



## The Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute and the Terry Fox Research Institute Atlantic Node 2023 Workshop

### Day 1: 12 October 2023

Theme: **Diversity of Cancer Research in Atlantic Canada**

9:30am - 9:40am	<p><b>Welcome Day 1:</b> <b>Dr. Sherri Christian</b> Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland &amp; Atlantic Cancer Consortium Lead, Terry Fox Marathon of Hope BHCRI Senior Scientist</p>
9:40am - 10:40am	<p><b>Work in Progress CRTP Trainee presentations (10 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions)</b> Session Facilitator: <b>Vlora Riberdy</b></p> <p><b>Speaker 1-</b> Kathleen Varty, University of New Brunswick-Saint John, Biology (MSc) <b>Speaker 3-</b> Jodi Langley, Dalhousie University, Health (PhD) <b>Speaker 4-</b> Deogratias Riwa, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Neuroscience (PhD)</p>
10:40am - 11:00am	<p><b>Break</b></p>
11:00am - 12:00pm	<p><b>Work in Progress CRTP Trainee presentations (10 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions)</b> Session Facilitator: <b>Kazeem Adefemi</b></p> <p><b>Speaker 5-</b> Lia Massoeurs, Dalhousie University, Community Health and Epidemiology (MSc) <b>Speaker 7-</b> Karla Valenzuela, Dalhousie University, Pharmacology (PDF) <b>Speaker 8-</b> Jordan Lukacs, Dalhousie University, Microbiology and Immunology (PhD)</p>
12:00pm - 12:30pm	<p><b>Break</b></p>
12:30pm - 2:00pm	<p><b>Careers Outside of Academia -</b> Session Facilitators: <b>Katheen Varty and Krista Greeley</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Dr. Paul O'Connell</b>, Research Program Lead, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada</li> <li>2. <b>Dr. Barry Kennedy</b>, Principal Research Scientist, Dalhousie University</li> <li>3. <b>Dr. Simon Gebremeskel</b>, Senior Scientist, Synthekine, USA</li> <li>4. <b>Dr. Ludovic Durrieu</b>, QC Operations Manager at C3i, Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu, Quebec</li> <li>5. <b>Dr. Derek Clements</b>, Scientist III, Genentech, San Francisco, California</li> <li>6. <b>Mr. Will Johnston</b>, In-House Clinical Research Associate: Study Start-Up Specialist, Black Tusk Research Group, Vancouver, BC</li> <li>7. <b>Dr. Ashley Hilchie</b>, Director of Clinical Research Operations, Nova Scotia Health, Halifax, NS</li> </ol> <p><b>Learning objectives:</b></p>

	<p><u>At the end of the session, participants will:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a better understanding of career options</li> <li>• Have new connections</li> </ul>
2:00pm - 2:30pm	<b>Break</b>
2:30pm - 3:30pm	<p><b>Work in Progress CRTP Trainee presentations (10 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions)</b>  <b>Session Facilitator:</b> Vlora Riberdy</p> <p><b>Speaker 9-</b> Akinola Adekoya Alafiatayo, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Biomedical Sciences (Genetics, PDF)</p> <p><b>Speaker 10-</b> Leah MacLean, Dalhousie University, Pathology (PhD)</p> <p><b>Speaker 11-</b> Daniel Medina Luna, Dalhousie University, Microbiology and Immunology (PhD)</p>
3:30pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>



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### Day 2: 13 October 2023

Theme: **Diversity of Cancer Research in Atlantic Canada**

11:00am -	<b>Welcome Day 2</b>
11:00am - 11:45am	<p><b>Jen Johnston Award</b> Facilitator: Dr. Christine Chambers</p> <p><b>Dr. Perri Tutelman</b>, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Cancer Care Alberta &amp; University of Calgary <i>"It isn't over when the cancer ends: Understanding fear of cancer recurrence in survivors of childhood cancer and their families"</i></p>
11:45am - 12:15pm	<p><b>Work in Progress CRTP Trainee presentations (10 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions)</b> Session Facilitator: Kathleen Varty</p> <p><b>Speaker 14-</b> Chun Keat Khor, University of New Brunswick-Fredericton, Chemistry (PhD) <b>Speaker 16</b> - Vlora Riberdy, Dalhousie, Physics and Atmospheric Science (PhD)</p>
12:15pm- 1:00pm	<b>Break</b>
1:00pm - 2:00pm	<p>Concurrent Workshops</p> <p><b>1: Science Outreach and Patient Involvement</b> Session Facilitator: Akinola Alafiatayo</p> <p><b>Dr. Sevtap Savas</b>, PhD, Professor, Oncology and Genetics, BHCRI Senior Scientist, Memorial University, Newfoundland and Labrador; and <b>Mr. John King</b>, patient partner and leader</p> <p><b>Learning objectives:</b> <u>At the end of the session, participants will be able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulate some benefits to scientists and to the public of public outreach &amp; research collaboration</li> <li>• Appreciate the value of patient partners in scientific endeavors</li> <li>• Become aware of additional elements and strategies of collaborative research as shared by the speakers and attendees</li> </ul>

