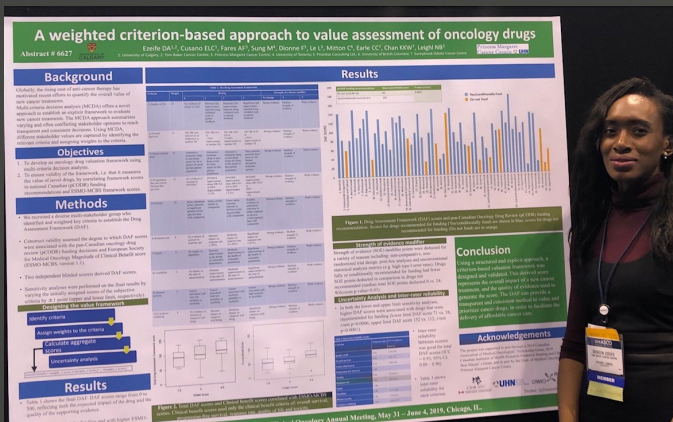
Erica Tsang

CAMO 2020 Fellowship Recipient



## The Legacy of a CAMO Fellowship

We caught up with Dr. Doreen Ezeife, 2017 CAMO Fellowship Recipient to hear her thoughts on how the CAMO Fellowship funding helped her. Dr. Ezeife pursued her fellowship training with Dr. Natasha Leighl at the Princess Margaret Hospital. She shared how the CAMO funding "was instrumental in providing opportunities for me to develop and build connections with researchers nationally and internationally, that I can continue to collaborate with." Dr. Ezeife's health services research project entitled, "A weighted criterion-based approach to value assessment of oncology drugs" was presented at ASCO 2019 and has subsequently published (Cancer 2020 Apr 1;126(7):1530-1540). Dr. Leighl adds, "The CAMO Fellowship is an incredible opportunity to highlight and support rising stars in our academic oncology community." After finishing her graduate studies and fellowship training, Dr. Ezeife returned home to Alberta where she recently took on the role of Provincial Lung Tumour Group Lead. "The CAMO fellowship was the catalyst in nurturing my research career, which continues to grow. I would encourage all residents to apply!"



## Every Gift Counts

CAMO has always been able to count on its members to support the work of our organization in many ways. One of the most enduring contributions has been supporting of the Fellowship fund for medical oncology trainees. Dr. Susan Ellard (BC), a longstanding donor, was recently interviewed about her motivation for supporting CAMO's Fellowship fund. "I have always so enjoyed the chance each year to mingle with colleagues at the CAMO meeting, and to be inspired by the diverse interests and abilities of both established colleagues and trainees. We have all been those trainees once, and I can't think of a better way to practically give back some help, encouragement, inspiration and opportunity to our medical oncology youth". She reflected on her own experience of having received Fellowship funding (from the Canadian Cancer Society), and the opportunities it provided. As there are fewer funding sources now, Dr. Ellard enthusiastically reminds us that, "A little bit from a lot of us would go a long way!"

Consider donating to CAMO's Fellowship fund to help ensure ongoing support for medical oncologists of the future.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!](#)

# Global Oncology

Global oncology is an emerging specialty at the intersection of global health and cancer care aimed at improving disparity in cancer outcomes between high income countries (HIC) and low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Every year, approximately 10 million people die of cancer globally and over 70% of those deaths happen in LMICs, mostly due to preventable socioeconomic determinants of health and lack of access to care. The United Nations passed 17 interlinked goals in its “Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030” which provides a “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity” on our planet and to which all its member states have committed. However, equitable access to basic health care and closing this gap between HICs and LMICs are imperative to achieve such goals.

Canadian oncologists have over the years been crucial in improving lives of cancer patients around the world. As a national professional organization, CAMO could play a more intentional role in consolidating such efforts by advocating for more of such endeavors at the national level, developing direct relationships with cancer organizations in LMICs, and partnering with international organizations. For example, the American Society of Clinical Oncology has a well-established international outreach program that funds the “International Development and Education Award (IDEA)” which matches international oncologists with North American mentors and funds a short visit to the mentor’s institute. Having had the opportunity to be involved closely with IDEA and similar efforts over the years, I can attest to how such experiences bring knowledge, resources, and mentorship to the doorsteps of cancer institutions in both HICs and LMICs. Working in such a symbiotic relationship can help fill gaps in knowledge and experience which are unique between and among HICs and LMICs.

Saroj Nirula (MB)  
Member, Advocacy Committee

## Did you know?

Occupational diseases, including cancers, are under recognized and under reported. As a result, compensation to patients with work-related cancers is not as common as it should be. In 2020, the Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC) in Ontario released a comprehensive report, “Using Scientific Evidence and Principles to Help Determine the Work-Relatedness of Cancer,” which reviews the topic in detail. If you have questions regarding occupational cancers in your patients, the report is available on line. [Click here](#) to view.

Christopher Lee (BC)  
Member, HR Committee

**REGISTER  
NOW**

# 2021 CAMO Virtual Annual Scientific Meeting

**Residents Research Day: April 1**  
**AGM & ASM: April 22**



CAMO Annual Scientific Meeting is going VIRTUAL!