

April 4 – 6
2025



**Toronto
& Virtual**

Meet C3 Program





FRIDAY
04
APR, 2025

BILIARY TRACT CANCER CARE IN CANADA

Where: Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR)
MaRS, 661 University Ave, Floor 5, Large Conf.
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Attend: In-Person and Virtually

Time	Schedule
08:30am	Registration
09:00am	Welcome and Introductions (Dr. Rebecca Auer)
09:15am	Session 1 – BTC Care Across Canada Dr. Ravi Ramjeesingh (NS) Dr. Robert Grant (ON)
10:15am	Patient Experience (Ms. Cynthia Mitchell)
10:30am	Morning break
10:45am	Session 2 – BTC Clinical Trials (Dr. Rachel Goodwin) Dr. Arndt Vogel (ON) Dr. Jennifer Knox (ON) Dr. Amandeep Taggar (ON)
12:00pm	Lunch Break
01:00pm	Session 3 – BTC Molecular Testing (Dr. Rebecca Auer) Dr. Harriet Feilotter (ON) Dr. Faisal Khan (AB) Dr. Gertruda Evaristo (QC)
02:15pm	Session 4 – Guided Advocacy Panel (Dr. Leonard Angka) Mr. Mohammed Islam (ON) Ms. Brenda Clayton (AB) Ms. Melinda Bachini (MT, USA) Ms. Cynthia Mitchell (MB)
03:00pm	Afternoon Break
03:15pm	Keynote Session 5 – Hepatic Artery Infusion Pump Therapy Keynote Speaker: Dr. Flavio Rocha (OR, USA) Moderator: Dr. Paul Karanicolas (ON) Panel: Dr. Katherine Soltys (ON), Dr. Michael Raphael (ON), Mr. Erik Bradstock (ON)
04:30pm	Closing thoughts & Announcements (Dr. Rebecca Auer)



SATURDAY
05
APR, 2025

PATIENT AND CAREGIVER DAY

Where: Various locations in Downtown Toronto

Attend: In-Person, by RSVP only

Who: Patients, Caregivers, and Meet C3 Team

Time	Schedule
09:30am	Meet in OICR Atrium "CIBC Live Lounge"
10:00am	Ontario Institutes for Cancer Research Lab Tours
12:00pm	Meet C3 Luncheon at the Chelsea Hotel
02:00pm	Fun walk and Downtown Activity

SUNDAY
06
APR, 2025

C3 BIENNIAL PUBLIC PROGRAM UPDATE

Where: Westin Harbour Castle, 1 Harbour Square
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Queens Quay Conf Room

Attend: In-Person and Virtually

Time	Schedule
9:30am	Doors Open - Queens Quay Room
10:00am	Welcome Address (Dr. Carolina Ilkow)
10:15am	Session 6: C3 HOPE Updates (Dr. Rebecca Auer) Christine Lafontaine, Dr. Samar Attieh, Dr. Leonard Angka
11:15am	Patient Experience (Mr. Dana Fox)
11:30am	Lunch
12:30pm	Session 7: C3 IMPACT Updates (Dr. Carolina Ilkow and Team) Dr. Zaid Taha, Dr. Naghmeh Khoshgoo
01:30pm	Session 8: C3 STAR Updates (Dr. Simon Turcotte) Dr. Sandy Pelletier, Dr. Mathieu Crupi, Melinda Bachini
2:30pm	Closing Address

*In partnership with BioCanRx's Summit 4CI Conference



A MESSAGE FROM THE C3

We are excited to host our biennial conference “**MEET C3 2025**” dedicated to advancing knowledge and collaboration for Canadian biliary tract cancer (BTC) research and care. This 3 day conference will bring together healthcare professionals, patients, researchers, and industry partners to discuss the latest in Canadian advancements, treatment strategies, advocacy and on-going research for cholangiocarcinoma.

Day 1 - Advancing BTC Care in Canada

This year we have a full day schedule with 5 Sessions and 16 guest speakers! The sessions will cover a range of topics related to practice guidelines, clinical trials, molecular testing, and advocacy for BTC. We're also excited to have Dr. Flavio Rocha from Oregon Health & Science University give our keynote talk on Hepatic Artery Infusion Pump therapy with a panel discussion to follow.

