

<div>2025 EARLY AGE ONSET CANCER (EAOC) VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM AGENDA</div> <div>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE &amp; PERSONALIZED CARE FOR EARLY AGE ONSET CANCER (EAOC) PATIENTS: ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES</div> <div>NOVEMBER 20-21, 2025</div>		
<div>TARGET AUDIENCE: Oncology Professionals, Pathologists, Patients and Caregivers, Researchers, Advocates, Primary Care, Policy Professionals, Industry</div> <div>Goals: Education, Awareness, Advocacy</div>		
<div>Steering Committee: Dr. Michael Raphael (Chair), Dr. Shady Ashamalla, Dr. Mary Jane Esplen, Dr. Jason Karamchandani, Dr. Tanya Chawla, Dr. Stuart Peacock, Robby Spring, Steve Slack</div>		
<div>DAY 1: November 20, 2025</div> <div>FROM GAPS TO ACTION: TRANSFORMING EARLY AGE ONSET CANCER DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS &amp; CARE THROUGH POLICY &amp; INNOVATION</div>		
Time	Session Title	Presenters/Speakers
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<div><b>Symposium Day 1 Opening</b></div> <div>CCRAN is a national, patient-focused advocacy group, dedicated to improving the longevity and quality of life for all cancer patients in Canada through their persistent efforts in support, education, and advocacy for equal and timely access to effective therapies.</div> <div>CCRAN’s fifth annual pan-tumour Early Age Onset Cancer Symposium will build on the program of past symposia. Over the course of two days, it will once again invite clinicians, pathologists, researchers, policy professionals, patients and caregivers from within and outside Canada, across multiple tumour types, to address optimal care and treatment pathways, enhance the survivorship journey and further explore system-level challenges that limit early detection of EAOC.</div>	<div><i>Symposium Moderator:</i></div> <div><b>Cassandra Macaulay, B.Sc., MHS, RTNM</b></div> <div>Chief Research Officer, CCRAN</div>
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<div><b>Welcome from CCRAN’s President &amp; CEO</b></div> <div>A warm welcome to all experts and participants, with reflection on:</div>	<div><b>Filomena Servidio-Italiano, Hon B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A.</b></div> <div>President &amp; CEO, CCRAN</div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A patient perspective and their early age onset cancer journey</li> <li>• The growing impact of early age onset cancers and why this conversation matters more than ever now</li> <li>• How patient insights are shaping the future of more responsive, equitable, and meaningful cancer care</li> </ul>	<p><u>Patient</u>  <b>Jessica Dasler</b>  Stage IV Colorectal Cancer Survivor; Patient Advocate; CCRAN’s My Lung Mets and My Advocacy Coach</p>
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	<p><b>Addressing the Detrimental Impacts of Early Age Onset Cancer: Key Learnings from CCRAN’s 2024 Early Age Onset Cancer Symposium</b></p> <p>The objectives and outcomes of CCRAN’s 2024 Early Age Onset Cancer Symposium have been captured and summarized in a publication in <a href="#">Current Oncology</a>.</p> <p>The lead author of the publication will present the key findings, themes and calls to action as highlighted in the paper</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u>  <b>Dr. Michael Raphael, MD, FRCPC</b>  Medical Oncologist, Early Age Onset CRC Cancer Clinic Lead, Odette Cancer Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Co-Chair, Medical &amp; Scientific Advisory Board, CCRAN</p>
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<p><b>A National Priority: Lowering the Screening Age for Colorectal Cancer</b></p> <p>With colorectal cancer (CRC) now one of the fastest rising cancers in adults under 50, there is growing urgency to address gaps in early detection, beginning with re-evaluating Canada’s current screening guidelines.</p> <p>Recent policy advancements in breast cancer, specifically the lowering of the screening age to 40, have demonstrated how emerging data and advocacy can accelerate reform. This shift has helped catalyze calls to apply the same urgency to CRC, which continues to show comparable epidemiological trends in younger populations but has yet to see parallel policy movement. This session will examine the case for lowering the CRC screening age in Canada. Experts will explore the systemic, jurisdictional, and access-related challenges that must be addressed to ensure equitable and earlier detection for high-risk, under-50 populations.