

The Blue Report

2025

ST. MARY'S RESEARCH CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT

A research centre as strong as its community.



Centre de recherche de St. Mary
St. Mary's Research Centre



FONDATION DE
L'HÔPITAL
ST. MARY

ST. MARY'S
HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION



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Dear members of the SMRC community,

It is my pleasure to present St. Mary's Research Centre's Annual Blue Report for 2025. This year has been an exciting period of consolidation, innovation, and growth for our teams, and I am continually inspired by the creativity, dedication, and impact of our scientists, students and volunteers.



In 2025, we strengthened our research support infrastructure through the consolidation of the Research Support Hub (RSH) and the Community Engagement Office (COMEEO) services, further enhancing efficiency and providing our investigators with the resources they need to advance their work. These initiatives have allowed our researchers to focus on research excellence while streamlining administrative and operational processes.

This year also marked the launch of several landmark initiatives. In May, we hosted the inaugural Canadian Symposium on Managing Toxicities of Emerging Cancer Therapies (CAN-TOX), creating a national platform for discussion and collaboration on one of the fastest-evolving areas of oncology. In October, we unveiled the Older Adult Research Strategy (2025–2030), developed in collaboration with clinicians of St. Mary's a cornerstone plan guiding aging research at SMRC. Both initiatives demonstrate our commitment to patient-centered, community-informed, and interdisciplinary research that addresses pressing healthcare challenges.

Our researchers continued to lead a diverse portfolio of innovative projects, from multicentre clinical trials in orthopaedic surgery to explorations of socially assistive technologies for older adults. Their work reflects SMRC's dedication to advancing knowledge, improving clinical outcomes, and translating evidence into practice.

Equally important, we celebrated the successes of our students, whose contributions enrich our research ecosystem and ensure a pipeline of skilled, passionate investigators for the future. Their achievements highlight the value of mentorship, collaboration, and the learning opportunities provided by SMRC.

The 2025 Annual Report showcases a year defined by scientific advancement, innovation, and meaningful impact. As we look ahead, I am confident that the foundations we have strengthened, the projects we have launched, and the successes of our students and researchers will continue to advance our mission: delivering research that improves care, informs policy, and enhances the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Dr. Ari Meguerditchian

Scientific Director

KEY NUMBERS

Scientific Output

98 scientific publications

Determined using SciVal, an advanced analytics solution built on the Scopus® database. All associated and affiliated SMRC researchers are systematically tracked through the platform, allowing SMRC to compile their research outputs.

106 active projects, including:

- 39 clinical trials

150 hours of statistical support

27 Knowledge Transfer events

The knowledge transfer events organised by SMRC are designed to share our research discoveries with the community we serve. Meeting the needs of the public and advancing medical knowledge are two of our fundamental priorities as a research center.

Academic Community

Affiliate Scientist	8
Clinical	4
Non-Clinical	4
Associate Scientist	43
Clinical	40
Non-Clinical	3
Full Scientist	7
Clinical	4
Non-Clinical	3
MSc & PhD Students	33
58 Research staff	

Financial Overview

External peer-reviewed competitive grants	2 245 471 \$
Philanthropy	610 142 \$
Industry sponsor	839 787 \$
Contribution from the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation	2090 980 \$
Other	272 656 \$

NEW RECRUITMENTS

Dr. Ivan Litvinov

In March 2025, Dr. Ivan Litvinov joined SMRC as a Clinician Scientist. Shortly after his appointment, he was awarded the Chercheur-boursier clinicien – Senior Career Award from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS). His appointment and recognition strengthen SMRC's research in Cancer Care and Primary



Care & Health Systems, contributing to advancing knowledge and treatment strategies for skin cancers affecting our communities.

Dr. Litvinov is an Associate Professor in the Division of Dermatology of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at McGill University. He holds a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Medicine from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and earned his medical degree from McGill University, where he also completed his dermatology residency training at the McGill University Health Centre. Prior to joining McGill's faculty, he served as an Assistant Professor of Dermatology at the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Litvinov's research focuses on the molecular mechanisms driving skin cancers, including cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, keratinocyte carcinomas, and melanoma. His work aims to translate molecular discoveries into clinical applications for improved diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. His research program has been supported by grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Dr. Litvinov is a sought-after communicator often asked to intervene publicly on topics related to the prevention of sun-induced skin cancer.

Before joining SMRC, Dr. Litvinov directed a translational research laboratory within the cancer research program of the MUHC Research Institute and led specialized dermatology clinics, including a skin cancer diagnosis and treatment clinic for solid organ transplant recipients. In recognition of his contributions to dermatology and oncology, he has received several distinctions, including the CIHR Early Career Award in Cancer and the Canadian Dermatology Association President's Cup Award.

Dr. Litvinov's expertise aligns closely with SMRC's commitment to advancing research that improves cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. His work not only advances scientific understanding of skin cancers but also promotes public awareness on prevention, particularly regarding the risks associated with excessive sun exposure.

NEW AFFILIATIONS OF THE SMRC COMMUNITY

Over the course of 2025, SMRC has welcomed the following new members to our research community. These affiliations highlight the growing strength and diversity of our network:

Associate Scientists

Prof. Tracie Ann Barnett - Associate Scientist (Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, McGill University)

Dr. Sandrine Couture – Associate Scientist (Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, McGill University)

Dr. Massimo Di Iorio – Associate Scientist (Staff medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre)

Dr. Pierre Olivier Fiset – Associate Scientist (Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, McGill University)

Dr. Atanas Nedelchev - Associate Scientist (Faculty lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, McGill University)

Prof. Lena Palaniyappan - Associate Scientist (Full Professor, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University)

Prof. Irene Sarasua – Associate Scientist (Assistant Professor, Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University)

