

# IMPACT

Influencing Models of Practice with  
Advanced Competency in Therapeutic Radiation

## WELCOME TO THE FIFTH EDITION OF IMPACT!

As our Community of Practice moves forward and gains momentum, this edition focuses on the impact that Advance Practice roles have. First, we are proud that through continuous demonstration and proven sustainability of these roles, the Palliative CSRT role continues to be adopted across Ontario. We are pleased to be growing with the addition of Melissa O'Neil CSRT at the London Regional Cancer Centre. We then highlight our strengths through comprehensive data captured during the CSRT project. Finally, we reveal how we are now demonstrating our impact by capturing workload data.

There are not enough pages to capture all the publications, posters and podium presentation but we offer up some of the latest contributions. The CSRT role continues to be a way to address gaps and shortages of an overburdened system; just some of the evidence for this can be found in this edition.

If you have questions or wish to join our readership, contact us at the email addresses listed below.

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## WELCOME MELISSA O'NEIL

Melissa completed her Radiation Therapy education in her hometown of Winnipeg in 2011 and moved to London, Ontario soon after, to begin her career as an MRT(T) at the London Regional Cancer Program. Since then, she has been very active on the Breast Site Group and was involved in facilitating Breast QA Rounds, as well as rolling out the deep inspiration breath hold protocol in London. Melissa has also focused on IGRT and respiratory motion management in the past several years. She has presented at many venues, including ESTRO and had a poster at RTi3 which won the Inquire category. She is very excited about her new role as a Palliative and SBRT CSRT and looks forward to the many learning opportunities and collaborations the future will bring. Melissa also spends her time teaching yoga, volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation centre, and hanging out with her husband and their fur-kids.



