

Focus on Faculty #25

Christine Maheu



[Dr. Christine Maheu](#) received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing from the Université de Montréal and a PhD in Nursing from the University of British Columbia. She completed post-doctoral training at the University of Toronto and was appointed as an Assistant Professor at York University in 2005. In 2010 she was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. From 2010 to 2011, during her sabbatical year, she moved to Marseille with her family to complete a one-year funded Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) fellowship where she conducted studies on the psychosocial needs of individuals at inherited risk for breast and ovarian cancer, in collaboration with members of the Cancer, Biostatistics & Society group, INSERM, France. In 2012 she joined McGill University's Ingram School of Nursing and obtained tenure in 2017. Dr. Maheu is an Associate Member of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology and conducts her research work at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre.

Dr. Maheu's area of research and her passion is cancer survivorship, with particular interest in psychosocial oncology clinical interventions for fear of cancer recurrence (FCR) as well as cancer and work. Dr. Maheu is the co-lead of the Canadian [Cancer and Work](#) website which was designed to address the needs of cancer survivors, healthcare providers, and employers regarding returning to and staying at work following cancer. This project is a unique endeavour as its advisory board is made up of individuals with experience and expertise in cancer, cancer care and return to work. In addition, Dr. Maheu is part of a team leading a nationwide survey assessment of transition care needs of cancer patients from end of treatment to three years post diagnosis. She also has plans to expand the [Cancer and Work website](#) to include a new section on "Transition." This section will focus on exploring and testing new ways to improve experiences of cancer patients and providers around key transition points such as end of treatment, transfer of care from cancer specialist care to primary care, and transition back to work following cancer.

Dr. Maheu has entered a joint Pan-Canadian partnership led by Dr. Lucie Kocum at the Work Wellness Lab at Saint Mary's University, Halifax. The goal of this partnership is twofold. Firstly, they share a Knowledge Translation CanWork grant to conduct workshops funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) which are meant to train future knowledge users in the use

of the Cancer and Work tools, as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the [Cancer and Work](#) website. Secondly, the partnership aims to develop tools for employers to facilitate the transition back into and staying at work of cancer survivors.

Dr. Maheu is the incoming Director-at-Large, Research for the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology. In addition she is a Quebec representative for the Pan-Canadian Cancer Transition Network whose goal is to establish directions and guidelines for the transition of cancer survivors from oncology care to primary care. Dr. Maheu is an active member of the International Psycho-Oncology Society's (IPOS) FORWARDS SIG – Fear of Cancer Recurrence (FCR) special interest group of clinicians, researchers, and consumer representatives. This group aims to raise awareness of FCR and promote activities that improve the identification and treatment of high levels of FCR amongst cancer patients. With this international network, she is currently co-leading two systematic reviews on FCR measures and existing clinical interventions.

In her spare time Dr. Maheu likes to remain physically active to keep pace with her three pre-adolescent and adolescent children. To this end she enjoys training for marathons and has competed in the Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend (photograph above).

We asked Dr. Maheu to list a few of her articles whose work she is particularly proud of or enjoyed the most. This is what she provided:

Maheu, C., Lebel, S., Courbasson, C., Lefebvre, M., Singh, M., Bernstein, L., Muraca, L., Benea, A., Jolicoeur, L., Harris, C., Ramanakumar, A. V., Ferguson, S., & Sidani, S. (2016). *Protocol of a randomized controlled trial of the Fear of Recurrence Therapy [FORT] Intervention to address fear of cancer recurrence in women with breast or gynecological cancer.* BMC Cancer, 16(1):1-12.

Parkinson, M. & **Maheu, C.** (2016). Cancer and Work: A new interactive website. The Oncologist, the Patient and CKN – Sharing Knowledge. <https://cancerkn.com/cancer-work-new-interactive-website/>

Maheu, C. (2013, September). Research Collaboration at a Distance. Canadian oncology Nursing Journal, 23 (4), 230-231.