



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT &
MEDICAL EDUCATION

APPHON/ROHPPA Conference November 2, 3 & 4, 2023

Meet Your Presenters

Thursday, November 2, 2023

13:00 Sickle Cell – The Changing Landscape with Drs Vicky Price and Lisa Pinto

Dr. Vicky Price, MD, FRCPC is a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist and Department Head of Hematology/Oncology at the IWK Health Centre. She is also a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Dalhousie University. Vicky is the Pediatric Hematologist in the Sickle Cell Disease Clinic at the IWK Health Centre. She attended medical school and completed training in pediatrics at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. She completed a pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship, as well as a pediatric hemostasis fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. In 2014, Dr. Price completed a master's in health economics, policy, and management at the London School of Economics.

Dr. Lisa Pinto, MD, FRCPC is a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist at the Janeway Child Health and Rehabilitation Centre in St. John's NL. Dr. Pinto completed her medical degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland, prior to completing a residency in Pediatrics and subspecialty residency in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the University of Ottawa.

13:30 Benign Neutropenias with Dr. Valerie Bourque Riel

Dr. Valerie Bourque Riel has completed her bachelor in biomedical sciences and the University of Montreal. Has achieved her medical degree at the University of Montreal and her pediatric residency at the University of Sherbrooke. She is now doing her subspecialty at the IWK in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology. Main domains of interest for her research project and academic project; Patient education and coping mechanisms while receiving a life-threatening diagnosis and benign nononcologic febrile neutropenia.

14:15 Sickle Cell Pathways with Dr. Vicky Price

See bio above.

15:00 *Rare Blood and Interpretation of CBCs with Dr. Lisa Goodyear*

Dr. Lisa Goodyear, MD, FRCPC is a Pediatric Hematologist Oncologist at the Janeway Child Health and Rehabilitation Centre and a Clinical Assistant Professor (Pediatrics) with the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She completed her Medical School and Pediatrics training at Memorial University of Newfoundland and went on to complete her fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT at University of British Columbia.

15:45 *Palliative Care in Sickle Cell with Dr. Ashley Allen (Guest Speaker)*

Dr. Ashley Allen was born and raised just outside of Portland, Oregon. She majored in Biochemistry at the University of San Diego (2010), received a Master's of Science in Public Health at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (2015) and her MD at Mayo Medical School in Rochester, MN (2016). She trained in Internal Medicine-Pediatrics at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and then returned to North Carolina for fellowship in Hospice & Palliative Medicine at UNC - Chapel Hill. Dr. Allen has been at Duke University in Durham, NC since September 2022 seeing pediatric and adult patients in both the outpatient and inpatient settings, with a particular clinical focus on the adolescent and young adult (AYA) population. Her interest in Sickle Cell Disease began during fellowship, and since that time she has worked with colleagues across the country to develop an international working group with the goal to increase palliative care involvement in the care of patients with SCD. Other clinical and research interests include developing innovative models for outpatient palliative care, integration of palliative care for non-oncology populations, global health, and education. Outside of work she enjoys hiking, reading, swimming, and spending time with her family, including her two nearly perfect girls, Ava & Zoey.

Friday, November 3, 2023

08:45 *Cannabis Update with Dr. Bruce Crooks*

Dr. Bruce Crooks is a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist who came to the Maritimes twenty years ago. Originally from Yorkshire in the UK, he trained at Birmingham University Medical School, then completed specialty training in the Northeast of England. He was recruited to Halifax by virtue of a failed vacation and a Blackberry and is very happy here in Halifax. He has special interests in general pediatric oncology, neuro-oncology retinoblastoma, BMT, long-term follow up and histiocytic diseases, and currently heads up the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Subspecialty Residency Program, as well as being responsible for the hematology teaching during the undergraduate Med 1 Host Defense unit. When not working, he attempts to ride his bike - and has ridden across Canada three times on the National Kids Cancer Ride, raising over \$100,000 for education, research, and support for kids with cancer. Hope you enjoy the presentation!

09:30 COG Update with Dr. Craig Erker

Dr. Craig Erker is an assistant professor at the IWK in the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. In addition to medical and pediatric training, he completed a fellowship in pediatric neuro-oncology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre. Craig is the site Principal Investigator for the COG at the IWK. He enjoys the team at the IWK and any sunny days to play outside with his three kids.

