

### FROM THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Dear members of the SMRC community,

I am delighted to present the first issue of our 2023-2024 newsletter, a reflection of the collective efforts and remarkable progress we have made during the summer month.

As we transition to the busy rhythm of the new academic year, I trust you all had a chance to unwind and rejuvenate.

In this issue, we highlight the work of our Orthopaedic Research Program, led by Dr. Anthony Albers. September is Arthritis and Pain Awareness month, and we are proud of the contributions our researchers have made to the field. Join us for a special presentation on September 15 to learn more about the ways that the program is supporting patients in our community.

The SMRC continues to contribute to increase our understanding on the prevention and treatment of cancer: Dr. Anita Koushik our inaugural Chair in Community Oncology recently received funding from the CIHR for her work on ovarian cancer risk. Congratulations also to Dr. Sylvie Lambert who also received a CIHR grant to conduct a randomized trial of an online coping and exercise program for prostate cancer patients and their caregivers. Finally, our oncology clinical trials team continues to provide St. Mary's patients with access to cutting-edge treatments. The recent appointment of Kaitlyn Bondurant-David as research coordinator within the Department of Pharmacy will expand our capacity to open clinical trials for patients with cancer.

During the summer months, our team has also continued to work with key stakeholders across the hospital and university to define our strategic research ambitions and set concrete action items that will allow us to accomplish our goals. We look forward to sharing more information on this important project on October 2nd, when we'll be presenting the SMRC's first strategic plan.

Finally, I extend my personal invitation for you to join us on September 28th for the annual Scientific Director's presentation when I'll share with you the SMRC's priorities for 2023-24 and provide updates on concrete ways in which we have strengthened our base over the past 3 years.

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# Highlight: Orthopaedic Research Program



## September is Arthritis and Pain Awareness month

The Orthopaedic Research Program at St. Mary's is built around three pillars of surgical expertise:

1. Hip and Knee Arthroplasty, led by Dr. Albers
2. Orthopaedic Sports Medicine and Upper Extremity Surgery, led by Dr. Moreno Morelli
3. Management of Hip Fractures, led by Dr. Jennifer Mutch.



The program has multiple ongoing projects, including multicenter collaborations.

The research team recently collaborated with an international group on a multi-site clinical trial investigating different solutions used to reduce infection rates after hip and knee replacements (PREVENT-iT). Patient recruitment for this trial will begin in the coming months. For more information on this and other studies, contact Sandhya Baskaran, Research Program Administrator or visit [www.mtlortho.com](http://www.mtlortho.com).

### McGill Arthroplasty Registry

On another front, the research team is implementing its first Arthroplasty Patient Reported Outcomes (PROMs) database. This registry will serve to track PROMs for hip and knee surgeries with a goal of improving outcomes, quality control and care improvements within the St. Mary's hospital community. The registry will also help to plan future research that will test new theories, confirm the results of other research projects or help develop better treatments and tools for disease prevention.

### Day Surgery Program and MyMobility

The team also launched the Orthopaedic Day Surgery Total Joint Program in June 2020. During the pandemic, this program enabled many patients to receive Orthopaedic care without hospitalization. The program is in its fourth year running, with over 500 hip and knee replacements performed so far. In September 2022, the team launched 'Mymobility', an orthopaedic mobile application providing patients with access to resources, exercise videos, movement tracking, and other tools. A research protocol to assess patient satisfaction with the app is in preparation as part of the ongoing strategic initiative of incorporating technology in Orthopaedic research.

# Highlight: Orthopaedic Research Program



St. Mary's Orthopaedics is happy to announce a special session on Joint Health titled: Osteoarthritis: Myths and Misconceptions. This talk will highlight Prevention and Management of Osteoarthritis and will be held as a hybrid event on September 15th, 2023 at St. Mary's Research Centre.

Dr. Anthony Albers, Orthopaedic Surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital and Director of Orthopaedic Research will be speaking about Osteoarthritis prevention, diagnosis, and available treatments. This session is part of the St. Mary's Research Centre Scientific Series in alignment with Arthritis Awareness Month and International Pain Awareness Month.

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

## Osteoarthritis: Myths and Misconceptions

- To educate and bring light to the myths and misconceptions surrounding Osteoarthritis
- To learn about joint health, disease prevention and treatments

**September 15th, 2023 @12 PM**

St. Mary's Research Center  
Scientific Series

Guest speaker:  
**Dr. Anthony Albers MDCM, FRSC**  
Orthopaedic Surgeon  
Associate Professor, McGill University

The research team will also be disseminating material in the form of brochures, posters and videos to inform the public on the various aspects of Osteoarthritis. Keep an eye out for these great resources in the coming weeks!

