



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

## *In This Issue*

### **CAMO Responds to COVID19**

### **CAMO's 30th Anniversary**

### **Annual General Meeting & Annual Scientific Meeting**

### **Canadian Association of Medical Oncologists**

p. 613-415-6033

e. [info@camo-acom.ca](mailto:info@camo-acom.ca)

w. [www.camo-acom.ca](http://www.camo-acom.ca)

a: 1309 Carling Ave, PO Box 35164 Westgate

Ottawa, ON K1Z 1A2

## **CAMO Responds to COVID19**

The past few months have been described as "unprecedented times" which have tested our patience, perseverance, flexibility and ability to adapt. Bravo to the medical oncologists across the country who have bravely stood alongside their patients/families and colleagues to ensure critical cancer care could continue safely wherever possible.

Led by CAMO's Vice-President, Dr. Sharlene Gill, CAMO conducted two surveys to better understand the concerns and challenges across the country as the COVID19 pandemic unfolded. We heard our members share their concerns about access to PPE, their fears of contracting COVID19 and passing it onto patients and/or families as well as their response to changing health care needs by rapidly adopting virtual care. Changing attitudes over time were evident in responses to the second CAMO survey, 6 weeks later, which demonstrated universal PPE adoption, decreased concern about PPE access, continued use of virtual care and improved levels of anxiety although personal and mental wellness remained a significant concern as medical oncologists adapted to a new normal. In the coming weeks, we will need to reflect on lessons learned through the last several months in preparation for the anticipated second wave. See full details of both survey results on our [CAMO COVID19 resources page](#).

# 30th Anniversary

CAMO marked its 30th anniversary quietly with a brief statement to commemorate the occasion at our virtual Annual General Meeting. Nevertheless, this year remains an important milestone for our organization and an opportunity to reflect on where we have been and where we hope to go. Over the course of the next year, your CAMO executive will work on re-envisioning how CAMO could better serve its members starting with an update of our Vision, Mission, and Value statements. We invite all of you to participate in this process. Write to us with your ideas, suggestions, feedback on how we could serve you better.

New this coming year will be an expansion of our Membership, Communications and Advocacy committees. We invite you to be a part of the change. To volunteer for CAMO, [update your membership profile](#) with your interests or email us at: [info@camo-acom.ca](mailto:info@camo-acom.ca).

Lastly, we also want to mark our milestone anniversary by recognizing the dedication of our members in educating/mentoring oncologists of the future. Stay tuned for more information on how to nominate your peers/colleagues for CAMO's 30th anniversary commemorative Educational Excellence and Mentorship Awards.

## 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!](#)



## Human Resources

Last year, CAMO re-established its Human Resources Committee. The committee's first task has been to examine the current landscape of the medical oncology workforce across the country as well as where systemic therapy is delivered. Your HR Committee members are: Dr. Chris Lee (BC); Dr. Steven Yip (AB); Dr. Tehmina Asif (SK), Dr. MacLean Theissen (MB); Drs. Neil Reaume, Michaela Mates, Suneil Khanna (ON); Dr. Renaud Whittom (PQ); Dr. Renee Lester (NL); Dr. Phil Champion (PEI); Dr. Tony Reiman (NB); Dr. Bruce Colwell (NS). and Dr. Desiree Hao (Chair).

# ASM Goes Virtual



One of the CAMO's strengths and highlights is its annual scientific meeting (ASM), which this year unfortunately had to be cancelled due to COVID19. Our co-chairs, Drs. Erin Powell & Jonathan Loree nevertheless adapted quickly and CAMO hosted its first virtual meeting via ZOOM. With more than 90 registrants, the virtual meeting was a huge success! The virtual ASM showcased oral presentations of the top 11 abstracts submitted to CAMO. Congratulations to all presenters for their hard work and their research supervisors for their guidance!