	<p><b>2: Common Errors in Coding/Database Management</b>  <b>Session Facilitator:</b> Krista Greeley</p> <p><b>Dr. Daniel Gaston</b>, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, Dalhousie University; Clinical Laboratory Bioinformatician, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Division of Hematopathology, Nova Scotia Health Authority, BHCRI Associate Scientist</p> <p><b>Session Prep:</b>  Suggested Pre-Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Simple Rules for Reproducible Computational Research: <a href="https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003285">https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003285</a></li> <li>• Blog Article Referencing same article, Dave Tang: Reproducible Bioinformatics: <a href="https://davetang.org/muse/2019/12/04/reproducible-bioinformatics/">https://davetang.org/muse/2019/12/04/reproducible-bioinformatics/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Learning objectives:</b>  <u>At the end of the session, participants will be able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding common errors in programming and databases and how to avoid them</li> <li>• Understanding how to use tools such as version control and digital notebooks to produce reproducible bioinformatics</li> </ul>
2:00pm-2:15pm	<p><b>Break</b></p>
2:15pm-3:15pm	<p><b>Establishing Collaborations within the Network –</b>  <b>Session Facilitator:</b> Kazeem Adefemi</p> <p><b>Dr. Sherri Christian</b>, PhD, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland &amp; Atlantic Cancer Consortium Lead, Terry Fox Marathon of Hope</p> <p><b>Session Prep:</b> Effective Communication Styles Inventory Scoring Form A (for reference only)</p> <p><b>Learning objectives</b>  <u>At the end of the session, participants will be able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understand the nature of collaboration in large networks</li> <li>- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of small and large collaborations</li> <li>- Learn how to improve your networking abilities</li> </ul>
3:15pm-4:00pm	<p><b>Creating your Individual Development Plan -</b>  <b>Session Facilitator:</b> Akinola Alafiatayo</p> <p>Mabel Ho, Director, Professional Development and Student Engagement  Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dalhousie University</p> <p>An Individual Development Plan (IDP) is a personal roadmap that can identify personal and professional goals and objectives. In this interactive workshop we would reflect on our achievements, articulate our values, and explore future goals to develop an action plan moving forward in your academic and professional growth.</p>

	<p><b>Session Prep:</b> <u>To prepare for this session, participants are asked to:</u> <b>REFLECT:</b> Think about who you are, what you have done, and what your values are <b>ENVISION:</b> Think about where you want to be in the future. Short-term (1 yr) and long-term (5 years)</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives:</b> <u>At the end of the session, participants will be able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify how an Individual Development Plan can help you move toward your goals</li><li>- Identify the key steps in developing an Individual Development Plan</li></ul>
4:00pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

## Presenter Bios:

### Careers Outside Academia:

#### **Dr. Derek Clements, Scientist III, Genentech, San Francisco, California**

Dr. Derek Clements is a Scientist III at Genentech South San Francisco, California, USA. He completed his PhD in the department of Pathology at Dalhousie University, where he was a CRTP trainee from 2014-2015. He performed his postdoctoral training in the department of Microbiology & Immunology at Stanford University and is now a member of the Cancer Immunology group at Genentech. With his expertise in myeloid cell biology and cancer immunotherapy, Dr. Clements is now pursuing the discovery of novel cancer immunotherapies with the aim to advance treatments from the bench to patients.

#### **Dr. Ludovic Durrieu, QC Operations Manager at C3i, Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu, Quebec**

Ludovic Durrieu is the Quality Control Operations Manager at C3i. He has been with this company since December 2017 and has since evolved in different positions. Dr. Durrieu first completed his PhD in Immunology and Microbiology at the University of Montreal. He then did his postdoc in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Dalhousie University and was a CRTP trainee from 2012-2013. Wishing to be implicated in establishing new cell therapies against cancer, Dr. Durrieu first started as a Scientist at C3i. Rapidly, he became a lead on the main project of the company and supervised a small team. For more than one year now, he is the Quality Control Operations Manager of the Biomarker and Diagnostic Unit. His main functions rely on the lab's activities organization, supervision of a team of 15 employees, hiring new employees, and management duties with the clients.

#### **Dr. Simon Gebremeskel, Senior Scientist, Synthekine, USA**

Simon Gebremeskel is an independent immunology consultant in the Houston Texas area. Since graduating from Dalhousie in 2018, Simon has worked at several biotech companies spanning the areas of immunomagnetic cell isolation, CRISPR-gene editing, cell therapy, antibody therapeutics and cytokine engineering. Simon was a CRTP honorary trainee between 2012-2018.

#### **Ashley Hilchie, Director of Clinical Research Operations, Nova Scotia Health, Halifax, NS**

Dr. Ashley Hilchie is the Director of Clinical Research Operations at Nova Scotia Health Authority. Ashley has been with Nova Scotia Health since April 2023. Ashley completed her PhD in Microbiology and Immunology in 2011 and was a CRTP trainee from 2006-2007. Following a postdoctoral position at the University of British Columbia, Ashley returned to Nova Scotia to study molecular virology, where she was supported by the BHCRF from 2016-2018. Ashley joined the Project Management team at IMV Inc in 2018 where she oversaw the product development pipeline both in oncology and infectious disease. Drawing inspiration from the sudden loss of her father to lung cancer in 2017, Ashley is committed to improving clinical trial capacity and access for all Nova Scotians, and to helping make Nova Scotia Health the partner of choice for clinical trials.

