

A Year in Review

APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020



OUR VISION

Pan-Canadian cancer control systems that are collaborative, person-centred and high-performing by international standards.

OUR MISSION

To improve cancer control systems across Canada by working together to enhance quality, support innovation and strengthen sustainability.

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CAPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019/2020

- **Board Chair, Eshwar Kumar**, Co-Chief Executive Officer, New Brunswick Cancer Network (replacing Dr. Michael Sherar, President & CEO in May 2019)
- **Kim Chi**, President, BC Cancer (Replaced Frances Wong, Interim President, in June 2019)
- **Matthew Parliament**, Senior Medical Director, CancerControl Alberta – Alberta Health Services
- **Jon Tonita**, President & CEO, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
- **Sri Navaratnam**, President & CEO, CancerCare Manitoba
- **Garth Matheson**, Interim President & CEO, Cancer Care Ontario – Ontario Health (replacing Dr. Michael Sherar, President & CEO in January 2020)
- **Jean Latreille**, Directeur, Direction québécoise de cancérologie
- **Philip Champion**, Medical Director, PEI Cancer Treatment Centre
- **Drew Bethune**, Clinical Lead, Cancer Program, Nova Scotia Health
- **Elaine Warren**, Vice President, Medicine, Surgery, Perioperative Services, Cancer Care and Clinical Efficiency, Eastern Health Cancer Care Program
- **Cynthia Morton**, CEO, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

A special thank you to Dr. Michael Sherar who served as CAPCA’s Chair from 2015 to 2019.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

April 1 2019 to March 31 2020

For over twenty years the Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies (CAPCA) has provided a forum for leaders of Canada's cancer control systems to discuss and collaboratively address issues that affect the delivery of Canadian cancer care.

By working together, we are able to generate ideas and solutions to cancer control challenges across Canada, and implement innovations that improve system performance. Ultimately CAPCA's goal is to lower the burden of cancer on Canadians.

In 2019 CAPCA celebrated its 20th anniversary. In 1999 CAPCA started as an informal network of provincial cancer agencies, and has evolved into a mature, trusted cancer control organization that represents all provincial cancer programs and agencies. It is remarkable to consider CAPCA's tremendous impact and the power of its network of partners, working groups and committees.

The world has changed in the last two decades. New innovative medicines are changing the trajectory of many cancers and there is greater appreciation and focus on the role of the person centred approach in cancer control planning and delivery. There is more awareness of the inequities in how we deliver cancer care, and the need to improve access to screening, diagnosis, treatment, palliative and end-of-life care – no matter where a patient lives.

New challenges have also emerged. Cancer care is growing more complex and we are tackling significant sustainability issues. This year – and for years to come we will be managing the impact of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. What has not changed however is Canada's commitment to delivering the best possible cancer care.

In the face of existing and emerging challenges and opportunities, CAPCA continues to play a vital role in supporting provincial cancer programs across the country, and collaborating with other like-minded pan-Canadian organizations so that our collective efforts are streamlined and efficient.

"CAPCA's autonomy and independence allows us to identify and act on streams of work that strengthen and support all provincial cancer systems across the country. Focusing on critical implementation issues that are common across the provinces allows us to respond quickly and efficiently."

----- Dr. Eshwar Kumar, CAPCA Chair

A YEAR OF IMPACT: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The fiscal year 2019/20 marks the last year of CAPCA's five year Strategic Plan (2015 to 2020). Over this time CAPCA delivered exceptional value to members through its focus on four key priority areas: driving quality and safety; supporting our operational efficiency across cancer programs; focusing on cancer system risk management; and strengthening the sustainability of cancer care.

Key highlights of CAPCA's contributions and impact over the last year are outlined below. More details on CAPCA's full range of programs can be found at www.capca.ca.



Priority 1: Quality and Safety

Canada is a world leader in the planning and delivery of high-quality and safe cancer care. This requires a sustained pan-Canadian focus on the monitoring and improving of patient safety, and identifying opportunities to create, implement and endorse standards of care that support the delivery of high quality care across the country. A critical area of impact for CAPCA in 2019/20 was to quickly respond to the unanticipated and emerging pandemic:

"CAPCA is proving indispensable in assuring the roll-out of innovative, high quality, and safe cancer care across Canada."

