Since my last report, there have been several exciting developments in geriatric oncology (GO) in English Canada. There is a buzz in the air, and more interest in starting GO clinics and research activities. In terms of active GO clinics, few oncology centres (academic or community) still have any GO initiatives but the numbers are slowly growing. Most of our GO clinical activities occur in the province of Quebec, which will be reported on separately by the French Canadian NR. But onto more exciting things. I’ll talk about clinical, research, and educational initiatives.

**Clinical**

In the province of Ontario, which is Canada’s largest and most populous province, there is growing interest in GO. Research remains focused mostly in Toronto, where I work, with some exciting work starting up under Dr. Tina Hsu in Ottawa, our nation’s capital. There are 2 major cancer centres in Toronto, and interest in GO has increased significantly in both.

At my hospital, the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (PMH), which is Canada’s largest cancer centre, the GO clinic that was opened in July 2015 continues to operate. We have secured additional funding for the second year of this demonstration project (until March 31, 2017). We began in the genitourinary disease site. We are in the midst of our needs assessment of the second disease site (gastrointestinal) where we will expand to this summer. We also have our first shared fellow, who is doing GI medical oncology and geriatric oncology starting in September. Our centre now has the second GO fellowship program in Canada. We did a second site visit to Rochester and met with Drs. Mohile and Magnuson, which was fantastic. Not to be outdone, the other cancer hospital in Toronto, the Sunnybrook-Odette Cancer Centre, has started a pilot GO clinic in the breast site with a geriatrician seeing selected patients. They are also advertising for a GO fellow. One major challenge in all of this is fiscal – securing funds for a fellowship and for continued GO clinics. Time will tell how successful we will be… At least one community hospital in Toronto is also looking into opening a GO clinic later this year.

**Research**

There are lots of projects being designed, initiated, and conducted. No space to highlight them all. To follow up on what I mentioned in last year’s report, the phase II pilot RCT of a GO clinic led by Dr. Martine Puts (RN, PhD) and myself completed recruitment (n=60) and 6-month follow-up. Results are being presented at ASCO this June and hopefully also at SIOG.
this November. The multi-centre phase III trial has been designed and we are actively seeking funding for it.

Another exciting development this year is the culmination of a series of discussions, led by Martine, Tina Hsu, Ewa Szumacher (a radiation oncologist at Odette) and myself, led to the first ever network meeting to discuss the establishment of a ‘CARG.ca’ group. It was very well attended, and included Supriya Mohile and Hyman Muss as well as SIOG President Etienne Brain as international guests. More to come on this.

**Education**

There are lots of local educational activities across Canada, and I am sure I am only aware of a few. As the English NR I presented a series of talks on geriatric oncology topics to local physicians and nurses, to the University of Toronto medical oncology trainees, and at a regional cancer centre about 1.5 hours out of town earlier this year. I continue to field questions and queries from various interested individuals about GO and SIOG. Wherever possible, I act as a local resource on GO issues. Unfortunately this year’s annual geriatric specialty meeting did not feature any special GO session. Next year the meeting will be in Toronto, so I hope GO will feature more prominently!

It is an exciting time to be in GO in Canada, and I look forward to seeing you all at SIOG’s meeting in Milan later this year.