#### **Will Johnston, In-House Clinical Research Associate: Study Start-Up Specialist, Black Tusk Research Group, Vancouver, BC**

Will Johnston is the Clinical Research Manager - Ethics and Regulatory at Black Tusk Research Group in Vancouver BC. He has been with BTRG since September 2022. Will completed his MSc in Kinesiology, with his research focus in Exercise Cardio-Oncology at Dalhousie University and was a CRTP trainee from 2020 - 2022. At BTRG, Will leads the organization's clinical trial activation department and provides support to pharmaceutical global industry leads in Oncology, Critical Care and Respiratory Medicine.

**Dr. Barry Kennedy, Principal Research Scientist, Dalhousie University**

Barry Kennedy is a dedicated scientist with over two decades of experience in academic and industrial laboratories, currently serving as a Principal Research Scientist in the Department of Pathology at Dalhousie University's Giacomantonio Immuno-Oncology Research Laboratory. His career began with a Ph.D. in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Dalhousie, igniting his lifelong passion for scientific discovery. Barry was a CRTP trainee during his postdoctoral fellowship in the Gujar lab from 2016 to 2019.

What inspires Barry the most is his unwavering passion for science and the prospect of leveraging his expertise to contribute to human health. He actively seeks collaborations and opportunities aligned with this shared passion, constantly pushing the boundaries of scientific innovation.

**Dr. Paul O'Connell, Research Program Lead, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada**

Paul O'Connell is the Research Program Lead at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada. He has been with LLSC since 2018. Dr. O'Connell leads the organization's research funding program. He aims to strengthen the current framework, broaden the scope of research partnership, and continue to diversify and grow the research portfolio so that the LLSC is at the forefront of blood cancer research in Canada. He works closely with the research community to help connect constituents to the incredible, and potentially life-saving research that is being done across the country.

Dr. O'Connell completed his PhD and postdoctoral studies in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Dalhousie University and was a CRTP trainee from 2007 – 2009. Inspired by his grandmother's blood cancer journey, Dr. O'Connell first became involved in research as a way to find new and better ways to manage the disease.

**Sessions:**

**Science Outreach and Patient Involvement**

**John King**

John King is a cancer-affected person who is a community member of the Public Interest Group on Cancer Research. He is also a Patient Partner with another research group competing for the Canadian Cancer Society Challenge Grant 2024.

As a retired college administrator, John continues to place a high value on education, research, and community engagement.

**Sevtap Savas**

Sevtap Savas, PhD is a professor of oncology and genetics at Memorial University, Newfoundland and Labrador and a BHCRI Senior Scientist. Her scholarly focus is cancer and improving the lived experiences of cancer patients through research, teaching, public engagement, advocacy, and service. For this purpose, she partners with patients/public members and collaborates with trainees and researchers.

Dr. Savas leads the Public Interest Group on Cancer Research, a successful public–scientist partnership since 2021. She is a Board member of the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology and chairs its Advocacy Committee. Dr. Savas is also a member of the Terry Fox Research Institute's Marathon of Hope Atlantic Cancer Consortium.

## **Common Errors in Coding/Database Management**

### **Dan Gaston**

Dr. Gaston is a Clinical Bioinformatician with Nova Scotia Health in the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory. His clinical work focuses on developing and maintaining bioinformatics pipelines and databases for cancer diagnostics applications using Next Generation Sequencing. Dr. Gaston is the Co-Lead for Bioinformatics with the Atlantic Cancer Consortium and his research involves applying bioinformatics to large scale genomics projects and improving "off-the-shelf" bioinformatics programs for clinical use.

## **Establishing Collaborations within the Network**

### **Sherri Christian**

Dr. Sherri Christian graduated with a PhD in 2004 from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of British Columbia. She took a detour to do a post-doc at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Following this, she moved to Memorial University of Newfoundland for her second post-doc. During this post-doc with Dr. Kensuke Hirasawa, Dr. Christian was a trainee in BHCRI's Cancer Research Training Program. Dr. Christian began her position in the Department of Biochemistry at Memorial in 2010. She is cross appointed to the Department of Biology in the Faculty of Medicine and is the lead for the Terry Fox Research Institute's Atlantic Cancer Consortium. Her lab has multiple research areas with a strong focus on extracellular vesicles produced by normal and cancerous B lymphocytes and interactions between fat cells and breast cancer cells.

## **Creating your Individual Development Plan**

### **Mabel Ho**

Mabel Ho (PhD) is the Director of Professional Development and Student Engagement at Dalhousie University. At Dalhousie, she chairs the GradPD Committee, is part of the executive board of the BIPOC Graduate Student Mentorship Academy, and the CIRTL@Dal board. Nationally, she serves on the GPDN-Canada and the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Board.