Soillse Scientist—Dr. Gabriella Ilie
Community Health & Epidemiology & Department of Urology

Since April 2016, I have served as the Soillse Scientist in Prostate Cancer Quality of Life Research, an Endowed Research Chair position at the rank of Assistant Professor jointly in the Dalhousie University Department of Urology and Community Health and Epidemiology. I focus my research on routine examination of patient reported quality of life outcomes and satisfaction with treatment outcomes among prostate cancer survivors. I have also studied the epidemiology of quality of life and complex adverse health correlates (e.g., alcohol abuse, smoking, drug abuse, depression, anxiety, stress, suicide, bullying, and conduct behaviors) in youth and adult populations. My work has included evaluations of programs and policies designed to prevent these problems and improve quality of life.

As the Soillse Scientist in Prostate Cancer Quality of Life Research, I manage my laboratory facilities located in the QEII Health Sciences Centre, Department of Urology. Since my appointment in April I have made great progress in bringing a RED Cap research data collection infrastructure to the Nova Scotia Health Authority, and received REB approval for this platform to be launched first, in Nova Scotia. In the coming months, I will use the collaborations already established with urologists and radiation oncologists in the province to expand this infrastructure to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, with the intent of creating a Maritime-wide platform for informing the care of prostate cancer survivors though quality of life patient reported outcomes. My Maritime program of quality of life research among prostate cancer survivors is the first of its type anywhere in Canada.

I have come to Dalhousie from St. Michael’s Hospital and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health where I have accomplished a very strong starting trajectory for becoming an accomplished and internationally recognized scholar. I have published over 30 papers in the past three years. This work appeared in highly ranked journals such as the Journal of American Medical Association. I have also presented at numerous world congresses meetings.

When I am not busy I enjoy hang-gliding, kayaking, meditating, and playing the guitar. I am tremendously enjoying my new family in Urology and working with my colleagues, Urologists and our staff!
Residents Corner

The inaugural soccer tournament between Faculty and Residents took place this past October. The resident team (in white shirts) soundly defeated the Faculty Team and look forward to doing the same next year!

Take Your Child to Work Day

Last month the NS Health Authority held its annual “Take Your Child to Work Day”. This is a great opportunity for Grade 9 students from all over HRM to get exposure to different services, techniques, and equipment in health care. Our own Jesse Ory, PGY2, was a volunteer at this event. All students had a great time including Jesse! 😊

Champions!!

BIG Congratulations to our own Drs. Jeff McKay, PGY5 and Jesse Ory, PGY2 who won the laparoscopic suturing competition at the last annual CUA meeting winning first and second place respectively. Shown here with Jeff and Jesse are Dr. Ben Bay, UBC, (far left) who placed third and Faculty sponsor Dr. Jun Kawakami.
Faculty Additions

The Department is very pleased to welcome Dr. Padriac O’Malley to our Faculty as a locum tenens. Dr. O’Malley is a native of Ireland but grew up in the Annapolis Valley here in Nova Scotia.

He completed both his undergraduate and his Master’s degree at Dalhousie prior to his medical school training in the Dutch Antilles at Saba University School of Medicine. Subsequently he matched to the urology program at the University of Toronto. Here he completed his residency and formative surgical training in urology. He then undertook a Society of Urologic Oncology two year Research and Clinical Fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital with a focus on bladder cancer. Dr. O’Malley obtained his Fellowship at the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada in 2014. His current research interests include population outcomes research, biomarkers, and include clinical trials and basic science research with collaborators.

The Department is also very pleased to welcome Dr. Cheng Wang as a cross-appointed member of its Faculty from the Department of Pathology. Dr. Wang obtained his undergraduate and medical degrees at Tianjin Medical University, Tianjin, P. R. China. He completed his General Pathology residency at University of Saskatchewan and then finished a Genitourinary Pathology fellowship and Cytopathology fellowship at University of Calgary. He joined the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Faculty of Medicine of Dalhousie University as an Assistant Professor in 2012. Dr. Wang has major interests in Genitourinary Pathology as well as Urine and Lung Cytopathology. Dr. Wang has been an exemplary teacher to our urology residents.

More New Additions!

Congratulations to Jill Hudson (Dal Urology 2013) and Keith Pawluk on their son Alexander (Alec) Hudson Pawluk born this past July.

Congratulations to Mike (Dal Urology 2014) and Melissa Organ on the birth of their son Jayden Michael Organ born this past September.
Nurses' Notes

- Emmi Champion, RN, Tammy Bowles, RN and Denise Nesbit, RN attended the Urology Nurses of Canada (UNC) Conference meeting in September 2016 in Kingston, Ontario. Our next annual UNC meeting will be the 1st Joint Meeting of CUA and UNC. It will be held in Toronto in June 2017.

- 25 nurses from 5B, Cobequid, 10A and the HI Clinic attended a very informative talk on Advanced Prostate Cancer in November in Halifax.

- Cobequid Urology now has a new gynecology table to assist with exams.

- Leanne MacDougall, RN, Research Coordinator completed a cycling tour across Canada this past summer! Below is a summary of her adventures.

  What does one do with their summer when they bargain for it off? Ride across our wonderful country. On the 29th of June I departed Vancouver with my brother and headed east. Well sort of east as we decided we should go to Calgary via Jasper. I failed to say departed on my bicycle loaded with everything one needs for two months. Here are ten memories I share:

  1. Trust your instincts when packing your beloved bike and it will save you $700 in repairs.
  2. When Google maps say it is up hill for 40km they are not lying.
  3. Rain, 6 degrees and the Rockies do not make for great cycling conditions.
  4. The Prairies are not always flat on a bike but rather they roll.
  5. When the sign says the town you see ahead is 24km away it really is.
  6. Planned right you can go to the Stampede, a Rough Riders game, hike, zip line and be four feet from a bear along with your average of 120km of riding a day.
  7. When you reach your daily distance and you are not at your destination throwing your bike on the ground and refusing to go any further does not get you to a shower and bed.
  8. The canola fields are magnificent and stretch forever.
  9. When you leave the prairies and enter Ontario the trees start immediately.
  10. If you do some work remotely every day, when you come back it is like you never left.

  Being home and at work is a good place too.

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for a Joyful & Healthy 2017 from all Staff of the Department of Urology