Day 2 - Patient & Caregiver Day*

Come explore Toronto with us! We've organized a special tour of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research Genomics and Research Labs as well as a Luncheon & Fun walk in Toronto.
**For Patients & Caregivers, RSVP required*

Day 3 - C3 Biennial Progress Update

The Canadian Cholangiocarcinoma Collaborative (C3) co-founders and team members will give an update on our progress, challenges, and what's to come.



THANK YOU

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to you - our attendees, funders, sponsors, and vendors for making this conference possible. Your participation and dedication to advancing BTC care, research, education and advocacy are truly inspiring and keep us motivated. Together, we are driving progress, fostering collaboration, and improving outcomes for patients.

Thank you for helping to grow hope in Canada!



***Photos & videos taken at Meet C3 may be posted by the C3 or used for future events; please notify the C3 at the registration desk if you prefer not to be recorded.*



ABOUT THE C3

WHO ARE WE?

The Canadian Cholangiocarcinoma Collaborative (C3) is a partnership among patients, caregivers, oncologists and researchers, formed to grow hope in patients and families affected by cholangiocarcinoma.

C3 CO-FOUNDERS



DR. REBECCA AUER

C3 HOPE LEAD

Increasing access to Research, Patient Support Resources and Care



DR. CAROLINA ILKOW

C3 IMPACT LEAD

Building a national research network for novel discoveries



DR. SIMON TURCOTTE

C3 STAR LEAD

Leading the first Canadian, Tumour Infiltrating Lymphocyte Phase 1 Clinical Trial (STAR-BD01) for BTC

LEARN MORE AT
CHOLANGIO.CA



OUR PURPOSE

The C3 exists to translate hope into better outcomes for patients.

Our immediate goals are to improve patient access to personalized molecular (biomarker) testing, expert medical opinions, targeted drugs, investigational therapies, and clinical trials (including our own C3 investigator-initiated Tumour Infiltrating Lymphocyte Phase 1 trial)

Our long-term vision is to create a cross-Canada molecular and immunotherapy research pipeline to discover novel therapeutics and develop improved diagnostic tools.

We believe that **Research is Care.**

FUNDED BY

The C3 is funded by a Canadian Cancer Society Breakthrough Team Grant in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.



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Friday
April 4th

Session Overview
Speaker Bios and Talk Titles



Session 1: Biliary Tract Cancer Care in Canada
9:15AM – 10:30AM

To kick off Meet C3, we have three outstanding talks providing a comprehensive overview of biliary tract cancer in Canada—covering the latest treatments, updates from clinical research programs, and a patient’s personal experience.

Dr. Ravi Ramjeesingh, Medical Oncologist, Nova Scotia Cancer Centre
“The Canadian Biliary Tract Cancer Landscape”



Dr. Ramjeesingh specializes in treating breast cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, pancreatic and cholangiocarcinomas. His research focuses on translational and health services research, as well as oncology education for residents and medical students.

Dr. Robert Grant, Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
“Research is Care, Lessons from the LeGresley Biliary Program”



Dr. Grant specializes in biliary and pancreatic cancer treatment. His research applies artificial intelligence to clinical and genomic data to improve cancer outcomes. He leads AIM2REDUCE and co-leads the LeGresley Biliary Registry and PanCuRx Translational Research Initiative.

Ms. Cynthia Mitchell, Patient Partner, Cancer Care Manitoba
“When Life Gives You Lesions: Joy, Love & Hope in the Face Cancer”



Cynthia, a wife, mother, teacher, mentor, and advocate lives with cholangiocarcinoma. Through her partnership with various cancer-based initiatives she not only raises awareness of CCA, but also fosters community support and connection among patients and families in Manitoba and beyond.



Friday
April 4th

Session Overview
Speaker Bios and Talk Titles



Session 2: Clinical Trials for Biliary Tract Cancers

10:45AM – 12:00PM

Moderated by Dr. Rachel Goodwin

We're diving into the latest biliary tract cancer trials—targeted, non-targeted, and even international—followed by insights on key barriers and innovative trial ideas. We'll wrap up this session with a dynamic 30-minute panel discussion with our speakers.