</p> <p>Key considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building the case: What data and lived experience are driving the call for earlier CRC screening</li> <li>• Identifying policy and advocacy levers that could enable change across provinces</li> <li>• Examining the barriers that continue to delay early detection for EAOC patients</li> <li>• Exploring opportunities for cross-sector collaboration to accelerate equitable screening reform</li> </ul>	<p><u>Moderator</u>  <b>Dr. Michael Raphael, MD, FRCPC</b>  Medical Oncologist, Early Age Onset CRC Cancer Clinic Lead, Odette Cancer Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Co-Chair, Medical &amp; Scientific Advisory Board, CCRAN</p> <p><u>Caregiver</u>  <b>Amanda Conlon</b>  Co-Founder &amp; Executive Director, Circle Back Foundation; Cousin succumbed to Stage IV Cancer</p> <p><u>Panel Discussion</u>  <b>Dr. Aparna Parikh, MD</b>  Director of CRC Medical Oncology Research &amp; Young Adult Colorectal Cancer Center, Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute</p> <p><b>Dr. Darren Brenner, Ph.D</b>  Armstrong Investigator in Molecular Epidemiology; Associate Professor, Depts. of Oncology and Community Health Sciences; Division Head – Preventive Oncology; Director of Research – Forzani &amp; MacPhail Colon Cancer Screening Centre; Director – Cancer Screening, Detection and Risk Reduction Program, University of Calgary</p>

		<p><b>Dr. Gary Wild, MD, CM, Ph.D., FRCP(c)</b> Clinical Gastroenterologist &amp; Professor of Medicine, McGill University Health Centre</p> <p><b>Dr. Usmaan Hameed MD, FRCSC</b> Colorectal Surgical Oncologist; Clinical Lead, GI Cancer Program &amp; Division Head, General Surgery, North York General Hospital</p>
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<p><b>Considering Cancer in Young Adults: Elevating Awareness &amp; Detection Readiness in Primary Care</b></p> <p>As highlighted in CCRAN’s 2024 EAOC Symposium, improving the role of primary care in the early identification of cancer among young adults is a critical system priority. As the first point of contact, primary care professionals play a pivotal role in reducing diagnostic delays and advancing upstream intervention, ensuring cancer is considered earlier in the clinical journey with timely referrals to specialized care. Yet, a significant gap remains: many younger adults (&lt; 50 years) in Canada do not have consistent or timely access to a primary care physician, which further compounds delays in cancer consideration and referral.</p> <p>This session will explore how health systems can better equip primary care providers with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to recognize cancer in younger adults and support early detection through standardized education, clinical support, and integrated care pathways.</p> <p>Areas of focus will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to enhance cancer awareness and risk recognition in primary care settings</li> <li>• Practical strategies to embed earlier suspicion and referral pathways within frontline care</li> <li>• System-level barriers, including primary care shortages, rural/remote access challenges, and increased emergency-based diagnoses, that contribute to late cancer recognition in younger adults</li> <li>• How delays in cancer consideration contribute to system inefficiencies and patient frustration.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Aisha Lofters, MD, Ph.D., CCFP</b> Family Physician, Women’s College Hospital; CIHR-PHAC Applied Public Health Chair; Associate Professor, Department of Family &amp; Community Medicine, University of Toronto</p> <p><i>Patient</i></p> <p><b>Michelle Burleigh</b> Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia Survivor; Patient Advocate; Founder &amp; Patient Consultant, The Clarity Lab; Co-Chair, Canadian Immunocompromised Advocacy Network; Co-Chair, Cancer Action Now Alliance</p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Paul Dhillon, CCFP(EM), MBA</b> Rural Family Physician, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC; 39 Brigade Surgeon, Canadian Armed Forces; Clinical Associate Professor, UBC</p> <p><b>Trudy Matwiy, RN, MN, NP</b> Master of Nursing/Nurse Practitioner, Family/All Ages; Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Program (NPPCP); Director of Primary Care, Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta</p> <p><b>Joan Heatherington, RN, B.Sc.N(H), MN, NP</b> Acute Care Gastroenterology Nurse Practitioner, Red Deer Regional Hospital</p>