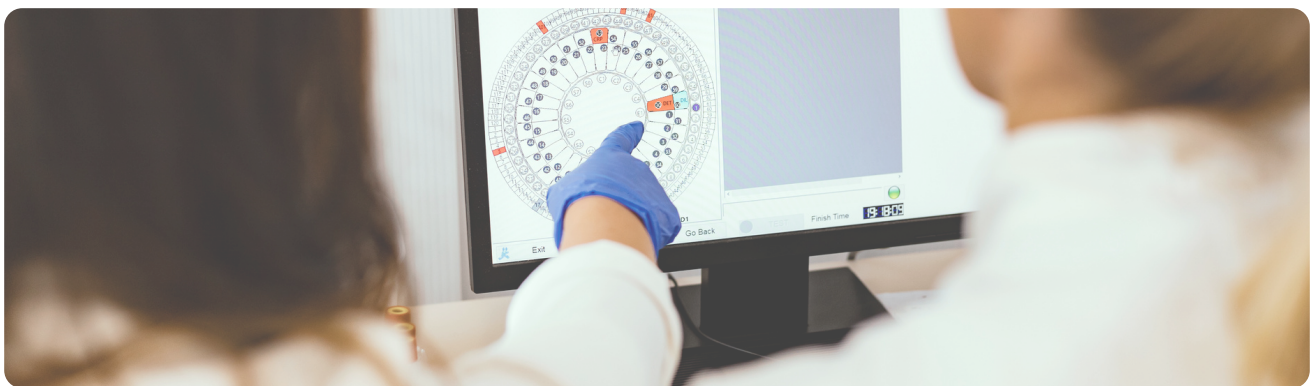
## Ovarian cancer awareness month: new funding



Congratulations to **Dr. Anita Koushik** and her team who have recently received over \$300,000 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for their project titled The impact of intrauterine device use on ovarian cancer risk.

Dr. Koushik and her co-Principal Investigator Dr. Laurent Azoulay (Lady Davis Institute) will lead a large, population-based study using data on primary medical care, hospitalization, and cancer and death registrations to examine whether the use of intrauterine devices (IUDs), when compared with use of the contraceptive pill, affects the development of ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer is a cancer of critical importance to women's health, given its high fatality, and use of the contraceptive pill is one of very few factors known to reduce the risk. This project will help in understanding if the increasing use of IUDs, with lower use of the pill, may have an impact on how many people get ovarian cancer. The results will also provide information that women may use when making choices in birth control methods.



## Prostate Cancer Awareness Month : new funding

**Dr. Sylvie Lambert** and her team were recently awarded over \$760,000 by the Canadian Institutes Health Research (CIHR) for a 4-year study titled **A SMART design to optimize the delivery of TEMPO - a Tailored, wEb-based psychosocial and physical activity self-Management PrOgram for men with prostate cancer and their caregivers.**



TEMPO is a web-based self-management program that supports both patients and caregivers. It integrates coping skills training on a wide range of cancer challenges along with a home-based exercise program within an easy-to-use, interactive online program. TEMPO has been shown to improve communication, teach new skills to cope with both physical and emotional challenges of cancer, and increase physical activity.



The recently funded study builds on this work to further evaluate the cost and impact of TEMPO on patients and caregivers' health. The study will use a cutting-edge trial methodology to help provide the right kind of support to participants, at the right time. Cancer care centres from around Canada will be participating in this project, which is expected to begin in the next few months.



# Academic Output

## Scientific Publications

Haggerty J, Minotti SC, Bouharaoui F. Development of an individual index of social vulnerability that predicts negative healthcare events: a proposed tool to address healthcare equity in primary care research and practice. *Int J Equity Health*. 2023 Aug 18;22(1):157. doi: 10.1186/s12939-023-01965-9. PMID: 37596614; PMCID: PMC10436429.

Kurteva, S., Tamblyn, R., & Meguerditchian, A. N. (2023). Predictors of frequent emergency department visits among hospitalized cancer patients: a comparative cohort study using integrated clinical and administrative data to improve care delivery. *BMC health services research*, 23(1), 887. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-023-09854-1>

McCusker, J., Beauchamp, S., Lambert, S. D., Yaffe, M. J., Meguerditchian, A. N., John, B.-T., Bourbonnais, M.-P., Fung, S., de Raad, M., & Belzile, E. (2023). Improving transitional care for seniors: Results of a patient-centered quality improvement intervention. *Canadian Journal on Aging*. 2023 Jul 26;1-10. doi: 10.1017/S0714980823000247. Online ahead of print.

