

# CANCER *talk* for Primary Care

› YOUR SOURCE FOR UP-TO-DATE CANCER CARE INFORMATION

## › PROVINCIAL CANCER REFERRAL AND NAVIGATION

### *Important Information for Healthcare Providers*

The **CCMB Central Referral Office** is the central point of entry to referring physicians and nurse practitioners to access CCMB clinical services across the province. To ensure your patient referral includes everything necessary, please visit Referral Forms & Guidelines.

**Central Referral Office** Contact Information:

Phone: 1-844-320-4545  
Fax: 204-786-0621

This phone number is the only number for **ALL** internal and external referrals to the Central Referral Office.

**Cancer Navigation Services** can be accessed directly by patients and their family members or through a referral from a primary care provider or any other healthcare professional.

#### **Interlake Eastern**

Toll free: 1-855-557-2273  
Fax: 1-204-785-9242

#### **Prairie Mountain**

Toll free: 1-855-346-3710  
Fax: 1-204-578-2833

#### **Winnipeg**

Toll free: 1-855-837-5400  
Fax: 1-204-235-0690

#### **Northern**

Toll free: 1-855-740-9322  
Fax: 1-204-677-5387

#### **Southern**

Toll free: 1-855-623-1533  
Fax: 1-204-331-8899

For all hubs located within the RHA's, click [here](#).

#### **Welcoming Dr. Kent Stobart**

Read more about CancerCare Manitoba's New President & CEO on Page 2.

#### **BreastCheck Turns 30!**

BreastCheck is celebrating 30 years of service! Read more on Page 3.

#### **Roadmap to Cancer Control for Manitoba**

2025 Strategic Plan on Page 6.

If you have questions regarding the work-up of suspected cancer or any other cancer-related questions, contact the CancerQuestion Helpline for Healthcare Professionals, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 204-226-2262.

## Welcoming Dr. Kent Stobart CancerCare Manitoba's New President & CEO



CancerCare Manitoba welcomed its new President and CEO, Dr. Kent Stobart, on November 1, 2025. This news was announced to CCMB staff in mid-August by the CCMB Board Chair, Mr. Jeoff

Chipman. We are sharing a portion of that announcement with you, the Primary Care community, as an introduction. We look forward to hearing from Dr. Stobart in the next issue of CancerTalk.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to share that following an extensive executive search, the Board has appointed Dr. Kent Stobart as the new President & Chief Executive Officer of CancerCare Manitoba. Dr. Stobart will officially begin in the role on November 1, 2025.

Throughout the search, our goal was to find a leader who not only brings exceptional experience but also aligns with the values that define our organization: collaboration, innovation, integrity, and a deep commitment to patient care. We are confident Dr. Stobart has this experience, embodies these values and will help guide the strategic leadership of CCMB.

Dr. Stobart is a pediatric oncologist, completing his MD at the University of Toronto in 1984, followed by an MSc from Queen's University in 1994. He has also pursued additional leadership and

education training, earning the designation of Certified Canadian Physician Executive (CCPE) in 2020. Throughout his career, Dr. Stobart has published extensively in his field and has held clinical and academic roles across all four Western Canadian provinces, including at CancerCare Manitoba from 1999 and 2002. Most recently, he served as Vice Dean Education, in the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Stobart brings extensive knowledge of cancer, clinical patient care, health system leadership, governance, research, and community engagement. He is a widely respected leader, known to foster high-performing collaborative teams that prioritize excellence and patient-centered care.

We also want to recognize and thank Dr. Donna Turner, who has served as Interim President & CEO during this time of transition. Her steady leadership and unwavering dedication have been essential in maintaining the momentum of our work and the stability of our operations. Dr. Turner will be instrumental in supporting Dr. Stobart in his leadership transition and will return to her role as Chief of Population Oncology on November 1, 2025.

This is very exciting news and we are pleased to share it with you.