Affiliate Scientists

Prof. Nathalie Clavel - Affiliate Scientist (Assistant Professor, Department of Health Management, Evaluation and Policy (DGEPS), School of Public Health, Université de Montréal (ÉSPUM))

Dr. Catherine Olivier - Affiliate Scientist (Associate Professor, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Université de Montréal)

Dr. Claire Godard-Sebillotte - Affiliate Scientist (Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, McGill University)

Prof. Jennifer Ritonja - Affiliate Scientist (Scientist, BC Cancer Vancouver)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN

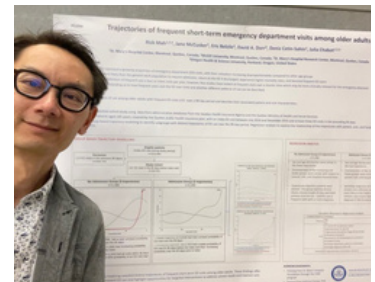


Primary Care & Health Systems

Selected Highlights

Dr. Rick Mah

- Dr. Rick Mah published the results of his CARE-funded study on trajectories of frequent short-term emergency department visits among older adults. Using population-based administrative health data from Quebec, the research identified distinct patterns of emergency department utilization following an initial visit, highlighting the heterogeneous care needs of older adults with repeated ED use. The findings were published in [Cureus](#) and presented at the International Conference on Emergency Medicine in June.



Projects supported through the **CARE** (Competition Attracting Research Excellence) Program benefit from dedicated funding and hands-on support from St. Mary's Research Centre. Established in 2008 with the support of the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, CARE enables members of the St. Mary's community to lead clinical and health services research as principal investigators, with mentorship from experienced researchers.

The program also provides comprehensive support in study design, analysis, and knowledge translation. Together, these resources help build research capacity and foster practice-relevant innovation. Learn more: [CARE project grants](#)

Prof. Sylvie Lambert

- Prof. Lambert launched a study evaluating a mentorship program designed to support newly hired nurses at St. Mary's Hospital Centre. The project examines how structured mentorship during the transition from nursing student to clinical practice can improve job satisfaction, resilience, and retention among novice nurses, an issue of growing importance in the context of nursing shortages. The findings are expected to generate practical recommendations that can inform the implementation of similar mentorship programs across Quebec and beyond.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Primary Care & Health Systems

Selected Highlights

Dr. Hannah Schwartz

- Dr. Hannah Schwartz launched a collaborative planning study in 2025 with external researcher Jessica Spagnolo (Centre de recherche Charles-Le Moyne) to explore access to perinatal mental health services in Québec. The project brings together healthcare providers, patient partners, managers, and community representatives in participatory workshops to examine barriers and opportunities for improving service delivery. A key focus of the study is identifying strategies to expand access to psychosocial and psychological



Dr. Jeannie Haggerty:



- Dr. Jeannie Haggerty retired in 2025 following a distinguished career at St. Mary's Research Centre. A pioneer in health services epidemiology, she developed influential frameworks for continuity of care that continue to shape primary care delivery in Quebec and abroad. Her commitment to participatory research and mentorship has empowered vulnerable populations and fostered the next generation of scholars. Through her leadership in networks like Réseau-1 Québec, Dr. Haggerty leaves a lasting legacy of equitable, patient-centered care.

Selected Publications

- Brahim, L. O.*, **Lambert, S. D.**, Feeley, N., McCusker, J., Bilsker, D., **Yaffe, M. J.**, Antonacci, R., Robins, S., **Kayser, J. W.**, Genest, C., Paraskevopoulos, H., Blair, J., & Laizner, A. (2025). The Consolidated Approach to Intervention Adaptation (CLARION): Developing and undertaking an empirically and theoretically driven intervention adaptation. *Implementation science communications*, 6(1), 59. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43058-025-00731-y>

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Primary Care & Health Systems

Selected Publications - Continued

- Gélinas, C., Maheu-Cadotte, M.-A., Di Nardo, É., Lavoie-Tremblay, M., Gallani, M. C., Gosselin, É., Maheu, C., Lambert, S. D., Richard-Lalonde, M., Tchouaket Nguemeleu, E., & Côté, J. (2025). Validation of the Canadian English and French Versions of the Fear of COVID-19 Scale in Quebec Nursing Staff. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 22(2), 297. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22020297>
- Audet, C., Bernier, A., Godbout-Parent, M., Nguena Nguetack, H. L., Ferland, L., Lacasse, A., Bush, P. L., **Barnett, T. A.**, Poirier, M.-D., Lussier, S., & **Lambert, S. D.** Assessment of clinician well-being and the factors that influence it using validated questionnaires: a systematic review. *Communications Medicine* 5, 343 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43856-025-01069-1>
- Fink, K., Wiseblatt, L., **Basile, C. O.**, Cohen, S. R., & Sanders, J. J. (2025). Assessing Urban Community-Based Palliative Care in Montreal: Identifying Gaps and Opportunities for Quality Improvement. *The American journal of hospice & palliative care*, 42(12), 1269–1277. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10499091251335928>
- Gaboury, I., Breton, M., Beaulieu, C., Renard, M., Sasseville, M., Maillet, L., Hudon, C., Rodrigues, I., Malham, S. A., Duhoux, A., & **Haggerty, J.** (2025). Reflective Tool on Advanced Access to Support Primary Healthcare Teams: Development and Validation of an Online Questionnaire. *Journal of evaluation in clinical practice*, 31(6), e14232. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jep.14232>

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Cancer Care

Highlights

Launching **CAN-TOX** : A National Forum on Cancer Treatment Toxicities

In May 2025, St. Mary's Research Centre hosted the inaugural Canadian Symposium on Managing Toxicities of Emerging Cancer Therapies (CAN-TOX), led by Dr. Khashayar Esfahani. This first-of-its-kind national forum

brought together leading experts from Canada and internationally to address the growing challenges of managing toxicities associated with novel cancer treatments. The symposium fostered interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration, with discussions focused on improving the understanding and management of immune-related adverse events. Grounded in both clinical expertise and patient perspectives, CAN-TOX highlighted the importance of innovation and knowledge-sharing in advancing safer, more effective cancer care. Insights from CAN-TOX have also informed related research, with several immune-focused studies:

