

University of Saskatchewan Senate

FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY:	Airini, Provost and Vice-President Academic
DATE OF MEETING:	April 20, 2024
SUBJECT:	Establishment of the Department of Oncology in the College of Medicine
PROPOSED MOTION:	That Senate confirm the establishment of the Department of Oncology in the College of Medicine; and that, with its establishment, the Division of Oncology be disestablished.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:

The Division of Oncology, a partnership between the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine (CoM) and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA), has been making significant contributions to the academic mission, within and beyond the CoM, for over 40 years. Given the recent establishment of Saskatchewan's first oncology residency program, the division is now eligible to become a department.

More than 5000 new cancer patients are diagnosed each year in Saskatchewan, and cancer remains the leading cause of death in Saskatchewan and Canada. The Division of Oncology's advancement of cancer care and research aligns with the University's commitment to [Inspired Communities](#), and the goal of [Amplifying Value](#) by improving the quality of life for people in Saskatchewan and beyond. Recognition of oncology as a department in its own right will strengthen the College of Medicine's partnership with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, align USask with the majority of Canadian medical schools, and assist with the recruitment and retention of high-caliber physicians and research scientists. These outcomes will contribute to the University's research strategy [Invigorate our Health Cluster](#) and the new signature area [Health and Wellness](#).

Elevating the oncology division to department status aligns with the College of Medicine's vision of "improving the health and well-being of the people of Saskatchewan and the world" and its strategic directions regarding research, education, and faculty engagement.

Oncology faculty (physicians, researchers and medical physicists) are, and will continue to be, salaried employees with the SCA who have academic appointments with the College of Medicine. Oncology has its own review committees (appointment and promotions) and representatives on the CoM Faculty Council. Establishing a department of oncology will serve to recognize oncology's faculty for their outstanding contributions to education and research, and enhance their engagement in the CoM's leadership and governance.

In addition to training postgraduate medical learners (residents) in the new medical oncology residency program, oncology faculty will continue to supervise residents in several other departments within the College of Medicine. The division is also planning to establish residency training programs in hematology, radiation oncology and gynecologic oncology. Beyond training undergraduate and postgraduate medical learners, oncology faculty provide training and supervision for undergraduate and graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows across multiple departments and colleges.

Oncology faculty are also very productive researchers. In the past four years, publications and citations within the division have increased significantly and research funding has nearly doubled, to just over \$6 million in 2022/2023. The division is home to the Cancer Cluster in the Academic Health Sciences Building: a collaborative research environment, providing researchers and learners from across the University with access to shared equipment and training in the use of that equipment.

Transitioning oncology to department status will have no financial implications for the University. Faculty will continue to be salaried employees of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) and operating costs will continue to be borne by the Cancer Agency. If the department grows over time and additional resources are required to support the academic mission, the CoM and SCA will jointly request additional funding from the Ministry of Health.

NEXT STEPS AND OUTCOMES:

This proposal has been led by Dr. Shahid Ahmed, Oncology Division Head and is fully supported by the leadership in the College of Medicine. The proposal to establish the Department of Oncology was approved by the College of Medicine's Faculty Council on September 27, 2023. Input was requested from the Academic Programs Committee and the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council on November 1 and November 22 (respectively). The motion to approve the establishment of the department (and the disestablishment of the division) was approved by University Council on January 25, 2024. The Board of Governors provided approval of the establishment of the Department of Oncology (and disestablishment of the division) on April 9, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Dean's Letter of Support
2. Proposal to Establish the Department of Oncology



Preston Smith, MD, MEd, CCFP, FCFP, CCPE
Dean
Box 19, Health Sciences Building, 107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon SK S7N 5E5 Canada
Telephone: 306-966-6149

October 2, 2023

As Dean of the College of Medicine, I am pleased to write to you to convey the college's absolute and unreserved support for the proposal to elevate the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology. As articulated in the attached proposal and several letters of support, the Division of Oncology makes invaluable contributions to the academic mission, within and beyond the College of Medicine, and is most deserving of this recognition.

Elevating the Division of Oncology to department status aligns with the College of Medicine's strategic priorities, including strengthening research capacity, delivering quality education, and engaging our comprehensive complement of faculty. Oncology faculty are active and productive researchers who advance interdisciplinary collaboration across the college and university. They share the College's commitment to training and developing learners across the continuum, including medical learners and those studying biomedical sciences. Establishing oncology as a department in its own right will serve to recognize its faculty for their contributions to research and education, and enhance their role in the formal leadership and governance of the College.

I wish to convey my most sincere thanks to Dr. Shahid Ahmed and his team for drafting the proposal before you, and to the many faculty and leaders who have formally and informally expressed their support for this proposal.

Kind regards,

Preston Smith, MD, MEd, CCFP, FCFP, CCPE
Dean

Proposal to Establish a Department of Oncology

Name of Department

The proposed name for the department is the Department of Oncology.

Academic Rationale

Terms of Reference

The Division of Oncology has been making significant contributions to the academic mission for over 40 years. In addition to being active researchers, its faculty train and supervise undergraduate medical students, postgraduate medical residents, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. With the introduction of Saskatchewan's first oncology residency program, the division is now eligible to become a department.

The new residency program in medical oncology is a collaboration between the College of Medicine (CoM), the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) and the Ministry of Health. Medical residents will complete two years of training, according to the requirements of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Residents will mentor and teach undergraduate medical students and will have dedicated time and faculty supervision to engage in research projects. The division is also planning to establish residency training programs in hematology, radiation oncology and gynecologic oncology. Having residency training programs in Saskatchewan means that more of our undergraduate medical students can complete their training in the province, increasing the likelihood that they will choose to live and practice in the province.

More than 5000 new cancer patients are diagnosed each year in Saskatchewan, and cancer remains the leading cause of death in Saskatchewan and Canada. The Division of Oncology's advancement of cancer care and research aligns with the University's commitment to [Inspired Communities](#), and the goal of [Amplifying Value](#) by improving the quality of life for people in Saskatchewan and beyond.

"Despite intensive worldwide research efforts (cancer) remains a devastating, often poorly treatable disease...establishing a home department will provide the much-needed focus to centralize all the efforts within our College and combat this deadly disease, right here in Saskatchewan" Dr. Franco Vizeacoumar, Senior Scientist, SCA, Associate Professor, Division of Oncology

Recognition of oncology as a department in its own right will strengthen the College of Medicine's partnership with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and assist with the recruitment and retention of high-caliber physicians and research scientists. These outcomes will contribute to the University's research strategy [Invigorate our Health Cluster](#) and the new signature area [Health and Wellness](#).

“The partnership between the SCA and the division of oncology has produced outstanding research but also is responsible for critical infrastructure available to all U of S researchers such as the Next Generation Sequencing Facility located in the Health Sciences Building. Moreover, initiatives such as the Saskatchewan Cancer Research Institute (SCRI) will strengthen the U of S as a powerhouse of Cancer research in Canada” Dr. David Blackburn, Professor and Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

“I firmly believe that the elevation of our Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology is a progressive move that aligns with our institution's commitment to exceptional patient care, research, and education. I urge you to consider this proposal seriously and support its implementation for the betterment of our institution and the communities we serve” Dr. Ayesha Bashir, Assistant Professor, Medical Oncology

Recruiting oncologists to Saskatchewan also aligns with the government's [Health Human Resources Action Plan](#) aimed at building a stronger more sustainable healthcare workforce.

“Saskatchewan, not unlike other provinces, is facing a human health resource crisis and establishing the division as a vibrant department would provide visibility and legitimacy to attract top caliber residents, physicians, and research scientists to train and work in Saskatchewan” Dr. Marilyn Baetz, Vice Dean of Faculty Engagement, College of Medicine

Elevating the division to department status aligns with the College of Medicine's strategic plan, particularly the following strategic directions: strengthen research capacity, quality education, and faculty engagement.

Strengthen Research Capacity

Research plays a critical role in the success of the College of Medicine, fostering academic growth and discovery among our faculty and students to create a foundation of new knowledge. For this reason, the college aims to “create an environment where research can excel.” The Division of Oncology contributes to this aim in many ways.

“The oncologists are deeply involved in research projects and have strong ties with the Department of Surgery. As a result, many medical students have had the opportunity to work with these experts and publish their first papers in the field. I have been particularly impressed with the level of scientific rigour and precision that they bring to their work, which has undoubtedly helped to advance our understanding of cancer and its treatment” Dr. Michael Moser, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, College of Medicine

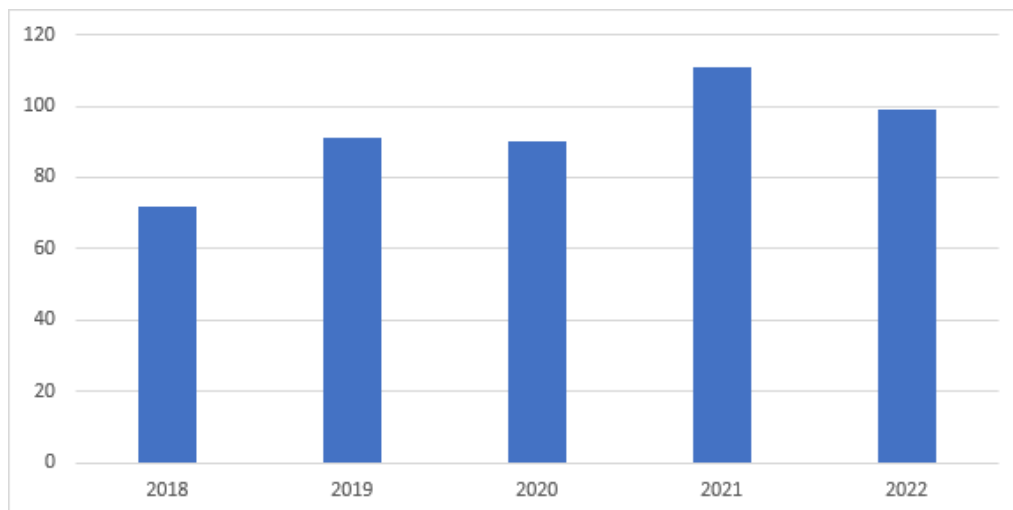
The division's researchers advance every one of the College's strategic goals regarding research:

- Recruit, support and retain excellent researchers and encourage and expand CoM interdisciplinary collaborations
- Encourage and expand collaborations - both interdisciplinary and college basic science/clinical
- Implement a strong biomedical science program that stimulates graduate student and faculty research programs
- Increase Tri-Agency and other prestigious national grant submissions, awards, and funding dollars

The oncology division is very successful in terms of research productivity. Compared to the CoM's 12 academic-clinical departments, the division's performance stands out across various productivity indicators. It has the highest proportion of research active faculty (i.e., faculty who have received research funding, or had a peer-reviewed publication or citation within the past 4 years). It is the second highest research funded unit in the CoM, second only to a department that has more than twice as many faculty, and has the highest average funding per research active faculty. Finally, the division has the third highest average research publication output, in spite of being compared with much larger departments with higher numbers of faculty contributors.

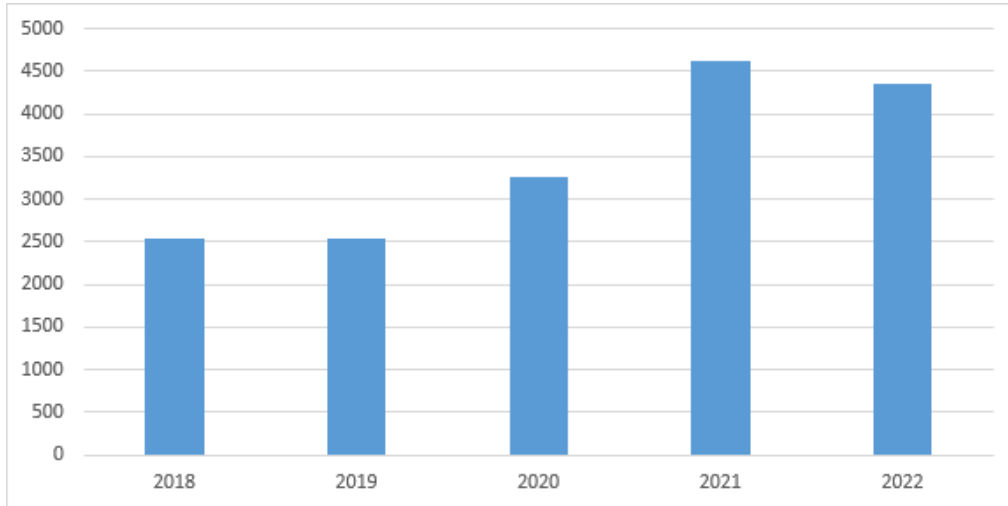
As noted in Figures 1 and 2 below, oncology's publications and citations have increased significantly in the past 4 years. See Appendix A for a list of selected 2022-2023 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters authored by oncology faculty and Appendix B for a list of selected 2022-2023 conference presentations and invited talks.

Figure 1. Peer Reviewed Publications



Source: Office of the Vice Dean Research, College of Medicine

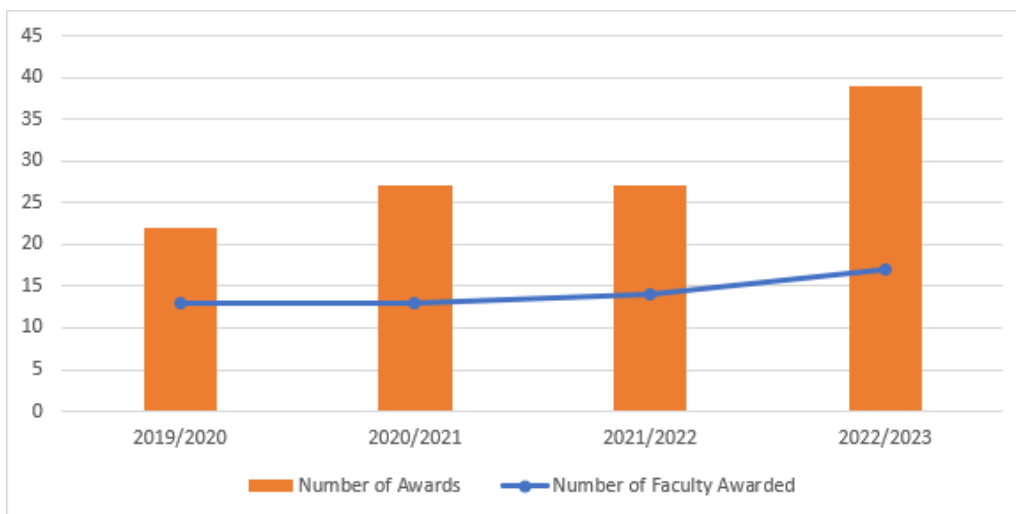
Figure 2. Oncology Citations



Source: Office of the Vice Dean Research, College of Medicine

As noted in Figure 3 below, the number of oncology faculty awarded funding has remained stable in the past 4 years. However, total funding awarded to oncology researchers has nearly doubled in this time frame: \$3,250,850 in 2019/2020 to \$6,142,433 in 2022/2023. See Appendix C for a list of 2022-2023 funded research grants. Primary sources of these grants are the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, and the Canadian Institute of Health Research. A recent example of an exceptional funding award is the collaboration led by Drs Hopkins (Oncology), Kinloch and DeCoteau (Pathology): a world-first clinical trial to improve ovarian cancer treatment, made possible by \$3.8 million in funding, including \$1.1 million from Genome Canada's Genomic Applications Partnership Program.