## Cancer Education for Health Professionals Professional Development Calendar

# Cancer Education for Healthcare Professionals

2025-2026

Date	Event	Topic and Presenter(s)	Time, Location & Sign Up
October 29, 2025	Cases in Cancer	<b>Sickle Cell Disease</b> Dr. Donald Houston	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. via Zoom <a href="#">Register Here</a>
January 21, 2026	Community Oncology Rounds	<b>Multiple Myeloma</b> Dr. Emily Rimmer	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. via Zoom <a href="#">Register Here</a>
January 28, 2026	Cases in Cancer	<b>Endocrine/Thyroid Cancer</b> Dr. Suhail Sayed	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. via Zoom <a href="#">Register Here</a>
February 11, 2026	Community Oncology Rounds	<b>Prostate Cancer</b> Dr. Bharath Gangadharaiah	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. via Zoom <a href="#">Register Here</a>
February 24, 2026	Training	<b>Cancer Screening &amp; CervixCheck Competency Training</b>	<a href="#">Learn More and Register</a> Questions: screening@cancercare.mb.ca
February 25, 2026	Community Oncology Rounds	<b>Sarcoma</b> Dr. Shantanu Banerji	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. via Zoom <a href="#">Register Here</a>
March 11, 2026	Cases in Cancer	<b>Central Referral Office</b> Sandi McFall and TBA	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. via Zoom <a href="#">Register Here</a>
April 8, 2026	Cases in Cancer	<b>Genitourinary Cancer</b> Dr. Ardalanejaz Ahmad	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. via Zoom <a href="#">Register Here</a>
Spring 2026	Community Oncology Rounds	<b>Colorectal Cancer</b> TBA	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. via Zoom Stay tuned for details!
May 5, 2026	Training	<b>Cancer Screening &amp; CervixCheck Competency Training</b>	<a href="#">Learn More and Register</a> Questions: screening@cancercare.mb.ca
On Request 1-1.5 hours	Education in your office	Cancer Diagnosis Workshops, Follow up Care Guidelines, Introduction to Cancer Services in Manitoba <b>To request an educational activity, email</b> <a href="mailto:CCMBPrimaryCareEducation@cancercare.mb.ca">CCMBPrimaryCareEducation@cancercare.mb.ca</a>	

*Schedule subject to change.*

Having trouble clicking a link? Visit [cancercare.mb.ca/For-Health-Professionals/conferences/professional-development](https://cancercare.mb.ca/For-Health-Professionals/conferences/professional-development) or scan the QR code to explore our Professional Development Calendar and register for upcoming sessions.

The Community Oncology Program provides a variety of educational sessions and conferences in oncology and hematology throughout the year.

Visit our website to access select recorded sessions and learn more.



## BreastCheck Turns 30!

### BreastCheck is celebrating 30 years of providing screening mammograms to eligible Manitobans!

- |        |  |  |  |
|--------|--|--|--|
| 1995   | Manitoba Breast Screening Program starts with clinics in Brandon and Winnipeg  | 2019   | BreastCheck reported client breast density to the client in the result letter (2 categories)             |
| 1997   | Thompson clinic opens  | 2021   | BreastCheck reported breast density using Bi-RADS (4 categories)   |
| 1998   | Mobile mammogram machines begin operating  | 2023   | Implementation of the on demand contact centre system to increase volume capacity of appointment booking |
| 2004   | Manitoba Breast Screening Program was featured in Maclean's magazine as a model for healthcare that works!   | 2025   | Females age 45-49 will have the option to be screened at BreastCheck . More information will come.       |
| 2006   | A flight project was initiated in 2006 to provide chartered flights for women in Brochet, Tadoule Lake, Lac Brochet, Little Grand Rapids, Paunigassi, Shamattawa, Ilford, God's River, God's Lake Narrows, and Red Sucker Lake to attend breast cancer screening. The screening participation rate increased from 17% to 53% in these communities as a result of the flight project. | As of July 2025, BreastCheck has completed over 1.1 million screening mammograms! BreastCheck has a dedicated group of approximately 74 staff made up of clerks, mammogram technologists, evaluators, health educators, and leadership staff that provide quality care at six sites across Manitoba. Thank you for all you do! |  |
| 2008   | Funding received to provide 10,000 additional appointments per year. Breast screening age was changed from 50-69 to 50-74.   |  |  |
| 2011   | Manitoba Breast Screening Program was re-named BreastCheck, CancerCare Manitoba, and new mobile breast screening vans were unveiled.   |  |  |
| 2015   | BreastCheck switched from film to digital mammography  |  |  |
| 2016 - | New mobile breast cancer screening   |  |  |
| 2018   | clinics to bring breast cancer screening to 90 communities across Manitoba   |  |  |



**BreastCheck**

## HPV and Hep B Vaccine Resources

As a trusted source of health information, clinicians play a critical role in guiding patients. To support these conversations, we are pleased to share new resources designed to help you discuss HPV and Hepatitis B vaccinations and explain how these vaccines contribute to cancer prevention.