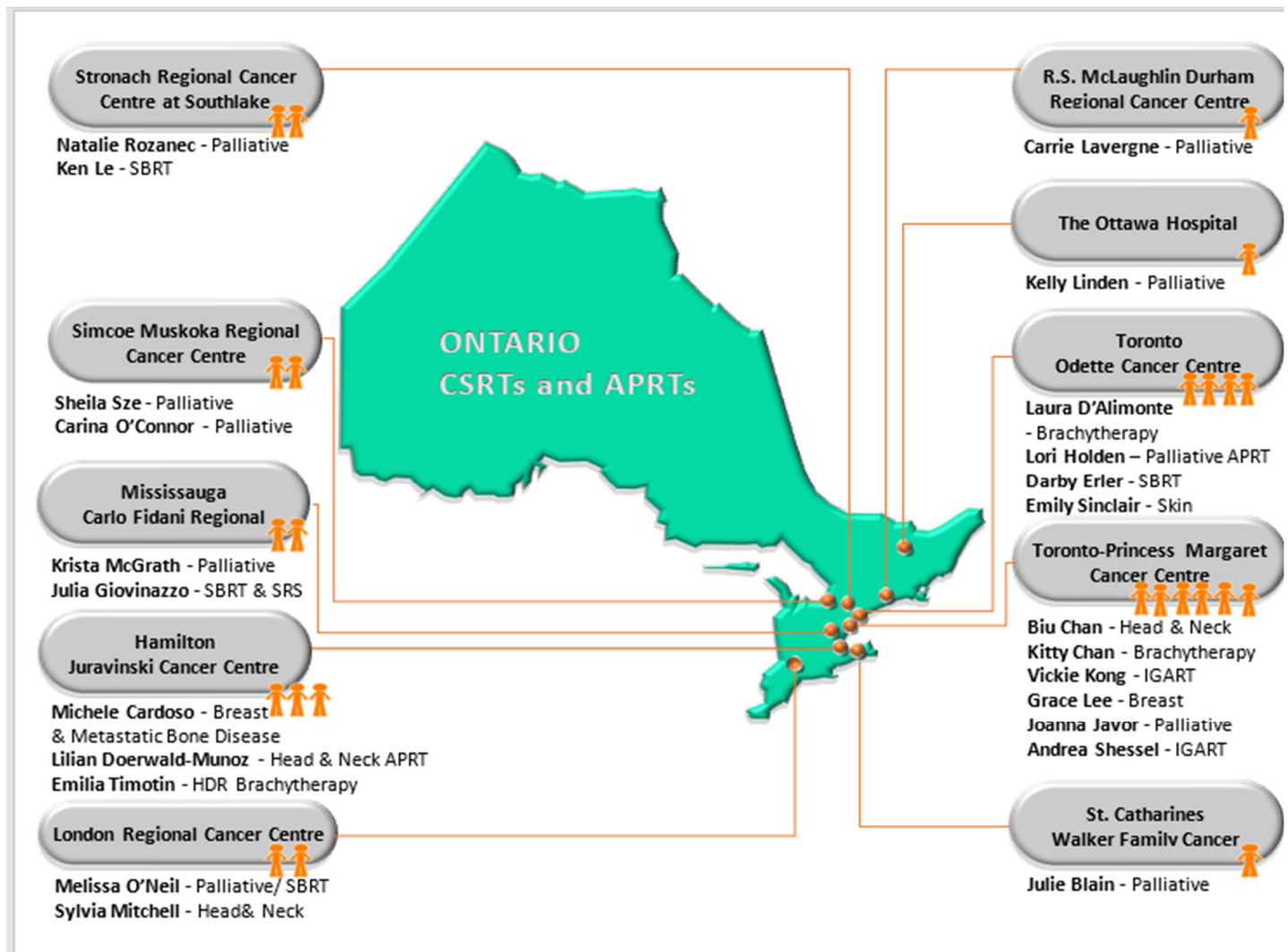
## RETIREMENT NEWS – CONGRATULATIONS EMILY SINCLAIR



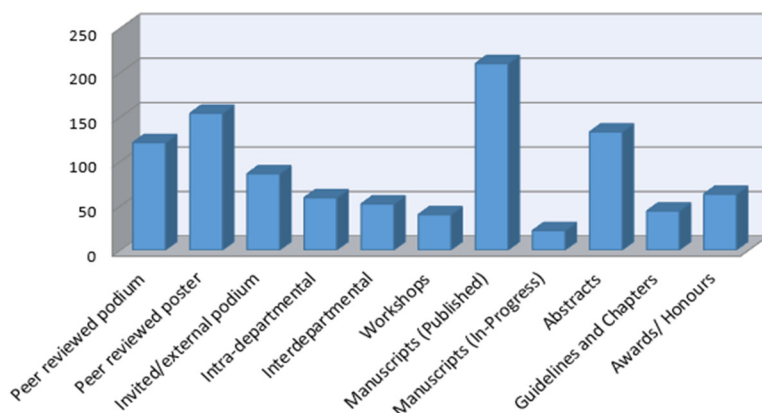
We would like to take this opportunity to wish our dear friend and colleague, Emily Sinclair a very Happy Retirement! Emily has made many significant contributions to the field of radiation therapy, particularly in symptom management, quality of life, palliative and skin radiation, and ethical issues. Her CSRT practice was at the Odette Cancer Centre in Toronto in the specialization of Skin Cancer. Through her extensive knowledge and leadership, she successfully championed an independent practice in this role. Her innovative practice model included improved referral systems and triaging and a CSRT telephone pre-assessment. The impact on wait times and patient experience was tremendous. We will miss her firm but affable nature and beautiful Glaswegian accent. We wish you the very best Emily, in this exciting next chapter!

## PRACTICE IN ONTARIO – MAP & IMPACT OF CSRTS

The following map of Ontario shows patterns of practice and distribution of CSRTs across the province.