Figure 3. Funding Awards and Award Recipients



Source: Office of the Vice Dean Research, College of Medicine

"I feel that elevation of the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology will allow our cancer research effort to go from strength to strength. A quick environmental scan shows that departments of oncology are considered 'the gold standard' for excellence and success in cancer research. For example, departments of oncology lead research in such prestigious institutions like University of Alberta, University of Toronto, Mayo Clinic, Trinity College Dublin or University of Cambridge" Dr. Marek Radomski, Vice Dean of Research, College of Medicine

Quality Education

The Division of Oncology shares the College of Medicine's commitment to training and developing learners across the continuum, and implementing innovative programming that meets learner and provincial needs.

"The Division of Oncology has been recognized by both the College of Medicine and the University of Saskatchewan for its exceptional teaching on numerous occasions. Namely, Dr. Vickie Martin, was awarded the 2022 Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan, Excellence in Teaching Award, and in addition to being awarded the 2023 College of Medicine Excellence in Teaching award, Dr. Kelsey Brose was the recipient of the Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching 2023. These are just two of the many incredibly committed, driven, inspirational teachers oncology is privileged to have" Dr. Shazia Mahmood, Associate Professor, Division of Oncology, VP Medical Services, SCA

In addition to training residents in the new medical oncology residency program, faculty will continue to supervise medical residents in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and other specialties, including Surgery, Neurology, Pathology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. As noted earlier, the division is also planning to open residency training programs in Hematology, Radiation Oncology and Gynecologic Oncology. Again, having local residency training programs increases the likelihood that oncologists will stay in the province, improving the health and quality of life of people in Saskatchewan.

Beyond training undergraduate and postgraduate medical learners, oncology faculty provide training for undergraduate students, graduate students (MSc, PhD), post-doctoral fellows and research assistants. Faculty serve on graduate student advisory committees and contribute to formal teaching in other departments (e.g., Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology; Biomedical Engineering; Chemistry) and colleges (e.g., Veterinary Medicine; Pharmacy and Nutrition).

"The Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology has greatly benefited from the contributions of members of the Division to our academic mission as well as to our research programs over the years... (in particular, Deborah Anderson and Dean Chamberlain, both associate members of our department) have diversified and enriched our programs by providing unique training opportunities for students in our undergraduate and graduate programs that would not otherwise be available through faculty in our department." Dr. Bill

Roesler, Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology

“At the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition we recognize the tremendous contributions of our (oncology) colleagues with respect to research output, funding, and training opportunities. They have served as critical collaborators of our faculty and valued committee members for our students” Dr. David Blackburn, Professor and Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

Faculty Engagement

The College of Medicine is committed to supporting, developing and engaging its comprehensive complement of faculty, including oncology faculty. Granting the oncology division departmental status will align it with the other academic-clinical units in the College.

“I hope to strengthen the cancer research community within the U of S. The expansion of oncology to a department will help to do this by giving us a voice at the table to promote the needs of oncology clinicians and researchers within the College of Medicine” Dr. Dean Chamberlain, Jean E Murray Chair of Cancer Research, Assistant Professor, Division of Oncology

“Oncology is home to engaged and productive members whose accomplishments elevate our College as a whole. Faculty engagement is a strategic priority within the College of Medicine and the ability to elevate a productive division to the status of a department and acknowledge contributions on an equal footing with other departments is a significant part of the engagement process. I unreservedly support the establishment of the department of Oncology and expect it will contribute to raising the profile of college and province as an attractive place to recruit new faculty to, while appropriately recognizing the history and current members” Dr. Marilyn Baetz, Vice Dean of Faculty Engagement, CoM

The Division of Oncology actively participates in academic advancement. It has its own review committees (appointment and promotions) and each year oncology faculty seek promotion to Associate and Full Professor. In addition to reflecting the accomplishments of the individual faculty, these promotions enhance the reputation of the College and University.

“The current Division Head, Dr. Shahid Ahmed, has been a passionate advocate of the integration of the academic and clinical roles and spearheaded initiatives such as a mentorship program which support the scholarly approach to practice” Dr. Marilyn Baetz, Vice Dean of Faculty Engagement, CoM

Dr. Laura Hopkins, Provincial Lead for Gynecologic Oncology, can attest to the division’s commitment to engaging its faculty in the academic mission. Since Gynecologic Oncology joined the division in 2019, Dr. Hopkins and her colleagues *“have enjoyed the*

support of the Division of Oncology and feel that our academic achievements have been facilitated. What our group has accomplished academically and clinically, in just under 4 years is remarkable and speaks to the academic support and infrastructure that we have received” (Dr. Laura Hopkins, Professor, Division of Oncology, Provincial Lead Gynecologic Oncology, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency).

Impact and Relationships

The vast majority of CoM faculty are physicians and researchers working within the Saskatchewan health system. It is, therefore, critical that the College continues to strengthen its relationships with its health system partners, including the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. Elevating oncology to a department is a concrete way to recognize the tremendous contributions of its faculty and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

“The Division of Oncology certainly exemplifies and supports the academic mission of the Health Authority as well as the College of Medicine due to the broad reach that it has across multiple disciplines. The Division trains numerous undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students bridging many medical Divisions and Departments” Dr. John Shaw, Clinical Professor, Division Head, General Surgery

The creation of a Department of Oncology will bring USask in line with the majority of Canadian medical schools. Eight schools have a stand-alone oncology department, five have a division of oncology within the Department of Medicine, and one has oncology divisions within four separate departments.

“The elevation from a division to a department would positively impact not only the College of Medicine and University of Saskatchewan, but also the province as a whole. Being aligned with other academic-clinical units within the College of Medicine and across the country creates a valuable opportunity to strengthen our ability to attract exceptional students, residents, physicians, and research scientists to study and work in Saskatchewan.” Dr. Shazia Mahmood, Associate Professor, Division of Oncology, Vice President Medical Services, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency

The Division of Oncology’s faculty are members Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials and are actively involved in collaborative clinical trials to advance cancer care. Many of these faculty also collaborate with other organizations to advance cancer research, including the Marathon of Hope, and the universities of British Columbia, Alberta and Toronto.

“We anticipate that the creation of this department will...be instrumental in fostering novel research through multiple collaborations within the University researchers, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and the national partners including the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials cooperative group based at Queens’ University” Dr. Anne Leis, Professor and Department Head, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology

Consultation

Plans to elevate the division to department status were discussed at SCA faculty town hall meetings and Physician Leadership Team meetings. Faculty and leaders were supportive of the proposed change. The CoM Dean and the Head of the Division of Oncology met with SCA's CEO and VP Medical Services to discuss leadership of the new department, reporting relationships, and department resources. All leaders expressed enthusiastic support for the creation of a Department of Oncology.

The Dean received letters of support (see Appendix D) for this proposal from the following faculty and leaders within the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency:

- Dr. Deborah Anderson, Director of Research, SCA; Cancer Cluster Leader; Professor, Division of Oncology; Associate Member, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology
- Dr. Marilyn Baetz, Vice Dean of Faculty Engagement, CoM
- Dr. Ayesha Bashir, Assistant Professor, Medical Oncology
- Dr. David Blackburn, Professor and Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Dr. Dean Chamberlain, Jean E. Murray Chair of Cancer Research; Cancer Cluster Leader; Assistant Professor, Division of Oncology; Associate Member, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology; Associate Member, Biomedical Engineering
- Dr. John DeCoteau, Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Director, Advanced Diagnostics Research Laboratory
- Dr. Thomas Fisher, Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology
- Dr. Andrew Freywald, Professor, Department of Pathology, CoM
- Dr. Hadi Goubbran Messiha, Professor, Division of Hematology and Oncology, CoM
- Dr. Haissam Haddad, Professor and Provincial Department Head, Department of Medicine, Louis Horlick Chair in Medicine
- Dr. Laura Hopkins, Professor, Division of Oncology, Provincial Lead Gynecologic Oncology, SCA
- Dr. Michael Kelly, Provincial Department Head, Department of Surgery, CoM
- Dr. Anne Leis, Professor and Department Head, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology
- Dr. Shazia Mahmood, Associate Professor, Division of Oncology, VP Medical Services, SCA
- Dr. Michael Moser, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, CoM
- Dr. Mateen Raazi, Provincial Department Head, Anesthesiology, CoM
- Dr. Marek Radomski, Vice Dean of Research, CoM, Professor, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, CoM
- Dr. Bill Roesler, Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology, CoM
- Dr. Anurag Saxena, Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education, CoM
- Dr. John Shaw, Clinical Professor, Division Head, General Surgery
- Dr. Roona Sinha, Provincial Division Head, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Department of Pediatrics, CoM

- Dr. James Stempien, Provincial Department Head, Department of Emergency Medicine, CoM
- Dr. Franco Vizeacoumar, Senior Scientist, SCA, Associate Professor, Division of Oncology, Associate Member, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Scholarly Work

For a full list of oncology faculty, see Appendix E. While the Division is home to many exceptional scholars, it is important to highlight four of those scholars in particular. The following research scientists/ principal investigators are part of the [Cancer Cluster](#):

- [Dr. Deborah Anderson](#), BSc, PhD Director of Research, SCA; Cancer Cluster Leader; Professor, Division of Oncology; Associate Member, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology
- [Dr. Dean Chamberlain](#), BSc, PhD Jean E. Murray Chair of Cancer Research; Cancer Cluster Leader; Assistant Professor, Division of Oncology; Associate Member, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology; Associate Member, Biomedical Engineering
- [Dr. Franco Vizeacoumar](#), BSc, PhD Associate Professor, Division of Oncology; Associate Member, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
- [Dr. Jim Xiang](#), BSc, PhD, MD Professor, Division of Oncology; Associate Member, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

The Cancer Cluster occupies more than 6,000 sq. ft. of space in the Academic Health Sciences Building and includes a large open laboratory, several side-support areas, dedicated tissue culture facilities, and centralized spaces for common functions such as bacterial work and the preparation of solutions. The group embraces an interactive collaborative research environment, providing faculty and learners, from across the university, with access to specialized [equipment](#) (e.g., Confocal Microscope, Flow Cytometer) and interdisciplinary training in the use of that equipment through its [Expert User Database](#).

“I look forward to additional collaborative opportunities, particularly as we move ahead with the establishment of a Saskatchewan Cancer Research Institute (SCRI) at the University of Saskatchewan in partnership with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. The SCRI will be a conduit to translate local research discoveries into intellectual property with new patents, and into new clinical trials in Saskatchewan to offer cutting edge Precision Oncology therapies” Dr. Deborah Anderson, Director of Research, SCA, Professor, Division of Oncology

In addition to their contributions to education and research, oncology faculty are engaged in College, University, provincial and national committees. Examples include:

- CoM Faculty Council: Dr. Hadi Goubran-Messiha, Dr Ayesha Bashir
- CoM Undergraduate Medical Education Committees: Dr. Branawan Gowrishankar, Dr. Kelsey Brose
- CoM Continuing Medical Education Committee: Dr. Osama Souied
- USask Health Sciences Research Advisory Committee: Dr. Deborah Anderson
- University of Saskatchewan Provincial Ethics Board: Dr. Dilip Panjwani, Dr. Ibraheem Othman, Dr. Hadi Goubran

- Clinical and Population Health Research Committee University of Saskatchewan: Dr. Shahid Ahmed
- Cancer Research Institute of Saskatchewan Steering Committee: Dr. Deborah Anderson (Chair), Dr. Franco Vizeacoumar
- Saskatchewan Cancer Agency Biomarkers Quality Assurance Committee: Dr. Osama Souied, Dr. Mark Bosch
- Saskatchewan Cancer Agency First Nation and Métis Culturally Responsive Advisory Committee and Violence and Aggression Committee: Dr. Kimberly Hagel
- Canadian Stem Cell Transplant Expert Committee: Dr. Mohamed Elemary
- Canadian Cancer Society Advisory Committee on Research: Dr. Deborah Anderson
- Terry Fox Research Institute, Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network: Dr. Deborah Anderson, Lynn Dwernychuk, SK Leads
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Cancer Research Society national grant review committees: Dr. Deborah Anderson, Dr. Franco Vizeacoumar
- Canadian Cancer Trial Group Design, Methodology, and Data Management Equity, Diversity, Indigeneity, Inclusion, Accessibility (EDIIA) Working Group: Dr. Shahid Ahmed
- Canadian Cancer Trial Group Operation Equity, Diversity, Indigeneity, Inclusion, Accessibility (EDIIA) Working Group: Ms. Lynn Dwernychuk
- The Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh Symposium Committee: Drs. Hadi Goubran, Shahid Ahmed
- Canadian Cancer Clinical Trial Network Peer Review Council: Dr. Shahid Ahmed
- Western Canadian Gastrointestinal Consensus Executive Committee: Drs. Shahid Ahmed, Bryan Brunet, Dorie-Anna Dueck, Duc Le and Adnan Zaidi
- Ovarian Cancer Canada Governing Council: Dr. Laura Hopkins
- Gynecologic Oncologist's of Canada BRCA Collaborative Community of Practice: Dr. Laura Hopkins
- Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada Hematology Exam Board Chair: Dr. Kelsey Brose
- Lymphoma Canada Scientific Advisory Committee: Dr. Mark Bosch
- CADTH HTA Committee: Dr. Mark Bosch
- Molecular Biomarker Prioritization Committee: Dr. Osama Souied, Dr. Mark Bosch
- Canadian Clinical Trials Group Audit & Monitoring Committee: Dr. Osama Souied
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Area of Focused Competence (AFC) Subcommittee in Adult Thrombosis Medicine: Dr. Otto Moodley
- Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons Specialty Committee in Radiation Oncology: Dr. Duc Le
- NRG Cooperative Group Site Lead (Saskatoon): Dr. Ali El-Gayed
- NRG Cooperative Group Site Lead (Regina): Dr. Taskia Mir
- Canadian Cancer Trials Group Site Lead (Saskatoon): Dr. Mita Manna
- Canadian Cancer Trials Group Site Lead (Regina): Dr. Osama Souied
- Alliance Lead: Dr. Muhammad Khan

Department Management

Members of the current Division of Oncology will transition to the Department of Oncology. The division has a total of 76 faculty (see Appendix E), including 61 medical faculty (physicians and researchers) and 15 support faculty (medical physicists). These faculty have academic appointments with the College of Medicine. The division also includes 25 supporting medical staff, clinical associates and nurse practitioners who do not currently have faculty appointments. All division members are salaried employees with the SCA.