Visit [cancercare.mb.ca/screening/cancer-prevention/vaccine-resources](https://cancercare.mb.ca/screening/cancer-prevention/vaccine-resources) to access:

- Recorded webinar: A Healthy Tomorrow starts with Vaccination Today
- Poster: Protect Yourself from Cancer
- Updated factsheet: Grade 6 School Immunization Program in 15 languages.
- Short video for parents and caregivers with subtitles in 7 Indigenous languages.



## Webinar: Breast Cancer Screening in Manitoba

Wednesday, January 21, 2026  
8:00 - 9:00am

Join us for a webinar on the latest information on breast cancer screening in Manitoba. We will provide updated information on screening guidelines and resources to support patients in making decision about screening. [Registration](#) is required. This event has been certified for up to 1.0 Mainpro® credit. [Click here to download the event poster](#). To learn more and register visit [www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp/education](https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp/education).



## Canada Post Labour Strike

Cancer screening participation may be impacted by the Canada Post strike:

- Encourage your patients to drop off their completed ColonCheck FIT kit within 2 days to a Shared Health Lab, Nursing Station or Health Centre, and to not return by mail
- Reminder letters from BreastCheck, ColonCheck, and CervixCheck may not arrive when your patient is due to return. Encourage them to call us at 1-855-952-4325 to find out if it is time to get screened.
- Screening result letters from BreastCheck and ColonCheck may be delayed. The programs will always phone patients with abnormal test results.

## Stay in the know!

To be the first to know about changes to screening guidelines, education opportunities, and technology changes, we encourage all healthcare providers to sign up on our e-news mailing list here:

## Roadmap to Cancer Control for Manitoba - Comprehensive Cancer Care for All

*2025 Strategic Plan*

2025  
Strategic  
Plan

Comprehensive  
Cancer Care  
for All | Roadmap to  
Cancer Control  
for Manitoba



CancerCareManitoba  
ActionCancerManitoba

The refreshed Roadmap to Cancer Control for Manitoba was launched this year. This is the Strategic Plan to guide cancer services in Manitoba over the next years ahead.

*education*” were developed. As well, a new Strategic Plan for the Paul Albrechtsen Research Institute CancerCare Manitoba was created, closely aligning with the priorities of CancerCare Manitoba outlined in the Roadmap. Implementation of the refreshed Roadmap began over the summer through presentations to CCMB staff and external partners.

The Roadmap outlines five key priorities, supported by the foundational principles of Research and Innovation, Health Equity, and Partnerships. Achieving these priorities depends on strong collaboration across the health system. As members of the primary care community, your partnership is essential to advancing cancer prevention, early diagnosis, coordinated care across the continuum, and the long-term sustainability of the cancer and health systems.

Although the Roadmap is new, it builds on the Priorities and Objectives of the 2020 Roadmap to Cancer Control. In short, the strategy for cancer control is to:

- prevent cancer when we can
- find it as early as possible if we can't prevent it
- treat and care for patients when cancer is diagnosed, and
- support patients throughout their cancer experience both during and after treatment ends

Achieving cancer control in Manitoba is a shared responsibility. CCMB's shared commitment to patient-centered care remains a top priority. Our commitment to working with all partners also remains strong as together we care for Manitobans with cancer and contribute to cancer control efforts.

The refreshed Roadmap was developed with wide engagement from internal and external stakeholders, including health partners, Indigenous partners and patients. Along with the Roadmap, a new Vision, *“Leading the way in cancer control”* and Mission *“Reduce the risk and impact of cancer for all people of Manitoba through world class cancer control, research and*



# Refreshed Roadmap to Cancer Control for Manitoba 2025

## Priorities and Objectives




**1.**

**Priority**  
Strengthen cancer prevention, expand screening programs and enable early diagnosis

**Objectives**

1. Promote proven lifestyle modifications to reduce cancer risk in Manitoba, including smoking cessation.
2. Improve the reach and awareness of cancer screening programs.
3. Expedite cancer diagnoses to increase the proportion detected at an early stage.



**2.**

**Priority**  
Deliver high-quality cancer care and state-of-the-art treatment through a coordinated and multi-disciplinary approach

**Objectives**

1. Expand access to the latest evidence-based treatment options, including precision medicine.
2. Provide multidisciplinary care through high-performing and coordinated disease site groups.
3. Establish and ensure concordance with cancer treatment standards for surgery, systemic treatment and radiation in Manitoba.
4. Ensure access to timely and coordinated services throughout the cancer continuum.



