

<https://canceroutcomesresearch.com/>

Cancer Outcomes Research Program

Narrowing the gap between what ought to happen and what actually happens in cancer care

About us

The Cancer Outcomes Research (COR) Program started in 2004 at [Cancer Care Nova Scotia](#) under the direction of [Dr. Eva Grunfeld](#), internationally renowned researcher in cancer survivorship research, and focused on cancer health services and outcomes research. Following Dr. Grunfeld's move to the University of Toronto in 2010, COR transitioned from Cancer Care Nova Scotia to the [Department of Surgery, Dalhousie University](#). While continuing to conduct health services and outcomes research, our foci also shifted to include much more extensive work in knowledge translation science.

COR now has two faculty members, Drs. [Geoff Porter](#) and [Robin Urquhart](#), two full-time research coordinators, and many part-time research staff and trainees. Currently, our program undertakes three inter-related streams of research:

- *Knowledge translation and implementation science*
- *Cancer health services research*
- *Care of older adults*

We are part of the Department of Surgery, Dalhousie University, and are affiliated with the Nova Scotia Health Authority; [Department of Community Health and Epidemiology](#) and [Division of Medical Education](#), Dalhousie University; [Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit](#); and [Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute](#).

Our research

The Cancer Outcomes Research (COR) Program is collaborative, cohesive, and solution-driven. COR's vision is to narrow the gap between scientific evidence and practice/policy, and thus to improve the delivery and outcomes of the care we provide. We generate *contextually relevant, globally excellent* knowledge on three inter-related research streams.

Stream 1: Knowledge translation & implementation science. Our knowledge translation stream focuses on understanding how scientific evidence moves into clinical practice/policy and which strategies optimize its implementation, scale-up, and sustained use. We have expertise in studying the organizational and socio-political influences on moving evidence-based innovations into healthcare settings.

Stream 2: Cancer health services research. Our work in this stream focuses on examining access to cancer care, quality of cancer care, and what happens to patients as a result of the care they receive. While we study the entire spectrum of cancer care, we are particularly interested in issues related to cancer treatment and cancer survivorship as well as the interface between specialist and primary care.

Stream 3: Care of older adults. More recently, we have been building a stream of research focused specifically on the care of older adults in both acute and primary care. Within this stream, we have a particular interest in understanding and optimizing the care of frail elderly. Our research uses both qualitative and quantitative methods. We have expertise in case study and qualitative methodologies; systematic reviews; cohort studies using linked administrative health data; intervention studies; and consensus methods. Our studies are based on extensive dialogue with decision-makers (e.g., clinicians, managers, policy-makers, and patients) to identify gaps in existing research/evidence, and to identify areas of new research to meet their current and future needs. Decision-makers are team members on all of our studies and are integrally involved in developing research priorities and questions, designing studies, and interpreting and disseminating findings.

Our research is funded by many different funding agencies, including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute, Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network, Breast Cancer Society of Canada, Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Fund, and QEII Foundation.

To learn more about COR, contact Dr. Robin Urquhart at robin.urquhart@nshealth.ca

Our people

[Robin Urquhart, PhD](#)

Positions: Assistant Professor and Ramia Scientist, Department of Surgery, Dalhousie University; Affiliate Scientist, Nova Scotia Health Authority

Expertise: knowledge translation/implementations science, health services research, mixed methods, case study methods, qualitative methodologies, cohort studies using linked administrative data, consensus methods, quasi-experimental intervention studies

[Geoff Porter, MD, FRCSC, FACS \(Director\)](#)

Positions: Professor, Departments of Surgery and Community Health & Epidemiology; Gibran and Jamile Ramia – QEII Health Sciences Centre Chair in Surgical Oncology Research; Senior Expert Lead, Clinical Care, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

Expertise: health services research, outcomes research, intervention studies, surgical oncology

Margaret Jorgensen

Position: Research Coordinator

Expertise: Administrative coordination, research ethics/data request approvals, study recruitment, study coordination, financial and human resource management

Cynthia Kendell

Position: Research Coordinator; PhD Student

Expertise: Research ethics/data request approvals, study coordination, case study methods, qualitative methodologies, cohort studies using linked administrative data, knowledge translation

Our projects

ONGOING PROJECTS

Stream 1: Knowledge translation & implementation science

[What is the role of middle managers in innovation implementation in the cancer system?](#) (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Canadian Institutes of Health Research).

[Exploring the role of scientific evidence when making decisions about innovations in cancer care](#) (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation).

[Developing a team to advance our understanding of innovation sustainability in health care](#) (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation).

[Understanding clinical practice guideline implementation in Nova Scotia's cancer system](#) (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Capital Health Research Fund)

Assessing the factors important to implementing new knowledge, tools, and technologies in pathology practice: tool development (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Terry Fox Research Institute).

Eliciting the public's values on health research: a mixed methods study (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; In-kind support: Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit).

Sustainability of program budgeting and marginal analysis (PBMA) in healthcare priority setting: a case study (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Unfunded).

Assessing the system-level factors important to implementing new knowledge, tools, and technologies in healthcare settings: tool development (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Unfunded).

Stream 2: Cancer health services research

[Educating Nova Scotia physicians to initiate and engage in advance care planning for cancer patients: a mixed methods study](#) (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute).

[Understanding cancer survivors' needs and experiences returning to work post-treatment and how these change over time: a longitudinal qualitative study](#) (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute).

Developing an informed approach to transitioning cancer survivors from the cancer centre to primary care (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: QEII Foundation).
Canadian team to improve community-based cancer care along the continuum (CanIMPACT) (Co-PI: Dr. Geoff Porter; Funder: Canadian Institutes of Health Research).

The HeLiX (Hemorrhage During Liver Resection: tranexamic Acid) Trial: Tranexamic Acid (TXA) Versus Placebo to Reduce Perioperative Blood Transfusion in Patients Undergoing Liver Resection: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial (PI: Dr. Geoff Porter).
Examining physicians' decision-making when managing patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer: a mixed methods study (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Unfunded).

Stream 3: Care of older adults

[Enhancing the primary healthcare system's ability to identify and plan with seriously ill frail elderly](#) (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network).

Environmental scan to describe the current care received by seriously ill, frail elderly patients nearing end of life in Canada (Co-PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; Funder: Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network).

Evaluation of an interprofessional team's perception of an education program's ability to enhance their care of older hospitalized adults in acute care (PI: Dr. Robin Urquhart; In-kind support: Nova Scotia Health Authority).

Our findings

Here is where we will post research summaries, powerpoint presentations, and other dissemination activities from our research. Check back regularly for updates and 'off-the-press' study results.

From 2007-2014, COR led a large CIHR New Emerging Team Grant to study access to quality colorectal cancer services in Nova Scotia. **Team ACCESS** conducted more than 20 research studies across the continuum of colorectal cancer care. The study findings and implications are summarized in a **monograph**, which has been disseminated to key decision-makers in Nova Scotia and Canada.

Hyperlinks

Grunfeld

<http://www.dfc.utoronto.ca/content/eva-grunfeld>

Porter and Urquhart – NSHA Researcher Directory

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/content/porter-geoff>

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/content/urquhart-robin>

Cancer Care Nova Scotia

<http://www.cancercare.ns.ca/en/home/default.aspx>

SPOR

<http://www.spor-maritime-srap.ca/>

Beatrice Hunter

<http://bhcri.ca/>

Department of Surgery

<https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/department-sites/surgery.html>