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health Break</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Educational Videos</b></p>	

<p>1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Catching Cancer Early: Reframing the System Value of Early Detection in Young Adults</b></p> <p>Early detection is often discussed in clinical terms, but its broader system-level value is equally significant. This session brings together a multi-disciplinary group of experts to examine how earlier diagnosis in younger adults contributes to improved outcomes, more efficient care delivery, and long-term cost savings. The conversation will also explore new directions in early detection, how emerging strategies, technologies, and care models are shaping the case for investment in early age onset cancer.</p> <p>This session contributes to a renewed understanding of the full system value of early detection, reframing it not just as a clinical goal, but as a foundational pillar of sustainable, patient-centered care.</p> <p>Experts in the field will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The system-level and economic implications of delayed versus timely cancer diagnosis in younger adults, recognizing both benefits and capacity challenges</li> <li>• Real-world examples of how early detection impacts resource utilization, and patient outcomes</li> <li>• How principles of VBHC and broader system strategies can inform decisions related to earlier detection</li> <li>• Imaging capacity and resource needs to support earlier diagnosis</li> </ul>	<p><u>Moderator</u>  <b>Dr. Tanya Chawla, MBBS, FRCR, FRCPC</b>  Associate Professor &amp; Staff Radiologist, Joint Department of Medical Imaging, University of Toronto</p> <p><u>Patient</u>  <b>Laura Floyd, MA, JD</b>  Stage III NSCLC Lung Cancer Patient; Patient Advocate</p> <p><u>Panelists</u>  <b>Eva Villalba, MBA, M.Sc.</b>  VBHC Green Belt; Executive Director, Quebec Cancer Coalition; President, VBHC Learning Community</p> <p><b>Dr. Craig Earle, MD, M.Sc., FRCPC</b>  Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer</p> <p><b>Jennifer Carey, M.Org.M, BHSc, MRT(R)</b>  Manager of National Advocacy, Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists</p> <p><b>Samar Saeed, RN, B.Sc.N, EMBA</b>  Clinical Services Manager, Outpatient Oncology &amp; Systemic Therapy, William Osler Health System</p>
<p>2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Improving Access to Advanced Diagnostics: Comprehensive Genomic Profiling as a Gateway to Personalized Treatment of Metastatic Cancer</b></p> <p>Early age onset cancers in individuals under 50 present distinct complexities, including more aggressive tumour biology, higher recurrence rates, and long-term treatment-related morbidity. For this population, personalized approaches that minimize toxicity and optimize efficacy are essential.</p> <p>Comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP) is a key advancement in precision oncology, enabling genomic characterization of tumours to identify actionable mutations and guide targeted therapy decisions. Despite its potential, access to CGP remains limited across Canadian health systems. As oncology moves away from empirical treatment models, integrating CGP into standard diagnostic pathways offers a critical opportunity to improve outcomes for younger adults with cancer.</p>	<p><u>Moderator</u>  <b>Dr. Jason Karamchandani, MD</b>  Associate Professor, Departments of Pathology, Neurology and Neurosurgery, McGill University; President, Canadian Association of Pathologists</p> <p><u>Patient</u>  <b>Cynthia Mitchell</b>  Cholangiocarcinoma Patient; Patient Partner and Advocate</p> <p><u>Panelists</u>  <b>Eddy Nason, MPhil, B.Sc.</b>  Director, Health, Conference Board of Canada</p>