Dr. Arndt Vogel, Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

“Targeted & Precision Medicine Clinical Trials for BTC”



Dr. Vogel specializes in translational and clinical research in gastrointestinal cancers, with a focus on hepatobiliary cancers and precision medicine. A clinical investigator since 2006, he has led numerous clinical trials & coordinates the ESMO clinical guideline for hepatocellular carcinoma & cholangiocarcinoma.

Dr. Amandeep Taggar, Radiation Oncologist, Sunnybrook Hospital

“Localized & Non-targeted Clinical Trials for BTC”



Dr. Taggar is a Radiation Oncologist at Sunnybrook Hospital and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto. His work focuses on advancing radiation therapy through clinical trials.

Dr. Jennifer Knox, Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Session 2: Clinical Trials in Canada, Overcoming Barriers to Access



Dr. Knox is a leading expert in cholangiocarcinoma, having treated hundreds of patients from across Canada. She is a strong advocate for patients and has played a key role in advancing their care. She has also led numerous clinical trials to improve treatment options in Canada.



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Session Overview
Speaker Bios and Talk Titles



Session 3: Molecular Testing for Biliary Tract Cancers

1:00PM – 2:15PM

Moderated by Dr. Rebecca Auer

Molecular testing is strongly recommended for biliary tract cancers, yet knowledge gaps remain. This session covers key molecular testing nuances, updates from Canadian testing programs, and concludes with a panel discussion with the speakers.

Dr. Harriet Feilotter, Division Head, UHN Genome Diagnostics Program

“BTC Molecular Testing & Updates from UHN Testing for Ontario”



Dr. Feilotter leads the Genome Diagnostics program and Applied Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at UHN and serves as Clinical Lead for Genetic Testing at Ontario Health. She is also an adjunct professor at Queen’s University and co-leads Implementation Science at OICR. Through her roles, she advances education and research to integrate genomic biomarkers into clinical practice.

Dr. Greta Evaristo, Pathologist, McGill University Health Centre

“Molecular Testing Updates from MUHC Testing for Quebec”



Dr. Evaristo is a double board-certified GI and Liver pathologist, and specializes in hepatobiliary neoplasms, medical liver pathology, and education. She directs McGill’s GI & Liver Pathology Fellowship and serves on key pathology committees.

Dr. Faisal Khan, CEO OncoHelix, Professor, University of Calgary

“Molecular Testing Updates from OncoHelix’s Testing for Canada”



Dr. Khan, a Professor at the University of Calgary, directs the Hematology Translational Lab. His research focuses on Cancer Genomics, Transplant Immunology, & Immunogenetics. He also founded OncoHelix, a leading Canadian organization that specializes in esoteric cancer genomic & immunology testing.



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Session 4: A Guided Cholangiocarcinoma Advocacy Panel
2:15PM – 3:00PM

Moderated by Dr. Leonard Angka

Advocacy is a vital part of improving patient care on a systemic level. In this session, advocates from diverse backgrounds will share their insights and practical strategies for effective advocacy.

Mohammed Islam, Advocate, Manager Scotiabank



Mohammed is a passionate advocate for rare cancer treatment accessibility, inspired by his sister's battle with cholangiocarcinoma & fight for pemigatinib. He is committed to ensuring equitable access to treatment and is a champion for patients' rights - striving to remove financial barriers to essential care.

Brenda Clayton, Patient & Caregiver Advocate, Founder of CHCC



Brenda is a retired Registered Nurse with a Master's in Nursing, experience in psychiatry, postpartum, and neurology. After losing her daughter, Rebecca, to cholangiocarcinoma, Brenda's family founded Cholangio-Hepatocellular Carcinoma Canada (mychcc.ca) to continue the fight for patients across Canada.

Melinda Bachini, Chief Patient Officer, Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation



Melinda is a 15 year cholangiocarcinoma survivor and as Chief Patient Officer for the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, she advocates for patients all over the world. She has served on national committees, including the NCI Hepatobiliary Task Force and the NCCN Hepatobiliary Guideline Panel, advancing research & patient care.

Ms. Cynthia Mitchell, Patient Partner, Cancer Care Manitoba



Cynthia Mitchell, living with cholangiocarcinoma since her diagnosis in 2021, is a fierce advocate and community builder dedicated to uniting individuals affected by CCA. Through collaborative initiatives, she works tirelessly to increase access to equitable and effective care across Canada.