The Department of Oncology will be led by a Provincial Department Head (PDH), similar to other academic-clinical departments within the College (see Figure 4). The Oncology PDH will report to the Dean of the College of Medicine and the Vice President of Medical Services, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (see Figure 5). These reporting lines are consistent with the current Division Head role. Within the SCA, the PDH will also be known as the Academic Medical Director, to reflect SCA's naming conventions. The SCA has a distributed physician leadership model. There are five medical directors who report to the Vice President of Medical Services (see Figure 6). In addition to the Academic Medical Director who will lead the Oncology Department, there are two Medical Directors who oversee clinical operations and two Medical Directors involved in disease site operations who oversee quality and safety related to clinical care. The Oncology PDH/Academic Medical Director will work closely with his/her fellow Medical Directors to ensure the integration of medical education, research and patient care across the province.

Figure 4: College of Medicine Senior Leadership Organizational Chart

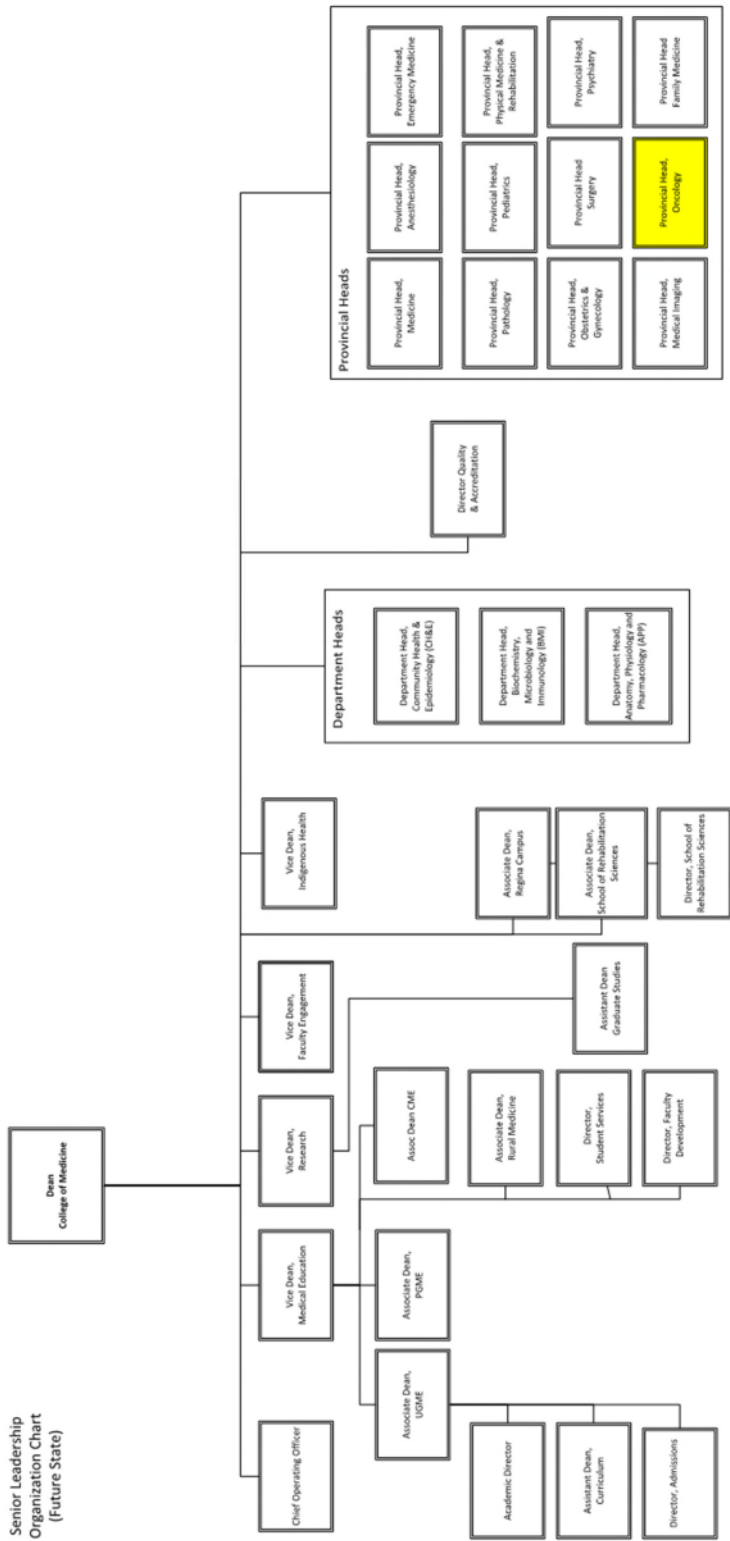


Figure 5: Oncology Provincial Department Head Reporting Lines

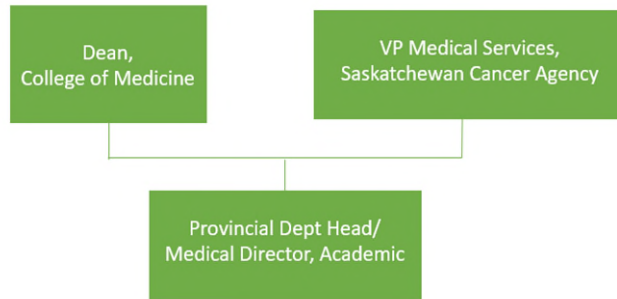
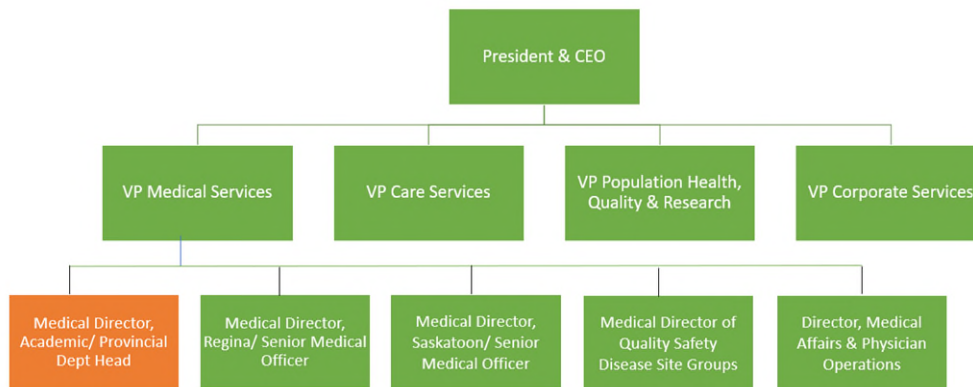


Figure 6: Saskatchewan Cancer Agency Organizational Chart (partial)



Once approved, the transition to department status will require that an Interim Provincial Department Head be selected and a formal search be initiated to recruit the department's first Provincial Department Head. It is recommended that the current Division Head take on the role of Interim PDH. The PDH search process will be similar to the one used in the other academic-clinical departments within the College of Medicine.

Resources and Budget

Because the Department of Oncology is a partnership between the college and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, rather than between the college and the Saskatchewan Health Authority, it will be funded differently than the other academic-clinical departments within the College. It is not anticipated that elevating the division to department status will have any resource implications. Oncology faculty will continue to be salaried employees with the SCA, and all operating costs will continue to be borne by the SCA, including administrative personnel, space, and equipment.

If, however, the department grows over time and additional resources are required to support the academic mission (e.g., teaching, research, leadership), the College of Medicine and SCA will jointly request additional funding from the Ministry of Health to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the department.

Support of Faculty Council

Dr. Shahid Ahmed, Oncology Division Head, presented the following Motion to the College of Medicine Faculty Council on September 27, 2023: That Faculty Council approve the proposal to elevate the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology in the College of Medicine, pending approval of the University Council, the Board of Governors and the confirmation of the Senate. This proposal was presented along with the Motion. The Motion was carried.

Appendices

Appendix A: 2022-2023 Peer-reviewed Publications and Book Chapters

Appendix B: 2022-2023 Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

Appendix C: 2022-2023 Funded Research Grants

Appendix D: Letters of Support

Appendix E: Faculty List

Appendix A: 2022-2023 Peer-reviewed Publications and Book Chapters

<p>Ahmed S, Bosma N, Moser M, Ahmed S, Brunet B, Davies J, Doll C, Dueck DA, Kim CA, Ji S, Le D, Lee-Ying R, Lim H, McGhie JP, Mulder K, Park J, Ravi D, Renouf DJ, Schellenberg D, Wong RPW, Zaidi A. Systemic Therapy and Its Surgical Implications in Patients with Resectable Liver Colorectal Cancer Metastases. A Report from the Western Canadian Gastrointestinal Cancer Consensus Conference. <i>Curr Oncol</i>. 2022 Mar 8;29(3):1796-1807. doi: 10.3390/curroncol29030147. PMID: 35323347; PMCID: PMC8947455.</p>
<p>Ahmed S. Cancer Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Adaptations. <i>Curr Oncol</i>. 2022 Dec 20;30(1):45-47. doi: 10.3390/curroncol30010004. PMID: 36661653; PMCID: PMC9857587</p>
<p>Ara A, Wu Z, Xu A, Ahmed KA, Leary SC, Islam MF, Chibbar R, Wu Y, Xiang J. The Critical Role of AMPKα1 in Regulating Autophagy and Mitochondrial Respiration in IL-15-Stimulated mTORC1^{Weak} Signal-Induced T Cell Memory: An Interplay between Yin (AMPKα1) and Yang (mTORC1) Energy Sensors in T Cell Differentiation. <i>Int J Mol Sci</i>. 2022 Aug 23;23(17):9534. doi: 10.3390/ijms23179534. PMID: 36076931; PMCID: PMC9455586.</p>
<p>Araghi M, Fidler-Benaoudia M, Arnold M, Rutherford M, Bardot A, Ferlay J, Bucher O, De P, Engholm G, Gavin A, Kozie S, Little A, Møller B, St Jacques N, Tervonen H, Walsh P, Woods R, O'Connell DL, Baldwin D, Elwood M, Siesling S, Bray F, Soerjomataram I; ICBP SURVMARK-2 Local Leads; ICBP SURVMARK-2 Academic Reference Group; ICBP Clinical Committee–Lung; ICBP SurvMark-2 Academic Reference Group; ICBP SurvMark-2 academic reference group; ICBP Clinical Committee – Lung; ICBP clinical Committee – lung. International differences in lung cancer survival by sex, histological type and stage at diagnosis: an ICBP SURVMARK-2 Study. <i>Thorax</i>. 2022 Apr;77(4):378-390. doi: 10.1136/thoraxjnl-2020-216555. Epub 2021 Jul 19. PMID: 34282033.</p>
<p>Arnold M, Morgan E, Bardot A, Rutherford MJ, Ferlay J, Little A, Møller B, Bucher O, De P, Woods RR, Saint-Jacques N, Gavin AT, Engholm G, Achiam MP, Porter G, Walsh PM, Vernon S, Kozie S, Ramanakumar AV, Lynch C, Harrison S, Merrett N, O'Connell DL, Mala T, Elwood M, Zalberg J, Huws DW, Ransom D, Bray F, Soerjomataram I. International variation in oesophageal and gastric cancer survival 2012-2014: differences by histological subtype and stage at diagnosis (an ICBP SURVMARK-2 population-based study). <i>Gut</i>. 2022 Aug;71(8):1532-1543. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2021-325266. Epub 2021 Nov 25. PMID: 34824149</p>
<p>Burnouf T, Goubran HA. Regenerative effect of expired platelet concentrates in human therapy: An update. <i>Transfus Apher Sci</i>. 2022 Feb;61(1):103363. doi: 10.1016/j.transci.2022.103363. Epub 2022 Jan 22. PMID: 35094937</p>
<p>Dai WF, de Oliveira C, Blommaert S, Pataky RE, Tran D, Aurangzeb Z, Kendell C, Folkins C, Somayaji C, Dowden J, Cheung W, Strumpf E, Beca JM, McClure C, Urquhart R, McDonald JT, Alvi R, Turner D, Peacock S, Denburg A, Mercer RE, Muñoz C, Parmar A, Tadrous M, Takhar P, Chan KKW, On Behalf Of The CanREValue Collaboration. Mapping Canadian Data Assets to Generate Real-World Evidence: Lessons Learned from Canadian Real-World Evidence for Value of Cancer Drugs (CanREValue) Collaboration's RWE Data Working Group. <i>Curr Oncol</i>. 2022 Mar 17;29(3):2046-2063. doi: 10.3390/curroncol29030165. PMID: 35323365; PMCID: PMC8947246.</p>
<p>Elhasasna H, Khan R, Bhanumathy KK, Vizeacoumar FS, Walke P, Bautista M, Dahiya DK, Maranda V, Patel H, Balagopal A, Alli N, Krishnan A, Freywald A, Vizeacoumar FJ. A Drug Repurposing Screen Identifies Fludarabine Phosphate as a Potential Therapeutic Agent for N-MYC Overexpressing Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancers. <i>Cells</i>. 2022 Jul 20;11(14):2246. doi: 10.3390/cells11142246. PMID: 35883689; PMCID: PMC9317991.</p>
<p>Fan C, Wu Z, Cooper DML, Magnus A, Harrison K, Eames BF, Chibbar R, Groot G, Huang J, Genth H, Zhang J, Tan X, Deng Y, Xiang J. Activation of Focal Adhesion Kinase Restores Simulated Microgravity-Induced Inhibition of Osteoblast Differentiation via Wnt/B-Catenin Pathway. <i>Int J Mol Sci</i>. 2022 May 17;23(10):5593. doi: 10.3390/ijms23105593. PMID: 35628403; PMCID: PMC9146119</p>
<p>Gondal H, Abbas T, Choquette H, Le D, Chalchal HI, Iqbal N, Ahmed S. Patient and Physician Satisfaction with Telemedicine in Cancer Care in Saskatchewan: A Cross-Sectional Study. <i>Curr Oncol</i>. 2022 May 27;29(6):3870-3880. doi: 10.3390/curroncol29060309. PMID: 35735418; PMCID: PMC9221857.</p>
<p>Goubran H, Ragab G, Sabry W. Metabolism-mediated thrombotic microangiopathy and B12. <i>Vitam Horm</i>. 2022;119:441-455. doi: 10.1016/bs.vh.2022.01.002. Epub 2022 Feb 25. PMID: 35337630.</p>
<p>Goubran H, Ragab G, Seghatchian J, Burnouf T. Blood transfusion in autoimmune rheumatic diseases. <i>Transfus Apher Sci</i>. 2022 Dec;61(6):103596. doi: 10.1016/j.transci.2022.103596. Epub 2022 Oct 28. PMID: 36371394</p>
<p>Goubran H, Sabry W. Vitamin B12 deficiency and thrombotic microangiopathy. In VITAMIN B12 Volume 119 of VITAMINS & HORMONES ACADEMIC ELSEVIER Press Edited by Gerald Litwack</p>