**CSRT ACTIVITIES 2008-2016**



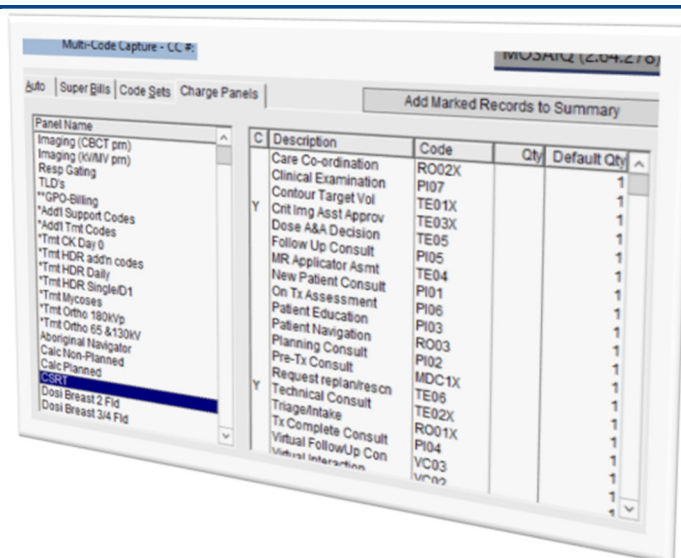
CSRTs and APRTs continue to increase access to care, improve quality of care and lead continuous quality improvement. The impact of these roles is evident in the tremendous volume of research, contributions as reviewers and editors, Academic appointments, grants received and awards achieved. Process improvements have led to improvements in wait times, throughput, quality and patient experience. The adjacent table shows the CCO reported data on CSRT activity between 2008 and 2016. These numbers continue to climb in 2019.

**Michele Cardoso**

## NHPIP CODES ARE HERE

### Advanced Practice Workload Measurement Code Project Update – May 2019

As the CSRT project concluded in 2016, the CSRT Community of Practice (CoP) group recognizes the need to continuously collect quantitative data on activities performed by CSRTs across the province for senior management teams to assess the impact and value of CSRTs in the healthcare system. Therefore, following some initial pioneering work by Kelly Linden, Palliative CSRT from Ottawa, the CSRT CoP initiated the development of new activity codes to standardize the measurement of advanced practice workload. With input from all CSRTs across the province, an initial list of 20 advanced practice codes in 5 categories were created in the Radiation Oncology National Hospital Productivity Improvement Project (NHPIP) code system and reviewed by Cancer Care Ontario (CCO).



Description	Code	Qty	Default Qty
Care Co-ordination	RO02X		1
Clinical Examination	PI07		1
Contour Target Vol	TE01X		1
Crit Img Asst Approv	TE03X		1
Dose A&A Decision	TE05		1
Follow Up Consult	PI05		1
MR Applicator Asmt	TE04		1
New Patient Consult	PI01		1
On Tx Assessment	PI06		1
Patient Education	PI03		1
Patient Navigation	RO03		1
Planning Consult	PI02		1
Pre-Tx Consult	MDC1X		1
Request replan/reson	TE06		1
Technical Consult	TE02X		1
Triage/Intake	RO01X		1
Tx Complete Consult	PI04		1
Virtual FollowUp Con	VC03		1
Virtual Interaction	UN02		1

At the time of writing, 7 out of 9 centres had started using the codes and the other two centres were close to implementation. The next step for the project is to collect and review the initial data and to see if additional codes are required.

**Kitty Chan, Biu Chan & Vickie Kong**

## The International Community: Advanced Practice in Radiation Therapy

In October 2018, Toronto hosted the second international **Leading the Way: Radiographer Advanced Practice (LTWRAP)** conference. The participants were inspired by keynote speakers Mary Job (Australia), Vicki Sanders (USA), Jonathan McConnell (UK) and our own Nicole Harnett. The Ontario CSRTs had a high representation in the conference and contributed to almost half of all the proffered oral presentations. Participants enjoyed the sharing of current research in advanced practice and networking with fellow international medical imaging and therapy practitioners.