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Session Overview
Speaker Bios and Talk Titles



Keynote Session 5: Hepatic Artery Infusion Pump Therapy
3:15PM – 4:30PM

Moderated by Dr. Paul Karanicolas

Hepatic Artery Infusion Pump (HAIP) therapy delivers high-dose chemotherapy directly to the liver, showing impressive results in targeting liver metastases across various cancers, including cholangiocarcinoma. Dr. Flavio Rocha, a world-leading expert in HAIP therapy, will share his insights on using this treatment and other surgical techniques for cholangiocarcinoma. Following Dr. Rocha's keynote, Dr. Paul Karanicolas and Dr. Michael J. Raphael from Sunnybrook Hospital—Canada's only centre with an active HAIP program—will share their experiences. To conclude the day, a panel discussion will feature the speakers, along with Dr. Katherine Soltys from Health Canada's Clinical Trials Office, and Erik Bradstock, a patient who successfully received HAIP therapy at Sunnybrook.



Dr. Flavio Rocha, MD, FACS, FSSO

Division Head of Surgical Oncology; Knight
Cancer Institute
Oregon Health And Science University

Meet C3 2025 Keynote Speaker

Dr. Rocha is the Hedinger Professor and Chair of Surgical Oncology at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) in Portland, OR. He also serves as the Physician-in-Chief of the Knight Cancer Institute at OHSU. Dr. Rocha's clinical practice encompasses all aspects of benign and malignant disease of the liver, bile ducts and pancreas. He has served on the NCI Pancreas Task Force, ASCO Gastrointestinal Cancers Advisory Council and ASTRO Liver Cancer Guidelines Committee. He is currently the surgical lead of the International Cholangiocarcinoma Research Network (ICRN), Vice-Chair of the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) Surgery Committee, GI Surgery Working Group Chair at Eastern Cooperative Group (ECOG-ACRIN) and Chair of the Cancer Standards Development Committee at the American College of Surgeons.



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Session Overview
Speaker Bios and Talk Titles



Keynote Session 5: Panelists

Dr. Paul Karanicolas, Surgical Oncologist, Sunnybrook Hospital



Dr. Karanicolas, practices at the Odette Cancer Centre, Sunnybrook, and specializes in liver, pancreas, and stomach cancers, including colorectal liver metastases. He leads clinical trials and Canada's only hepatic arterial infusion pump chemotherapy program. His work focuses on improving surgical outcomes and quality of life.

Dr. Michael J. Raphael, Medical Oncologist, Sunnybrook Hospital



Dr. Raphael specializes in treating GI cancers and is researching optimizing cancer care coordination, addressing treatment gaps, disparities, and real-world outcomes. His research has influenced global practice guidelines and led to a new Cancer Care Ontario quality metric, "time to initiating adjuvant chemotherapy."

Dr. Katherine Soltys - Director, Office of Clinical Trials, Health Canada



Dr. Soltys oversees the approval and pharmacovigilance of clinical trials in Canada, as well as Health Canada's Special Access Program. Additionally, she is a GPO in Medical Oncology, working in the GI clinic and participating in the care of patients with various GI cancers, including cholangiocarcinoma.

Erik Bradstock - Field Supervisor - Water Energy Management



A devoted husband and father of two wonderful children, Erik was diagnosed 1 year ago with stage 4 colon cancer with liver metastases. He was successfully treated with Hepatic Arterial Infusion Pump (HAIP) therapy, and is now preparing for liver resection. Erik joins us to share his experience with HAIP therapy



Sunday
April 6th

Session Overview
Speaker Bios and Talk Titles



Session 6: C3 HOPE Aim Progress Updates

Dr. Rebecca Auer, C3 Co-Founder, CEO OHRI, Surgeon Oncologist



Dr. Auer is a Surgical Oncologist and CEO of the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. She conducts translational perioperative research and has led multiple clinical trials. She co-founded the C3 and leads the C3 HOPE aim focused on integrating research into care for patients with biliary tract cancers.

Christine Lafontaine, C3 Research Navigator



Christine supports patients & caregivers by providing information and guidance while helping them navigate molecular testing, research, and clinical trials. She holds a Master's in molecular biology and has experience in scientific research, industry sales, regulatory support, and clinical studies. She brings empathy, knowledge and understanding to her role.