	<p>Experts will speak to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leveraging CGP to improve diagnostic accuracy and enable individualized treatment decisions earlier in the care pathway</li> <li>• Institutional and system-level barriers limiting equitable access to advanced diagnostics across tumour types and geographies</li> <li>• Economic evidence from a cost–benefit analysis of CGP and how these findings can inform policy and national system adoption</li> <li>• Expanding access to targeted therapies and clinical trial opportunities for younger adults through precision oncology</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dr. Robert Grant, MD, Ph.D., FRCPC</b> Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network</p> <p><b>Dr. Megan Mahoney, Ph.D.</b> Director, Scientific Affairs and Training, BioCanRx</p> <p><b>Dr. Alan Spatz, MD, M.Sc.</b> Professor, Departments of Pathology &amp; Oncology, McGill University; Chief, Department of Clinical Laboratory Medicine, MUHC; Medical Director, Optilab Montreal-MUHC network</p>
3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Health Break</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Featured Video: Multitarget FIT (mtFIT) Prospective Screening Study for early detection of Colorectal Cancer</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meike de Wit, Ph.D.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Department of Pathology, the Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands</p>	
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	<p><b>Advancements in the Management of Lung Cancer</b></p> <p>As precision oncology continues to evolve, lung cancer has become a leading example of how systemic and molecularly localized therapies are transforming cancer care. The integration of comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP) has redefined treatment strategies, enabling clinicians to tailor therapies based on tumour-specific biomarkers, improve patient outcomes, and minimize unnecessary toxicity.</p> <p>This clinician roundtable will explore the latest therapeutic developments in lung cancer, highlighting the practical application of genomic insights, evolving standards of care, and the importance of real-world evidence in treatment planning.</p> <p>Key discussion points will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent advances in systemic, localized and surgical therapies for lung cancer, with a focus on how evolving evidence is reshaping clinical practice</li> <li>• Key targetable mutations in younger lung cancer patients and their implications for personalized treatment selection and outcomes</li> <li>• Strategies to expand clinical trial access and eligibility criteria to ensure more diverse and representative participation across lung cancer populations</li> </ul>	<p><u><i>Moderator:</i></u> <b>Dr. Kevin Jao, MD, M.Sc., FRCPC</b> Adjunct Professor, Université de Montréal; Hemato-oncologist, Hôpital du Sacré Coeur de Montréal; Co-Chair, Lung Cancer Canada Medical Advisory Committee</p> <p><u><i>Patient:</i></u> <b>Yuan Lew, M.Sc., MBA, PMP</b> Stage IVB Lung Cancer Survivor, EGFR Mutation; Patient Advocate</p> <p><u><i>Clinician Roundtable:</i></u> <b>Dr. Shaqil Kassam, MD, M.Sc., FRCPC</b> Medical Oncologist, Stronach Regional Cancer Centre</p> <p><b>Dr. Elizabeth David, MD, FRCPC</b> Vascular Interventional Radiologist, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre</p>

		<p><b>Dr. Stephanie Snow, MD, FRCPC</b> Medical Oncologist, QEII Health Sciences Centre; Professor, Dalhousie University</p> <p><b>Dr. Marcelo Cypel, MD, M.Sc., FACS, FRCSC</b> Surgical Director, Ajmera Transplant Centre, UHN; Surgical Director, UHN ECLS Program; Canada Research Chair, Lung Transplantation; Professor of Surgery, Division of Thoracic Surgery, University of Toronto, University Health Network; Senior-Scientist, Toronto General Research Institute</p> <p><b>Dr. Srinivas Raman, MD, FRCPC</b> Radiation Oncologist, BC Cancer Vancouver; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, UBC</p>
