

# The Tinkler

## Centre of Applied Urology Research –

*Kelly MacDonald, Research Manager*

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The Centre of Applied Urology Research in the Department of Urology is a very active unit. It conducts many home grown and collaborative clinical trials that are ongoing and in development, as well as a large volume of in house research activity.

Our team is comprised of six staff, including five members at the adult site and one person at the pediatrics site. We had to say goodbye recently to Natasha Duggan who had been a research coordinator with us for a number of years. We are happy to say that she has moved home to PEI to be closer to her family! Jacqueline Ryan was brought in to take over the position and is a wonderful addition to our Department.

Kelly MacDonald has recently taken the position of Research Manager and is looking forward to continue working with this amazing team and department in her new role!

Liette Connor and Pam Currie continue to be busy working on our active trials. Andrea Titterness provides assistance to the residents and faculty in order to meet their research goals. Kevin Richards works on Urology research at the IWK.

Our research activities are also well supported by a continuous influx of students who contribute to many of our studies.



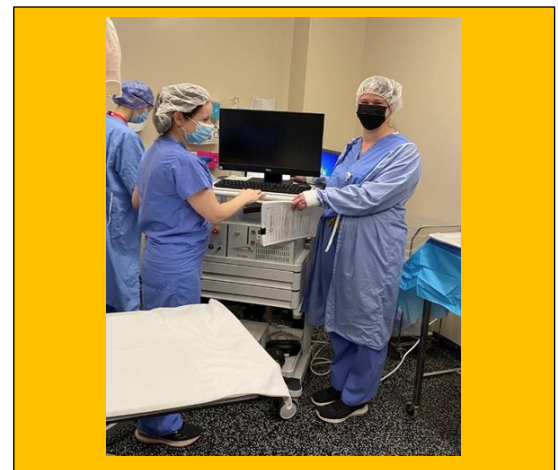
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<http://urology.medicine.dal.ca>



Pictured above: The first treatment visit for the TLD-1433-2 study. From left to right: Liette Connor (Research Nurse); Dr. Ricardo Rendon (PI and Director of the Centre for Applied Urology Research); Kelly MacDonald (Research Manager); Jacqueline Ryan (Research Coordinator)



Pictured above: Jacqueline Ryan (Research Coordinator) and Kelly MacDonald (Research Manager) pictured with the TLC-3200 Medical Laser System used in the TLD-1433-2 study.

## Actively Accruing Clinical Trials Update

### Prostate Cancer:

**PROTEUS:** A randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Phase 3 Study of Apalutamide in Subjects with High-risk, Localized or Locally Advanced Prostate Cancer Who are Candidates for Radical Prostatectomy

**PR22:** DASL-HiCaP: Darolutamide Augments Standard Therapy for Localised Very High-Risk Cancer of the Prostate (ANZUP1801). A randomized phase 3 double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of adding darolutamide to androgen deprivation therapy and definitive or salvage radiation in very high risk, clinically localised prostate cancer.

**PCSX:** The Role of Therapeutic Layering of Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy on Darolutamide in the Management of Oligoprogressive Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer: A pilot Phase II Trial (PCS X). GROUQ – Group of Radiation Oncologists in Urology in Québec.

**MAST:** A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Metformin in Reducing Progression Among Men on Expectant Management for Low Risk Prostate Cancer

**DAROL:** Darolutamide Observational Study in non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer patients

**TALAPRO-3:** A phase 3, randomized, double-blind, study of talazoparib with enzalutamide versus placebo with enzalutamide in men with ddr gene mutated metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer

**SPLASH:** Study Evaluating Metastatic Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer Treatment Using 177Lu-PNT2002 PSMA Therapy After Second-line Hormonal Treatment

**PC PEP Phase 4:** Predictors of Mental Health for Men with Prostate Cancer undergoing a Patient Empowerment Program

### Bladder Cancer:

**TLD-1433-2:** A phase II clinical study of intravesical photodynamic therapy in patients with bcg-unresponsive non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (“nmibc”) or patients who are intolerant to bcg therapy (“study”)

**CBCIS:** Canadian Bladder Cancer Information System

**CBCRN collaboration:** Investigating the application of Machine Learning to improve diagnosis and staging of Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma

### Kidney Cancer:

**CKCIS:** Canadian Bladder Cancer Information System

**RAPLN vs LPN & OPN:** Comparison of outcomes for robotic assisted laparoscopic partial nephrectomies versus Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy and open partial nephrectomy.