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## Public forum

### **SMRC student Nina Morena conducted a podcast interview with Dr. Ari Meguerditchian**

“Social Media’s Effect on Informed Decision Making in Cancer Treatment”

<https://oncdata.com/news/social-media-s-effect-on-informed-decision-making-in-cancer-treatment-with-nina-morena-ma-and-ari-meguerditchian-md>

### **Dr. Anita Koushik participated in the Radio-Canada podcast “Moteur de recherche”**

“L’alcool est-il vraiment le facteur causal dans l’éclosion de cancer?”

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/ohdio/premiere/emissions/moteur-de-recherche/episodes/785696/rattrapage-jeudi-31-aout-2023/3>

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## Invited lectures

Management of in-transit metastases. A.N. Meguerditchian. September 21st, 2023. Canadian Surgery Forum. Vancouver, BC.

# Academic Output



## Abstracts

Coping-Together Advanced: Evaluating the Acceptability of the Self-Directed Self-Management Intervention for Patients with Advanced Cancer and their Caregivers. S. Wasserman, L. Ould Brahim, C. Ibberson, A. Mehta, A. M. Laizner, & S. D. Lambert. August 31-September 3, 2023. 24th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology. Milan, Italy.

Electronic patient-reported outcomes (e-PROs) to improve the management and delivery of services coordinated across service levels and sites of care for lung cancer patients. S. Lambert, R. Faria, T. Hijal, B. Shieh, J. Spicer, S. Owen, A. Langleben, F. Germeil, C. Bouchard, M. Magalhaes. August 31-September 3, 2023. 24th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology. Milan, Italy.

How reliable are post-mastectomy breast reconstruction videos on YouTube? N. Morena, L. Ben-Zvi, V. Hayman, M. Hou, N. Nguyen, C. A. Rentschler, A. N. Meguerditchian. September 20-23, 2023. Canadian Surgery Forum, Vancouver, BC. Oral Paper presentation.

How reliable are post-mastectomy breast reconstruction videos on YouTube? N. Morena, L. Ben-Zvi, V. Hayman, M. Hou, N. Nguyen, C. A. Rentschler, A. N. Meguerditchian. October 27-28, 2023. ASCO Quality Care Symposium, Boston, MA. Poster presentation.

Implementing patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in clinical practice: Patient perspectives of barriers and facilitators. S. Lambert, P. Nugus, J. Haggerty, M. Yaffe, T. Hijal, J. Kildea, Z. Rosberger, D. Tremblay, M. Magalhaes. August 31-September 3, 2023. 24th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology. Milan, Italy.

What Comes Next? A Storybook for the Children of Cancer Survivors. S. Wasserman, T. Wasserman, & M. D. Wasserman. August 31-September 3, 2023. 24th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology. Milan, Italy.

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## Other

Dr. Ari Meguerditchian was invited to join the advisory board of Surgical Oncology Insight, an international journal focusing on the surgical management of cancer.

# Roster of Oncology Clinical Trials



## **Bladder cancer**

A Phase 3, randomized, study of neoadjuvant chemotherapy alone versus neoadjuvant, chemotherapy plus Nivolumab or Nivolumab and BMS-986205, followed by continued post- surgery therapy with Nivolumab and BMS-986205 in participants with muscle-invasive bladder cancer. [CA017-078]

## **Breast cancer**

“A Clinical Trial to Determine the Efficacy of Five Years of Letroxole Compared to Placebo in Patients Completing Five Years of Hormonal Therapy Consisting of an Aromatase Inhibitor (AI) or Tamoxifen Followed by an AI in Prolonging Disease-Free Survival in Postmenopausal Woman with Hormone Receptor Positive Breast Cancer” [NSABP-42]

A Phase III Study of Trastuzumab Deruxtecan (T-DXd) with or without Pertuzumab vs Taxane, Trastuzumab and pertuzumab in HERs-Positive, first-line Metastatic Breast Cancer [Destiny]

A Phase III, Randomized Open-Label Multicenter Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Adjuvant Giredestrant compared with Physicians Choice of Adjuvant Endocrine Monotherapy in patients with Estrogen Receptor-Positive HER-Negative Early Breast Cancer [TRIO045]

Identification and evaluation of patients at risk of developing cardiotoxicity after receiving chemotherapy for breast cancer, leukemia or lymphoma [CarChem]