4:30 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.	<p><b>Harnessing the Immune System: Breakthroughs in Immunotherapy</b></p> <p>Building on the prior discussion of evolving treatment pathways, this session will take a focused look at immunotherapy’s role in the early age onset cancer (EAO) landscape. As a rapidly advancing field, immunotherapy continues to redefine cancer care, offering durable responses and improved survival across tumour types.</p> <p>This session will present the current and emerging role of immune-based strategies in managing EAO, examining how younger patients’ unique immune biology may influence response, reviewing advancements in checkpoint inhibitors and cellular therapies, and highlighting opportunities to optimize patient selection through biomarker-driven approaches.</p> <p>This session will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How tumour immunogenicity (“hot” vs. “cold”) shapes therapeutic responsiveness and clinical decision-making</li> <li>• Advances in immunotherapeutic approaches relevant to early age onset cancers</li> <li>• Impact of age-related immune biology on treatment response and resistance</li> <li>• Biomarker-guided approaches to improve patient selection and outcomes</li> </ul>	<p><u>Moderator</u> <b>Cassandra Macaulay, B.Sc., MHS, RTNM</b> Chief Research Officer, CCRAN</p> <p><u>Patient</u> <b>Eric Hamilton</b> Stage IV Colorectal Cancer Patient; Patient Advocate</p> <p><u>Panelists</u> <b>Dr. Mairi Lucas, MD</b> Medical Oncologist, BC Cancer, Surrey; Assistant Clinical Professor, University of British Columbia (UBC)</p> <p><b>Dr. Anuradha Krishnamurthy, BS, MD</b> Assistant Professor of Oncology, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center</p>
5:25 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<b>Glance at Day 2. Closing Remarks from CCRAN’s President &amp; CEO.</b>	<p><b>Filomena Servidio-Italiano, Hon B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A.</b> President &amp; CEO, CCRAN</p>

**2025 EARLY AGE ONSET CANCER (EAOC) VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM DRAFT AGENDA**

**ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE & PERSONALIZED CARE FOR EARLY AGE ONSET CANCER (EAOC) PATIENTS:  
ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

**DAY 2: NOVEMBER 21, 2025**

**BEYOND THE DIAGNOSIS: ELEVATING PATIENT & FAMILY VOICES TO IMPROVE EAOC OUTCOMES**

Time	Session Title	Presenters/Speakers
9:30 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	<b>Symposium Day 2 Opening</b> A brief recap of sessions from day one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key take-aways from presentations and panel discussions</li> <li>Symposium objectives, day 2</li> </ul>	<u>Symposium Moderator:</u> <b>Cassandra Macaulay, B.Sc., MHS, RTNM</b> Chief Research Officer, CCRAN
9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Welcome from CCRAN’s President &amp; CEO</b> A warm welcome to all experts and participants, with reflection on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A patient perspective and their early age onset cancer journey</li> <li>The growing impact of early age onset cancers and why this conversation matters more than ever now</li> <li>How patient insights are shaping the future of more responsive, equitable, and meaningful cancer care</li> </ul>	<b>Filomena Servidio-Italiano, Hon B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A.</b> President & CEO, CCRAN  <u>Patient</u> <b>Katie Hulan</b> Early Age Onset Stage IV ALK Positive Lung Cancer Patient; Lung Health Advocate
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Reviewing CCRAN’s Pan-Tumour Patient Survey Findings: Are Early Age Onset Cancer Patient Needs Being Addressed?</b>  CCRAN, in collaboration with multiple patient group partners, led a national pan-tumour survey to better understand how well current systems are meeting the needs of young adults diagnosed with cancer. The findings offer critical insight into where gaps exist in detection, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship, and reinforce the urgent need for tailored, multidisciplinary support.	<u>Presentation</u> <b>Filomena Servidio-Italiano, Hon B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A.</b> President & CEO, CCRAN  <b>Cassandra Macaulay, B.Sc., MHS, RTNM</b> Chief Research Officer, CCRAN