**Darby Eler CSRT presents work done at Sunnybrook on capturing workload codes.**

Several key themes became evident over the duration of the event. The struggle to initiate and sustain advanced practice roles is the same everywhere. The collection and communication of compelling evidence of impact is a key challenge given the uniqueness of each position and the overall low number of APRTs/CSRTs in each jurisdiction. Most of us have reached a point of “proof of concept” but now must elevate our work to include more robust, multi-position/multi-institutional studies. During the conference it was suggested that creating an international community of practice for advanced practitioners in radiation therapy (adapted from the existing CoP for CSRTs in Ontario) might be one strategy to unify our efforts and find synergies and unique opportunities to collaborate. We look forward to collaborating with our international colleagues on research in and advocacy for advanced practice! Watch for updates in our upcoming newsletters!

**Kitty Chan**



## Oral Presentations (LTWRAP 2018)

- **Cardoso M.,** Juhasz J., **Harnett N.,** Smoke M. (2018) Raising the Bar: Developing Best Practice **Guidelines** for Breast Radiation Therapy Imaging. JMIRS 49 (3): S4.
- **Cardoso M.,** Juhasz, J., **Harnett N.,** Smoke M. (2018) Implementing Best Practice **Guidelines** in Breast Radiation Therapy Imaging: A CSRT-Led LEAN Project. JMIRS 49 (3): S13.
- **Chan H.B., Kong V., Chan K., Erler, D., D'Alimonte L., Blain J., Linden K.,** Himmelman, J., **Harnett, N.** (2018) Outcome Measurement: Developing Standardized Advanced Practice Workload Measurement Tools Across the Province With **Workload Codes**. JMIRS 49 (3): S4
- **Chan K., D'Alimonte L.,** Himmelman, J., **Harnett, N.** (2018) Sustainability is Success: Using Evaluation to Set the Course for Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (CSRT) **Community of Practice**. JMIRS 49 (3): S3.
- **Chan K.,** Simeonov A., DiTomasso A., Patterson S., O'Leary G., Lopez Filici A., Borg J., Croke J., Fyles A., Han K., Milosevic M. (2018) Inter-Professional Education (IPE) Facilitated by Advanced Practice Radiation Therapist: A Crucial Step to Implement Real-Time **MR-guided Brachytherapy** for Cervical Cancer. JMIRS 49 (3): S10.
- **D'Alimonte L.,** Loblaw A. (2018) Co-ordinating Care for **Prostate Brachytherapy** Patients: Piloting a New Role for the Brachytherapy Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (CSRT). JMIRS 49 (3): S6.
- **D'Alimonte L.,** Ravi A., Morton G. (2018) Prostate Delineation for LDR **Prostate Brachytherapy**: Concordance Study Between Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist and Radiation Oncologist. JMIRS 49 (3): S13-14.
- **Erler D.** (2018) Keeping a Finger on the Pulse: The Potential of a Programmatic **Advanced Practice** Role. JMIRS 49 (3): S2.
- **Erler D. Holden L., Sinclair E., D'Alimonte L.** (2018) Prepare for Impact: Developing Collective **Workload Codes** to Quantify Advanced Practice Radiation Therapy Clinical Activities. JMIRS 49 (3): S3
- **Holden L.** (2018) A First in Canada: How a CSRT Successfully Co-led the **Implementation** of New Technology. JMIRS 49 (3): S1-S2.
- **Holden L.** (2018) **Transitioning** from a Palliative to SRS **Role**: Does the Skillsset Move Too? JMIRS 49 (3): S12.
- **Kong V.,** Chen S., Chung P., Rosewall T. Stepwise Development and Justification of Evidence-Based Practice for **Bladder** Radiotherapy. JMIRS 49 (3): S6.
- **Kong V.,** Shessel A., **Chan H.B.** (2018). Are We on Track? The Role of Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (CSRT) in Developing the **Dose Tracking and Adaptive Radiotherapy** Program. JMIRS 49 (3): S10-11.
- **Lavergne C., Javor J., Sze S., Linden K., Blain J., Holden L.** (2018) Implementation of the **Palliative Clinical Specialist** Radiation Therapist Improves Access to Care for Patients Referred for Palliative Radiation Therapy. JMIRS 49 (3): S2.
- **Linden K., Sze S., Lavergne C., Blain J., Holden L., Javor J.** (2018) The Impact of **Palliative Clinical Specialist** Radiation Therapists on Quality of Care in Ontario. JMIRS 49 (3): S5-6.
- **Lee G.,** Fyles A., Dinniwel R., Purdie T., Koch A. (2018) Leading Practice: Implementation of an Innovative Approach to Rapid **Breast** Radiotherapy. JMIRS 49 (3): S8.
- **Rozac N.,** Loudon J., Moyo E., Cho C., Wells W. (2018) The **Rapid Response Clinic**: A Reflection on Five Years. JMIRS 49 (3): S5.
- **Sinclair E.** (2018) CSRT Initiative: Process of Introducing a New Technique to Treat Superficial **Skin Cancers**. JMIRS 49 (3): S5.
- **Sinclair E.** (2018) Impacting on the Patient and the System: The Role of Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist in a Multidisciplinary Skin Cancer Clinic. JMIRS 49 (3): S5.