(copyright 2022 – ISBN: 978-0-323-99223-7)(Book chapter)
Goubran H , Seghatchian J, Sabry W , Ragab G, Burnouf T. Platelet and extracellular vesicles in COVID-19 infection and its vaccines. <i>Transfus Apher Sci.</i> 2022 Jun;61(3):103459. doi: 10.1016/j.transci.2022.103459. Epub 2022 May 21. PMID: 35654711; PMCID: PMC9122775.
Goubran H , Stakiw J , Seghatchian J, Ragab G, Burnouf T. SARS-CoV-2 and cancer: the intriguing and informative cross-talk. <i>Transfus Apher Sci.</i> 2022 Aug;61(4):103488. doi: 10.1016/j.transci.2022.103488. Epub 2022 Jun 14. PMID: 35753906; PMCID: PMC9192107
Huang J, Leary S, Xiang J . Distinct strengths of mTORC1 control T-cell memory via transcriptional FOXO1 and metabolic AMPK α 1 pathways in linear cell differentiation and asymmetric cell division models. <i>Cell Mol Immunol.</i> 2022 Oct;19(10):1073-1076. doi: 10.1038/s41423-022-00879-w. Epub 2022 May 19. PMID: 35589987; PMCID: PMC9508075
Kundapur V , Mayer M, Auer RN, Alexander A , Weibe S, Pushie MJ, Cranmer-Sargison G . Is Mini Beam Ready for Human Trials? Results of Randomized Study of Treating De-Novo Brain Tumors in Canines Using Linear Accelerator Generated Mini Beams. <i>Radiat Res.</i> 2022 Aug 1;198(2):162-171. doi: 10.1667/RADE-21-00093.1. PMID: 35536992.
LeBlanc R, Mian H, Reece D, Masih-Khan E, Kardjadj M, Jimenez-Zepeda VH, McCurdy A, Song K, Sebag M, Louzada M, White D, Stakiw J , Kotb R, Reiman A, Aslam M , Gul E, Venner CP. Outcomes of daratumumab in the treatment of multiple myeloma: A retrospective cohort study from the Canadian Myeloma Research Group Database. <i>Br J Haematol.</i> 2022 Jul;198(1):93-102. doi: 10.1111/bjh.18172. Epub 2022 Apr 5. PMID: 35383886
Liu D, Tupor S, Singh J, Chernoff T, Leong N , Sadikov E , Amjad A , Zilles S. The challenges facing deep learning-based catheter localization for ultrasound guided high-dose-rate prostate brachytherapy. <i>Med Phys.</i> 2022 Apr;49(4):2442-2451. doi: 10.1002/mp.15522. Epub 2022 Feb 25. PMID: 35118676.
Long Z, He J, Shuai Q, Zhang K, Xiang J , Wang H, Xie S, Wang S, Du W, Yao X, Huang J. Influenza vaccination-induced H3 stalk-reactive memory B-cell clone expansion. <i>Vaccine.</i> 2023 Jan 6:S0264-410X(22)01603-6. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2022.12.068. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36621409
Maranda V, Zhang Y, Vizeacoumar FS, Freywald A, Vizeacoumar FJ . A CRISPR Platform for Targeted In Vivo Screens. <i>Methods Mol Biol.</i> 2023;2614:397-409. doi: 10.1007/978-1-0716-2914-7_24. PMID: 36587138.
McCurdy A, Louzada M, Venner CP, Visram A, Masih-Khan E, Kardjadj M, Jimenez-Zepeda VH, LeBlanc R, Sebag M, Song K, White D, Mian H, Stakiw J , Reiman A, Aslam M , Kotb R, Gul E, Reece D. Carfilzomib usage patterns and outcomes in patients with relapsed multiple myeloma: A multi-institutional report from the Canadian Myeloma Research Group (CMRG) Database. <i>EJHaem.</i> 2022 Aug 31;3(4):1252-1261. doi: 10.1002/jha2.559. PMID: 36467802; PMCID: PMC9713064.
McCurdy A, Venner CP, Masih-Khan E, Louzada M, LeBlanc R, Sebag M, Song K, Jimenez-Zepeda VH, Kotb R, Kardjadj M, Mian H, White D, Stakiw J , Aslam M , Reiman A, Gul E, Reece D. Sequential Use of Carfilzomib and Pomalidomide in Relapsed Multiple Myeloma: A Report from the Canadian Myeloma Research Group (CMRG) Database. <i>Curr Oncol.</i> 2022 Mar 2;29(3):1575-1582. doi: 10.3390/curroncol29030132. PMID: 35323332; PMCID: PMC8946875
McPhail S, Swann R, Johnson SA, Barclay ME, Abd Elkader H, Alvi R , Barisic A, Bucher O, Clark GRC, Creighton N, Danckert B, Denny CA, Donnelly DW, Dowden JJ, Finn N, Fox CR, Fung S, Gavin AT, Gomez Navas E, Habbous S, Han J, Huws DW, Jackson CGCA, Jensen H, Kaposhi B, Kumar SE, Little AL, Lu S, McClure CA, Møller B, Musto G, Nilssen Y, Saint-Jacques N, Sarker S, Te Marvelde L, Thomas RS, Thomas RJS, Thomson CS, Woods RR, Zhang B, Lyratzopoulos G; ICBP Module 9 Emergency Presentations Working Group. Risk factors and prognostic implications of diagnosis of cancer within 30 days after an emergency hospital admission (emergency presentation): an International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) population-based study. <i>Lancet Oncol.</i> 2022 May;23(5):587-600. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(22)00127-9. Epub 2022 Apr 6. PMID: 35397210; PMCID: PMC9046095.
Mellor P, Kendall S, Smith S, Saxena A, Anderson DH . Reduced CREB3L1 expression in triple negative and luminal a breast cancer cells contributes to enhanced cell migration, anchorage-independent growth and metastasis. <i>PLoS One.</i> 2022 Jul 8;17(7):e0271090. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0271090. PMID: 35802566; PMCID: PMC9269740
Mian H, Eisfeld C, Venner CP, Masih-Khan E, Kardjadj M, Jimenez-Zepeda VH, Khandanpour C, Lenz G, McCurdy A, Sebag M, Song K, LeBlanc R, White D, Stakiw J , Reiman A, Louzada M, Aslam M , Kotb R, Gul E, Reece D. Efficacy of Daratumumab-Containing Regimens Among Patients With Multiple Myeloma Progressing on Lenalidomide Maintenance: Retrospective Analysis. <i>Front Oncol.</i> 2022 Feb 18;12:826342. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2022.826342. PMID: 35251992; PMCID: PMC8894582.

<p>Mian H, LeBlanc R, Louzada M, Masih-Khan E, McCurdy A, Venner CP, Stakiw J, Kardjadj M, Jimenez-Zepeda VH, Sebag M, White D, Aslam M, Song K, Reiman A, Kotb R, Gul E, Reece D. Real-world data on lenalidomide dosing and outcomes in patients newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma: Results from the Canadian Myeloma Research Group Database. <i>Cancer Med.</i> 2022 Sep 26. doi: 10.1002/cam4.5245. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36161712.</p>
<p>Mian H, Reece D, Masih-Khan E, McCurdy A, Kardjadj M, Jimenez-Zepeda VH, Song K, Louzada M, LeBlanc R, Sebag M, White D, Stakiw J, Reiman A, Kotb R, Aslam M, Gul E, Venner CP. Survival and Outcomes of Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma Patients Stratified by Transplant Status 2007-2018: Retrospective Analysis from the Canadian Myeloma Research Group Database. <i>Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk.</i> 2022 Aug;22(8):608-617. doi: 10.1016/j.clml.2022.03.002. Epub 2022 Mar 8. PMID: 35379589.</p>
<p>Mitera G, Tsang D, McCurdy B, Goddard K, Ebacher A, Craig T, Greenland J, Kentish S, Koul R, Logie N, Morneau M, Morrison A, Pan L, Pantarotto J, Foxcroft S, Sussman J, Thompson R, Tyldesley S, Wright P, Hicks S, Brown E, Patel S; CAPCA pan-Canadian PBT Working Group. Pan-Canadian consensus recommendations for proton beam therapy access in Canada. <i>Radiother Oncol.</i> 2022 Nov;176:228-233. doi: 10.1016/j.radonc.2022.10.004. Epub 2022 Oct 11. PMID: 36228758.</p>
<p>Muaddi H, Stukel TA, de Mestral C, Nathens A, Pautler SE, Shayegan B, Hanna WC, Schlachta C, Breau RH, Hopkins L, Jackson T, Karanicolas PJ. Adverse events following robotic surgery: population-based analysis. <i>Br J Surg.</i> 2022 Jul 15;109(8):763-771. doi: 10.1093/bjs/znac119. PMID: 35612961.</p>
<p>Muaddi H, Stukel TA, de Mestral C, Nathens A, Pautler SE, Shayegan B, Hanna WC, Schlachta CM, Breau RH, Hopkins L, Jackson TD, Karanicolas PJ. The evolving use of robotic surgery: a population-based analysis. <i>Surg Endosc.</i> 2022 Oct 17. doi: 10.1007/s00464-022-09643-7. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36253624.</p>
<p>Muhammadzai J, Haider K, Moser M, Chalchal H, Shaw J, Gardiner D, Dueck DA, Ahmed O, Brunet B, Iqbal M, Luo Y, Beck G, Zaidi A, Ahmed S. Early discontinuation of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with early-stage pancreatic cancer correlates with inferior survival: A multicenter population-based cohort study. <i>PLoS One.</i> 2022 Feb 2;17(2):e0263250. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0263250. PMID: 35108323; PMCID: PMC8809602</p>
<p>Mulder K, Lim H, Ravi D, Ahmed S, Brunet B, Davies J, Doll C, Dueck DA, Gordon V, Hebbard P, Kim CA, Le D, Lee-Ying R, McGhie JP, Park J, Renouf DJ, Schellenberg D, Wong RPW, Zaidi A, Ahmed S. Current Role of Immunotherapy in Gastric, Esophageal and Gastro-Esophageal Junction Cancers-A Report from the Western Canadian Gastrointestinal Cancer Consensus Conference. <i>Curr Oncol.</i> 2022 Apr 29;29(5):3160-3170. doi: 10.3390/curronc29050257. PMID: 35621647; PMCID: PMC9139288.</p>
<p>Nicholson M, Goubran H, Chan N, Siegal D. No apparent association between mRNA COVID-19 vaccination and venous thromboembolism. <i>Blood Rev.</i> 2022 Nov;56:100970. doi: 10.1016/j.blre.2022.100970. Epub 2022 May 11. PMID: 35577626; PMCID: PMC9091073.</p>
<p>Pati S, Irfan W, Jameel A, Ahmed S, Shahid RK. Obesity and Cancer: A Current Overview of Epidemiology, Pathogenesis, Outcomes, and Management. <i>Cancers (Basel).</i> 2023 Jan 12;15(2):485. doi: 10.3390/cancers15020485. PMID: 36672434; PMCID: PMC9857053.</p>
<p>Plett R, Mellor P, Kendall S, Hammond SA, Boulet A, Plaza K, Vizeacoumar FS, Vizeacoumar FJ, Anderson DH. Homoharringtonine demonstrates a cytotoxic effect against triple-negative breast cancer cell lines and acts synergistically with paclitaxel. <i>Sci Rep.</i> 2022 Sep 19;12(1):15663. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-19621-7. PMID: 36123435; PMCID: PMC9485251</p>
<p>Ragab G, Goubran H, Quartuccio L Eds..Paraproteinemia and Related Disorders (Book chapters) Springer Switzerland, 1st Ed (2022) ISBN 978-3-031-10130-4</p> <p>Chapter 8: Amyloidosis: Clinical Manifestations and Treatment. Ahmed Abdel-Hamid Abdelgawad, Matthew Nickolson, Hadi Goubran.</p> <p>Chapter 11: Multiple Myeloma. Rami Kotb, Caroline Hart, Hadi Goubran</p> <p>Chapter 12: Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS) & Highlight on Monoclonal Gammopathy of Neurological Significance (MGNS) Hadi Goubran, Vinita Sundaram, Julie Stakiw & Mohamed Elemetry</p>