10:30 Targeted Therapy in Hematologic Malignancies with Dr. Ketan Kulkarni

Dr. Ketan Kulkarni is currently a clinician researcher and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Pathology, Medicine, and Pharmacy in the division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology and Department of Pediatrics at the IWK Health Center. His main clinical interests are (i) leukemia (ii) clinical outcome and supportive care research in pediatric oncology and (iii) thrombosis in pediatric oncology and high-risk pediatric populations. Ketan's research interests align very closely with his clinical interests. With an overarching theme of supportive care and drug toxicity research in pediatric oncology, he is actively engaged in collaboration with basic and translational researchers to find innovative ways of improving the care of pediatric hematology oncology patients. Dr. Kulkarni's long-term goal is to integrate the use of advanced technologies to improve the treatment and supportive care of oncology patients. A specific focus of his work has been assessing the role of genome and microbiome in treatment related toxicities and outcomes in pediatric oncology patients.

11:00 Targeted Therapy in Neuro-Oncology with Tiffany Rent

Tiffany Rent is a nurse in the Hematology Oncology Clinic at the IWK. Since 2021, she has been working in the Targeted Therapy Family Care Coordinator role. Tiffany started her nursing career on the Hematology/Oncology/Nephrology inpatient unit at the IWK Health Center nineteen years ago. In 2006, she moved to Calgary where she tried out every job imaginable within the field of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nursing before finally getting homesick and moving back to the Maritimes with her family in 2021.

12:45 Patient and Health Care- Pre/Post Hemlibra with Amanda Bettle, Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Holly Paynter, Jennifer McNeely, Tristan McNeely, Declan McNeely, Deanna Jessome, Kevin Livingstone, and Lincoln Livingstone.

Attendees will hear from patients and their families about the impact of Hemlibra on their daily lives. Nursing staff from both home hospital, as well as the IWK will contribute aspects of the patients' treatments and care.

Amanda Bettle, PNP works as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the Hematology, Bleeding Disorder, Sickle Cell Disease clinics at IWK Health Centre. Amanda has worked with the Hematology/Oncology team since 2003. While working as an RN, Amanda obtained her Masters in Nursing Degree at Dalhousie University in Halifax in 2015. She continued her education and completed the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Toronto in 2021.

Holly Paynter, RN is the Nurse Coordinator in the Pediatric Day Unit (Oncology/Ambulatory Care) at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown, PEI. She attended the inaugural UPEI BScN program that began in 1992 and graduated as one of the first BScN students from UPEI in 1996. Holly has worked in Pediatrics for over twenty-six years. She is the current APPHON Advisory Council Chair, a member of the local chapter of the CVAA (Canadian Vascular Access Association), PALS Instructor/Instructor Trainer, EPEC Pediatrics Trainer and has many other "hats". She is newly married to her husband Chris and has a beautiful, blended family of four children. In her free time, she enjoys teaching Boxing and Rebound Fitness, as well as spending time with family and friends.

The McNeely Family (Guest Speakers) Jennifer and Donovan are the parents of Declan (11), Tristan (9) and Clara (13). Declan was diagnosed with Severe Hemophilia A when he was nine months old. Jennifer and Donovan were concerned about large unexplained bruises appearing on his body. Jennifer was immediately concerned about Hemophilia, as her maternal uncle, Garry, had Severe Hemophilia A. Jennifer's mother was tested prior to having children and was told she was not a carrier, so Hemophilia was not something Jennifer and Donovan thought about when having their own children. While Declan's diagnosis was not something they had ever even considered previously, it wasn't a complete shock due to the family history. Once the diagnosis was confirmed, Jennifer was tested for carrier status, which revealed she has Mild Hemophilia A, herself. Clara was then tested and diagnosed with Mild Hemophilia A when she was three years old. Tristan was diagnosed with Severe Hemophilia A, about 30 weeks into Jennifer's pregnancy, through amniocentesis. Hemophilia has had a huge impact on their lives, but you would never know it to see them. All three are extremely active and love soccer. Our summers revolve around the soccer field, and I wouldn't have it any other way!

The Jessome-Livingstone Family (Guest Speakers) Deanna and Kevin are the mother and father of Lincoln. They are from George's River, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Lincoln is two years and four months old. He was diagnosed with severe Type A Hemophilia when he was about six months of age. Deanna is an LPN working in Med/Surg at the Northside General Hospital. Kevin is an RN-Prescriber and the Clinical Nurse Lead for an urgent treatment center, ambulatory care, and inpatient unit at Victoria County Memorial Hospital. His hobbies include cars, motorcycles, snowmobiles, and snowboarding.

