

# Provincial Palliative Care Program

In 2004, Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) identified improving the quality of palliative care for cancer patients as a strategic priority in the Ontario Cancer Plan. It was noted that there was regional variation across Ontario in the number of patients who; died at home, received home care services, received a physician house call in last two weeks of life and/or visited the emergency room in the last two weeks of life.

In light of service gaps for palliative care in the cancer care community, CCO established a Provincial Palliative Care Program and implemented a Provincial Palliative Care Strategy. The Strategy is based on the following vision: *Every person living in Ontario, when faced with a cancer diagnosis, has the opportunity to live life fully, to receive timely and appropriate symptom management, to be supported along with his/her family with dignity and respect throughout the course of his/her illness, and in the face of incurable disease, to have the opportunity to live and die in a setting of his/her choice.*

The strategy includes the development of practice and treatment guidelines; ongoing education and mentoring in collaborative practice and palliative care; promotion of increased use of evidence and standards; improved measurement of quality standards and building strong collaborations across providers and settings. The program is lead by a provincial program leader, includes a provincial committee with regional representation from local palliative care physician leaders and an action plan to improve quality, consistency and availability of palliative care services across Ontario.

## PROVINCIAL CONTACTS:

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**Dr. Deborah Dudgeon, Provincial Head  
Palliative Care, Cancer Care Ontario**

Dr. Deborah Dudgeon is the Provincial Program Head of Palliative Care for Cancer Care Ontario. She is a medical oncologist by training and has worked in palliative care since 1992. Dr. Dudgeon is the W. Ford Connell Professor of Palliative Care Medicine and a Professor of Medicine and Oncology at Queen's University. Dr. Dudgeon has served as the President of the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians, the co-chair of the Advisory Committee for the Conjoint Training Program in Palliative Medicine for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and a member of the Advisory Committee for research for the National Cancer Institute of Canada.

## Regional Palliative Care Physician Leads



**LHIN 1 Erie St. Clair  
Dr. Glen Maddison**

Dr. Glen Maddison has been involved in Palliative Care since 2004. Before that he was an Emergency Physician. Dr. Maddison is the only full time palliative care physician in Lambton County. He sees patients in their homes, at an outpatient clinic and in the hospital. Dr. Maddison will be the medical director for St. Joseph's Hospice a 10 bed free standing residential facility due to open in October 2009. For more information contact: Shari Scarpelli at Shari.Scarpelli@esc.cca.on.ca



**LHIN 2 South West  
Dr. Ingrid Harle**

Dr. Ingrid Harle is the Medical Director of the Palliative Care Program for London and the Southwest LHIN. This is an appointment with the Departments of Oncology and Family Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Harle has her fellowship in general surgery, family medicine and has completed her certification in the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Care. Dr. Harle is actively involved in numerous Palliative Care Committees and initiatives. To name a few, Dr. Harle is the physician lead for the Southwest LHIN to the CCO Palliative Care Program Committee and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Southwest End-Of-Life Care Network. For more information contact: Wendy Murphy, Administrative Assistant at Wendy.Murphy@lhsc.on.ca



**LHIN 3 Waterloo Wellington  
Dr. Donna Ward**

Dr. Donna Ward has been a Family physician in Kitchener Waterloo since 1977. She developed a special interest in Palliative Care since 1983 and took a year sabbatical between 1986-87 to study further. She has been engaged in full time palliative care in Kitchener Waterloo since 2002 when she responded to an invitation to integrate Palliative Care services into the new Grand River Regional Cancer Centre (GRRCC). She is proud to be a part of the growing Palliative Care Team at the GRRCC. Donna is an adjunct professor in the Palliative Division of the DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University. For more information contact: Carrie Meier, Administrative Assistant at carrie.meier@grhosp.on.ca



**LHIN 4 Hamilton Niagara Haldimand and Brant  
Dr. Sharon Russell**

Dr. Sharon Russell is the Regional Head for Palliative Care at the Hamilton Health Sciences and the Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton. She has a background in internal medicine and medical oncology. She maintains a keen interest in integrated oncology and palliative care program development, delivery and evaluation. For more information contact: Cindy Balansche, Administrative Assistant at Cindy.balansche@hrcc.on.ca



### LHIN 5 & 6 Central West & Mississauga Halton Dr. Robert Sauls

Dr. Robert Sauls is the Medical Lead for Palliative Care at the Carlo Fidani Peel Regional Cancer Centre and the Medical Director of the inpatient Palliative Care Unit at the Credit Valley Hospital. He practiced family medicine in Mississauga for 20 years while developing a palliative care practice from the early 1990's. Over that period of time he has been involved in the development of both regional and provincial programs for delivery of and education in Palliative Care.  
For more information contact: Ana Botelho, Administrative Assistant at [abotelho@cvh.on.ca](mailto:abotelho@cvh.on.ca)



### LHIN 7 Toronto Central Dr. Jeff Myers

Dr. Jeff Myers is the regional Palliative Care Clinical Co-Lead in the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program for Cancer Care Ontario. He is a family physician and has worked in Palliative Care since 1999. Dr. Myers is Head of Palliative Care at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre as well as Co-Program Head of the Odette Cancer Centre's Patient and Family Support Program. He is also an Assistant Professor and the newly appointed Associate Head of University of Toronto's Division of Palliative Care.  
For more information contact: Gay Manley at [gay.manley@sunnybrook.ca](mailto:gay.manley@sunnybrook.ca)