<p>Chapter 13: Monoclonal Gammopathy of Renal Significance: An insight James Barton, Waleed Sabry & Hadi Goubran</p> <p>Chapter 23: Non-pharmacological management of paraproteinemias: Hadi Goubran, Mark Bosch, Thierry Burnouf.</p>
<p>Ragab G, Goubran H, Quartuccio L. Paraproteinemia and Related Disorders Nature Springer, Switzerland, 1st Edition (2022). ISBN 978-3-031-10130-4 https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-10131-1(Book)</p>
<p>Sabry W, Wu Y, Kodad SG. Bortezomib, Lenalidomide and Dexamethasone Combination Induced Complete Remission in Relapsed/Refractory Plasmablastic Lymphoma: Case Report of a Potential Novel Treatment Approach. <i>Curr Oncol.</i> 2022 Jul 18;29(7):5042-5053. doi: 10.3390/curroncol29070399. PMID: 35877259; PMCID: PMC9323819.</p>
<p>Safavi AH, Freeman C, Cheng S, Patel S, Mitera G, Kundapur V, Rutledge R, Tsang DS. Proton Therapy in Canada: Toward Universal Access and Health Equity With a Publicly Funded Facility. <i>Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.</i> 2022 Dec 21:S0360-3016(22)03642-2. doi: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2022.12.021. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36565727.</p>
<p>Seely JM, Peddle SE, Yang H, Chiarelli AM, McCallum M, Narasimhan G, Zakaria D, Earle CC, Fung S, Bryant H, Nicholson E, Politis C, Berg WA. Breast Density and Risk of Interval Cancers: The Effect of Annual Versus Biennial Screening Mammography Policies in Canada. <i>Can Assoc Radiol J.</i> 2022 Feb;73(1):90-100. doi: 10.1177/08465371211027958. Epub 2021 Jul 19. PMID: 34279132.</p>
<p>Sepehri Z, Banerjee A, Vizeacoumar FS, Freywald A, Vizeacoumar FJ, Dolinsky VW, Davie JR. Differential expression of HNF1A and HNF1A-AS1 in colon cancer cells. <i>IUBMB Life.</i> 2022 Jun;74(6):496-507. doi: 10.1002/iub.2609. Epub 2022 Mar 2. PMID: 35184384.</p>
<p>Singh RS, Vidhyasagar V, Yang S, Arna AB, Yadav M, Aggarwal A, Aguilera AN, Shinriki S, Bhanumathy KK, Pandey K, Xu A, Rapin N, Bosch M, DeCoteau J, Xiang J, Vizeacoumar FJ, Zhou Y, Misra V, Matsui H, Ross SR, Wu Y. DDX41 is required for cGAS-STING activation against DNA virus infection. <i>Cell Rep.</i> 2022 May 24;39(8):110856. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2022.110856. PMID: 35613581; PMCID: PMC9205463.</p>
<p>Swaminath A, Wierzbicki M, Parpia S, Kundapur V, Faria S, Ahmed N, Bujold A, Hirmiz K, Owen T, Leong N, Ramchandar K, Filion E, Lau H, Thompson R, Yaremko B, Gabos Z, Mehiri S, Wright JR, Tsakiridis TK, Cline K, Whelan TJ. Lung SBRT credentialing in the Canadian OCOG-LUSTRE randomized trial. <i>Clin Transl Radiat Oncol.</i> 2022 Oct 13;37:145-152. doi: 10.1016/j.ctro.2022.10.002. PMID: 36275452; PMCID: PMC9579727.</p>
<p>Wall C, Ahmed S, Kabir R, Lim HJ, Iqbal M, Chalchal H, Domes T, Beck G, Luo Y, Ogaick M, Shaw J, Moser M. Early Single-Center Experience With Irreversible Electroporation for Stage 2, 3, and 4 Pancreatic Adenocarcinomas. <i>Pancreas.</i> 2022 Sep 1;51(8):976-984. doi: 10.1097/MPA.0000000000002127. PMID: 36607943</p>
<p>White J, Elemery M, Linn SM, Novitzky-Basso I, Culos S, Tan SK, Kelly K, Deotare U, Xenocostas A, Hamad N, Law A, Kumar R, Kim DDH. A Multicenter, Retrospective Study Evaluating Clinical Outcomes of Ruxolitinib Therapy In Heavily Pretreated Chronic GVHD Patients With Steroid Failure. <i>Transplant Cell Ther.</i> 2022 Nov 30:S2666-6367(22)01797-3. doi: 10.1016/j.jtct.2022.11.025. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36460202</p>
<p>Xu A, Leary SC, Islam MF, Wu Z, Bhanumathy KK, Ara A, Chibbar R, Fleywald A, Ahmed KA, Xiang J. Prosurvival IL-7-Stimulated Weak Strength of mTORC1-S6K Controls T Cell Memory via Transcriptional FOXO1-TCF1-Id3 and Metabolic AMPKα1-ULK1-ATG7 Pathways. <i>J Immunol.</i> 2022 Jan 1;208(1):155-168. doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.2100452. Epub 2021 Dec 6. PMID: 34872976.</p>
<p>Yanko E, Le D, Mahmood S, Ginther DN, Chalchal HI, Kanthan R, Haider K, Zaidi A, Dueck DA, Ahmed O, Gowrishankar B, Ahmed S. Outcomes of Patients with Small Intestine Adenocarcinoma in a Canadian Province: A Retrospective Multi-Center Population-Based Cohort Study. <i>Cancers (Basel).</i> 2022 May 24;14(11):2581. doi: 10.3390/cancers14112581. PMID: 35681560; PMCID: PMC9252258.</p>

Appendix B: 2022-2023 Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

A Dedinca, J. Song, H. Eckel, T. Le and L. Hopkins . Recurrence risk among women who underwent minimally-invasive versus open laparotomy for intermediate-risk endometrial cancer; a multi-center retrospective cohort study. Annual General Meeting, Gynecologic Oncology of Canada, Virtual Platform. June 2022
Ara A. and Xiang J . "The critical role of AMPK energy sensor in mTORC1-induced T cell memory", Abstract presentation, Annual AAI Immunology Meeting, New Orleans
Devisetty K, Pugh S, Brown P, Gondi V, Wefel J, Solanki A, Kalappambath T, Harmon G, Saripalli A, Chou B, Venkatesulu BP, Boike T, Kundapur V , Roberge D, Bovi J, mcgee M, Kruser T, Baschnagel A, Usuki K, Mehta M, and Kachnic L. Impact of the rate of radiographic response (RR) of brain metastases (bm) to whole brain radiation therapy (wbrt) on neurocognitive function (ncf) on NRG-CC001. November 2022. <i>Neuro-Oncology</i> 24(Supplement_7):vii197-vii197. DOI:10.1093/neuonc/noac209.756
Emma Yanko, Duc Le , Shazia Mahmood , Nathan Ginther, Haji I Chalchal , Rani Kanthan, Kamal Haider , Adnan Zaidi , Shahid Ahmed . Outcomes of patients with small intestine adenocarcinoma (SIA) in a Canadian province: A population-based cohort study. <i>Journal of Clinical Oncology</i> 2022;40(4_suppl):641
Hopkins , Precision Medicine Gets Personal; Precision Medicine Symposium for Gynecologic and Genitourinary Cancers. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Sept 22, 2022(invited talk)
J. Kim, D. Kristmanson, J. Hearn, L. Hopkins . Rising Above our Reputation: Strategies to Improve the Learning Environment on the Birthing Unit. SMFM 42 nd Annual Pregnancy Meeting, February 2022
L. Hopkins , The 4PDQ Study in Saskatchewan. Precision Medicine Symposium, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Sept 22, 2022
L. Hopkins , Cervical Cancer Approach to Treatment and Outcomes in Saskatchewan. Western Canadian Gynecologic Cancer Symposium. April 21, 2022(invited talk)
L. Hopkins , Precision Medicine and tumor testing for women with ovarian cancer in Saskatchewan. Terry Fox Research Day. June 15, 2022(invited talk)
Matthew Nicholson . Abdulrehman, J., & Airdrie, D. (Hosts). (Recorded June 2022). CLOT CONVERSATIONS (No. 14) [Audio podcast episode]. Thrombosis Canada. https://thrombosiscanada.ca/clot-conversations
Matthew Nicholson . Code blue Continuing Medical Education Series(invited talk)
Matthew Nicholson . Saskatchewan obstetrics and gynecology group(invited talk)
Safavi AH, Freeman C, Cheng S, Patel S, Mitera G, Kundapur V , Rutledge R, Tsang DS. Proton Therapy in Canada: Towards Universal Access and Health Equity with a Publicly-Funded Facility. <i>International Journal of Radiation Oncology* Biology* Physics</i> . 2022 Dec 21. doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2022.12.021
Swaminath A, Wierzbicki M, Parpia S, Kundapur V , Faria S, Ahmed N, Bujold A, Hirmiz K, Owen T, Leong N, Ramchandrar K. Lung SBRT credentialing in the Canadian OCOG-LUSTRE randomized trial. <i>Clinical and Translational Radiation Oncology</i> . 2022 Nov 1;37:145-52. doi.org/10.1016/j.ctro.2022.10.002 V. Kundapur; M. Mayer; R. N. Auer; A. Alexander; S. Weibe; M. J. Pushie; G. Cranmer-Sargison
V. Kundapur ; M. Mayer; R. N. Auer; A. Alexander; S. Weibe; M. J. Pushie; G. Cranmer-Sargison . Is Mini Beam Ready for Human Trials? Results of Randomized Study of Treating De-Novo Brain Tumors in Canines Using Linear Accelerator Generated Mini Beams. <i>Radiat Res</i> (2022). https://doi.org/10.1667/RADE-21-00093.1
Xiang J . "Novel Irreversible electroporation (IRE)+Combo immunotherapy eradicates primary/distant tumors via converting immunotolerant tumor microenvironment (iTME)". Virtual Int Forum of lung cancer ablation and immunotherapy. Suchow, China, Sept 23-24, 2022.

Appendix C: 2022-2023 Funded Research Grants

Funded Research Grants	Organization Funding Received From	Researcher	Award Period	Total Amount Awarded
Enhancing the Quality of CLL patient Care Using Optical Genomic Mapping and Minimal Residual Disease Monitoring	Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	Shruthi Ganeshappa Kodad (Principal Investigator), John DeCoteau, Mark Bosch, Mohamed Elemary	2023-2025	\$102,852
Breast Cancer Tumoroids to study the role of Hypoxia and Cancer Stem Cells in Drug Resistance	Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	Dean Chamberlain (Principal Investigator)	2023-2025	\$200,000
Tumor nerve innervations as a prognostic marker for metastatic recurrence of breast cancer	The Breast Cancer Society of Canada	Anand Krishnan (Principal Investigator), Shahid Ahmed and Others	2022-2025	75000
Is Immune modulation the basis for microbeam radiation effect?- Characterizing the findings of randomized Canine brain tumor study	Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	Vijay Kundapur (Principal Investigator) , Emina Torlakovic, Roland Nikolaus Auer, Michael Jacob Pushie	2022-2024	\$140,302
Effect of adjunct dexamethasone on insulin resistance and its correlation with outcomes in women with early stage breast cancer	Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	Osama Ahmed (Principal Investigator) ,Rabia Shahid (CO-PI), Shahid Ahmed, Haji Chalchal, Lynn Dwernychuk, Nassein Hussein, Duc Le, Prosanta Mondal	2022-2024	\$113126
Enhancing the Quality of AML Care in Saskatchewan Using Optical Genome Mapping	Pfizer	Mark Bosch (Principal Investigator), John DeCoteau	2022-2024	\$127,997
Irreversible electroporation (IRE) combined with electro-immunotherapy greatly boosts therapeutic immunity via enhanced conversion of immunotolerant microenvironment in IRE-ablated pancreatic cancer	Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	Jim Xiang (Principal Investigator)	2022-2024	\$200,000
Contribution of CREB3L1-deficiency to the metastatic properties of lung squamous cell carcinoma	Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	Deborah Anderson (Principal Investigator)	2022-2024	\$200,000
Development of 3D tissue engineered tumour	Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Establishment grant	Dean Chamberlain	2022-2024	\$120,000

microtissue models for precision medicine				
Mapping synthetic lethal interactions using high density CRISPR/Cas9 screens	Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	Franco Vizeacoumar (Principal Investigator)	2022-2024	\$200,000
Homologous Recombinant Proficiency management in women with ovarian cancer	Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Research Consortium Grant	L. Hopkins (Principal Investigator), M. Carey, M. Kinloch	2022-2024	\$360,000.00
Anti-estrogen Therapy and ER/PR expression in Low-grade Serous Ovarian Carcinoma	OCC/OvCAN-CRS: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GRANT	M. Carey, A. Cameron, J. Brown-Broderick, P. Ghatage, L. Hopkins , H. Kim, C. Lee, M. Koebel, S. Pin, H. Steed, N. Wong	2022-2024	\$150,000.00
Clinical Implementation of Oncogenomic testing and Synoptic Reporting for improved ovarian cancer patient care in Saskatchewan	Genome Canada's Genomic Applications Partnership Program Grant	M. Kinloch, J. Decoteau (Co-PIs); L. Hopkins	2022-2023/24	\$1.1M
Geriatric Oncology in Action: A need assessment in Saskatchewan: The ACCESS Project	Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Align Grant	Schroder Sattar(Principal Investigator), Shahid Ahmed and Others	2022-2023	9,770
Combining PD-1/TGF blockades for enhancing IRE ablation of breast cancer--	Breast Cancer Society	Jim Xiang (Principal Investigator)	2022-2023	\$25,000
Eradication of both primary and distant prostate cancer - -----".	Prostate Cancer Fight Foundation	Jim Xiang (Principal Investigator)	2022-2023	\$15,000
Targeting metastatic breast cancer	CIHR	Deborah Anderson (Principal Investigator), Jane Alcorn, Brent Page	2022-2023	100,000
Towards improved cryopreservation of ovarian tissue to preserve fertility in women and girls undergoing cancer treatment	SHRF Grant	James Benson (Principal investigator), Laura Hopkins	2022-2023	\$60,000.00
A Patient Decision Aid for Women with Homologous Recombination Proficient Ovarian Cancer: Treatment Options Following Completion of Surgery and Chemotherapy	Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Research Connections Grant	L. Hopkins (Principal Investigator)	2022-2023	\$20,00.00
Genes regulated by CREB3L1 in breast cancer	CoM/UoFS	Deborah Anderson (Principal Investigator)	2022-2022	\$30,000
Circulating Tumour DNA Analysis Informing Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Stage III Colorectal Cancer: A Multicentre Phase II/III Randomised Controlled Trial (DYNAMIC-III)	CIHR	Jonathan Loree (Principal Investigator), Chris O'Callaghan(Co-Principal investigator), Shahid Ahmed and Others	2021-2027	1,426,724
Identification of therapeutically relevant	Canadian Institute of Health Research	Franco Vizeacoumar , (Principal	2021-2026	\$983,026

targets in telomerase overexpressing prostate cancer		Investigator); Andrew Freywald, Judy Wong, Wang Youzhou (Co-Investigators)		
Exploring the nerve-tumor interface to identify novel therapeutic targets for cancer	Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation Establishment Grant	Anand Krishnan (principal Investigator); Franco Vizeacoumar , Subha Krishnamoorthy (co-applicants)	2021-2024	\$120,000
Developing novel targeted therapies for telomerase overexpressing pancreatic cancer.	Canadian Research Society	Franco Vizeacoumar (Principal Investigator), Rani Kanthan, Deepti Ravi and Shahid Ahmed	2021-2023	120,000
Exploiting synthetic dosage lethality network for suppressing neuroendocrine prostate cancer	U of S Bridge fund for top ranked CIHR	Anand Krishnan (Principal Investigator) Franco Vizeacoumar , Andrew Freywald (Co-Investigators)	2021-2023	\$50,000
Applying synthetic dosage lethality to develop therapeutic strategies for ovarian cancer cell carcinoma	Cancer Research Society / Ovarian Cancer Canada	Franco Vizeacoumar (Principal Investigator), Andrew Freywald, Barbara Vanderhyden, Judy Wong, Ailes Laurie (co-applicants)	2021-2023	\$222,930
Systemic Therapy with a Loco-regional Treatment in Patients with Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer: The SMART Study	Saskatchewan Cancer Agency	Shahid Ahmed (Principal Investigator), Michael Moser (CO-PI) and others	2020-2024	199,570
Novel enhancement of irreversible electroporation through the use of prodrug activated by electrical current.	RUH Foundation	Michael Moser (Principal Investigator), Phenix, Price and Shahid Ahmed	2020-2024	. 25,000
Prairie Cancer Research Consortium-Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network Pilot – Understanding how the tumor microenvironment drives therapy resistance and metastasis	Terry Fox Research Institute/CoM-UofS/SHRF	Deborah Anderson (Principal Investigator)	2020-2022	\$60,000 yr2
Conversion From Unresectable To Resectable Liver Metastases In Patients With Liver-Only Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Treated With FOLFOXIRI Plus Bevacizumab. The Conversion Trial.	CIHR	Shahid Ahmed (Principal Investigator,) Raj Rakheja, Lynn Dwernychuk , Franco Vizeacoumar , June Lim, Adnan Zaidi , Haji Chalchal and others	2019-2026	100,000

Appendix D: Letters of Support



July 19, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support to elevate the Oncology Division to a Department.