	<p>This session will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share key survey findings from early age onset cancer (EAO) patients aged 18–49 across multiple tumour types and provinces</li> <li>• Highlight consistent barriers in access to care, care navigation, survivorship planning, and support services</li> <li>• Identify top patient priorities, many of which remain unmet across standard cancer care pathways</li> <li>• Set the stage for the value of dedicated EAO clinics, which are largely absent across Canada despite growing need</li> </ul>	<p><b>Shalini Gambhir, B.Sc., MRT(T), MHA</b> Research Officer, CCRAN</p>
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Establishing Young Adult Cancer Clinics: A Patient Group Roundtable</b></p> <p>This roundtable brings together leading patient group partners representing various tumour types to explore key opportunities for system-level improvements in early age onset cancer (EAO) care.</p> <p>Informed by the collective experience of cancer advocacy organizations representing diverse patient communities and shaped by the perspectives of those working closely with young adults affected by cancer, this session will highlight persistent gaps in care and propose collaborative strategies to address them. A central objective involves highlighting the need for dedicated EAO programs across Canada, models that could significantly improve care navigation, psychosocial support, and survivorship for younger patients.</p> <p>The patient group roundtable aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect on key insights from CCRAN’s 2025 national EAO patient survey findings, identify critical unmet needs across EAO patient populations, and discuss potential pathways toward coordinated advocacy and policy action</li> <li>• Make the case for multidisciplinary, age-appropriate AYA/EAO clinics as a scalable model to address care gaps across Canada</li> <li>• Highlight opportunities for national collaboration across patient groups to strengthen messaging and impact</li> </ul>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>Perri Tutelman, Ph.D., R.Psych.</b> Assistant Professor, Chair in Transdisciplinary Mental Health, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary; Co-led Canada’s AYA Cancer Priorities in partnership with AYA CAN</p> <p><u>Patient Group Roundtable</u> <b>Filomena Servidio-Italiano, Hon B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A.</b> President &amp; CEO, CCRAN</p> <p><b>Austin Zimmer, B.Sc., M.Sc.</b> Support Services Manager &amp; Research Coordinator, Prostate Cancer Foundation Canada</p> <p><b>Brenda Clayton, MN</b> President &amp; Founder, Cholangio-Hepatocellular Carcinoma Canada; Caregiver of Daughter who succumbed to Early Age Onset Cholangiocarcinoma</p> <p><b>Dani Taylor, MSW</b> Manager of Programs, Young Adult Cancer Canada; Stage III Colorectal Cancer (Lynch Positive) Survivor; Patient Advocate</p> <p><b>Maureen Elliott, BA, MA</b> Senior Manager, Programs and Support, Pancreatic Cancer Canada</p>



		<p><b>Teresa Tiano</b> Chair and Co-Founder, My Gut Feeling, Stomach Cancer Foundation of Canada; Stomach Cancer Survivor and a Nine-Time Cancer Survivor</p> <p><b>Bukun Adegbembo, M.Sc.</b> Director of Operations, Canadian Breast Cancer Network</p> <p><b>Michele Wright</b> Manager, Patient Support Programs, Lung Cancer Canada</p>
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<p><i>Health Break</i></p> <p><b>Educational Videos</b></p>	
12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<p><b>Exploring Intimacy, Reproduction, &amp; Fertility in Early Age Onset Cancer Patients</b></p> <p>Young adults diagnosed with cancer face a complex set of psychological and physiological challenges, particularly in areas related to fertility, intimacy, and sexual health. Chemotherapy, radiation, and some targeted therapies can impair reproductive function and hormonal regulation, often causing infertility, sexual dysfunction, and disrupted identity during a critical life stage.</p> <p>Despite guidelines recommending early discussion of fertility risks and preservation options, these conversations are often overlooked in treatment planning. Survivors may also face cost barriers to fertility services, compounding the emotional burden. Many experience distress related to body image, intimacy, and future family planning, affecting overall quality of life and mental health.