- Esfahani, K., Walker, J., Bambury, K., O'Carroll, E., & Snow, S. (2025). Enhancing Care Through a Virtual Canadian Community of Practice for Managing Immune-Related Adverse Events. *Current oncology* (Toronto, Ont.), 32(3), 140. <https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol32030140>



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN

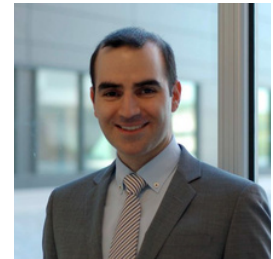


Cancer Care

Highlights

Dr. Ari Meguerditchian:

- Dr. Ari Meguerditchian, SMRC's Scientific Director, received the 2025 McGill University Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) Teaching Excellence Award. Nominated by undergraduate medical students, the award recognizes his outstanding contributions to medical education and his commitment to mentoring and training the next generation of physicians. His achievement was formally recognized by McGill's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the UGME Teaching Excellence Awards reception held on March 26, 2025.



Dr. Sylvie Lambert:

- Dr. Sylvie Lambert and her team received the *Prix de cancérologie 2025* from the Programme québécois de cancérologie for their project e-IMPAQC, an innovative program designed to help people living with cancer report symptoms more effectively and receive timely, personalized support. The program enables patients to complete electronic questionnaires before clinical appointments, allowing care teams to identify key symptoms earlier and intervene more quickly while providing tailored guidance and self-management resources for patients and their families.
- In parallel with this work, Dr. Lambert and her team also developed an educational online mini-site to help patients better understand the role of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) in healthcare. Created in collaboration with the Unité de soutien SSA Québec, the interactive tool also supports clinicians in engaging patients and encouraging the effective use of PROMs in clinical care.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN

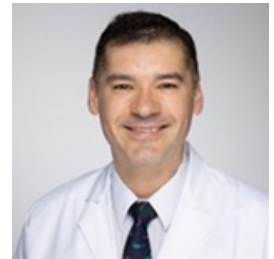


Cancer Care

Highlights

Dr. Ivan Litvinov:

- Dr. Ivan Litvinov was awarded the *Chercheurs-boursiers cliniciens – Senior career* Award from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS). The award supports his research program focused on elucidating the molecular pathogenesis of skin cancers and inflammatory skin diseases, and improving diagnosis and patient care, with particular attention to Indigenous populations in Northern Quebec. As part of this work, Dr. Litvinov has engaged with communities in Northern Quebec to help address gaps in dermatologic care and improve access to specialized services.



Selected Grants

Dr. Sylvie Lambert:

- Principal Investigator – \$150,000 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society: “Remote symptom monitoring for patients after allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation”

Dr. Anita Koushik:

- Co-Principal Investigator – \$275,400 CIHR Project Grant: “*The impact of contraceptive choice on breast cancer risk*” (with Dr. Laurent Azoulay)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Cancer Care

Selected Publications

- **Lambert S**, Moodie EEM, McCusker J, Lokhorst M, Harris C, Langmuir T, Belzile E*, Laizner AM, Brahim LO*, Wasserman S*, Chehayeb S*, Vickers M, Duncan L, Esplen MJ, Maheu C, Howell D, de Raad M*. Translating Evidence-Based Self-Management Interventions Using a Stepped-Care Approach for Patients with Cancer and Their Caregivers: A Pilot Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trial Design. *Psychooncology*. 2025 Jan;34(1): e70043. doi: 10.1002/pon.70043. PMID: 39763142; PMCID: PMC11704335.
- Wong SM, **Malagon T, et al.** Chemotherapy receipt in affected BRCA1/2 and PALB2 carriers with operable breast cancer: the impact of early detection and pre-diagnostic awareness on clinical outcomes and treatment. *Hered Cancer Clin Pract*. 2025 Apr 24;23(1):14. doi: 10.1186/s13053-025-00314-x. PMID: 40275390; PMCID: PMC12020017.
- **Malagon T**, Botting-Provost S, Moore A, El-Zein M, Franco EL. Inequalities in relative cancer survival by race, immigration status, income, and education for 22 cancer sites in Canada, a cohort study. *Int J Cancer*. 2025;157(1):41-54. doi:10.1002/ijc.35337
- Fiore JF Jr, Shirzadi S, Roversi K, Prakash I, Wong S, Meterissian S, **Meguerditchian AN**, Desbiens C, Rivard J, Delisle M, Findlay-Shirras L, Abou Khalil J, Maciver A, Quan ML, Verreault K, Johnston S, Feldman L, McDonald EG; Postoperative Analgesia Intervention with Non-opioid Alternatives (PAIN-Alt) Collaboration. Comparative effectiveness of opioid versus opioid-free analgesia after outpatient breast surgery: PAIN-Alt trial protocol. *BMJ Open*. 2025 Nov 4;15(11):e107258. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2025-107258. PMID: 41193191; PMCID: PMC12588022.
- **Morena, N.**, Ben-Zvi, L., Hayman, V., Hou, M., Gorgy, A., Nguyen, D., Rentschler, C. A., & Meguerditchian, A. N. (2024). How reliable are post-mastectomy breast reconstruction videos on YouTube? *Surgical Oncology Insight*, 1(4), 100094.
- L'Espérance K, Madathil S, **Ritonja JA**, Abrahamowicz M, Ho V, Nicolau B, O'Loughlin J, **Koushik A**. Trajectories of body fatness in adulthood and the risk of ovarian cancer. *Cancer Epidemiol*. 2025 Jun; 96:102814. doi: 10.1016/j.canep.2025.102814. Epub 2025 Apr 16. PMID: 40245771.
- Moayedi-Nia S, Dutczak H, Richardson L, Siemiatycki J, **Koushik A**. Stressful life events, perceived degree of stress, and the risk of lung cancer. *Prev Med Rep*. 2025 Sep 21; 59:103250. doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2025.103250. PMID: 41048595; PMCID: PMC12495283.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN

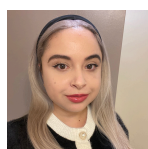


Cancer Care

Selected Publications – Continued

- **Lambert S**, Moodie EEM, McCusker J, Lokhorst M, Harris C, Langmuir T, Belzile E*, Laizner AM, Brahim LO*, Wasserman S*, Chehayeb S*, Vickers M, Duncan L, Esplen MJ, Maheu C, Howell D, de Raad M*. Translating Evidence-Based Self-Management Interventions Using a Stepped-Care Approach for Patients with Cancer and Their Caregivers: A Pilot Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trial Design. *Psychooncology*. 2025 Jan;34(1): e70043. doi: 10.1002/pon.70043. PMID: 39763142; PMCID: PMC11704335.
- Delisle, M., Dingley, B., Light, A., Apte, S., Mallick, R., Hamilton, T., Stuart, H., Talbot, M., McKinnon, G., Jost, E., Thiboutot, E., Francescutti, V., Samman, S., Easson, A. M., Schellenberg, A., Merchant, S., La, J., Vanderbeck, K., Wright, F. C., Berger-Richardson, D., Hebbard, P., Hershorn, O., Younan, R., Patocskaï, E., Rodriguez-Qizilbash, S., **Meguerditchian, A. N.**, Tchuenté, V., Kazandjian, S., Mathieson, A., Hossain, F., Hetu, J., Johnson-Obaseki, S., & Nessim, C. (2025). Management and outcomes of Merkel cell carcinoma in Canada between 2000 and 2018 from the Pan-Canadian Merkel Cell Collaborative. *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, 32(8), 5387–5396.

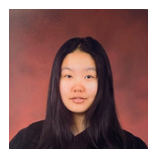
Student Successes



PhD candidate Nina Morena (supervised by Dr. Ari Meguerditchian) presented her research, *“Knowledge making and online literacies of young people with metastatic breast cancer,”* during a fellowship at the Weizenbaum Institute in Berlin, Germany.



MSc candidate Paige Boklaschuk (supervised by Dr. Anita Koushik) received the CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship and the FRQS Master's Training Scholarship to support her project, *“The role of low-intensity physical activity on ovarian cancer risk.”*



MSc candidate Chang Sun (supervised by Dr Talía Malagón) received the CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship for her project, *“Characterization of the penile microbiome and its relationship to human papillomavirus prevalence and incidence.”*



Student researcher William Chow (supervised by Dr. Ivan Litvinov) received the Sir Edward W. Beatty Memorial Award for one of the best poster presentations at McGill University's Student Research Day held on November 20, 2025.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Surgical Sciences

Highlights

Dr. Lyndia Dernis:

- In 2025, Dr. Lyndia Dernis received funding through the SMRC CAREⁱ program to advance her work on improving environmental sustainability in the operating room at St. Mary's Hospital. Building on an initial waste audit conducted in 2022, her project evaluates the impact of a sustainability program implemented between 2022 and 2025. The study includes a follow-up operating room waste audit to assess changes in waste composition and segregation practices, as well as a survey of OR staff exploring knowledge, attitudes, and barriers related to environmental initiatives. The project illustrates how clinician-driven questions arising from daily practice can evolve into structured research that informs more sustainable healthcare practices.



Dr. Jennifer Mutch

- Dr. Mutch launched a CAREⁱ-funded study in August 2025 to evaluate the use of tranexamic acid (TXA) in reducing post-operative bleeding following total hip and knee arthroplasty. Conducted at St. Mary's Hospital, where a high volume of these procedures are performed annually, the study compares standard TXA dosing with additional post-operative doses to assess their impact on bleeding, recovery, and complications. By addressing a key source of patient anxiety and post-surgical care needs, this work aims to optimize outcomes and support safer, more efficient recovery pathways for patients undergoing joint replacement.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Surgical Sciences

Highlights

Dr. Anthony Albers

- Dr. Anthony Albers, alongside Dr. Jennifer Mutch, contributed to the launch of the PREVENT-iT definitive trial (Prospective Randomized Evaluation of Emerging Novel Treatments for Infection Prophylaxis in Total Joint Replacement) in June 2025 and now serves on its Steering Committee. This large-scale, multicentre study addresses periprosthetic joint infection (PJI), a serious complication following hip and knee arthroplasty. The trial evaluates targeted, low-cost interventions—including antiseptic irrigation solutions and local vancomycin—to reduce infections requiring reoperation within one year. The findings aim to inform best practices in infection prevention and improve surgical outcomes.