I am the Director of Research and Senior Research Scientist at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) and a Professor in the Division of Oncology, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan (UofS). In addition, I serve as the Leader of the Cancer Cluster within the Health Sciences Building. Over my 32 years within the Division of Oncology, College of Medicine, I have appreciated the close collaborations with many University colleagues and supportive programs in the College to facilitate research on many levels (CoMRad, CoMBridge, CoMGrad, Biomed and Dean's projects, conference funding). During recent years, the relationship between Oncology, College of Medicine and the SCA has been further strengthened through several partnering opportunities.

First, in 2013 when the new Health Sciences building opened, the four SCA cancer research scientists relocated into the Cancer Cluster, with our like-minded UofS colleagues, to more effectively carry out cancer research activities. We also brought with us, many specialized capital equipment items that we fully share with the entire research community on campus. The SCA has continued to replace and repair, as well as add new types of capital equipment into the Cancer Cluster with an open access policy.

Second, the Jean E. Murray Chair in Cancer Research has provided the start-up (\$500K) and the first five years of salary support for a new cancer researcher through the support of the College and donor funds. After this initial five years, this cancer research scientist will have ongoing salary support provided by the SCA; a true win-win.

Third, the Next Generation Sequencing Facility located in the Health Sciences building provides sequencing services at reasonable costs to the entire UofS research community. The funding for the capital equipment, bioinformatics support and ongoing service contracts is provided by the SCA, with space and some annual staff salary support from the College. Access to next generation sequencing technology and the expertise of a local core facility to help guide and advise clients is of benefit to the entire research community since it serves clients across campus.

Fourth, the College has supported the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Cancer Centers Network, ensuring that Saskatchewan is a partner in this coast-to-coast Canadian program to enable

research discoveries to be translated into clinical evaluations and ultimately inform clinical decision making to enable Precision Oncology delivery of care.

Members of Oncology, contribute in significant ways within the College of Medicine such as teaching and training of undergraduates, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. The four SCA Research Scientists currently support 35 research personnel, including: 10 summer students, 10 MSc students, 2 PhD students, 3 post-doctoral fellows, 2 research associates, 6 research technicians and 2 research assistants. We also secure significant amounts of grant funding, including several Tri-Council CIHR and NSERC grants. Our research programs are very robust, obtaining on average about \$1 million in research funding per year consistently over the past 8 years or more. We also make significant scientific contributions in the form of publications with h-indexes of (26, 27, 30, 51) and i10-indexes of (31, 46, 49, 163) and citation numbers of (2488, 5972, 6748, 8104). Further, we serve as journal editors, on editorial boards, on advisory committees, mentorship committees, and as peer reviewers.

I look forward to additional collaborative opportunities, particularly as we move ahead with the establishment of a Saskatchewan Cancer Research Institute (SCRI) at the University of Saskatchewan in partnership with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. The SCRI will be conduit to translate local research discoveries into intellectual property with new patents, and into new clinical trials for cancer patients in Saskatchewan to offer cutting edge Precision Oncology therapies.

As you can see, Oncology members within the College of Medicine contribute in many significant ways to College and the University and elevating the Division of Oncology to a Department status would recognize our impacts and grow our influence and partnerships. I strongly support this change.

Yours Sincerely,



Deborah Anderson, Ph.D.

Director of Research, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
Cancer Cluster Leader, Health Sciences Building
Professor, Division of Oncology and
Associate Member, Dept of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology,
University of Saskatchewan
Phone: (306) 966-7038
E-mail: deborah.anderson@saskcancer.ca

August 10, 2023

Dean's Office Suite, College of Medicine
Box 19, 107 Wiggins Road
4A20, Health Sciences Building
Saskatoon SK S7N 5E5 Canada
Fax: 306-966-6164

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

I would like to extend support for the establishment of a department of Oncology in the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. Oncology is an active clinical and academic division with an existing complement of over 60 faculty in both Saskatoon and Regina. These members have made significant contributions to the academic mission of the College and University for over 40 years through participation at all levels of medical education, continuing medical education, and research. Faculty supervise and train medical residents in various clinical departments and contribute to the learnings of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the basic science departments as well. Excellence in teaching has been acknowledged college and campus wide by awards for faculty.

As Vice Dean of Faculty Engagement, I can specifically speak to the Division's active participation in academic advancement. Each year Oncology faculty members seek promotion to Associate and Full Professor. This reflects highly on the individual and is a visible sign of academic achievement to the larger academic community providing enhanced reputation for the College and University. The current Division Head, Dr. Shahid Ahmed, has been a passionate advocate of the integration of the academic and clinical roles and spearheaded initiatives such as a mentorship program which support the scholarly approach to practice.

The majority of oncology faculty are actively engaged in research, with over 100 publications and over 3700 citations in 2021/22. In the same year, oncology faculty were awarded more than \$4.4 million in research funding. Collaborations with Pathology researchers have recently resulted in a world-first clinical trial to improve ovarian cancer treatment. The Cancer Research Cluster in the college of Medicine is led by Dr. Deborah Anderson, an outstanding researcher in the Division of Oncology, and is a physical and intellectual space for sharing of ideas, high caliber interdisciplinary training, and specialized equipment.

Oncology recently established a residency program and to grant departmental status will align it with other academic-clinical units, allowing for appropriate recognition of faculty, staff, and learners for their contributions. Saskatchewan, not unlike other provinces, is facing a human health resource crisis and establishing the division as a vibrant department would provide visibility and legitimacy to attract top caliber residents, physicians, and research scientists to train and work in Saskatchewan.

In summary, Oncology is home to engaged and productive members whose accomplishments elevate our College as a whole. Faculty engagement is a strategic priority within the College of Medicine and the ability to elevate a productive division to the status of a department and acknowledge contributions on an equal footing with other departments is a significant part of the engagement process. I unreservedly support the establishment of the department of Oncology and expect it will contribute to raising the profile of college and province as an attractive place to recruit new faculty to, while appropriately recognizing the history and current members.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Baetz', written in black ink.

Dr. Marilyn Baetz, MD FRCPC CCPE
Vice Dean Faculty Engagement
College of Medicine



August 30, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Sir:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to elevate the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology.

Since 2018, I have had the privilege of serving the Regina community and its surrounding areas as a medical oncologist. During this time, I have actively participated in discussions and meetings at various levels, and I have closely followed the developments regarding the potential elevation of our Division of Oncology.

The Division of Oncology has been making significant contributions to the academic mission for over 40 years. Its faculty train and supervise undergraduate medical learners, and medical residents in various programs including Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pathology, Obstetrics and Gynecology.

It has also been playing a vital role in the training of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in various departments, some of these are Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology; and Biomedical Engineering.

The majority of oncology faculty are actively engaged in research, with over 100 publications and over 3700 citations in 2021/22. In the same year, oncology faculty were awarded more than \$4.4 million in research funding. Division's exceptional contributions to teaching were recently recognized by both the College of Medicine and the University with awards for "excellence in teaching" to Dr. Kelsey Brose.

I believe that elevating the Division of Oncology to a full-fledged Department of Oncology is a significant and forward-thinking step for our institution. This transformation will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the level of service we provide to our communities. Here are a few reasons why I believe this elevation is not only necessary but also beneficial:

1. **Enhanced Patient Care:** Elevating the Division to a Department signifies a commitment to providing the highest standard of patient care. This elevation will allow for improved coordination, more comprehensive care, and increased access to a wider range of Cancer specialties.
2. **Attracting Top Talent:** A Department of Oncology is more likely to attract and retain top-tier oncologists and medical professionals. This will enable us to strengthen our team and continue to deliver exceptional medical services.
3. **Research and Innovation:** The elevation will encourage a culture of research and innovation. As a Department, we will be better equipped to conduct research, and contribute to advancements in the field of oncology.
4. **Educational Opportunities:** The transition to a Department will open up new educational opportunities, including expanded residency programs and increased collaboration with medical schools. This will help nurture the next generation of oncologists and medical professionals.
5. **Community Confidence:** Elevating our oncology services to a Department status will instill confidence in our community. It sends a clear message that we are committed to excellence and are dedicated to meeting the healthcare needs of our patients.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that the elevation of our Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology is a progressive move that aligns with our institution's commitment to exceptional patient care, research, and education. I urge you to consider this proposal seriously and support its implementation for the betterment of our institution and the communities we serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you require any further information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Ayesha Bashir, MD, FRCPC
Assistant Professor, Medical Oncology



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

PHARMACY-NUTRITION.USASK.CA

 www.pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca

August 29, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Re: College of Pharmacy and Nutrition supports elevating the Division of Oncology to a Department.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am please to provide a letter of support for the proposed elevation for the Division of Oncology to Department status in the College of Medicine. At the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition we recognize the tremendous contributions of our colleagues with respect to research output, funding, and training opportunities. They have served as critical collaborators of our faculty and valued committee members for our students.

The partnership between the SCA and the division of oncology has produced outstanding research but also is responsible for critical infrastructure available to all U of S researchers such as the Next Generation Sequencing Facility located in the Health Sciences Building. Moreover, initiatives such as the Saskatchewan Cancer Research Institute (SCRI) will strengthen the U of S as a powerhouse of Cancer research in Canada.

We look forward to expanding our collaborations and training opportunities and we strongly believe the division of oncology should be represented as their own department. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



David Blackburn, BSP, ACPR, PharmD, FCSHP
Professor and Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Affairs
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
Email: d.blackburn@usask.ca
Phone: 306-966-2081



306-966-6327

pharmacy-nutrition@usask.ca

Aug 29, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support to elevate the Oncology Division to a Department.

I am the Jean E Murray Chair of Cancer Research which is a joint position between the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. As such I am a Research Scientist at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) and an Assistant Professor in the Division of Oncology, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan (U of S).

As an early career researcher in oncology, I believe that the elevation of the Division of Oncology to a department will help with the growth of cancer research within Saskatchewan. Since starting my position here in Sept of 2021, I have developed many research collaborations within the College of Medicine and the U of S. I hope to strengthen the cancer research community within the U of S. The expansion of oncology to a department will help to do this by giving us a voice at the table to promote the needs of oncology clinicians and researchers within the College of Medicine.

Yours Sincerely,



M. Dean Chamberlain, Ph.D.

Jean E Murray Chair of Cancer Research
Research Scientist, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
Cancer Cluster Leader, Health Sciences Building
Assistant Professor, Division of Oncology and
Associate Member, Dept of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology,
Associate Member, Division of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering,
University of Saskatchewan
Phone: (306) 966-7038
E-mail: dean.chamberlain@saskcancer.ca

University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority
Room 2841, Royal University Hospital
103 Hospital Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, CANADA S7N 0W8
TEL: (306) 655-0238 FAX: (306) 655-0235

September 5, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

RE: Support for Elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Dr. Smith

I am writing to provide my strong support for the proposal to elevate the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology that will be presented to the College of Medicine Faculty Council, University Council, Board of Governors and Senate.

As you know, the Division of Oncology has made significant contributions to the USask academic mission for many years. The Advanced Diagnostics Research Laboratory (ADRL) that I direct was initiated as a partnership between the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) and USask over ten years ago and has made key contributions to the local academic environment by supporting clinical trial activities and conducting translational and patient oriented research projects in collaboration with SCA clinicians including Mark Bosch, Julie Stakiw, and most recently Laura Hopkins. The collaboration with Laura Hopkins also involves Mary Kinloch, Head of Anatomic Pathology at the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and resulted in a recently awarded \$3.8 million Genome Canada Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP) grant.

Division of Oncology faculty also provide key contributions to the teaching mandate of the College of Medicine through the training and supervision of undergraduate medical learners, medical residents in various and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in various departments.

It is my understanding that with the introduction of Saskatchewan's first oncology residency program, the Division of Oncology is now eligible to become a department. Granting department status to oncology presents an excellent opportunity to align it with academic-clinical units within the College of Medicine; recognize its faculty for their significant contributions to the USask academic mandate; and continue to build on the research successes that have emanated from collaborations between College of Medicine and SCA faculty.

Sincerely,



John DeCoteau, MD FRCP
Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Director, Advanced Diagnostics Research Laboratory (ADRL)



September 1, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Preston,

As Head of the Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology, I am very pleased to support the proposal for creation of a Department of Oncology.

APP faculty members have many strong ties with cancer researchers who would become part of the new department. These ties include research collaborations, use of shared equipment, service on student thesis committees, and involvement in graduate and undergraduate teaching. The creation of a Department of Oncology would enable us to strengthen existing connections and to build new ways for our faculty members to collaborate.

We therefore strongly support the creation of the Department of Oncology.

Kind regards,

Thom

To: Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

July 13, 2023

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am writing this letter to express my enthusiastic support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology at our College. The Division of Oncology has been actively involved for many years in training and supervising undergraduate medical students and medical residents in multiple programs. They have been assisting in training for Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pathology, Obstetrics and Gynecology. Faculty from this Division also supervised and guided graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in conjunction with our biomedical science departments, including Biochemistry Microbiology and Immunology (BMI), Anatomy Physiology and Pharmacology (APP), and Biomedical Engineering. What is even more relevant to my work, the Oncology faculty actively contribute to biomedical and clinical research, with over 100 publications and over 3700 citations in the 2021/22 academic year. This includes members of the Cancer Research Cluster, a cohesive group of scientists at the College of Medicine and I am actively collaborating with some of these investigators. In the last academic year, Oncology faculty were awarded more than \$4.4 million in research funding. This includes an important translational project spearheaded by Drs Hopkins (Oncology), Kinloch and DeCoteau (Pathology). This the first ever clinical trial of its kind aiming to improve treatment of ovarian cancer patients, supported by \$3.8 million in competitive research funding. My team is now involved in a collaboration with these faculty to further the research aspect of their work.

With the introduction of the first Saskatchewan's oncology residency program, the Division is now eligible for upgrading to the Department status. This would in effect appropriately align Oncology with other academic units within the College of Medicine, acknowledge contributions of Oncology faculty to education and research, and enhance their ability to recruit top caliber residents, physicians and researchers to train and work in Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Freywald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Freywald, PhD
Professor
Department of Pathology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
andrew.freywald@usask.ca



July 25, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

Dear Dr. Smith,

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

I request your support for the elevation of the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology, which will be presented to the College of Medicine Faculty Council, Board of Governors, and Senate.

