The Ottawa Integrative Cancer Centre: An Innovation in Whole-Person Cancer Care

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Integrative Oncology

An evidence-based approach to cancer care that combines conventional biomedical therapy with complementary interventions to provide strategies for primary and secondary cancer prevention, acute cancer treatment, survivorship and to improve quality of life.
Objective

To develop an evidence-based, sustainable integrative oncology program for Eastern Canada dedicated to patient care, research and education.
Methods

- **Systematic review**
  - Literature describing existing programs

- **Descriptive qualitative study**
  - 39 in-depth interviews with cancer patients (n=12) and their family members (n=1) and complementary (n=11) and conventional (n=15) healthcare providers.
Systematic Review
Seely D, Weeks L, Young S. A Systematic Review of Integrative Oncology Programs. Current Oncology, in press.

- 53 articles describing 29 programs internationally
- Programs share a common vision to provide patient-centred, whole-person care
- Most programs include:
  - Patient Care
  - Research
  - Education
- Each program unique in terms of structure and operational model
Descriptive Qualitative Study

- Patient Care
  - Case Manager
  - Regular clinical rounds
  - Shared patient charts

- Research
  - To help develop the evidence base for complementary therapies; assess cost effectiveness; add credibility and improve patient care

- Education
  - For patients and health care providers
Opened in November 2011

**Mission**
To provide evidence-informed integrative and preventative cancer care, research, and education across the spectrum of prevention to survivorship.

**Partnerships and Collaboration**
- Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre
- Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation
- CAMEO
OICC Team

- Interdisciplinary Patient Care
  - 4 naturopathic doctors, 3 MDs, acupuncturist, 2 massage therapists, nutritionist, physiotherapist, yoga therapist, exercise therapist, social worker

- Research
  - 2 Full-time; 1 Resident

- Education
  - 1 Full time Program and Outreach coordinator

- Administration
  - Executive Director, Office Manager, Public Relations, Support Staff
Funding and Acknowledgements

- Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (governing body)
- Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation
- Individual donors

- Scientific Advisory Committee
- Research Ethics Board at CCNM

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