

Prof. Mary GOSPODAROWICZ

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Mary Gospodarowicz is University Professor at the University of Toronto, Medical Director of Princess Margaret Cancer Centre/University Health Network, and the Regional Vice President of Cancer Care Ontario. She is past Chair of Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto. Her research focused on clinical trials evaluating radiation therapy, image-guided precision radiotherapy, and cancer survivorship. Her current interests include global cancer control, global access to radiotherapy, and quality cancer care.

Mary Gospodarowicz is a Past-President of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). She participated in the Global Task Force on Cancer Care and Control of HGEI and the HGEI-Lancet Commission on Global Access to Pain Control & Palliative Care. Under the auspices of UICC and Lancet Oncology, the Global Task Force on Radiotherapy produced a seminal report on "Expanding the global access to radiotherapy" that provided evidence for the demand, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of radiotherapy.

She is a Fellow of the American Society in Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists in the United Kingdom, Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Radiologists in the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and honorary member of ESTRO, SASRO, and DEGRO. She is a recipient of the ASTRO Gold Medal, American Radium Society Janeway Medal, O. Harold Warwick Prize from Canadian Cancer Society, and the Women Who Conquer Cancer Mentorship Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology. She was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada in 2015.

Cancer in Canada - Role of the Comprehensive Cancer Centres

Healthcare in Canada is under provincial jurisdiction. Although governed by the Canada Health Act, the specific plans for cancer care are developed at Provincial level. In Ontario, Cancer Care Ontario develops cancer plans and sets the goals but does not operate Cancer Centres. Ontario has 14 Regional Cancer Centres, five of them being academic cancer centres engaged in research and education beyond delivering care. All cancer centres have outreach responsibilities with the emphasis on access to care, quality of care and integration with community. Most cancer centres are not freestanding but are integrated within broader health sciences centres. One of the main challenges of cancer centres is to maintain the ability to quickly adopt innovation while maintaining standards of care. There are a number of strategies cancer centres may follow to make room for new technologies, new treatments, and research. They include optimization of internal operations, process improvement and automation, integration with community, and task shifting strategies. Engagement in research, whether translational or clinical trials, offers early exposure to new therapies and accelerates progress. Integration of education and training programs secures well trained staff and facilitates succession planning as well as program expansion.