**3.**

**Priority**  
Ensure an exceptional, person-centred experience is at the heart of every interaction

**Objectives**

1. Ensure, whenever possible, high-quality care is provided closer to home.
2. Engage patients as partners in their care by creating opportunities to co-design services and improving access to on-demand information.
3. Strengthen patient navigation services to provide clear and consistent guidance.
4. Expand the Hope & Healing program to strengthen physical and emotional support for patients and their caregivers.



**4.**

**Priority**  
Ensure workforce and system sustainability

**Objectives**

1. Ensure a healthy workforce and prepare for the needs of tomorrow.
2. Systematically leverage current infrastructure and plan future expansions based on growing need.
3. Design and implement innovative models of cancer care.
4. Implement innovative and technological solutions to improve information integration and workflows.
5. Continuously improve efficiency, maintain accountability and ensure sustainability.



**5.**

**Priority**  
Deliver culturally responsive cancer care and improve outcomes for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples

**Objectives**

1. Improve integration of culturally responsive and trauma-informed care approaches.
2. Provide safe and quality cancer care in First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.
3. Develop a strategy to invite co-creation, better understand the needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples and support Peoples-specific, self-determined cancer care.



*The Research Institute shares a common Vision with CCMB, demonstrating synergistic efforts toward reducing the risk and impact of cancer for all.*

## A Recap from the Provincial Cancer Care Conference 2025

Every year, multidisciplinary health care providers such as Family Physicians in Oncology, nurses, pharmacists, and Psychosocial Oncology Clinicians from Manitoba attend the **Provincial Cancer Care Conference** and receive current, evidence-based, practical information related to the care of cancer patients.

This fall, the Provincial Cancer Care Conference was held at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre in Winnipeg on September 11 and 12. There were 245 delegates from across Manitoba, spanning many different disciplines and healthcare roles along the cancer continuum.

The program included a workshop on Remote and Northern Care, a plenary session on breast cancers, multidisciplinary breakout sessions, and much more. Attendees heard from a patient and caregiver panel who discussed their cancer experiences in Manitoba, as well as a keynote presentation from happiness expert, Dr. Gillian Mandich.

Every year the Conference receives consistently positive feedback about the event from attendees. This year was no exception, with 100% of participant respondents indicating they would recommend the Conference to their colleagues. Further, 97% of respondents felt better equipped to care for their patients.

One respondent shared this qualitative feedback *"My favourite time of the year – to learn & reconnect with CCMB and my rural colleagues"*. Another stated *"Feeling more prepared and comfortable answering patient questions on Breast cancer treatments"*.

Thank you to the planning committee, exhibitors, sponsors, and all attendees for joining us at the Provincial Cancer Care Conference 2025 and making it a success!



Photos Left to Right: Dr. Gillian Mandich, Keynote Speaker; Dr. Marshall Pitz presenting to audience, Dr. Donna Turner, Interim PCEO. Photos courtesy Shellie Masih.

## New Physicians at CancerCare Manitoba



### **Dr. Karishma George**

*Appointed to the Department of Radiation Oncology at CancerCare Manitoba as a Radiation Oncologist, effective July 2, 2025.*

Dr. George is an Oncologist with significant clinical experience in the management of solid tumors including breast, CNS, gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, gynecological, genitourinary, and head and neck cancers. Dr. George completed two back-to-back Radiation Oncology Fellowships at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre, University of Calgary. Her most recent fellowship (2024–2025) focused on CNS and spine, breast cancer, and patient-reported outcomes. Prior to this, she undertook a fellowship (2023–2024) in gastrointestinal and breast cancers and PROSE, also at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. She has previously served as a Senior Clinical Research Fellow at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai (2018–2019), where she worked on several landmark national and international randomized clinical trials in gynecological and hepatobiliary cancers. Dr. George completed her postgraduate residency in Radiation Oncology (DNB Radiotherapy) at Jupiter Hospital, India.



### **Dr. Hadeel Hassan**

*Appointed to the Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at CancerCare Manitoba, effective July 28, 2025.*

Dr. Hassan is an accomplished medical professional with a strong academic and clinical background in pediatric oncology. She holds a PhD in Pediatric Oncology Supportive Care from the University of Leeds, an MSc in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology from Hull York Medical School, and an MBChB from the University of Manchester, UK. She completed her clinical fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto in 2023. Most recently, Dr. Hassan served as a Clinical Research Fellow in Artificial Intelligence in Pediatric Oncology with the Department of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Child Health Evaluative Sciences at SickKids and the University of Toronto. Her focus at CancerCare Manitoba will be in the subspecialty of Neuro-Oncology.