Dr. Maryse Larouche

- Dr. Maryse Larouche and her team (**Dr. Lisa Merovitz, Dr. Jens-Erik Walter**) presented three studies at Pelvic Floor Disorders (PFD) Week 2025, the annual scientific meeting of the American Urogynecologic Society, held in Vancouver. Their work addressed key questions in pelvic floor surgery and clinical innovation, including predictive testing for postoperative incontinence, the integration of electronic patient-reported outcomes (ePROs) into surgical care, and the use of minimally invasive uterine-sparing techniques. Across these projects, the team explored approaches to improve surgical decision-making, enhance patient-provider communication, and evaluate emerging techniques such as vNOTES hysteropexy. Together, the findings highlight St. Mary's important contributions to advancing evidence-based, patient-centred care in urogynecology.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Surgical Sciences

Selected Publications

- **Dernis L**, Gobert Q, Zieleskiewicz L. Desflurane's Effect on the Environment: Climate and Much More. *Anesth Analg*. 2025 Oct 1;141(4): e56-e57. doi: 10.1213/ANE.00000000000007668. Epub 2025 Aug 4. PMID: 40758566.
- Garabedian M, Legler J, Benzouak T, Baskaran S*, **Mutch J, Albers A**. Efficacy of Lower-Limb Wearables to Assess Recovery Following Total Hip or Knee Arthroplasty: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *J Arthroplasty*. 2025 Sep 23: S0883-5403(25)01213-6. doi: 10.1016/j.arth.2025.09.023. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40998067.
- Baril, M., Groszman, L., Alhojailan, K., & **Albers, A.** (2025). Competency in Orthopaedic Surgery: Student Perceptions and Objective Knowledge Assessment. *International Medical Education*, 4(3), 31. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ime4030031>
- Skaik K, Khizindar A, Mughal Q, Gdalevitch M, **Mutch J**. Three-Dimensional Preoperative Planning of Corrective Osteotomies for Distal Radius Malunions: A Systematic Review of Clinical and Radiographic Outcomes. *Hand (N Y)* 2025 Aug 12:15589447251352001. doi: 10.1177/15589447251352001. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40792578; PMCID: PMC12343530.
- Wissa C, Gérard MS, Savarimuthu V, Nadeau G, **Larouche M**. Bulking agents for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence: A scoping review of systematic reviews. *Journal of Clinical Urology*. 2026;19(2):219-229. doi:[10.1177/20514158251343412](https://doi.org/10.1177/20514158251343412)
- Audette-Chapdelaine, S., **Larouche, M.**, Akouamba, B. S., Léger, C., Barbat-Artigas, S., Lai, H., Mares, A., Nadeau, G., & Marcantoni, W. (2025). Patient Decision Aids for Stress and Urgency Urinary Incontinence in Women: A Scoping Review. *International urogynecology journal*, 10.1007/s00192-025-06489-0. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00192-025-06489-0>

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Older Adult Care

Highlights

Launching the Older Adult Research Strategy (2025–2030)

In 2025, St. Mary's Research Centre launched its Older Adult Research Strategy (2025–2030), a key initiative advancing the future of aging research within the institution developed in collaboration with the clinical division of geriatric medicine at St. Mary's. The strategy outlines a shared vision for person-centered, community-informed research that is closely integrated with clinical care. It emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration and the active involvement of older adults, caregivers, and partners in co-creating solutions. By aligning research, clinical practice, and community engagement, this initiative strengthens St. Mary's capacity to innovate, evaluate impact, and improve care for an aging population.



Dr. Julia Chabot:

- Dr. Julia Chabot was appointed President of the Association des médecins gériatres du Québec for the 2025–2027 term. Appointed in May 2025, she brings her geriatric expertise, compassion, and commitment to advancing care for older adults to this leadership role.



Dr. Harmehr Sekhon:

- Dr. Harmehr Sekhon, as part of an international research team, is investigating the use of Social Robots (SRs) to support migrant older adults in Canada and Europe, a population facing complex healthcare needs and barriers to care. The project explores how co-designed SRs can enhance engagement and improve health and social service delivery. Conducted across eight countries, the study includes qualitative research, proof-of-concept trials, and knowledge translation activities with end-users and stakeholders. The findings are expected to inform the integration of socially interactive robotics in care systems for vulnerable older populations.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Older Adult Care

Highlights

Selected Grants Received in 2025

Dr. Harmehr Sekhon:

- Principal Investigator – \$290,000 CIHR/THCS Joint Translational Call: “*CARING-AI: Culturally Adaptive and Responsive AI-Driven Social Assistive Robots for Inclusive Care*”

Dr. Julia Chabot:

- Co-Investigator / working in collaboration with Dr. Harmehr Sekhon – \$824, 517 PHAC Grant: “Caring Spaces: Bridging Academia and Community to Support People Living with Dementia and Care Partners”

Selected Publications

- Sekhon H**, Rebecca A Dickinson, Julia E Kimball, Hailey V Cray, Farrah Alkhatib, A'mie Preston, Ian Moore, Ana F Trueba-Yepez, Mario Fahed, Ipsit V Vahia (2024). Safety Considerations in the Use of Extended Reality Technologies for Mental Health with Older Adults. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 32(5) 648-651.
- Galery K, Djerroud K, **Chabot J, Sekhon H**, Tannou T, Gros A and Beauchet O (2025). Acceptability and effects on mental health of a music-based virtual reality intervention in geriatric outpatients: results from a pilot randomized controlled trial. *Front. Virtual Real.* 6:1608416. doi: 10.3389/frvir.2025.1608416
- Sekhon H**, Noble H, Yoon R, and Stamenova V, "Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Among Nurses" (2025). *AMCIS 2025 Proceedings*. 24. https://aisel.aisnet.org/amcis2025/sig_odis/sig_odis/24
- Sekhon, H.**, Al Zoubi, F., Beaulé, P. E., & Fallavollita, P. (2025). FAST-framework for AI-based surgical transformation. *Frontiers in big data*, 8, 1655260. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fdata.2025.1655260>
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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS PER DOMAIN



Older Adult Care

Selected Publications

- Vania Karami, **Mark J. Yaffe**, Genevieve Gore, AJung Moon, Samira Abbasgholizadeh Rahimi (2024). A Scoping Review of Socially Assistive Robot for Interaction with Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease. *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 123: 1-21
- **Couture, S.**, Yang, D., Lessard, S., Zaripova, A., Tchervenkova, J., Pavoni, C., & **Godard-Sebillotte, C.** (2025). "There's Huge Value in Knowing What's Going On": a Mixed Methods Study to Explore Geriatricians' Perspectives on Best Practices for Information Transfer Between Hospital-Based Geriatricians and Primary Care Physicians. *Canadian geriatrics journal : CGJ*, 28(3), 235–243. <https://doi.org/10.5770/cgj.28.830>

Selected Lectures

- **Sekhona H.** Exploring Nature-Based Virtual Reality to Support Mood and Wellbeing in Alzheimer's Disease. Presented at the Alzheimer Society of Toronto in collaboration with the Toronto Dementia Research Alliance (TDRA); 2025.
- **Sekhona H.** Medical Robotics: Advancing Surgery, Rehabilitation and Patient Care. Presented at Portes Ouvertes Montréal – Tech Week of Builders, Montreal; 2025.
- **Sekhona H.** How Will Extended Reality Shape the Future of Health Care, Mindfulness, and Rehabilitation? Presented at the RECOVR Symposium, Montreal; 2025.