Over the last 40 years, the Division of Oncology has contributed significantly to the College's academic mission. Its faculty has been instrumental in training and supervising medical learners, Internal Medicine residents, and residents from various disciplines, including Family Medicine, Surgery, Pathology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, neurology, and anesthesiology. Training and support are also provided to graduate and post-doctoral fellows of various departments (e.g., Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology; Biomedical Engineering). As an example of the division's exceptional contributions recognized by the College of Medicine and the University with awards for "excellence in teaching" was one of its members, Dr. Kelsey Brose.

Most oncology faculty are actively engaged in research, with over 100 publications, a few books, and chapters with over 3700 citations in 2021/22.

The same year, oncology faculty were awarded more than \$4.4 million in research funding. The research faculty are members of the Cancer Research Cluster, a collaborative research group at the University of Saskatchewan. The Cancer Cluster provides faculty and learners, from across the university, with access to shared specialized equipment and high-caliber interdisciplinary training in studying cancer cells.

With the introduction of Saskatchewan's first oncology residency program, the Division is now eligible to become a Department (pending approval of the aforementioned governing bodies). Granting department status to oncology is an opportunity to align it with all other academic-clinical units within



the College of Medicine, recognize its faculty for their contributions to education and research, and enhance its ability to attract top-caliber residents, physicians, and research scientists to train and work in Saskatchewan.

I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hadi A. Goubran Messiha". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

Hadi A. Goubran Messiha, M.B., B.Ch., M.Sc., M.D.(Ph.D.), F.A.C.P., F.R.C.P. Edin
Professor, Division of Hematology and Oncology, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Hematologist, Saskatoon Cancer Centre, SK, Canada
Email: hadi.goubranmessiha@saskcancer.ca hag567@usask.ca
Telephone: 306 6556461 – Fax: 1 855 809 3068
SCC: 20 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 4H4



September 01, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology.

Dear Preston,

It is with great pleasure I write this letter of support for elevation of the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology. The Division of Oncology has been involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education and research. Our residents regularly rotate and work with various faculty members in the Division of Oncology. In addition, faculty from various divisions are doing collaborative work with oncology faculty. As the Provincial Department Head of Medicine, I believe elevation to the Department status will enhance its ability to pursue collaborative research, improve various educational and academic programs and enhance collaboration with the Department of Medicine and other units in the College of Medicine. I fully support this important recognition and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haissam Haddad".

Haissam Haddad O.C., MD, FRCPC, FRCP Edin, CCPE
Professor and Head Department of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
Louis Horlick Chair in Medicine
Provincial Head, Department of Medicine



July 10, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5
RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Dr. Smith:

My name is Laura Hopkins, and I am a Professor in the Division of Oncology, Provincial Lead for Gynecologic Oncology at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. I have been a Gynecologic Oncologist for over 20 years, practicing at The Ottawa Hospital between 2002 and 2019 and here in Saskatoon since September 2019.

You may recall that Gynecologic Oncology was 'moved' from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology into the Division of Oncology, forcibly, in May 2019 with a Ministry of Health directive. Since that time, we have established a robust clinical and academic program in Gynecologic Oncology with over 5 million dollars in active grants and the first clinical trials program in Gynecologic Oncology, (ever) in Saskatchewan. We have enjoyed the support of the Division of Oncology and feel that our academic achievements have been facilitated. What our group has accomplished academically and clinically, in just under 4 years is remarkable and speaks to the academic support and infrastructure that we have received. We have had two visiting Fellows for electives in Gynecologic Oncology and recognition of our members with important local and provincial teaching awards. We have supported several 'Dean's Awards' medical students and one of my students won first prize at the fall research day in 2020. We always have residents (junior and senior) from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology on service with us, with no breaks or gaps. We attend the Resident Research Day every year with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and our group's members have served as resident supervisor for several research projects across the last four years. We contribute significantly to research activity within the USask, collaborating with Faculty in the Biology Department and Department of Anatomic Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Gynecologic Oncology opened the first Saskatchewan Tumor Bank in October of 2021 which facilitates research collaboration with scientists here in Saskatchewan. For the first time, our USask ovarian cancer researchers do not have to purchase tumor samples from out of province. We have recently expanded the tumor bank to store samples of tumor from all cancer types. Gynecologic Oncology has initiated a Prairie Ovarian Cancer Research



Consortium with scientists from the USask, the SCA Cancer Cluster, as well as Manitoba, Edmonton, and Calgary. We created this collaboration originally for the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Research Initiative/competition and we have been awarded funding to support therapeutic development for ovarian cancer patients who have a unique and unmet need in terms of access to effective therapies. We have had two in-person meetings so far in Saskatoon; more are planned as we embark on the first pragmatic trial in ovarian cancer in Canada. This trial is open to accrual now and we hope to enroll the first patient within the next couple of weeks. This pragmatic trial is being supported by the Division of Oncology, using our own internal resources, and is expected to set a new precision medicine standard of care in ovarian cancer.

It is for all these reasons, that I believe the Division of Oncology should be elevated to a Department of Oncology. Medical Oncology has recently been granted a residency program and I believe this program completes fulfillment of the criteria needed for consideration of elevation to Department status.

If you would have any questions, please feel free to ring my cell, 639.480.8333.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Hopkins".

Dr. Laura Hopkins, BSc, MSc, MD, FRCSC
Professor; Division of Oncology, University of Saskatchewan
Provincial Lead; Gynecologic Oncology, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
Laura.hopkins@saskcancer.ca ; Cell. 639.480.8333

August 10, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

Dear Dr. Smith,

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

I am writing a letter of support for the Department of Oncology to be formed in the College of Medicine. I attended the presentation at the last faculty council meeting and was impressed with the direction that they wish to take the new department. I do think a Department of Oncology is important for the overall progressive movement of the College of Medicine. Within the Department of Surgery, we have multiple surgeons with expertise in oncology. The formation of a Department of Oncology is timely. In my new role as Provincial Department Head of Surgery, this would be a critical relationship that we would establish. The collaboration would include clinical and basic science research along with quality improvement work. Surgical oncology remains a high priority item of the Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you any concerns or questions.

Regards,



Michael Kelly, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS
Provincial Department Head and Fred H. Wigmore Professor of Surgery
University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority
MK/bb



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY
MEDICINE.USASK.CA

September 10, 2023

Dear Committee Members:

Re: creation of a department of oncology in the College of Medicine

As Department Head of Community Health & Epidemiology (CH&E) in the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, I am thrilled to provide this letter in support of the transition of the Oncology Division to a full-fledged department of Oncology in the College of Medicine.

This move is essential for bringing together a number of disciplines and several specialties in medicine such as medical oncology and radiation oncology while bridging the gap between teaching, practice and research. Hopefully the specialty of surgical oncology will also be closely associated with this new department as it is the case in other Canadian provinces.

This restructuring will strengthen the collaboration between the University, the College of Medicine and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and better anchor the training of medical students and residents as well as research for the benefit of patients' outcomes. Please note that several faculty in the CH&E department are fully engaged in cancer research from prevention to palliative care and collaborate with patient partners through SCPOR, with the Indigenous leadership (FSIN and the Metis Nation) and the broader healthcare system. We anticipate that the creation of this department will provide a fertile ground for a whole variety of oncology research that will impact patient care and quality of life. It will also be instrumental in fostering novel research through multiple collaborations within the University researchers, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and the national partners including the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials cooperative group based at Queens' University.

I fully support this application and hope that the oncology department will build on the strengths that already exist in this province and will be bold in taking cancer training and research to the next level, thus contributing to excellence in cancer care.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Leis".

Anne Leis, PhD
Professor and Department Head



July 25, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

Dear Dr. Smith,

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support to elevate the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology within the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

I have been a Radiation Oncologist with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency since 2004 and have held the role of Vice President of Medical Services since 2019. For over 40 years, the Division of Oncology has been making monumental contributions to academics and research. The faculty educate, train, supervise, and mentor undergraduate medical learners, residents, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows in departments across the College of Medicine. The Division of Oncology has been recognized by both the College of Medicine and the University of Saskatchewan for its exceptional teaching on numerous occasions. Namely, Dr. Vickie Martin, was awarded the 2022 Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan, Excellence in Teaching Award, and in addition to being awarded the 2023 College of Medicine Excellence in Teaching award, Dr. Kelsey Brose was the recipient of the Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching 2023. These are just two of the many incredibly committed, driven, inspirational teachers oncology is privileged to have. The Division of Oncology has worked tirelessly to introduce Saskatchewan's first oncology residency program and is currently in the very early stages of developing a hematology residency program, another first for the province.

Many of the faculty are engaged in research which has resulted in over 100 publications and over 3700 citations in 2021/22 alone. That same year, oncology faculty were awarded with over \$4.4 million in research funding. A notable example of what the division is working on is a world-first clinical trial to improve ovarian cancer treatment led by Dr. Laura Hopkins. This funding is also used to study cancer cells by the research faculty of the Cancer Research Cluster. This is a collaborative research group in the University of Saskatchewan that provides faculty and learners from across the university with access to highly specialized equipment and training.

The elevation from a division to a department would positively impact not only the College of Medicine and University of Saskatchewan, but also the province as a whole. Being aligned with other academic-clinical units within the College of Medicine and across the country creates a valuable opportunity to strengthen our ability to attract exceptional students, residents, physicians, and research scientists to study and work in Saskatchewan. Granting the status of department to oncology will also recognize the



hard work and dedication the faculty of oncology has to the academic mission and the College of Medicine.

It is for these reasons, and many more, that I wholeheartedly support the elevation of the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shazia", with a flourish extending to the right.

Shazia Mahmood, MD, FRCPC
Associate Professor College of Medicine

VP Medical Services
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
4101 Dewdney Avenue,
Regina, SK S4V 7T1
P. 306-766-2068 | C. 306-519-8942
saskcancer.ca



Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgeons

Michael Moser, MD, MSc, FRCSC **John Shaw, MBBCh, FCS, FRCSC, MMed**
Yigang Luo, MD, PhD, FRCSC **Gavin Beck, BSc, MD, FRCSC**

Division of General Surgery Royal University Hospital
Room 161 Ellis Hall 103 Hospital Drive Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W8 Canada
Phone: (306) 844-1005 Facsimile: (306) 844-1522

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology.

August 14, 2023

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am writing to express my support for the establishment of the Department of Oncology within the College of Medicine. The division as it currently exists is exemplary in terms of education and research, and I strongly believe that formalizing it with a department dedicated to oncology will only enhance its capabilities.

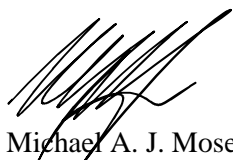
Over the last 18 years in my role as a hepato-pancreatico-biliary surgeon treating many cancer patients, I have appreciated collaborating with the oncologists and this collaboration is one of their strengths. I have personally witnessed the benefits of this teamwork; scientific discussions by phone take place nearly each week; these conversations with easily accessible oncologists have led to faster and more effective patient care. The formal rounds are a testament to their multidisciplinary approach, and I have no doubt that the people of Saskatchewan are receiving world-class care as a result.

In addition, the oncologists are deeply involved in research projects (from chart reviews to world-class clinical trials) and have strong ties with the HPB group in the Department of Surgery. As a result, many medical students have had the opportunity to work with these experts and publish their first papers in the field. I have been particularly impressed with the level of scientific rigour and precision that they bring to their work, which has undoubtedly helped to advance our understanding of cancer and its treatment.

Finally, the oncologists are highly knowledgeable about the latest treatments and provide residents and medical students with precise and scientific information. They practice evidence-based medicine at every step! The educational and research opportunities offered by the department are numerous, and the newly formed fellowship program in particular will provide excellent teaching and research experiences in the years ahead.

Considering all these factors, I firmly believe that the creation of the Department of Oncology will be beneficial in enhancing education, research, and patient care for the patients and learners of our province. I look forward to much more collaborative work between the Department of Surgery and the new Department of Oncology!

Sincerely,



Michael A. J. Moser, MD, MSc, FRCSC
Associate Professor of Surgery



August 14, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Dean Smith,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Provincial Department of Anesthesiology to elevate the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology. I fully agree with the proposal provided.

Be well,



Mateen Raazi

Provincial Department Head – Anesthesiology

10 August 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

Dear Dr. Smith,

Re: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

I am very pleased to write in support of formation of the Department of Oncology in the College of Medicine.

There is no shadow of doubt that the Division of Oncology has been instrumental to the academic mission of our college for the past 40 years. The division greatly contributed to teaching of both undergraduate medical students as well as graduate students in the College of Medicine (CoM.) As an example of the division's exceptional contributions to teaching, Dr. Kelsey Brose was recently recognized by both the College of Medicine and the University with awards for "excellence in teaching."

As Vice Dean of Research CoM, I am particularly pleased by the involvement of Division of Oncology in research.

The activities of Cancer Cluster, which is in the Health Sciences Building, grouping 4 researchers from the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and 4 from the University of Saskatchewan underscores strong, collaborative links between our institutions. As a result of these collaboration cancer researchers associated with the cluster published 100 in 2021/22. In the same year, oncology faculty were awarded more than \$4.4 million in research funding. A notable recent example is the exciting collaboration led by Drs Hopkins (Oncology), Kinloch and DeCoteau (Pathology): a world-first clinical trial to improve ovarian cancer treatment, made possible by \$3.8 million in funding, including \$1.1 million from Genome Canada's Genomic Applications Partnership Program.

The research productivity of cluster researchers led by Dr. Deborah Anderson with prominent contributions of CIHR -funded researchers including Drs. Franco Vizeacoumar, Shahid Ahmed, Jim Xiang, as well as Jean E. Murray Chair in Cancer Research Dr. Dean Chamberlain is a shining example of successful interactions between SCA and CoM.

I feel that elevation of the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology will allow our cancer research effort to go from strength to strength. A quick environmental scan shows that departments of oncology are considered "the gold standard" for excellence and success in cancer research. For example, departments of oncology lead research in such prestigious institution like University of Alberta, University of Toronto, Mayo Clinic, Trinity College Dublin or University of Cambridge.

I hope that you find this short but compelling letter as a very strong endorsement of the proposed elevation of the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology.

I look forward to continuing academic interactions between SCA and CoM, now on a new exciting platform, the departmental one.

I will be happy to expand on these remarks if needed.

