

Career Progress Since Last Promotion (Associate Professor, 2005)

- Appointed division head of neurology at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre (2006 – present). I developed the strategic plan to grow the division from 6 to 14 full-time members, integrated into the new Brain Sciences Program.
- Growth and international influence of the Canadian Brain Tumour Consortium (www.cbtc.ca) as key platform for promotion (Contributions to the development of professional practice).
- Growth of influence as an academic leader in neuro-oncology with international impact
 - PI of international clinical trials. Key publications in 2010 include the RESCUE study of metronomic chemotherapy which had practice-changing effects, a thrombosis prevention study which facilitated my expertise in thrombosis and brain cancer. In addition, I now serve as co-PI of a NCIC-CTG trial testing chemotherapy in older patients which has completed accrual of 520 patients; a major global cooperative group project.
 - Provincial guidelines (Cancer Care Ontario 2000-present) have grown into national projects (Canadian guidelines, 2008, 2010), US impact (American Academy of Medicine Evidence Based Medicine Working Group, present) and global impact (Cochrane Library, Executive member of the Neuro-oncology Working Groups, 2012-present)
 - Numerous international collaborations and invitations for strategic planning of clinical trials, education sessions. Examples include development of a new thrombosis study with an Australian trials group and CBTC participation.

Creative Professional Activity Endeavours

The Canadian Brain Tumour Consortium

I created the Canadian Brain Tumour Consortium (CBTC) in 1999. Since last promotion the CBTC has grown to include 150+ members, became a key affiliate society to other organizations, and has executed clinical trials requiring global accrual in a relatively rare disease (Contributions to the Development of Professional Practice – enhancement of the effectiveness of neuro-oncology as a profession in Canada and beyond). *This is the key platform for my promotional consideration.*

The CBTC benefits all academic investigators in Canada as a vehicle for clinical trials research, opportunities for leadership, proposal of substudies and companion analyses, and through leadership of the biennial Canadian Neuro-Oncology Scientific meeting. The latter meeting now includes a conjoint education day with the European Association for Neuro-Oncology that I proposed and co-chair.

Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine, Candidate Statement, February 2014
Promotion Platform: Creative Professional Activity
(Contributions to the development of professional practice platform)

Guidelines Development

As co-chair of the Cancer Care Ontario Neurology Group I led publication of numerous practice guidelines, several as senior author. This role grew to national guidelines in the area of newly diagnosed and recurrent glioblastoma (2007, 2011) and then to international panels and review articles (Neuro-Oncology 2013, Cancer Treat Rev 2013). Other recent examples include the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) neuro-oncology section guidelines (2012-present), and the international Cochrane library group as a member of the Neuro-oncology Executive (2012-present).

Transformation of local innovation into a global clinical standard of practice

The RESCUE study (J Clin Oncol 2010) was a practice changing phase II trial that demonstrated the efficacy of continuous temozolomide chemotherapy. I led the protocol development, led data management and analysis, and presented the work internationally. This investigator-initiated trial was based upon early local work at Sunnybrook in 2001-5. Since last promotion we published our local work in 2008 and I took this to the next level with RESCUE, a 120 patient clinical trial conducted through the infrastructure I built in the Canadian Brain Tumour Consortium. The study results see the “RESCUE regimen” widely incorporated as a standard treatment option (see practice guidelines from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, European Society for Medical Oncology, and National Comprehensive Cancer Network – USA).

Another example of leading local initiatives into studies with global impact is the area of brain tumour related thrombosis. I led a team who published a highly cited systematic review (2000), developed a provincial guideline (2004), and then used this knowledge to form a phase III research question funded and developed by the Ontario Cooperative Oncology Group (2006-7). Since last promotion I was PI and developed the protocol with OCOG for the resulting PRODIGE study - a global phase 3 trial conducted 2005-2009, published in 2010. I have since been invited to publish review articles (Curr Opin Neurology 2010, Neuro-Oncology 2012, Seminars in Thrombosis and Hemostasis 2013, Neuro-Oncology Practice 2014) and was an invited plenary speaker on this topic at several international symposia. I was invited by the AAN to lead guidelines on thrombosis in neurology. Future work includes partnership between the CBTC and the Australian network on a new thrombosis trial and collaborative translational work on thrombosis-related biomarkers with McGill (Janusz Rak).

Teaching Accomplishments and Educational Scholarship

- Completed term as U of T Neurology Residency Program director in 2006
- Maintain high TES (4.67 in 2012-3) and role as mentor to many PG residents and Jr Faculty (Nominated for University Dept of Medicine Mentorship award 2011)

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- Continued PG active teaching in neurology, med and rad oncology, and neurosurgery
- Development of hospital programs in stroke medicine, neuromuscular disease and urgent neurology through recruitment and mentorship of junior colleagues

Administrative Contributions

- Program Director, Neurology training program (2001-6)
- Economics committee (Practice Plan head), Department of Medicine, Sunnybrook (2002-8)
- Division Head, Neurology, Sunnybrook (2006-present). Includes U of T Neurology Executive and Sunnybrook Brain Sciences Executive
- Numerous search committees
- CBTC Chair (and CEO). Annual budget, CRA filing, reports. Membership on Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation as Affiliate Society, planning national meeting q 2 years through our CBTC HQ office. Stewardship of clinical trials requiring frequent operational meetings. CBTC portions of revenue re-invested in academic awards, seed funding, scientific meetings, and infrastructure.
- International society work on Society for Neuro-Oncology Board, Awards, Abstract, and Future Sites committees. Planning committee for numerous international meetings
- Editorial boards expanded to international journals such as European Journal of Cancer, Neuro-Oncology Practice, and Frontiers in Neuro-Oncology (new journal, appointed as Associate Editor, charged with formation of the editorial board)

Summary – Key Accomplishments

I am proud of my sustained leadership in the subspecialty field of neuro-oncology while steadily serving many other leadership roles in Department and Faculty involving neurology, oncology, and brain sciences. Through formation of the CBTC I and colleagues have created a national platform for research that has transformed the visibility, capacity, and productivity of Canadian brain tumour investigators. By expanding the scope of the CBTC to international partnerships and clinical trials, we have created global impact. Key personal clinical trial accomplishments include RESCUE, PRODIGE, and the ‘elderly glioblastoma’ project were in difficult therapeutic areas and have grown from concept to completion in our local centre, through the CBTC, and through national (NCIC-CTG), and international (EORTC, EANO, COGNO, TROG) relationships and collaborations. Each of these examples demonstrates successful implementation of my vision to transform investigator-driven innovation leveraged by the capacity of the CBTC network to create international impact by changing practice, clinical guidelines, and through translational work while planning future strategic partnerships. I believe these all provide evidence of a sustained and impactful contribution to the development of professional practice in my field.