### Non Oncology:

Diagnostic performance of ultra low-dose computed tomography (CT) vs. low-dose CT protocols in detection of urolithiasis: A prospective intra-individual study

**Research in Medicine**

Undergraduate medical students at Dalhousie University conduct research during their training, often through Research in Medicine (RIM) course. Students work with designated mentors within the department and will often stay with the mentors throughout their undergraduate training. We would like to recognize Drs. Ricardo Rendon, Thomas Skinner, Jesse Ory, Rodrigo Romao, Gabriela Ilie, Ross Mason, and Daniel Keefe for serving as RIM mentors.

If you are interested in being a supervisor for the RIM program, please contact Andrea at [urologyresearch@nshealth.ca](mailto:urologyresearch@nshealth.ca).

**Resident Publications**

Moore, J., **Whalen, S.**, Rowe, N., Lee, J., Ordon, M., & Lantz-Powers, A. (2021). A high-fidelity, virtual reality, transurethral resection of bladder tumor simulator: Validation as a tool for training. *Canadian Urological Association Journal*, 16(4). <https://doi.org/10.5489/cuaj.7285>

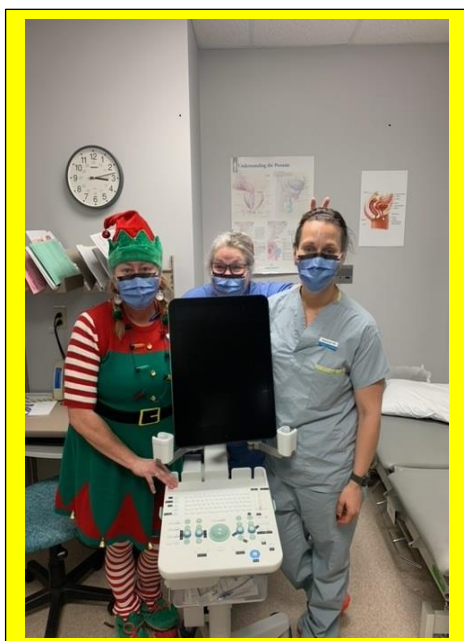
**MacDonald, L.**, Ory, J., Rendon, R. A., Bailly, G., Skinner, T., Cox, A., Langille, G., & Bell, D. (2021). Using GoPro to create an educational database of open urological procedures for residents. *Canadian Urological Association journal = Journal de l'Association des urologues du Canada*, 15(6), 207–209. <https://doi.org/10.5489/cuaj.6768>

**MacDonald, M.**, Ilie, G., Power, L., Whalen, S., Parker, R., MLIS, Skinner, T.A.A., & Lantz Powers, A.G. (2021). Accepted to the Journal of Endourology.

Masseurs L., Ilie G., **Lawen T.**, MacDonald C, & Bradley, C. (2021). Psychosocial and Functional Predictors of Mental Disorder among Prostate Cancer Survivors: Informing Survivorship Care Programs with Evidence-Based Knowledge. *Current Oncology*. 28(5):3918-3931. <https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol28050334>

**Department of Urology Introduces New State-of-the-Art Equipment for Prostate Cancer Diagnosis**

– Dr. Ross Mason



In men in whom there is a concern for having prostate cancer, ultrasound guided prostate biopsy remains the standard method of diagnosis. However, we are increasingly using prostate MRI prior to prostate biopsy to identify the exact areas of concern within the prostate. In a joint effort between the Departments of Urology and Diagnostic Imaging at the QE2, we recently saw the delivery of a new state-of-the-art BK 3000 ultrasound machine and an UroNav system for performing MRI fusion prostate biopsies. Not only will this allow us to perform traditional prostate biopsy procedures, but the UroNav system will allow us to target areas of concern identified on MRI with high accuracy. This new technology has the potential to transform the prostate cancer diagnosis pathway for our patients. The Urology Clinic at the Halifax Infirmary has recently started using the new equipment to perform standard prostate biopsies and our radiologists will soon be starting our MRI fusion biopsy program. In addition to helping diagnose prostate cancer, there are future plans to use the new equipment for other purposes including the evaluation of men with erectile dysfunction and aiding in general urologic procedures.