### **Dr. Hanna (Anna) Lyubetska**

*Appointed to the Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology at CancerCare Manitoba, effective August 11, 2025.*

Dr. Lyubetska completed her undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Winnipeg in 2013 and went on to complete her master's degree in human biology and cell science at the University of Manitoba in 2014. She completed Medical School at the University of Manitoba (Max Rady College of Health Sciences) in 2018, followed by an Internal Medicine residency at the University of Manitoba in 2021 and a medical Oncology Residency in 2024. In June 2025, she completed a one-year Fellowship at the Cross Cancer Institute/University of Alberta focusing on Breast and Head and Neck cancers. She has a keen interest in Medical Education and is looking forward to teaching medical students and residents alike.



**Dr. Daniel Meyers**

*Appointed to the Section of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine and the Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology at CancerCare Manitoba, effective September 8, 2025.*

Dr. Meyers completed his Bachelor of Science in Biology at Queen's University in 2015, followed by a Master's of Science in Cancer Biology at the University of Calgary in 2020. He went on to earn his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Calgary, then completed his Internal Medicine Residency in 2023. He completed his Medical Oncology Residency at the University of Manitoba in 2025. Dr. Meyers will primarily be working in the Thoracic and Breast Disease Site Groups at CancerCare Manitoba.



**Dr. Bharath B.G.**

*Appointed to the Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology at CancerCare Manitoba as a Medical Oncology Associate, effective September 22, 2025.*

Dr. Bharath completed his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) at the Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka. He completed Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology training at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India. He completed a one-year Clinical Fellowship in Medical Oncology (advanced systemic therapy) at CancerCare Manitoba/University of Manitoba this summer.

Dr. Bharath will primarily be working in the Breast, Genitourinary, and Gastrointestinal Disease Site Groups at CancerCare Manitoba.



**Dr. Ann Louise Van Eyssen**

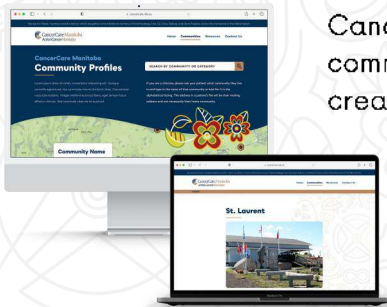
*Appointed to the Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at CancerCare Manitoba effective September 22, 2025.*

Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, Dr. Van Eyssen completed her subspecialty training in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology in both Cape Town and Vancouver, BC. She returned to Cape Town in 2013, where she worked for six years at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital as a Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist. In this role, she managed all aspects of hematology, oncology, and hematopoietic stem cell transplant.

In 2019, Dr. Van Eyssen immigrated to Canada and, most recently, worked in the ambulatory pediatric oncology setting at BC Children's Hospital, where she ran the oncology clinic. She is deeply committed to collaborating with both nursing and physician teams to deliver well-coordinated, compassionate, evidence-based care. As a dedicated clinician, she values being actively involved in the day-to-day care of patients.

## Community Profiles

First Nations • Métis • Inuit

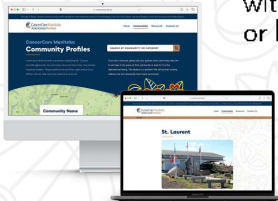


CancerCare Manitoba, in partnership with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities, has launched an innovative website to help healthcare professionals create safer and more comprehensive care plans for patients returning to their communities. The Indigenous Community Profiles website is a valuable resource that provides geographical and travel information, as well as details on healthcare and community resources in Indigenous communities.

Visit [ccmbindigenouscommunityprofiles.ca](http://ccmbindigenouscommunityprofiles.ca)

## Community Profiles Indigenous Community Profiles - Community Highlight

First Nations • Métis • Inuit



**Kinosao Sipi (Norway House Cree Nation)** is a northern First Nation community with a population of approximately 5,750. Located in a remote area, it can be reached by road or by air. Cree is the primary language spoken by residents.

Health care services are provided through the local Nursing Station and the Norway House Indian Hospital, with additional support available via Telehealth. Cancer care is accessible through the **Northern Cancer Navigation Line** at 1-855-740-9322. The closest Community Cancer Program is in Thompson, while radiation therapy services are offered at CancerCare Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Visit [ccmbindigenouscommunityprofiles.ca](http://ccmbindigenouscommunityprofiles.ca)



SAVE THE DATE



# Provincial Cancer Care Conference

for Healthcare Professionals

September 24-25, 2026  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Details to follow.



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@cancercare.mb

[www.cancercare.mb.ca](http://www.cancercare.mb.ca)