



Canadian Cancer Society  
Société canadienne du cancer

## June 2017 (KTA-17) Competition Awarded Knowledge to Action Grants

Listed in alphabetical order

### **Baxter, Nancy**

St. Michael's Hospital

*Improving rectal cancer survivorship by reducing the incidence of parastomal hernias*

People with rectal cancer must often have their colon re-routed through their abdomen during surgery to remove the tumour. This forms an opening in the abdomen called a stoma. Complications following this surgery can lead to chronic pain and significant reductions in quality of life. Previous studies have shown the benefit of protecting the new opening with a mesh material, but this method has not been routinely adopted by surgeons. Dr Nancy Baxter will create guidelines to help more surgeons use the mesh in the best way in the most appropriate patients. This research could reduce the rate of complications among rectal cancer survivors.

### **Dobbins, Maureen**

McMaster University

*Evaluating the impact of cancer screening patient decision aids accessed through the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal*

Making healthcare-related decisions can be a daunting task, but they should be based on scientific evidence and personal needs, values and preferences. People considering prostate or breast cancer screening may not always have access to the best resources to help them make an informed decision. Dr Maureen Dobbins will assess whether existing decision-making tools can help people decide whether to be screened for prostate cancer (in men) and breast cancer (in women). This research has important implications for increasing people's comfort and confidence in making decisions related to cancer screening.

### **Lofters, Aisha**

St. Michael's Hospital

*Implementing lung cancer screening for those living with low income*

Previous research has shown that people with low incomes tend to be at a higher risk for developing lung cancer, yet they may also be less likely to participate in cancer screening programs. It is important to identify and address barriers that prevent high-risk, low-income individuals from being screened as lung cancer screening programs are developed. Dr Aisha Lofters will interview people participating in a pilot screening program in Ontario to learn more about their experiences and make suggestions to policymakers for improvements. Improved lung cancer screening could catch more lung cancers early in people at high risk.

### **Stajduhar, Kelli**

University of Victoria

*Realizing the benefits of a palliative approach for vulnerable and marginalized people living with cancer*

Cancer is one of the most common causes of death in people who are homeless and vulnerable. Vulnerable and marginalized people with cancer do not always receive the palliative and end-of-life care they need. The community service providers that work with them have the greatest potential to provide or facilitate access to this support, but they often lack sufficient training in this area. By providing educational materials and training to service providers, Dr Kelli Stajduhar plans to improve their knowledge of palliative and end-of-life care so they are better equipped to help. Overall, this research could help improve the quality of life for vulnerable people with cancer as the end of life approaches.

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