SMRC TEAM



Ari Meguerditchian
Scientific Director



Christina Raneburger
Associate Director of Strategic
Partnerships



Jean-Daniel Beauchesne
Associate Director of Administration



Marc-André Bélisle
Senior Scientific Management Advisor



Manon de Raad
Senior Research Officer



Amaryllis Kaneza
Administrative Assistant



Carole Descubes
Administrative Specialist in Human
Resources Management



Kadidja Mazou
Scientific Information Officer



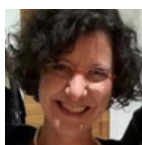
Tracy Jean Brice
Executive Assistant



Dominique Salameh
Financial Management Specialist



Lisandra Lannes
Community Engagement Officer



Simona Minotti
Scientific Statistical Consultant



Eric Belzile
Planning, Programming and Research
Officer

RESEARCH SUPPORT HUB - ENABLING PRACTICE-EMBEDDED RESEARCH AT SMRC

Building on its 2024 launch, the Research Support Hub (RSH) consolidated its role as a central entry point for research support and a key enabling component of SMRC's research production infrastructure. In 2025, the RSH focused on strengthening accessibility, visibility, and operational capacity, while maintaining the relationship-based support model that has become a defining feature of its work. This evolution has been guided by the Senior Research Officer, Manon de Raad, who leads the design and operation of the service model, coordinating support across projects and teams and strengthening internal support structures to ensure that SMRC researchers can move efficiently from project ideas to funded studies, publications, and applied research initiatives.

Supporting Researchers Across the Full Research Lifecycle

Throughout 2025, the RSH provided over 900 hours of one-on-one support to 28 researchers across project development, research operations, and knowledge translation activities. An additional 150 hours of statistical consultation were also provided through our senior statistician, Eric Belzile, who brings strong expertise in statistical methods and data analysis, supporting researchers in identifying appropriate analytical approaches, conducting analyses, and preparing results for publication.

Support was distributed across the full research lifecycle (project development, active project support, and knowledge translation) and across all

Research Support Hub

*One on one support to **28** researchers*



***900** hours of project development, research operations and knowledge translation*



***150** hours of statistical consultation*



SMRC research domains, reflecting the transversal role of the RSH within the institution's research infrastructure. Our team contributed expertise at multiple stages of this process: helping shape research projects and prepare grant applications, supporting regulatory and feasibility processes, strengthening data management and research workflows, assisting with manuscripts and knowledge translation outputs, and coordinating complex initiatives involving clinicians, researchers, students, and institutional partners, while also contributing to the training and mentorship of students and early-career research staff involved in SMRC projects.

Building Researcher Readiness and Visibility

A key development in 2025 was the maturation of a researcher readiness function, designed to ensure that SMRC investigators are well-positioned to respond to evolving funding opportunities and recognition initiatives. In particular, the growing transition across Canadian funding agencies toward narrative and contribution-based CV formats required increased strategic support for researchers in articulating the broader impact, leadership, mentorship, and societal relevance of their work beyond traditional academic metrics. To support this shift, the Scientific Information Officer, Kadidja Mazou, assisted investigators with the preparation and refinement of narrative CVs, contribution-based assessments, and researcher profiles, while ensuring alignment between researcher materials and institutional communications. Support also included the preparation of award and recognition dossiers, maintenance of up-to-date CVs and profiles, and adaptation of materials to emerging tri-agency and institutional requirements. Collectively, this work strengthened SMRC's ability to present coherent, competitive, and compelling researcher profiles while reducing administrative burden for investigators.

Enabling Grants, Publications, and Research Outputs

The RSH continued to provide hands-on support for grant applications, manuscripts, and knowledge translation outputs, including project shaping, submission coordination, preparation of supporting materials, and iterative feedback during proposal development. Projects supported in 2025 spanned major national and international funding programs, as well as manuscripts and conference presentations across several SMRC research teams. The RSH also facilitated collaborations between clinicians, students, and academic researchers, configurations that expand research capacity while providing valuable training opportunities.

Strengthening Data Infrastructure and Research Operations

2025 marked an important milestone in SMRC's data infrastructure. Key developments included the creation of a Data Platforms & Systems Specialist role (with Krisen Jean Julien joining SMRC to lead this function) the local implementation of REDCap, and the development of a first Data Hub service offer to support reusable data platforms, dashboards, and workflow tools. These initiatives lay the groundwork for more consistent and scalable data systems, helping research teams design clearer workflows for data collection, monitoring, and reporting.

Looking Ahead

With the core components of the RSH now in place, the focus for 2026 will be on consolidating and aligning SMRC's research support system. This includes strengthening connections between researchers and available expertise and further developing the Data Hub and research operations infrastructure. Together, these efforts position the RSH as a key mechanism through which SMRC supports practice-embedded research, clinician-academic collaboration, and the production of impactful health research.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER EVENTS

Scientific Series

Our Scientific Series lectures provide a platform for academics and healthcare experts across Canada to present their research to our own research community. The goal of these sessions is to facilitate knowledge transfer across disciplines and communities.