With kind regards,

Marek Radomski

Marek W. Radomski, MD, PhD, DSc, Dr Honoris Causa, FCAHS
Vice Dean Research and Professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

MEDICINE.USASK.CA

Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Immunology

2D01 – 107 Wiggins Road, Saskatoon, SK Canada S7N 5E5

Phone: 306-966-6538 Fax: 306-966-4298

To: Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine

From: Bill Roesler, Professor and Head
Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology
College of Medicine

Date: August 10, 2023

Re: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for the proposal to elevate the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology. The Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology has greatly benefited from the contributions of members of the Division to our academic mission as well as to our research programs over the years. Specifically, there are three researchers in the Division that have strong ties to our department, and in particular to our cancer-related researchers. Deborah Anderson, Director of Research for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and a member of the Division, has been an associate member of our department for many years. Her contributions include lecturing in both undergraduate and graduate courses; supervision of undergraduate research projects; and supervision of graduate and postdoctoral trainees. She has provided access to specialized equipment that has been vital for researchers in our department, and she has collaborated with faculty in our department on specific research projects. Dean Chamberlain, a recent recruit to the Division, is also an associate member of our department and is actively engaged in our academic programs. These two researchers have diversified and enriched our programs by providing unique training opportunities for students in our undergraduate and graduate programs that would not otherwise be available through faculty in our department. The third Division member, whose team has collaborated with a number of our faculty, is Dr. Franco Vizeacoumar. While not a formal associate member of our department, his particular expertise in synthetic lethality and genotype-directed cancer therapy have been of special interest to certain faculty in our department and productive collaborations have resulted.

While I am not fully knowledgeable of the benefits of elevating the Division to a Department, I do know that many in the College aren't even aware that the division is not currently a department, because of its significant and substantive contributions to the research and academic activities of the College. Elevating the Division to a Department will essentially formalize this perception.

William (Bill) J. Roesler, Professor and Head

Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Immunology, University of Saskatchewan

107 Wiggins Road, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5 Canada

Telephone: 306-966-4375 Email: bill.roesler@usask.ca



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

MEDICINE.USASK.CA

Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Immunology

2D01 – 107 Wiggins Road, Saskatoon, SK Canada S7N 5E5

Phone: 306-966-6538 Fax: 306-966-4298

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Roesler".

Bill Roesler

William (Bill) J. Roesler, Professor and Head

Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Immunology, University of Saskatchewan

107 Wiggins Road, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5 Canada

Telephone: 306-966-4375 Email: bill.roesler@usask.ca

August 23, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Dear Dr. Smith:

This is to provide my strong support to the elevation of the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology at the University of Saskatchewan.

Given the strategic direction of the University, the specific focus and priorities within the college of medicine (Strategic Plan 2017-2025), and the PGME (PGME strategic Plan 2021-2025) to ensure our college aligns with University Plan 2025 the elevation from Division to Department of Oncology will provide a much-needed academic base and become a critical resource for resident training, education and research- aspects of the core business of our university. As the Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education, I have seen the division make significant contributions to the academic mission in the training of medical residents across a number of our resident training programs; Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pathology and OBGYN have been privileged to receive excellent training and teaching by award winning faculty members which has contributed greatly to resident learning and success

In aligning with the University of Saskatchewan's strategic plan in research, the division received \$4.4 million dollars in research funding to lead the world-first clinical trial to improve ovarian cancer treatment. The division is home to the Cancer Research Cluster, a collaborative research environment occupying more the 6,000 sq ft of space in the Health Sciences building, this cancer cluster provides faculty and learners, with access to specialized equipment and high caliber interdisciplinary study of cancer cells.

Saskatchewan's first oncology resident program at USASK provides the eligibility of the division to become the Department of Oncology and will provide the opportunity to align with all other academic-clinical units within the College of Medicine. The faculty will then be recognized for their contributions to the training of our upcoming resident trainees and will allow for the ability to attract resident trainees, physicians, and researchers to train, work and hopefully continue their practice in Saskatchewan.

As we head toward becoming the University the World needs it is my privilege to provide my support for this important change for Division of Oncology in the College of Medicine.

Sincerely,



Anurag Saxena MD, M.Ed., MBA, FRCPC

Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education

University of Saskatchewan

September 5, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5

Dear Dr. Smith

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Division of General Surgery. I am currently the Head of the Division of General Surgery as well as the head of Hepatobiliary Surgery within Saskatoon. Our relationship to the Division of Oncology is extremely close due to the high volume patients that share both surgery and medical oncology in their management pathway. It is impossible for us to operate effectively without their commitment and support.

The Division of Oncology has always been engaged and supportive of all the subspecialty Surgical Oncology groups within Surgery. There are regular multidisciplinary team meetings (Surgery, Oncology, Radiology and Pathology) to address the various cancers and the nuances within each to provide optimum care for patients, which is essential for the best outcome possible.

The Division of Oncology certainly exemplifies and supports the academic mission of the Health Authority as well as the College of Medicine due to the broad reach that it has across multiple disciplines. This Division trains numerous undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate bridging many medical Divisions and Departments.

Oncology have always been active locally and nationally, maintaining a very visible contribution to cancer care in Canada. Their research productivity is impressive in both the number of publications and citations they receive on a regular basis. They also receive significant research funding to improve cancer care with an example being the recent substantial grant being obtained by Dr. Hopkins for ovarian cancer treatment research.

Elevating the Division of Oncology to a Department would be important to recognize the breadth and reach that Oncology has in their own right as they continues to evolve as a fast paced and growing area in medicine.

We look forward to a favorable response to this request by the College of Medicine Faculty Council, University Council, Board of Governors and Senate so Oncology can continue and further the significant advances that they are making in cancer care in Saskatchewan and Canada.

With kindest regards,



John Shaw, MBBCh, FCS, MMed, FRCSC
Clinical Professor, University of Saskatchewan
Division Head, General Surgery
Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgeon
Royal University Hospital

JMS/trs

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

August 29th 2023

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Dr. Preston Smith,

I am reaching out to you as the Division Head of pediatric oncology to indicate my strong support for granting the division of oncology departmental status. Having Departmental status would elevate the ability of the oncology program to pursue research, educational pursuits as well as help better support clinical care.

The Division of Oncology has a long history of providing excellence in teaching to both medical learners and biomedical sciences students. In addition, the division also has one of the College of Medicine's most successful research programs housed within the Cancer Research Cluster.

Supporting oncology academic pursuits within the Department of Internal Medicine can sometimes be challenging especially when so many of the academic pursuits actually cross departmental lines. This includes those collaborations with us as in Pediatric Oncology. In pediatric oncology access to clinical trials is a key part of clinical care and increasingly it is our standard of care to improve the access of our patients to enroll on clinical trials. The goal is to have the same access in Saskatchewan for our patients as elsewhere in Canada. This is because in pediatric oncology it has been proven that patients on clinical trials have better outcomes in the long term. In our Division, we feel strongly that having a separate division of oncology will better support both the adult oncology program and the pediatric oncology program. In our world, clinical trials are truly embedded into everyday clinical care and thus the academic pursuits are quite different than a lot of other areas of clinical care. Thus, having a separate Department of oncology will allow all of our members to pursue academic pursuits to further increase our reach and ability to support local, national and international research and education.

Having a stand-alone Department of Oncology would allow improved ability to support joint ventures by allowing for cross appointments and collaborations. This is key for supporting academic pursuits within the College of Medicine but perhaps more importantly with our external partners and funders. Ultimately, this will help the College of Medicine achieve even greater success with supporting investigator initiated research and obtaining research funding which will ultimately result in publications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roona Sinha".

Roona Sinha



July 11, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5

RE: Support for elevation the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

I am very happy to write a letter of support for the Department of Oncology to Departmental status.

I am Provincial Head of Emergency Medicine. Emergency Medicine has recently (2016) achieved departmental status and I am aware of the benefits this can bring to both the department in question and the departments they collaborate with.

Working in the emergency department, our physicians regularly work with and consult with the Division of Oncology. Over the past decade, we have appreciated the increasingly academic and collaborative approach we have seen from this division.

As a department with increasing teaching responsibilities, I expect we will see increased presence in the ER and ability to collaborate on care.

Research is a major focus in Emergency Medicine, and we welcome and look forward to future collaborations with Oncology.

I whole heartedly support oncology becoming a full department within the College of Medicine.

Sincerely,

James Stempien, BSC, MD, CCFPEM, FCFP, CCPE, MA (Leadership)
Provincial Head
Department of Emergency Medicine

September 4, 2023

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Road Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E5

RE: Support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere and strong support for elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology within our College of Medicine.

My name is Franco Vizeacoumar and I am a Senior Scientist at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and an Associate Professor within the University of Saskatchewan. I have been conducting independent research program and has been a member of the Division of Oncology for the past ten years. While you might know and appreciate all the statistics and accolades associated with the productivity of this Division, below I am providing my perspective as to how elevating the 'Division of Oncology' to the 'Department of Oncology', is an important move.

Focus on an important health problem: As you are aware, Cancer is a leading cause of death in Canada and one of the most imminent health problems with untold physical, psychological and economic costs to society. Despite intensive worldwide research efforts, it remains a devastating, often poorly treatable disease. With support from multiple granting agencies, including the Canadian Institute of Health Research, my lab has been making important strides to discover drug targets to treat this deadly disease. Establishing a home department, will provide the much-needed focus to centralize all the efforts within our College and combat this deadly disease, right here in Saskatchewan.

Training the next generation of cancer scientists: As an academic institution, we have an important mandate to train the next generation scientists. Students interested in cancer research are often unable to reach out and take advantage of the dedicated research program. Unlike basic biochemistry and cell biology programs offered within the respective departments, for students specifically interested in cancer research, our college does not offer a dedicated training program. Given the advances in cancer genomic and proteomic approaches and other sequencing technologies, cancer biologists are now generating data at crushing speeds. These biological datasets are often not structured and are associated with multiple variables. Hence, there is an urgent need for building training programs that are

dedicated to cancer research and enable students of Saskatchewan to access state-of-the-art technologies. By establishing a dedicated Department, together with colleagues, there will be opportunities to spear-head a dedicated cancer research training program and it is my sincere belief that our College will set an outstanding example for other Universities, where cancer research is still taught as a component of the mainstream biology. With the introduction of the first Saskatchewan's oncology residency program, the Division is also now eligible for upgrading to the Department status. This would in effect appropriately align Oncology with other academic units within the College of Medicine, acknowledge contributions of Oncology faculty to education and research, and enhance their ability to recruit top caliber residents, physicians and researchers to train and work in Saskatchewan.

Foster collaborations between researchers and Clinicians: I have been fortunate to work and collaborate with a number of my colleagues within the Cancer Research Cluster. This cluster brought like-minded researchers from different departments/ divisions to work together on scientific projects. However, elevating the 'Division of Oncology' to the 'Department of Oncology', will enable deeper interactions amidst clinical and research faculties. As such, in its current form, in the last academic year, Oncology faculty were awarded more than \$4.4 million in research funding. Strengthening the interactions via regular departmental meetings, will only foster collaborations between researchers and clinicians.

In summary, I strongly believe that this important step of elevating the Division of Oncology to the Department of Oncology will establish a strong track-record of research and excellence in cancer research within Saskatchewan. On a personal level, it will also enable me to recruit, train and interact with my clinical colleagues more effectively. Thus, I strongly support this important endeavour.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Franco Vizeacoumar
Senior Scientist
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
Associate Professor, Division of Oncology
University of Saskatchewan

Appendix E: Faculty

Last name	First name	Present rank	Medical or Support Faculty
Abbas	Tahir	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Ahmed	Shahid	Professor	Medical Faculty
Ahmed	Osama	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Al Hayki	Maryam	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Alexander	Andrew	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Alsafar	Noura	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Alvi	Riaz	Clinical Lecturer	Support Faculty
Amjad	Asim	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Anderson	Deborah	Clinical Professor	Medical Faculty
Aslam	Muhammad	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Baden	Hussein	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Bashir	Ayesha	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Beckett	Craig	Clinical Lecturer	Support Faculty
Bosch	Mark	Associate Professor	Medical Faculty
Brose	Kelsey	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Brown Broderick	Jennifer	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Brunet	Bryan	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Chalchal	Haji Ibrahim	Clinical Associate	Medical Faculty
Chamberlain	Michael Dean	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Cranmer-Sargison	Gavin	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Dolata	Wojciech	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Drever	Laura	Clinical Lecturer	Support Faculty
Dueck	Dorie-Anna	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Dwernychuk	Lynn	Adjunct Professor	Support Faculty
Elemary	Mohamed	Professor	Medical Faculty
El-Gayed	Ali A. H.	Clinical Professor	Medical Faculty
Eswedi	Abdulhakim	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Giambattista	Joshua Aaron	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Glass	Lisa	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Goubran Messiha	Hadi	Professor	Medical Faculty
Gowrishankar	Branawan	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Hagel	Kimberly M.	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Haider	Kamal-Uddin	Clinical Professor	Medical Faculty
Hart	Caroline	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Hopkins	M. Laura	Professor	Medical Faculty
Iqbal	Nayyer	Professor	Medical Faculty
Iqbal	Mussawar	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Jim	Brent	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Johnson	Kate Johannah	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Khan	Muhammad Imtiaz	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Khan	Habib	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Kodad	Shruthi Ganeshappa	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Kundapur	Vijayananda	Clinical Professor	Medical Faculty
Le	Duc	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty

Lee	Joohyun Shaina	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Liu	Derek Man Chun	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Maas	Benjamin	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
MacKay	Rebecca	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Mahmood	Shazia	Clinical Associate	Medical Faculty
Manna	Mita (Madhumita)	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Marchant	Kristin	Adjunct Professor	Support Faculty
Martin	Vickie Janine	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Mir	Taskia	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Moodley	Otto U.	Clinical Associate	Medical Faculty
Moore	Jocelyn	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Morton	Daniel	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Nicholson	Matthew Christopher	Associate Professor	Medical Faculty
Othman	Ibraheem Mohammed	Associate Professor	Medical Faculty
Panjwani	Dilip	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Pearson	Derek	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Pekar	Julius	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Sabry	Waleed	Professor	Medical Faculty
Salim	Muhammad	Clinical Associate	Medical Faculty
Sami	Amer	Clinical Professor	Medical Faculty
Sherin	Danielle	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Souied	Osama	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Stakiw	Julie	Clinical Associate	Medical Faculty
Suderman	Derek	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Thakur	Varun Singh	Clinical Lecturer	Support Faculty
Vizeacoumar	Franco	Associate Professor	Medical Faculty
Wright	Philip	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Xiang	Jim	Clinical Professor	Medical Faculty
Xu	Heping	Clinical Assistant	Support Faculty
Yadav	Sunil	Clinical Associate	Medical Faculty
Younis	Moftah	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty
Zaidi	Adnan	Associate Professor	Medical Faculty
Zarkovic	Mirjana	Assistant Professor	Medical Faculty