</p> <p>This session will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactive fertility counselling, including risk awareness, preservation strategies, and how treatment decisions shape reproductive outcomes and long-term sexual health</li> <li>• Body image and hormonal changes post-treatment and their impact on sexual identity, function, and intimacy</li> <li>• The psychological and physiological dimensions of sexual dysfunction in survivorship, and models of supportive care</li> <li>• Navigation challenges and system-level barriers that limit access to fertility and sexual health support, including gaps related to referral processes, treatment journeys, and care coordination</li> </ul>	<p><i>Moderator &amp; Male Patient Perspective</i></p> <p><b>Christopher Mammoliti, BComm (Hons)</b> National Patient Programs Manager &amp; Young Adult Cancer Coach, CCRAN; EAOC Patient Expert; Thyroid Cancer Survivor &amp; Late-Stage Colon Cancer Survivor</p> <p><i>Patient</i></p> <p><b>FEMALE PATIENT PERSPECTIVE</b></p> <p><b>Julia Girmenia</b> Stage IV Inflammatory Breast Cancer Patient; Patient Advocate</p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Lauren Walker, Ph.D., R.Psych.</b> Director, Walker Psychological; Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Calgary</p> <p><b>Dr. Caitlin Dunne, MD, FRCSC</b> Reproductive Endocrinologist, Fertility Specialist &amp; Co-Director, Pacific Centre for Reproductive Medicine (PCRM)</p> <p><b>Dr. Trevor Cohen, MD, FRCSC</b> Gynecologic Oncologist, Victoria Centre, BC Cancer Agency</p>

		<b>Liz Ellwood, BA</b> Founder, Fertile Future; Founder, Le Strategies; Co-Founder, Fertility Match Canada; Stage IB2 Cervical Cancer Survivor; Patient Advocate
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<p><b>Managing the Cost of Cancer: Financial Navigation for Early Age Onset Cancer Patients</b></p> <p>Younger adults diagnosed with cancer are uniquely vulnerable to financial strain due to disruptions in employment, education, and limited access to income protection measures. These challenges often coincide with a life stage marked by economic instability and limited financial literacy, amplifying the impact of treatment-related costs.</p> <p>Despite growing recognition of its influence on care adherence, mental health, and overall wellbeing, the financial burden of cancer remains insufficiently addressed in standard oncology care. Embedding financial counselling and resource navigation into the cancer care continuum is critical to alleviating hardship, improving patient outcomes, and supporting long-term survivorship planning.</p> <p>Speakers will elaborate on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The multi-factorial drivers of financial burden among early age onset cancer patients, including out-of-pocket costs, income disruption, and limited access to support programs</li> <li>• Approaches to improving financial literacy and self-advocacy through integrated counselling and resource navigation</li> <li>• Rights-based protections related to employment and education, including accommodations and return-to-work considerations</li> </ul>	<p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p><b>Stephen Piazza, MA, APR</b>          Director of Advocacy, Canadian Cancer Society</p> <p><i>Patient:</i></p> <p><b>Chantale Thurston, CPA</b>          Board Chair, AYA Can - Canadian Cancer Advocacy; Stage IV Appendix Cancer</p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <p><b>Meg Pfeifer, BSW, RSW</b>          Psychosocial Oncology Clinician, CancerCare Manitoba</p> <p><b>Shannon Lee Simmons, CFP, CIM</b>          Certified Financial Planner; Chartered Investment Manager; Founder, The New School of Finance Inc.</p> <p><b>Mary Stuart, FNP</b>          Family Nurse Practitioner, AYA Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Program, IWK Health Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia</p>
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health Break</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Educational Videos</b></p>	

