

Report on the Advanced Course in Geriatric Oncology SIOG 2017

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I was a participant in the SIOG Advanced Course in Geriatric Oncology that took place in Treviso, Italy, in June 2017. After training in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine, I completed a one-year clinical fellowship in Geriatric Oncology in 2016.

During my first year of practice as a geriatrician, attending the SIOG Advanced Course allowed me to improve my knowledge of Medical Oncology, Haematology and Radiation Oncology, as well as to learn more about how to adapt care for elderly cancer patients in specific situations. It was also a great occasion to meet people from different backgrounds with a common interest in Geriatric Oncology and to discuss the best ways to develop a useful and functional Geriatric Oncology service.

I have the opportunity to be part of a nationwide interest group in Geriatric Oncology, the Canadian Network on Aging and Cancer (CNAC). The group was formed last year. Regular conference calls allow professionals to stay in contact, to exchange on various topics and to discuss research projects with colleagues from around the country.

An integrated cancer centre is being developed at my institution. The *Centre régional intégré de cancérologie* (CRIC) is due to start its activities in January 2019. The main objective of the project is to improve access to multidisciplinary cancer care in our area. A new Radiation Oncology service and a full team dedicated to supportive care will be part of the centre.



Future Integrated Regional Cancer Center
Hôtel-Dieu de Lévis

The committee driving the project is interested in integrating an on-site Geriatric Oncology service. It would start with a regular twice-a-month clinic for the evaluation of patients referred for comprehensive geriatric assessment by their treating oncologist. A validated tool for systematic screening of frailty could eventually be used to better identify the patients who could benefit from such an assessment.

We are looking into the possibility of hiring a nurse who is completing her MSc degree to help with the clinic and to collect data on our activities. We are looking forward to future collaboration with colleagues from our hospital as well as from different institutions.