In 2025, the series explored topics spanning cancer care, surgical sciences, aging, primary care, artificial intelligence, health equity, rehabilitation, and mental health, reflecting the breadth and diversity of research taking place across the SMRC network and beyond.

SMRC Scientific Series presentations are self-approved group learning activities (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and recognized by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

In 2025, SMRC held 25 Scientific Series events:

Primary Care, Health Systems & Health Equity

- Khandideh Williams (Department of Family Medicine, McGill University) — Embracing Black Heterogeneity: An Intersectional Investigation of Anti-Black Racism and Racial Discrimination in Health Care in Montreal, QC (Feb 20)
- Guillaume Fontaine (Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University) — Harnessing Implementation Science to Address Health Inequities and Improve Care for Marginalized Communities (Mar 6)
- Andrea Knittel (School of Medicine, University of North Carolina) — Isn't There a Better Way? Using Research to Address Disparities at the Intersection of Perinatal Substance Use Disorders and Incarceration (May 1)
- Bertrand Lebouché (Department of Family Medicine, McGill University) — Responsible AI for Person-Centred Care: The MARVIN Chatbot in HIV and Beyond (Sept 4)
- Tracie Barnett (Department of Family Medicine, McGill University) — Leveraging the Built Environment to Promote Physical Activity in Primary Care Settings (Oct 2)
- Stephen Milford (Institute for Biomedical Ethics, Basel University) — When AIs Take Over: Some Unforeseen Risks (Nov 6)
- Bertine Akouamba & Sophie Audette-Chapdelaine (Directorate of Academic Affairs and Innovation [DAAI]) — Proche aideance au masculin, incluant les communautés ethnoculturelles et d'autres populations spécifiques (FR) (Nov 13)

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER EVENTS

Scientific Series - Continued

Cancer Care & Oncology

- Anita Koushik (Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology, McGill University) — Lifestyle Across the Life Course and Ovarian Cancer Prevention (Apr 24)
- Alyson Mahar (School of Nursing, Queen's University) — Cancer Care and Outcomes for Adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities: Research and Advocacy (Jun 5)
- Sydney Wasserman (Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University) — The Right Support for the Right Person, at the Right Time: Real-World Implementation of a Stepped Care, Interdisciplinary Post-Radiation Rehabilitation Program for Survivors of Head and Neck Cancer (Jun 26)
- Saima Hassan (Department of Surgery, CHUM) — The Role of the 21-Gene Recurrence Score in Hormone Receptor Positive Breast Cancer: The Quebec Experience (Oct 9)

Older Adult Care, Dementia & Aging

- Sylvia Santosa (Department of Health, Kinesiology & Applied Physiology, Concordia University) — Shared Destinies: How Obesity Echoes Aging (Jan 23)
- Claire Godard-Sebillotte (Division of Geriatrics, McGill University) — Equity in Dementia Care / Communication Between Hospital and Primary Care (Mar 20)
- Jennifer Baumbusch (School of Nursing, University of British Columbia) — Family Caregiving in an Era of Healthcare Shortages and an Aging Population (Apr 17)
- Karen Bandeen-Roche (Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University) — Resilience-to-Frailty in Older Adults: A Window on Lifelong Health (Jun 16)
- Andréa Faust (Schouela CEDurable) — Le Centre d'excellence pour la santé durable des aînés Schouela CEDurable (FR) (Sept 25)
- Clémence Lelaumier (Université de Caen Normandie) — Accompagnement des visiteurs de personnes présentant une maladie neurodégénérative en EHPAD : intérêt d'un outil numérique (FR) (Oct 29)
- Gilles Allali (Leenaards Memory Center) — Encéphalopathie au COVID-19 : y a-t-il un lien avec des pathologies neurodégénératives (FR) (Nov 20)
- Yuliya Nikolov (Neurobiology of Depression and Aging Program, CAMH) — Neuromodulatory Mechanisms at the Intersection of Brain Aging and Mental Illness (Dec 8)
- Rick Mah (Department of Emergency Medicine, McGill University) — Trajectories of Frequent Short-term Emergency Department Visits Among Older Adults (Dec 11)

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER EVENTS

Scientific Series - Continued

Surgical Sciences, Rehabilitation & Innovation

- Lyndia Dernis (St. Mary's Hospital) — Blocs opératoires éco-responsables (Jan 30)
- Marilyn Ahun (Department of Medicine, McGill University) — Parental Mental Health and Child Development: Examining Mechanisms and Sociocultural Differences (Apr 3)
- Chelsie Ann Gillis (School of Human Nutrition, McGill University) — Better Prepared, Better Repaired: An Introduction to Surgical Prehabilitation (Jun 12)
- Rachel Pope (Sexual Health Division, UH St. John Medical Center) — The Microbiome of the Neovagina (Jun 19)

Collectively, these presentations reinforced SMRC's role as a collaborative academic environment that promotes interdisciplinary learning, evidence-informed practice, and meaningful engagement across research and clinical communities.

Community Conferences

SMRC's Community Conferences aim to disseminate academic and scientific research throughout Côte-des-Neiges and Montreal, ensuring that the knowledge acquired through institutions like our own is shared back with the communities we serve.