<p>3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Let's Talk: Exploring the Cancer Experience Through the Lens of Individuals from Marginalized Populations</b></p> <p>Patients from underserved communities often encounter distinct barriers throughout the cancer care continuum, shaped by inequities in access, trust, language, and social support. For individuals from historically marginalized communities, barriers to care often emerge at multiple stages: symptom recognition, diagnosis, treatment navigation, and survivorship support.</p> <p>This session will explore the lived experiences of individuals from underserved populations and highlight opportunities to build more equitable, inclusive, and culturally safe oncology systems. By elevating patient perspectives, the session aims to inform more responsive care delivery and catalyze meaningful system-level change.</p> <p>Key areas of discussion will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of culturally responsive and inclusionary care models, and the role of stigma in care avoidance or delay</li> <li>• Structural and informational barriers limiting access to timely diagnosis, support services, and treatment navigation</li> <li>• The need to diversify cancer data collection to better reflect the experiences of marginalized and underrepresented populations</li> </ul>	<p><u>Moderator</u>  <b>Dr. Naheed Dosani, M.Sc., MD, CCFP(PC), FCFP, B.Sc.</b>  Palliative Care Physician, St. Michael's Hospital; Founder &amp; Lead, Palliative Education And Care for the Homeless (PEACH), Inner City Health Associates; Medical Director/Health Equity Lead, Kensington Health; Health Equity Advisor, CPAC; Assistant Professor, University of Toronto</p> <p><u>Patient Panel Discussion</u>  <b>Harjeet Kaur</b>  Stage IV Rare Blood Cancer Survivor; Patient Advocate; Speaker; Co-Founder, Chai and Hope</p> <p><b>J. Nadia Headley, BS, MA</b>  Stage III Breast Cancer Survivor; Patient Advocate; Strategic Director, Twenty One Fourteen Consultancy Services; Executive Director, The Women's Centre of Halton</p> <p><b>Kaylee Engle</b>  Stage IV Melanoma Patient</p> <p><b>Peter Laneas</b>  Two-Time Testicular Cancer Survivor (Stage IIIA &amp; IA); Advocate; Advocacy &amp; Engagement Lead, Cancer Fatigue Services</p>
<p>4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Life Beyond Treatment: Improving the Survivorship Experience</b></p> <p>For many young adults, completing cancer treatment marks the beginning of a new and often overwhelming chapter. While the end of active care may bring relief, it can also surface unexpected challenges, feelings of isolation, fear of recurrence, fatigue, and uncertainty about the future. The daily support of the healthcare team fades, yet the need for guidance remains.</p> <p>This session will explore what it means to reconnect with life after cancer, physically, emotionally, and socially. Speakers will discuss how adaptation, realistic planning, and psychosocial support can encourage hope, help patients process shifting priorities, and foster long-term wellbeing in the survivorship phase.</p> <p>Experts will speak to:</p>	<p><u>Moderator &amp; Patient Perspective</u>  <b>Dr. Mary Jane Esplen, Ph.D., RN</b>  Psycho-Oncologist; Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto</p> <p><u>Patient</u>  <b>Robby Spring, B.Sc., M.Sc., MHSc</b>  Stage I Breast Cancer, Luminal B, Survivor; Patient Advocate</p> <p><u>Panelists</u>  <b>Dr. Margaret Fitch, RN, Ph.D.</b>  Professor (Adjunct), Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emotional and psychosocial supports to ease the transition into survivorship</li><li>• The cyclical gap in which psychosocial support resources are reduced during times of economic cutbacks in healthcare</li><li>• Practical tools for medical follow-up, care navigation, and reintegration into work, education, and family life</li><li>• Lifestyle adaptations that foster long-term wellbeing, including physical activity, nutrition, and self-care routines that promote hope and healing</li></ul>	<p><b>Dr. Stuart Peacock, BA, M.Sc., DPhil, FCAHS</b> Professor and Leslie Diamond Chair in Cancer Survivorship, Simon Fraser University; Distinguished Scientist, BC Cancer</p> <p><b>Lianne Trachtenberg, Ph.D., C.Psych.</b> Clinical and Health Psychologist, Lianne Trachtenberg Psychology</p>
5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	<b>Day 2 Closing Remarks and Symposium Adjournment.</b>	<p><b>Filomena Servidio-Italiano, Hon B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A.</b> President &amp; CEO, CCRAN</p>