## **Lung cancer**

A Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab in Combination with Pemetrexed/Platinum (Carboplatin or Cisplatin) Followed by Pembrolizumab and Maintenance Olaparib vs Maintenance Pemetrexed in the First-Line Treatment of Participants with Metastatic Non squamous Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer [MK7339-006]

A Phase 3 Study of Pembrolizumab in Combination with Carboplatin/Taxane (Paclitaxel or Nab-paclitaxel) Followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Maintenance Olaparib in the First-line Treatment of Metastatic Squamous Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) [MK7339-008]

A Phase 3 Randomized, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Pemetrexed + Platinum Chemotherapy + Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) with or without Lenvatinib (E7080/MK-7902) as First-line Intervention in Participants with Metastatic Non squamous Non-small Cell Lung Cancer [MK7902-006]

A Phase III, Randomised, Open-Label Study of Savolitinib in Combination With Osimertinib Versus Platinum-Based Doublet Chemotherapy in Participants With EGFR Mutated MET-Overexpressed and/or Amplified, Locally Advanced or Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Who Have Progressed on Treatment With Osimertinib [SAFFRON]

# Roster of Oncology Clinical Trials



## **Lung cancer - continued**

A Phase 3, Multicenter, randomized, open-label trial to compare the efficacy and safety of pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with Lenvatinib (E7080/MK-7902) versus docetaxel in previously treated participants with metastatic Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and progressive disease (PD) after platinum doublet chemotherapy and immunotherapy [MK7902-008]

An Open-label, Multicenter, Phase 3 Randomized, Active-Comparator-Controlled Clinical Study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in Combination With Sacituzumab Govitecan Versus MK-3475 Monotherapy as First-line Treatment in Participants With PD L1 TPS Greater than or Equal to 50% Metastatic Non-small Cell Lung Cancer [KEYNOTE D46/EVOKE-03]

A phase 3 study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Olaparib vs concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Durvalumab in participants with unresectable, locally advanced, stage III non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). [MK 7339-012]

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in combination with concurrent chemoradiation therapy followed by Pembrolizumab with or without Olaparib (MK-7339), compared to concurrent chemoradiation therapy alone in participants with newly diagnosed treatment-naïve limited-stage small cell lung cancer (LS-SCLC). [MK 7339-013]

A Phase 1b/2 Study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Pembrolizumab in Combination with Investigational Agents for the treatment of Participants With PD-1/L1-refractory Extension-Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer in need of Secondary-Line Therapy [MK3475-B98]

A Phase 2 Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Pembrolizumab plus Investigational Agents in Combination with Etoposide and Cisplatin or Carboplatin for the first line Treatment of Participants with Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer [MK3475-B99]

A Randomized Open Label Phase 3 Study of SAR408701 vs Docetaxel in Previously treated Metastatic Non-Squamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer patients with CEACAM5 Positive Tumors [EFC15858]



### Information:

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# St. Mary's Research Centre Scientific Series



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

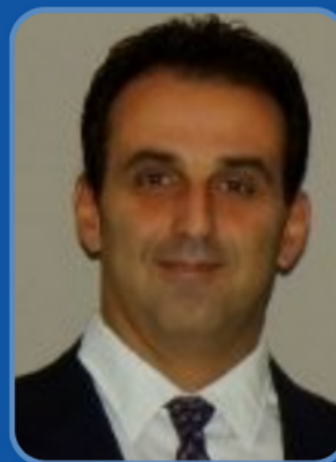
## Efficacy of intravenous ketamine infusion for treatment resistant depression

- Evaluating the effect of intravenous ketamine infusion for patients presenting TRD on depression scores, clinical remission and response rates
- Assessing its efficacy over time
- Assessing its efficacy based on frequency of treatment

SEPTEMBER 7TH 2023 @ 12H

Guest speaker:

**Walter Marcantoni**



St. Mary's Research Center  
SMRC SCIENTIFIC SERIES

\*This presentation can be credited to clinical staff (continuing medical education)

Contact: [christina.raneburger.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:christina.raneburger.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/G55ZuLS11Q>



# Upcoming Events

## September

Scientific Director's  
**Annual Presentation**

Strengthening our Base,  
Ensuring our Future

*Dr. Ari Meguerditchian*

**28 SEPT, 2023 @ 12H**



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

## October

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

**PRÉSENTATION DU  
PLAN STRATÉGIQUE  
DE RECHERCHE**

2 OCTOBRE, 2023  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
RSVP by September 15th

MC Hall 3715 Av. Lacombe  
Montréal, QC H3T1M3  
Light breakfast will be served.

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