



McGill University Chair in Community Cancer Care with a Primary Focus on Breast Cancer @ St. Mary's Hospital Center

Community oncology represents an important step in the development of cancer medicine, providing a vehicle for the evidence-based care of patients in a community hospital setting and in the context of the community at large. It is based on the provision of advanced cancer care by an integrated multidisciplinary team, consisting of physicians, nurse specialists, pharmacists and other health workers, both inside and out of the hospital setting. Every member of the integrated team actively participates in the development of a treatment management plan and its execution. The aim is to provide optimally effective therapy that takes into consideration the patient's physical, mental and spiritual well being.

St. Mary's Hospital has been a pioneer in Community Cancer Care for more than 20 years. With a long tradition of a patient-care focus, the Cancer Care Program took innovative steps very early toward the full development of Community Oncology. An interdisciplinary cancer unit was created that included home-visiting nurses. Out-patient oncology and palliative care were then integrated in one physical area, with the complete merging of the inpatient and outpatient nursing teams. Oncology pharmacists and the nurse specialists were given direct involvement in their patient's care. And more recently, the services of a physiologist, a music therapist, an art therapist and a massage therapist have been incorporated in the regular care of the patients.

Building upon the established and widely-respected reputation of our Community Cancer Care program, the establishment of an *Academic Chair in Community Cancer Care at St. Mary's* will further enhance and augment St. Mary's leadership role in this field. With a core focus on breast-related cancers, this Chair will be held at St. Mary's Hospital Center and will serve to develop the discipline completely in the academic field with an additional specific aim to serve McGill RUIS area institutions.

With a primary focus on breast-related cancers, the Chair recipient will be responsible for research activities in the area of multidisciplinary team activities, for the outcome-centered research in the area of Community Cancer Care, and for research into the efficacy and the quality of care in Community Oncology in the areas of medicine and nursing.

The Chair will be responsible for the training of residents interested in the areas of oncology, family or internal medicine, surgery, psychiatry and others. As well, there will be an expectation for establishing educational activities for community physicians in the field of community oncology, for ongoing liaising with community caregivers, and for establishing instant electronic communications within the team and with the participating institutions.

The Chair is being established through an endowed fund of \$3 million at the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation. The recipient of the Chair will be selected through a competitive process by a peer review committee comprised of members (both internal and external) with established reputations in relevant fields.

The Chair will further enhance the impressive reputations of St. Mary's Hospital Center and McGill's Departments of Oncology, Medicine and Surgery and firmly establish the support of both institutions for Community Cancer Care.