Lincoln was diagnosed with Severe Type A Hemophilia when he was about six months of age. He was always a busy boy and started trying to walk really young. We gave him this little plastic walker to try and help him learn and not long after we started to notice he was having bruising along his anterior costal margins. Just a little bit at first, but it just kept getting worse. There were also little bruises on his back that seemed a little worse than what they should be, and you could almost feel little hematomas in the middle of them. At first it seemed somewhat normal, and we didn't really have any prior toddler experiences to compare with, but it just kept seeming to get worse. We knew he played rough for his age, but we figured something might be up, so we brought him in to the hospital and had him checked. We ran some labs and some of his LFTs were elevated, and his PTT was elevated. Dr. DeClemente then made a referral to Hematology. He seemed to be healthy and normal otherwise, so we were just patiently waiting to hear back, but I knew in my gut something was up. Then about a day later he woke up with the mild size hematoma on the back of his hand. We still don't really know what caused the injury. Throughout the day the hematoma kept getting progressively bigger and was quite large by the next day. We

returned to the Emergency Room and were seen by Dr. Woodford. He contacted Hematology again and spoke with them and then an hour or two later we were on our way to the IWK Emergency Department.

When we arrived at the ER, we saw Dr. Villeneuve and he was given Factor 8, labs were run and Linc was admitted to Hematology. Over the next few days, we reviewed everything with the Hematology team. Initially seeing Dr. Villeneuve, and then seeing the Hematology team including Dr. Price and NP Amanda Bettle. He was given his diagnosis of Severe Type A Hemophilia, but we didn't know where it came from because there was no known history in our families and in Deanna's family where Hemophilia is an X recessive gene; ultimately, we ended up figuring out that it was because of a rare mutation. We reviewed some of the treatment options and decided to start him on Hemlibra or Emicizumab, which at the time, was a new treatment option approved by Canadian Blood Services. To qualify, he had to be a severe hemophiliac, which he was as his Factor 8 was under 1% and had to have no inhibitors, which was also the case. I believe he was one of the youngest patients at the IWK to be started on this medication at the time.

Hemlibra is very different than many of the former treatment options available because of the infrequency of the injections. He gets his injections every two weeks and they're given subcutaneously. This is very different than getting infusions every two days or even daily IV infusions, which a few months earlier probably would have been the case. So far, we've had really good luck with Hemlibra. He does find the injection a little painful, but within a few minutes he's back to playing like normal, and let me tell you, his normal is rough for a little boy. Like I said, he was walking at around six months, and he could ride a two-wheeler without training wheels since a year and ten months old. You just can't slow him down. We do try to make sure he wears protective gear and we only really had one event that was difficult to control bleeding. This was a mucosal bleeding to his gums from a trip and fall and I personally think it likely would have resolved if he had been a little older and could understand to not touch or lick the wound with his tongue.

Overall, I feel like things are going about as good as could be expected so far, given his diagnosis and level of play. We've received great care from the IWK and the Hematology team and are very thankful.

13:45 *Benign Lumps and Bumps, Red Flags and Case Studies with Dr. Meghan Pike*

Dr. Meghan Pike Dr. Meghan Pike joined the Department of Pediatrics at IWK Health/Dalhousie University as a Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist in July 2023. She completed her medical degree, pediatrics residency and subspecialty training at Dalhousie University. Dr. Pike's clinical practice will include subspecialty clinic coverage in solid tumour oncology. Her research interests include patient-reported outcome measures, and the impacts of cancer treatment on reproductive and menstrual health. She is a passionate advocate for menstrual equity and in 2021, she launched an app, called *WeThrive*, that can identify adolescents who have heavy menstrual bleeding. She was born and raised in Winnipeg, MB and over the last decade has made Nova Scotia her home. She is married to Keith, and they have a sweet pug named Luca. Dr. Pike is thrilled to be joining the IWK team to advance care of pediatric patients with cancer and blood disorders.

15:30 Guidelines Update & Silent Deactivation with Dr. Tamara MacDonald

Dr. Tamara MacDonald obtained her doctorate in pharmacy in 2003. She has been in the role of Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the IWK Health since 2004 and Guideline Development Coordinator for APPHON since 2008. In these roles, Dr. MacDonald has been instrumental in developing best practices for supportive management of children with cancer in the Atlantic Provinces. Tamara's research interests include improving supportive care to children with cancer and the relationship of chemotherapy, infectious complications, and the microbiome. Dr. MacDonald holds an appointment at Dalhousie University.