In 2025, SMRC held 2 Community Conferences:

- Farah Messekher, **La réalité des proches aidants dans l'Ouest de l'Île : sondage auprès de 700 PPA** (March 13)
- Anthony Albers and Jennifer Mutch, **Orthopédie à St. Mary: ostéoporose et ostéoarthrite** (March 28)
- Isabelle Leblanc, Dr. Hirsh Rosenfeld Distinguished Public Lecture in Family Medicine: **Too much pain doctor: recognizing and contextualizing cultural expression of pains** (April 29)
- Kristen Reidel, **Development of educational resources for the telerehabilitation of mobility aid users and their caregivers** (September 18)
- Moreno Morelli & Jason Khoury, **Prévention des blessures liées au soccer** (September 25)
- Guetvah Petit-Frère, **Présentation du Bureau des partenariat du CIUSSS ODIM** (December 8)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our mission

Established in 2025, the Community Engagement Office strengthens connections between researchers and the broader community. Through partnerships with healthcare professionals, community organizations, residents, and policymakers, we ensure that research is relevant, inclusive, and responsive to community needs. Our work supports knowledge creation and sharing across primary care, older adult care, cancer care, and surgical research, with a focus on accessibility, collaboration, and meaningful impact.

A Year of Consolidation and Growth

This year marked a key period of consolidation for the Office. Through the implementation of multiple initiatives, we established a strong foundation for sustained community engagement, strengthened partnerships, and increased visibility of research within the community.

Our activities

Public outreach and Education

- Hosting workshops and events to share health research and increase public awareness.
- Producing videos to highlight key research initiatives.

Community engagement in research

- Gathering community input through consultations and surveys.
- Building research partnerships with local organizations to align health research with community needs.
- Involving communities in co-designing research projects.
- Promoting two-way knowledge exchange between researchers and the public.
- Ensuring research is representative, inclusive and reflects diverse perspectives.
- Establishing advisory boards for ongoing community input.

Public outreach and Education

- Translating research into actionable recommendations.
- Hosting forums to connect research with policy discussions.

Public outreach and Education

- Engaging staff and communities in research and outreach efforts.

Public outreach and education

Series of Reels to promote the research work of SMRC researchers

Throughout 2025, SMRC continued to expand its community engagement and knowledge translation activities through bilingual multimedia initiatives highlighting the work and impact of its researchers across older adult care, cancer care, and surgical science. These initiatives aimed to make research more accessible to the public while strengthening connections between researchers, patients, caregivers, and community members.

A particular emphasis was placed on community-based activities at HLM Place Newman in collaboration with Dr. Harmehr Sekhon. These initiatives included the projection of educational videos with seniors (April 24, 2025) and interactive sessions allowing older adults to test virtual reality devices designed to support healthy aging and wellbeing (May 2, 2025). These activities provided opportunities for discussion around aging, technology, wellbeing, and patient-centered innovation while allowing community members to directly engage with emerging research tools and approaches.

Knowledge translation efforts also included the production of a bilingual video featuring Dr. Anthony Albers, highlighting orthopedic research at St. Mary's and its role in improving patient mobility and quality of life.



Older Adult care: Harmehr Sekhon – ENG video with FR sub-titles – **“Novel Technology-based interventions to support healthy aging and improve older adults mental, social and physical health”** (January 2025). Watch video [here](#)

Surgical Science: A. Albers – 2 videos (FR/ENG) – **“A focus on orthopedic research at St-Mary's to improve patient mobility and quality of life”** (July 2025). Watch video [here](#)



A series of bilingual videos and reels were developed to highlight the work of SMRC researchers and promote research accessibility to the public. Featured topics included healthy aging and technology-based interventions, orthopedic research to improve patient mobility and quality of life, cancer prevention and awareness, community oncology, and the role of clinician-scientists within the healthcare system.

All featured videos and reels are available online and can be accessed [here](#)

Cancer care: Ari Meguerditchian (July 2025)

- **Reel 1:** What is the role of a scientific director? Quel est le rôle d'un directeur scientifique?
- **Reel 2:** What is a surgical oncologist? Qu'est-ce qu'un chirurgien oncologue?
- **Reel 3:** Why is research important? Pourquoi la recherche est-elle importante?

Cancer care: Amina Moustaqim-Barrette (July 2025)

- **Reel 1:** What's in your summer starter pack? Que contient ton starter-pack pour l'été?
- **Reel 2:** Quel est le meilleur écran solaire? Which sunscreen is the best?
- **Reel 3:** Qu'est-ce qu'on doit surveiller sur notre peau ? What should we be watching for on our skin ?

Cancer care: Anita Koushik (July 2025)

- **Reel 1:** What is a Principal Investigator? Qu'est-ce qu'un chercheur scientifique?
- **Reel 2:** What are the benefits of your Research Chair in Community Cancer? Quels sont les bénéfices de votre Chaire de l'Université McGill en oncologie communautaire ?
- **Reel 3:** What is your current research focused on? What are your observations? Quels sont vos sujets de vos recherches? Quelles sont vos observations?

Older Adult care: Harmehr Sekhon (August 2025)

- **Reel 1:** What is an Assistant Professor and Associate Scientist specialized in Geriatric Medicine?
- **Reel 2:** What inspired you to pursue this path in Geriatric Medicine and research?

These initiatives reflect SMRC's growing commitment to accessible science communication and community-informed research, while reinforcing meaningful connections between researchers and the populations they serve.

Annual Report Team

Dr. Ari Meguerditchian,
Scientific Director

Christina Raneburger,
Associate Director of Strategic
Partnerships

Jean-Daniel Beauchesne,
Associate Director of
Administration

Kadidja Mazou Tahirou,
Scientific Information Officer

Manon de Raad,
Planning, Programming and
Research Officer

Marc-André Bélisle,
Senior Scientific Management
Advisor

Lisandra Lannes,
Community Engagement Officer

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We thank the McPeak-Sirois Group, with whom we hope to continue to collaborating on crucial research projects supporting our Cancer Care domain.

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St. Mary's Research Centre

Hayes Pavillion, suite 4720
3777 Jean-Brillant Street
Montreal, QC, H3T 0A2
514-345-3511 ext. 5060

research.stmary@ssss.gouv.qc.ca



FONDATION DE
L'HÔPITAL
ST. MARY

ST. MARY'S
HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

3830 Lacombe Avenue, suite 1510
Montréal, QC, H3T 1M5