

## Meet the Blood & Bone Marrow Transplant Team

Blood and Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) is a therapy for treatment of cancer and other life-threatening non-malignant diseases. The purpose of BMT is to replace absent, diseased or damaged stem cells with healthy bone marrow. The first BC Children's Hospital (BCCH) blood and bone marrow transplant (BMT) took place in April 1980. Since then, BCCH has done over 800 transplants. The area of BMT and other

cellular therapies is ever-changing with new and innovative research. This is making cellular therapies a potential treatment for many previously difficult-to-treat illnesses. Some of the BMT team may be familiar to you already, and some are new to the role. Here are a little bit of who they are, so you put a face to the names and voice when you connect.



**Dr. Jacob Rozmus, MD, PhD, FRCP(C)**

Dr. Jacob Rozmus received his MD from the University of Alberta and his PhD from the University of British Columbia. He completed residency training in Pediatrics and finished his fellowship in Pediatric Oncology, Hematology & BMT at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver,

Canada. He is currently the Director of the Blood & Marrow Transplant program in the division of Oncology, Hematology & BMT at BC Children's and an Investigator with the MCCRCP at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute. His research focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of primary immunodeficiencies with hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and complications of transplant such as chronic graft-versus-host disease.



**Dr. Amanda Li, MD, FRCPC**

Dr. Amanda Li was born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she obtained her medical degree from Dalhousie University in 2010. She completed her Pediatrics residency and Hematology-Oncology fellowship at UBC, followed by a Cancer Immunotherapy and

Bone Marrow Transplant fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She returned as an attending staff physician and the Clinical Director of the Cellular Therapy program at BC Children's Hospital in 2018, and has a particular focus on pediatric leukemia, bone marrow transplant, and CAR T cell therapy. In her spare time, she attempts to garden, hike, and attend the occasional book club.



**Dr. Kirk Schultz, MD, FCAHS**

Dr. Kirk Schultz is a Professor at the University of British Columbia, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, and an elected fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Dr. Schultz is a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist focused on new therapies and rejection in Blood

and Marrow Transplantation and immune therapy of blood cancers. Dr. Schultz is a past recipient of the CIHR/Wyeth Clinical Research Chair in Transplantation, past chair of the Pediatric BMT Consortium the largest children's BMT clinical trials group world-wide, and president-elect of Cell Therapy and Transplantation Canada (CTTC), the national group for Canadian cell therapy and BMT.



**Dr. Meera Rayar, MD MSc FRCPC FAAP**

Dr. Meera Rayar relocated to BC Children's Hospital in 2017, after working as a BMT physician at the Hospital for Sick Children for a year. She has a particular interest in survivorship, having completed additional training in this area. At BCCH, Dr. Rayar helps to

care for children and adolescents with a variety of hematology and oncology conditions, with a focus on bone marrow failure conditions. Dr. Rayar helps to lead the Pediatric Oncology, Hematology & BMT Quality Program with the goal to ensure that our patients receive the best possible care.

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## 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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Provincial Pediatric Oncology/Hematology Network  
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### Juliana Park Roden, MN, NP(P) Nurse Practitioner

Juliana Park Roden has been a nurse practitioner in the BMT department since 2007. Prior to that, she worked as a registered nurse within the Oncology, Hematology & BMT Program starting in January 2000. Juliana has a passion

for working in BMT, particularly for trying to help make the lives of those living with graft-vs-host disease (GVHD) better. She is currently working on a quality improvement project to help detect chronic GVHD earlier in BC's pediatric BMT patients. When she is not at work, she is the mother of 11 year-old twins, and spends most of her time serving as a taxi driver to various children's sporting activities.



### Kate Douglas, RN Apheresis Clinical Nurse Coordinator

Kate Douglas started in the apheresis program in 2011, and has been the Apheresis Nurse Coordinator for the program since 2014. She trained as a registered nurse in the British Army, going on to train as a pediatric nurse at

the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London. Whilst working in their PICU, a chance holiday in Vancouver in 1990 led to a job offer in BC Children's Hospital Oncology, Hematology & BMT Program. The expectation was to come for only a few years, and 32 years, one husband (still the same one) and two children later, she has truly made Vancouver her home.

Kate is passionate about her role, and the role for apheresis not only within the Oncology, Hematology & BMT program but also throughout the hospital, in areas such as PICU and neurology. She loves to share her knowledge about apheresis and in particular, the experience of pediatric procedures with other apheresis centres.



### Lisa Jacques, RN, BScN, MSChQ Quality & Safety Leader

Lisa Jacques is the Quality & Safety Leader (QSL) for the Oncology, Hematology & BMT Program. Lisa is a graduate of UBC's School of Nursing and recently completed a Master of Science in Healthcare Quality from Queen's University. In

her role as QSL, Lisa provides leadership in quality improvement and accreditation activities including Accreditation Canada, Health Canada (Cells, Tissues & Organs), and the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). Accreditations by Health Canada and FACT ensure our BMT Program is meeting the best practice standards for BMT.



### Cass Managh, RN, BScN, PGCert BMT Nurse Coordinator

Cass Managh has been a Nurse in Pediatric Oncology, Hematology & BMT since 2010. She joined the team at BCCH in 2014 after working at Starship Children's Hospital (Auckland, New Zealand) for a few years. In 2018 she transitioned

to the BMT Nurse coordinator role where she organises both Donor and Recipient work-up for Stem Cell Transplant. Outside of the hospital, she can be found on the coast, in the ocean or on the mountains.



### Ali Vavra, RN, BScN, BMT Nurse Clinician

Ali Vavra started in the role of BMT Nurse Clinician this past September after working as a BMT nurse on the inpatient unit for several years. In her role, she helps patients and their families in their journey post BMT. She is the first

point of contact for many of the questions and concerns families have, and she supports them while they adjust to life outside the hospital bubble. With the rest of the BMT team, she coordinates and connects patients with resources and specialty services. This ensures they receive the best care not only for medical issues, but other aspects of their life, like school and hobbies as well. Her main goal is to make sure patients and families feel well supported and well equipped in navigating their lives after transplant.



### Nicole Coolman BSN, RN, BSc, POHN Lead

Nicole Coolman has been a pediatric oncology nurse for the last 8 years. Originally from Alberta, she earned a Biological Science Degree and Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Calgary (UC). She worked in the

Hematology, Oncology, Transplant & Immunology (HOTI) program in the inpatient and outpatient setting at Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH) for 7 years. She also served as nursing sessional instructor with UC, specifically with Term 7 nursing students to provide them with hands on clinical practice and experience on the ACH HOTI inpatient unit. Nicole moved to B.C. last fall and started off on the T8 inpatient unit as a bedside nurse before moving onto a T8 CST Peer Mentor role. Outside the office, Nicole can be found hiking around Vancouver with her dog.