**Special thanks to our aforementioned co-chairs and judges: Dr. Osama Ahmed (SK), Dr. Caroline Hamm (ON), Dr. Flávia De Angelis (PQ), Dr. James Michael (NS).**

Awards were presented for the top three oral presentations:

**First Place:** Dr. Daniel Breadner, University of Western Ontario, *Exploitation of treatment induced tumour lysis to enhance sensitivity of ctDNA analysis: a first in human pilot study.*

**Second Place:** Dr. Maisam Makarem, University of Toronto, *Population-based ROS1 testing in advanced NSCLC.*

**Third Place:** Dr. Adam Fundytus, University of Calgary, *Trends in the Canadian medical oncology workforce and trainees 1990-2019.*

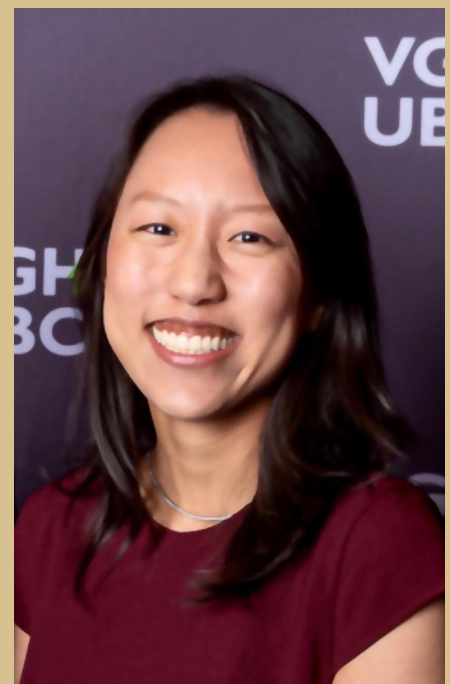
CAMO ASM Oral Abstract Award Recipients  
(top to bottom):  
D. Breadner, M. Makarem, A. Fundytus

## CAMO 2020 Fellowship Recipient

Congratulations to Dr. Erica Tsang who was awarded the 2020 CAMO Fellowship for her project proposal entitled "*Circulating Tumor DNA and Metabolic Imaging in Resectable and Borderline Resectable Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (DIRECT-PDAC)*" Dr. Tsang just completed her Medical Oncology residency at BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver and will be pursuing her Fellowship training at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). Thank you to the members of our Fellowship Committee: Dr. Bindi Dhesy-Thind (Chair), Dr. John Paul McGhie (BC), Dr. Christine Simmons (BC), Dr. David Dawe (MB) and Dr. Tina Hsu (ON).

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

**[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY!](#)**



# Meet your Executive

Welcome to the newest member of the CAMO Executive, Dr. Stephen Welch, Division Chair, Medical Oncology Associate Professor, Department of Oncology, Western University, London, ON, who takes over the role of Secretary/Treasurer.

Rounding out your CAMO Executive are:

**Vice-President:** Dr. Sharlene Gill, BC Cancer, Vancouver, University of British Columbia

**President:** Dr. Desiree Hao, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, University of Calgary

**Past-President:** Dr. Bruce Colwell, Dalhousie University.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Hal Hirte, MD, FRCP (C), Associate Professor, McMaster University, Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton, ON who steps down from the Executive after 8 years of service. Dr. Hirte is a longstanding CAMO member whose commitment and common-sense leadership has set CAMO on a path towards continued growth.



CAMO 2020-2022 Executive  
Left to right from top row - Dr. Stephen Welch, Dr. Sharlene Gill,  
Dr. Bruce Colwell, Dr. Desiree Hao, Dr. Hal Hirte

## SAVE THE DATE

See you at  
the CAMO 2021  
Annual Scientific Meeting  
Thursday, April 22 at the  
MaRS Centre, Toronto, ON

## Accreditation: a year in review

CAMO had a very successful first year as a Royal College Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provider. We accredited 10 programs/meetings. Thanks to the members of our CPD committee Dr. Ghazaleh Kazemi (Chair), Dr. Bruce Colwell (NS), Dr. Elie Kassouf (PQ), Dr. Kasia Jerzak (ON), Dr. Rashida Haq (ON), Dr. Kara Laing (Nfld) for their hard work in getting this initiative off the ground. Remember CAMO members receive a discount when accrediting their group learning events and self-assessment programs.