Saturday, November 4, 2023

09:00 Biosimilars with Dr. Bruce Colwell

Dr. Bruce Colwell received his BSc at Mount Allison University and his MD from Dalhousie University. After a rotating internship he worked for two years as a family doctor including being the first GPO in Nova Scotia. He then did a residency in Internal Medicine in Halifax and subspecialized in Medical Oncology at the University of Calgary. Since then, he has been an active member of the Division of Medical Oncology at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax. He is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine at Dalhousie University. He designed and initiated the Residency Training Program in Medical Oncology, staying on as program Director for thirteen years. He then spent eight years with the executive of CAMO, including two years as President. More recently, he has taken a provincial leadership role as Medical Director of Systemic Therapy for the Nova Scotia Cancer Care Program. He has maintained involvement in clinical research that has led to over fifty publications and continues to maintain one of the most active clinical practices in Halifax. He is Chair of the GI Luminal Tumor Site group, and a member of the Breast and Sarcoma Tumor Site groups. He is a member of NSH Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Committee and Chair of the Oncology Therapeutics Subcommittee. He has an interest in biosimilars, GI and breast cancers, and residency education. In his spare time, he tries to sleep.

09:30 Nursing and Shared Care Panel with Phyllis Branch, Amanda Lynk, Jill Mitchell, Holly Paynter & April Connolly

Group will include provincial and levels of care representation and discuss benefits/pitfalls of shared care for this patient population.

Phyllis Branch has been an Oncology Nurse since 1982. She has been working at Dr. Georges L. Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton in Oncology in some form or other, since 1995. Phyllis took on the role of Patient Navigator in 2010. Off and on since 1997, Phyllis occasionally works on the Pediatric Oncology Unit and has been a back up nurse for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the Dumont's *Camp Good Times* since 1998. Phyllis loves the kiddos

Amanda Lynk has worked in Pediatrics at Cape Breton Regional since she graduated in 2010 from CBU and has been working in the Pediatric Outpatient Clinic (minus two maternity leaves) for the past five years. We currently have two Registered Nurses working in the clinic full time. I have attended a few APPHON conferences. Amanda became certified in APHON's Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Provider course in 2011, and again in December 2022.

Jill Mitchell is a certified pediatric hematology oncology nurse (CPHON) and a certified chemotherapy & biotherapy instructor. She has over twenty years' experience working at the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre in Newfoundland caring for the pediatric hematology/oncology population. Jill is currently the NL Levels of Care Coordinator for APPHON/ROHPPA, as well as Newfoundland's first provincial Pediatric Hematology Nurse Coordinator. Jill's passion for pediatric nursing comes from her love of children and wanting to ensure they receive the best care possible. Jill believes, as nurses, we can empower, educate & bring a sense of understanding and peace during extremely difficult times.

Holly Paynter – see bio above.

April Connolly graduated from St. Francis Xavier University's nursing program in 2004. She started her nursing career at the IWK in Pediatric Oncology/Nephrology/Hematology as a bedside nurse. The minute she hit the floor; she knew this is where she was meant to be! Having only a year of experience under her belt, April ventured to Alberta for seven years, working in Pediatric Oncology at Alberta Children's Hospital. While in Alberta, she had the opportunity to work as a bedside nurse, as well as a Clinical Care Provider and a Family Care Coordinator. April and her family made the move back home to Nova Scotia in 2011, returning to the place where her career began. She has been a Family Care Coordinator at the IWK for the past eleven years. She enjoys camping with family and friends, ice cream and long walks on the beach.

10:30 *Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada with Biba Tinga*

Biba Tinga is the President and Executive Director of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada.

11:00 *Lifestyle Adjustments: A Clinical Practice Guideline for Pediatric Cancer Patients with Dr. Debbie Stavleu (Guest Speaker)*

Dr. Debbie Stavleu is a physician and PhD student in the Supportive Care group of Wim Tissing at the Princess Máxima Center, the Netherlands' national pediatric oncology center in Utrecht. She has completed four years of research on evidence-based guideline development in pediatric oncology. The clinical practice guideline that she will present today is one of five guidelines that she and the team has developed.