---Dr. Matthew Parliament, Senior Medical Director, CancerControl Alberta, Alberta Health Services

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The impact of COVID-19 on individual Canadians and the health system is unprecedented in our lifetime. In March 2020, like every healthcare provider and system across the country, CAPCA members were pivoting to respond to the slowdown in delivery of healthcare generally while also ensuring that cancer care remains a priority.

Within days of the pandemic being declared, each jurisdiction moved quickly to safely and efficiently pause or modify cancer programs. At the same time CAPCA members started to meet weekly to discuss significant planning and delivery issues and discuss potential common approaches to the quality and safety of these programs. With the situation rapidly evolving day-to-day, the group also leveraged CAPCA's secure members only online platform to share information and decisions within their respective jurisdictions.

The group focused initially on consistent application of public health measures to keep patients and healthcare staff safe and identifying issues in modifying treatment. This collective experience with COVID-19 is a powerful example of the importance of system leaders connecting and sharing information in real-time during a time of national crisis.



Priority 2: Operational Efficiency

CAPCA is committed to improving cancer system operational efficiency while preserving or improving the quality and safety of cancer care.

We champion initiatives that avoid duplication, reduce waste and maximize cost-effectiveness: supporting cancer programs, the planning and measurement of large scale procurement efforts; collaborating to support and improve clinical operations.

“Participating in CAPCA's activities fosters collaboration between provinces, thus facilitating the sharing of best practices and avoiding duplication of work.”

--- Louise Paquet, Agente de recherche et de planification, Programme québécois de cancérologie, Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux.

Introducing CAR T-Cell Therapy in Canada

CAR T-cell therapy is a powerful immunotherapy that allows genetic reprogramming of a patient's own immune cells to find and attack cancer cells throughout the body. The process of delivering CAR-T therapy is very complex. The first CAR T-cell therapy was approved for use in Canada in September 2018 and a second in February 2019. Provinces are establishing delivery mechanisms which includes site preparation and staff training.

Ontario and Quebec were the first provinces in Canada to provide the therapy. They will provide pan-Canadian access to care while capacity builds in other provinces. Ministries of health and provincial cancer agencies are working together to coordinate patient access across Canada while capacity in the system remains limited and interprovincial billing arrangements are still being negotiated.

Throughout 2019/20 CAPCA worked with its member organizations and partners to facilitate the introduction of CAR T-cell therapy through the development of a pan-Canadian adult clinical consensus access prioritization framework.

The consensus document was developed in 2019 by CAPCA's Adult CAR T-cell Therapy Clinician Advisory Committee. The committee consists of clinical experts from each province and they meet every six months to review the evidence and update the framework as required. Provincial decision makers in the cancer programs and ministries use this document to inform their decision making about access to CAR-T therapy for Canadians.



Priority 3: Cancer System Risk Management

All cancer systems across the country depend on effective risk management to ensure the delivery of cancer care.

A critical function of CAPCA is the provision of risk management support to members through ongoing monitoring of a potential high-risk threats, proactively identifying mitigating actions, and coordinating pan-Canadian responses when necessary.

“CAPCA's work with drug supplies disruption is of utmost importance to provincial cancer agencies. The rapid turnaround from notice of a shortage to planning different ways for managing the drug shortage is crucial.”

--- Marc Geirnaert, Director,
Provincial Oncology Drug Program,
CancerCare Manitoba

CAPCA's Supply Disruptions Working Group

Cancer drug shortages are a continued concern in Canada as changes to treatment plans can have significant impact on patient care.

In 2015, CAPCA established the Drug Supply Disruptions Task Group to serve as a forum to assess the severity and acuity of shortages, develop recommended mitigation and conservation strategies and share resupply and access solutions. The Drug Supply Disruptions Working Group also provides advice to Health Canada about national cancer drug shortage prioritization and supply management.

With input from the working group, CAPCA is able to provide timely information to the communications leads within provincial cancer programs about drug shortages. In 2019 CAPCA was invited as an ad hoc member to Health Canada's Tier Assignment Committee (TAC) to provide clinical and system level input on the urgency ranking of oncology-related drug shortages.

The pan-Canadian inventory list, developed by CAPCA's Drug Supply Disruptions Working Group during drug shortages, helps both Health Canada and manufacturers manage available supply. This unique contribution by CAPCA provides critical and timely support to all cancer programs which is particularly important as the status of drug shortages changes rapidly.