Dr. Samar Attieh, C3 Post-Doctoral Fellow



Together with Prof. Carmen G. Loiselle leading the HOPE study, Dr. Attieh examines how hope and loneliness change over time for individuals involved in the C3 initiatives, to identify strengths and gaps in C3's contributions - guiding advocacy, future research, & improved patient support.

Dr. Leonard Angka, C3 Project Manager



Dr. Angka has a PhD in cancer immunology and with this deep understanding of cancer research, he is able to manage the daily operations and strategic direction of the C3 program. He oversees program coordination and execution while working to raise awareness and elevate the profile of this cholangiocarcinoma.



Sunday
April 6th

Session Overview
Speaker Bios and Talk Titles

Patient Experience Talk

Mr. Dana Fox, Patient Advocate & CEO Smarter Gov



At 66 and diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma, Dana found purpose in sharing his journey through his memoir, *Surviving Cancer Marathon*, inspiring others to find hope in adversity. A former elite marathon runner, he applies goal-setting, resilience, and teamwork to face his toughest “race” yet. Dana empowers others to navigate treatment and fight for survival with determination & hope.

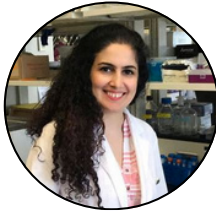
Session 7: C3 IMPACT Aim Progress Updates

Dr. Carolina Ilkow, C3 Co-Founder, Senior Scientist OHRI, Associate Professor



Dr. Ilkow researches innovative cancer biotherapeutics, including oncolytic viruses & exosome-based therapies. She leads the C3 IMPACT aim, focusing on developing a novel pipeline for cholangiocarcinoma research and discovery. Her goal is to advance research for hard to treat cancers to bring new discoveries to the clinic.

Dr. Naghmeh Khoshgoo, C3 Research Associate, OICR



Dr. Khoshgoo’s research focuses on identifying novel tumor antigens for tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes, particularly those derived from retrotransposable elements in cholangiocarcinoma tumor cells and extracellular vesicles. She brings >12 years of research experience, with expertise in translational immunology.

Dr. Zaid Taha, C3 Post-Doctoral Fellow, OHRI



Dr. Taha’s work focuses on developing novel therapeutic strategies for difficult-to-treat cancers, including cholangiocarcinoma. These strategies include tumour-infiltrating lymphocyte therapy as well as oncolytic virotherapy. Beyond that, Dr. Taha is passionate about science communication and community engagement.



Sunday
April 6th

Session Overview
Speaker Bios and Talk Titles



Session 8: C3 STAR Aim Progress Updates

Dr. Simon Turcotte, C3 Co-Founder, HPB Surgical Oncologist, CHUM



Dr. Turcotte is a leading surgeon-scientist specializing in solid cancer T-cell immunotherapy. His research has uncovered T-cell responses against chemotherapy-resistant metastatic GI cancers, leading to promising advancements in neoantigen-reactive T-cell therapies. He leads the C3 STAR-BD01 Clinical Trial to bring TIL therapy to Canada for cholangiocarcinoma.

Dr. Sandy Pelletier, C3 Research Associate, Centre de recherche du CHUM



Dr. Pelletier is an expert adoptive cell therapy researcher at CRCHUM and leads the Tumour Infiltrating Lymphocyte (TIL) cell manufacturing team for the C3 TIL clinical trial. She has years of experience in generating TILs in multiple cancer types from patient tumour samples.

Dr. Mathieu Crupi, C3 Research Associate, OHRI BMC



Dr. Crupi leads the Personalized Biotherapeutics division at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute's Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre and is establishing TIL manufacturing and chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR T) cell therapies for upcoming clinical trials in Ottawa, including C3 STAR-BD01.

Melinda Bachini, Chief Patient Officer, Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation



Melinda is a 15-year cholangiocarcinoma survivor who was treated with TIL in a 2012 clinical trial at the National Cancer Institute. Now the Chief Patient Officer for the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, she leverages her experiences and passion to support those diagnosed with the disease.



MEET C3 PARTNERS



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