## Manuscripts

- **Harnett N., Bak K,** et al. (2018) The Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist (CSRT): **A case study** exploring the effectiveness of a new advanced practice role in Canada. JMIRS. 2018 Jun; 65(2): 86–96. Published online 2018 Jun 4. doi: [10.1002/jmrs.281](https://doi.org/10.1002/jmrs.281)
- **Harnett N,** Bak K, Zychla L, et al. Defining advanced practice in radiation therapy: **A feasibility assessment** of a new healthcare provider role in Ontario, Canada. Radiography, available online 28 February 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radi.2019.02.007>
- **Harnett N, Lee G.** Advancing Radiation Therapy Practice by Elevating **Research**. J Med Imaging Radiat Sci. 2018 Dec;49(4):436. doi: 10.1016/j.jmir.2018.08.003. Epub 2018 Sep 21
- **Kong V,** Kwan M, Chen S, Chung P, Craig T, Rosewall T. Quantification of interobserver variability in **image registration** using conebeam CT for partial **bladder** radiotherapy - A Comparison between Lipiodol and Bladder Wall Surface. Br J Radiol. 2019 Feb;92(1094):20180413. doi: 10.1259/bjr.20180413. Epub 2018 Nov 9. Principal Author.
- **Kong V,** Taylor A, Chung P, Rosewall T. (2018) Evaluation of resource burden for **bladder adaptive strategies**: A timing study. J Med Imaging Radiat Oncol, 62: 861-865.
- **Kong V,** Taylor A, Chung P, Craig T, Rosewall T. Comparison of 3 **image-guided** adaptive strategies for **bladder** locoregional radiotherapy. Med Dosim. 2018 Apr 11. pii: S0958-3947(18)30037-2. doi: 10.1016/j.meddos.2018.03.004. [Epub ahead of print].
- **Lavergne C,** Edmunds C, Warden P. (2019) Utilizing **Quality Improvement Methods** to Examine the Radiation Therapy Pathway for Patients Requiring Radiation Therapy at a Community Cancer Centre. JMIRS [in print].
- **Rozac N.,** Allibhai Z., Bhatti M., Chan E., McIntosh M., Moseley D., Taremi M., Abbas A. (2019) **Palliation of Vertebral Metastases** with Radiotherapy: Exploration of **Volumetric-Modulated Arc Therapy** From Development to Implementation in Routine Clinical Practice. JMIRS 51 (1), 68-73.