A special thank you to Carol Chambers who stepped down as Chair of the Working Group in 2019 and a welcome to Ron Fung as he took on this role.



Priority 4: Sustainability of Cancer Care

Canada's world-class cancer systems are facing unprecedented pressure from the impact of Canada's aging population, increasing costs of cancer treatment and budgetary constraint.

Early on in the implementation of the 2015 to 2020 Strategic Plan, the CAPCA Board of Directors identified cancer drug funding sustainability as a critical area of focus.

Oncology biosimilars

The introduction of biologics for cancer treatment is an important step in improving the quality of cancer care and supporting overall cancer system sustainability. The introduction of biologics also present challenges to both physicians and patients as cancer systems decide how to implement this new therapy option.

Over 2019/20 CAPCA worked with members and partners to support clinicians and patients understand the role of biosimilars in cancer treatment through the pan-Canadian Oncology Biosimilars Initiative (pCOBI). Spearheaded by Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) and pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA), this important collaboration produced educational resources for provinces to adapt for patients and providers and understanding the impact of implementing biosimilars in the oncology clinic.

With additional funding made available for the pan-Canadian Oncology Biosimilars Initiative, we are participating in an evaluation working group to support the rollout of biosimilars across the country.

Cancer Drug Funding Sustainability

CAPCA launched the Cancer Drug Funding Sustainability Initiative in 2016 to ensure Canadian patients have access to innovative and effective cancer treatments while supporting jurisdictions to achieve maximum value for publicly funded cancer therapies.

The Canadian Drug Implementation Advisory Committee (CDIAC) was made up of the provincial drug leaders and CDIAC's work was used to provide consistent advice to provincial Ministries of Health and the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) about pragmatic implementation issues of new drugs that are being considered for funding into existing treatment pathways

Over the course of this year CDIAC issued recommendations for 25 files. It was also the last year CDIAC was in effect as CAPCA worked with CADTH to move this work over permanently to CADTH for long term sustainability. In the next fiscal year, key functions of CDIAC are being embedded into the existing pCODR Health Technology Assessment process. CAPCA will continue to be involved and focused on issues relating to cancer drug funding sustainability through its work with CADTH and other partners.

With the work of CDIAC wrapping up in 2020 and moving to CADTH, CAPCA extends their thanks to all CDIAC members who contributed their time and insight over the last four years. A special thank you to CDIAC Chair Dr. Malcolm Moore (2016 to 2018) and co-Chairs Piotr Czaykowski and Helen Anderson (2018 to 2020).

"CDIAC has been invaluable to ensuring consistency in eligibility and access to new drug treatment programs, and sustainability of cancer budgets across all provinces and territories. Having the endorsement of recommendations from CAPCA gives confidence in decisions to implement new drug programs."

--- Darryl Boehm, Director,
Oncology Pharmacy Services,
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency

LOOKING FORWARD

CAPCA's positive impact is driven by an unwavering focus on a core set of issues, and by serving as a nimble forum for cancer system leaders to identify best practices and address complex, shared policy challenges under tight timeframes. Looking ahead, CAPCA's work will be guided by two governing frameworks.

CAPCA's New Strategic Plan

The CAPCA Board of Directors approved a new three year Strategic Plan to guide CAPCA's work from 2020 to 2023 and to ensure alignment and support to the refreshed Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control 2019 to 2029.

CAPCA's new Strategic Plan is visionary and pragmatic in its approach to driving real systems-level change across Canada. It builds on the exceptional work achieved by CAPCA and its partners over the last five years and is structured on three strategic pillars:

- Enhancing quality
- Supporting innovation
- Strengthening system sustainability

Please visit the CAPCA website for more information about our current initiatives www.capca.ca

Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control

2019 also marked the launch of the refreshed Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control – an important guide for all cancer control efforts.

Twenty years ago, CAPCA was at the table with other cancer leaders to develop Canada's first national cancer control strategy. After significant effort the first Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control was launched in 2006, with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (the Partnership) opening its doors in 2007 as its steward.

Likewise CAPCA played a central role collaborating with the Partnership and other cancer system partners on the important work to refresh the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control.

"Without CAPCA's commitment and collaboration with the Partnership, we would be unable to design or deliver better approaches to caring for cancer patients across the country. The Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control, 2019-2029, relies upon this partnership to achieve Canada's goals of equitable access to high quality care for all."

--- Cindy Morton, CEO Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

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