### LHIN 7 Toronto Central Dr. Camilla Zimmermann

Dr. Camilla Zimmermann is the regional Palliative Care Clinical Co-Lead in the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program for Cancer Care Ontario. Dr. Zimmermann trained in internal medicine and has worked in palliative care since 1998. She is Head of the Palliative Care Program at the University Health Network and an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. She is also a Scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute and has ongoing studies in palliative care funded by the Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.  
For more information contact: Maria Hoffman at [maria.hoffmann@uhn.on.ca](mailto:maria.hoffmann@uhn.on.ca)



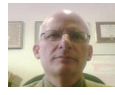
### LHIN 8 Central Dr. Nancy Merrow

Dr. Nancy Merrow graduated from the University of Toronto in 1983, and completed her family medicine residency at Women's College Hospital in 1985. She is a fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and was certified by the American Board of Hospice Palliative Medicine in 2002. Her commitment to leadership has led to increasing involvement in the hospital, at the regional level in the Regional Cancer Program, and at the LHIN level with the Hospice Palliative Care Steering Committee. Dr. Merrow is presently the Chief of Staff at Southlake Regional Health Centre and is the Lead Palliative Physician for Cancer Care Ontario in the Central LHIN, and the Medical Director of Palliative Care at Southlake Regional Health Centre. Her current projects include the development of a Family Medicine Residency Program at Southlake and interprofessional teams for in home palliative care across the LHIN, and the creation of a 10 bed residential hospice for York Region.  
For more information contact: Ola Bruce, Executive Assistant at [obruce@southlakeregional.org](mailto:obruce@southlakeregional.org)



### LHIN 9 Central East Dr. Howard Burke

Dr. Howard Burke is a family physician in Bowmanville. He is also the head of the local palliative care team and practices emergency medicine, hospitalist care, teaches residents, and works as a coroner. He is the Regional Lead for Palliative Care for the Central East LHIN. He helped to develop the Bowmanville Palliative Care Team in 1991. In 2000 Dr. Burke joined the Executive for the Palliative Medicine Section at the Ontario Medical Association and is the Past Chair. He spends much of his time teaching and was the recipient of the Community Teacher of the Year Award from the Ontario College of Family Physicians in 2005 and the Barney Giblon Teaching Award in 2003 and 2008 from the Toronto Scarborough Hospital.  
For more information contact: Sarah Vanderzee at [svanderzee@lakeridgehealth.on.ca](mailto:svanderzee@lakeridgehealth.on.ca)



### LHIN 10 South East Dr. Ray Viola

Dr. Ray Viola is a Palliative Care physician in the Palliative Care Medicine Program at Queen's University, based at Kingston General Hospital and is the Palliative Care Physician Leader for the Southeastern Ontario Regional Cancer Program. He studied medicine at the University of Toronto, family medicine at Queen's and palliative medicine at the University of Ottawa. He obtained a Masters degree in epidemiology at the University of Ottawa in 1997.  
For more information contact: Ruili Fang at [fangr@kgh.kari.net](mailto:fangr@kgh.kari.net)



### LHIN 11 Champlain Dr. Edward Fitzgibbon

Dr. Edward Fitzgibbon is the Palliative Care physician lead for the Champlain LHIN. Originally trained as a family physician, he completed a Fellowship in Palliative Care in 2000 and an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology in 2004. Currently he is the Medical Director of the Palliative Care Program at the Ottawa Hospital, a Clinical Investigator at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and an Assistant Professor in the Division of Palliative Care at the University of Ottawa. His clinical duties include the in-patient palliative care consultation service and providing out-patient services in the Cancer Pain Clinic at the Ottawa Hospital. Research interests include management of complex cancer pain syndromes and health care services delivery models.  
For more information contact: Lynn Kachuik, APN at [lkachuik@ottawahospital.on.ca](mailto:lkachuik@ottawahospital.on.ca)



### LHIN 12 North Simcoe Muskoka Dr. Richard Irvin

Dr. Richard Irvin is the Lead Palliative Physician for the North Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program. He has been a family doctor in Barrie since 1971, and retired from active practice in 2003. He has been a family medicine teacher with the University of Western Ontario throughout his career, and received the Ontario College of Family Physicians Community Teacher of the Year Award in 1989. He has actively taught palliative medicine throughout his LHIN since 1997 as part of the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care /Ministry of Health. Active in Hospice Simcoe, the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, and in the communities of LHIN 12, Rick has received the 2009 June Callwood Volunteer Award from Hospice Simcoe, and the 2009 Human Touch Award from Cancer Care Ontario and the Canadian Cancer Society (Ontario). He has been actively involved in the building of Hospice House, a 10 bed residential hospice, for Barrie and Area residents.  
For more information contact: Lena Roccasalvo at [lena.roccasalvo@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:lena.roccasalvo@cancercare.on.ca)



### LHIN 13 North East Dr. Andrew Knight

Dr. Andrew Knight has worked as a general practitioner in medical oncology at the Northeastern Ontario Regional Cancer Centre since 1996. Prior to that he had spent 13 years in comprehensive family practice. Dr. Knight is the Education Co-chair of the Palliative Care Education Program for Family Physicians in Northeastern Ontario and is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. He is also Past Chair of the Canadian Association of General Practitioners in Oncology (CAGPO).  
For more information contact: Sharon Cooper, Administrative Assistant at [scooper@hrsrh.on.ca](mailto:scooper@hrsrh.on.ca)



### LHIN 14 North West Dr. Geoff Davis

Dr. Geoff Davis is a family physician in Thunder Bay who's practice has been dedicated primarily to palliative care for the last 25 years. He currently is the Director of Palliative Care at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Care Group. He is an active member of the End-of-Life Care Network facilitating the ongoing development, implementation, maintenance and evaluation of a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated system of palliative/end-of-life care for communities in Northwestern Ontario.  
For more information please contact: Lena Roccasalvo at [lena.roccasalvo@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:lena.roccasalvo@cancercare.on.ca)