## Welcome Dr. Dan Keefe!

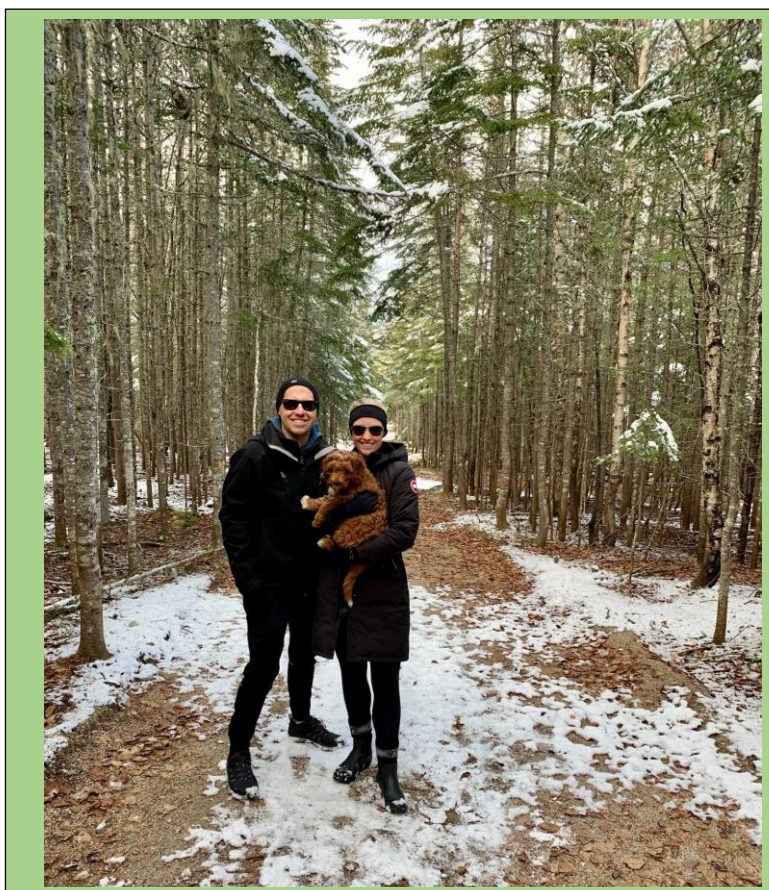
I am honoured to have joined the Dalhousie Department of Urology starting August 1, 2021 as it was at Dalhousie where my interest in Urology was fostered as a medical student. The mentorship I received from the staff and residents started me on a path to residency at the University of Ottawa and fellowship at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. I consider myself very fortunate to have come full circle and return to Halifax to start a career in pediatric Urology at the IWK.

As a native of Prince Edward Island, I couldn't be happier to be closer to home, but also to provide care to the people of the Maritimes. I enjoy all aspects of pediatric urology but am looking forward to taking a leadership role in pediatric renal stone disease and pediatric renal transplantation. I am very lucky to have joined a group with amazing partners in Dr. Dawn MacLellan and Dr. Rodrigo Romao who have been excellent mentors for me as I start clinical practice. I am also humbled for the opportunity to take over care of Dr. Peter Anderson's patients as he begins his well-earned retirement.

In addition to my clinical work, I have an interest in advancing care for pediatric urology patients through research. During fellowship, I completed a Master of Science degree in System Leadership and Innovation at the University of Toronto as well as a Certificate in Artificial Intelligence in Health Care. I look forward to collaborating with colleagues to perform impactful and innovative research using the skills I learned in these programs.

I am happy to share the experience of settling in Halifax with my partner, Stephanie, a native New Brunswicker, who is also thrilled to be closer to family. We recently became proud 'parents' to a very awesome and cute (we're biased) labradoodle named Gus!

Lastly, I will say that starting a new career amid a pandemic has certainly had its challenges, but this has been lessened significantly by the supportive and welcoming environment of the Dal Urology team.



New Additions!

Congratulations to Morgan MacDonald and Jaclyn on the birth of their son Joey born this past October



Congratulations to Jesse Ory and Lizzie on the birth of their daughter Georgia who was born this past January



Congratulations also going out to Tom Skinner and Haley on the birth of their son Blair this past August. Jack is an excited big brother!

*Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and for a  
Healthy and Safe 2022*

*Faculty and Staff, Department of Urology*