



## Meet the Neuro-Oncology Team

The neuro-oncology team works collaboratively to provide care to children and adolescents with brain tumours throughout their cancer journey. From diagnosis to long term follow up, our focus is providing the best available treatment whilst maintaining good quality of life. The area of neuro-oncology is ever changing with new and innovative therapies offering potential treatment for previously difficult to treat diseases.

Some of the neuro-oncology team may be familiar to you already, and some are newer to their role. Here is a little bit about who we are so you can put a face to the names and voices when you connect.



### Dr. Sylvia Cheng, MD, MScCH, FRCPC

Dr. Sylvia Cheng received her MD from the University of British Columbia, and her MScCH at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health in Toronto focusing on Health Practitioner Teacher Education. She completed her residency training in Pediatrics and subspecialty training

in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Sick Kids in Toronto. She moved to Vancouver in July 2014 and currently serves as the Director of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology in the division of Oncology, Hematology & BMT at BC Children's Hospital. She strives to improve the quality of care for children with central nervous system tumors by bringing innovative clinical trials to the institution and participating in collaborative research across Canada. In addition to providing comprehensive care for pediatric neuro-oncology patients, she enjoys teaching and providing mentorship to medical trainees at all levels. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling with her family and sharing meals with others.



### Naomi Evans, RN

Naomi Evans has been a neuro-oncology nurse clinician at BC Children's since 2009. Prior to this, she worked as a registered nurse in the UK and Australia primarily in pediatric oncology. Naomi is passionate about neuro-oncology and strives to ensure this unique population gets

the support they need both during treatment and whilst transitioning



back to school and life after their cancer diagnosis. Her main goal is to make sure patients and families feel well supported throughout their journey. Outside of work she is the mother of 2, and can be found at the soccer field most days! When not at the soccer field she enjoys taking long walks, running with her dog and playing the cello.



### Dr. Juliette Hukin MBBS; FRCPC

Dr. Juliette Hukin graduated with her Medical degree from Sydney University, Australia. She completed her Pediatrics and Pediatric Neurology training at BC Children's Hospital. She pursued Neuro-oncology fellowship training in New York at Beth Israel and Sloane Kettering.

She returned to BC Children's Hospital as Director of the Pediatric Neuro-oncology Program in 1998, and has led our team with the aim of providing optimal and comprehensive brain tumor care to the children of British Columbia. She is a founding member of the Canadian Brain Tumor Consortium and the Canadian Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, and past president of the Canadian Association of Child Neurology. She leads the neurofibromatosis medical therapeutics program at BC Children's Hospital. She takes great pleasure mentoring and teaching the residents and fellows of both the neurology and oncology training programs, thus nurturing the next generation of academic clinicians. In her spare time she may be embracing Shinrin-yoku, exploring the snowy peaks or ocean kayaking.

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### Emily Jewels, RN

Emily Jewels is originally from the UK, where she received her Bachelors of Nursing from University of Birmingham. Since moving to Vancouver in 2009, she has worked in the Oncology/Hematology/BMT program in a number of different Nurse Clinician roles. Emily works

primarily with Dr Sylvia Cheng. Emily is very passionate about the impact good primary nursing can provide patients and their families. She recognizes neuro-oncology is a unique population and feels it is a privilege to be able to work along side the Neuro-Oncology team here at BC Children’s Hospital. Outside of work she certainly enjoys living in this wonderful city, making the most of the beaches, local hikes, the numerous patios and when time allows, travelling with her family.



### Dr. George Michaiel, MD, FRCPC, FAAP

Dr. George Michaiel received the bulk of his medical training in Alberta, beginning with obtaining his medical degree from the University of Calgary, completing General Pediatrics residency in Edmonton, and returning to Calgary for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellowship.

From 2018-2019, he locumed within the Division of Hematology-Oncology-BMT at BC Children’s Hospital before moving to California to pursue an advanced fellowship in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. He was delighted at the opportunity to come back to BCCH as an attending staff physician in 2021, with a primary clinical and research focus in pediatric brain and spine tumors. He is immensely grateful to be part of such a dedicated team and considers it an honor to serve BC’s oncology patients.



### Dr. Rod Rassekh, MD, MHSc, FRCPC

Dr. Rod Rassekh received his MD and MHSc from UBC. He completed his pediatric residency and oncology fellowship at BC Children’s Hospital. His clinical focus is in solid tumors, infant brain tumors and leukemia/lymphoma. His research interests are in studying the genetics of chemotherapy toxicity,

using tumor sequencing for hard to treat cancers, and in supportive care for children with cancer, including the use of cannabinoids to reduce symptoms. Outside of the hospital he enjoys playing and watching hockey, coaching his son’s soccer team, and surfing in Maui.



### Jennifer Williams, RN, BScN Neuro-Oncology Long Term Follow Up Nurse Clinician

Jennifer started her nursing career in 2014 working in the Hematology and Oncology Program at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario. She moved to Vancouver in 2017 to work

at BC Children’s Hospital in the Hem/Onc/BMT program in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. Jennifer has been in the Neuro-Oncology Long Term Follow Up Nurse Clinician role since July 2021. Jennifer is passionate about supporting neuro-oncology survivors and their families in their life after treatment. Jennifer works with survivors and their families providing support, education, goal setting, and community resources in preparation for transition to adult care. Outside of work she can be found on the beach, playing volleyball, hiking in the mountains, and playing extra competitive board games.

## Association of Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology Nurses (APOHN) Chemotherapy Course November 6-8, 2023

## Advanced Oncology Days Chemotherapy Course January 15-17, 2024

The APOHN and Advanced Oncology courses offer a 3-day in-classroom program to become certified in the administration of chemotherapy tailored to pediatric patients. Following the in-classroom time, participants will take part in 2 validation shifts at the Oncology/Hematology clinic at BC Children’s Hospital with the POHN lead as their preceptor. This hands-on experience allows them to apply their newly acquired knowledge in a clinical setting.

## THE PROVINCIAL PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY/ HEMATOLOGY NETWORK

The Network is an interdisciplinary organization whose goal is to ensure appropriate diagnosis, management, follow-up, and end-of-life care for pediatric patients with malignancies and blood disorders.

The Network supports community hospitals and practitioners, and develops partnerships with other health care facilities to enable seamless and integrated care for patients and families on treatment and off treatment.

It will further develop and enhance the research programs of basic, translational, and clinical research to better childhood cancer control and improve outcomes for these patients and their families.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dr. Caron Strahlendorf, Network Medical Consultant

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## 2023 Provincial Pediatric Oncology/Hematology Education Day

More details and registration information will be posted to the website soon.

<http://surl.li/ijmq>

