

Meet Lisa Lun...

I started at Humber in 2001 as a Nurse Clinician in Oncology and Palliative Care. In 2010, I transitioned to my current role as a Clinical Coordinator of Special Projects in the Integrated Cancer Care Program.

Tell us about your role.

As a Clinical Coordinator, I am involved in program planning and development of cancer care initiatives. I work with the clinical leadership teams to monitor and evaluate progress of activities that align with standards set by Ontario Health. I provide consultative support, conduct needs assessments and implement/monitor corporate and program-level initiatives that impact safe cancer care delivery and services to patients and care teams. As part of my role, I participate in various regional and provincial committees, including Cancer Care Ontario working groups to review, develop, and make enhancements to provincial oncology nursing standards and competencies, and patient information publications. These initiatives have a direct impact on supporting oncology nursing practice and ultimately, contribute to patient safety.

I also have had the privilege of being the Cancer Care Ontario Oncology Nursing Lead for the Central Region for ten years, and in that role, bring together regional partners to share learnings, develop standardized quality cancer care initiatives that can be implemented by hospital and community-based programs, and facilitate educational conferences for oncology nurses across the region.

The opportunity to network, incorporate integration and collaboration into the work we do in Cancer Care is so important. Our patients not only receive care at Humber, but are often referred to other hospitals or community programs, and so, information should be aligned to lessen the confusion of what is already a challenging time in their lives. I often bring learnings from regional and provincial oncology committees back to our team, and work with the nurses to adapt some of those initiatives to enhance their nursing practice or help improve their workflow processes. In those collaborative moments, the oncology nurses share stories about their patients and make suggestions on what we can do to improve their patients' cancer care experiences.

What has been your most inspiring project thus far?

Patient stories are so impactful as they bring meaning to the "art and science of oncology nursing." Their stories about living with cancer and how they want to give back to help support other patients are truly inspiring. I have had the honor of chairing our Cancer Care Patient and Family Advisory Council since its inception in 2016. Over the years, our patients and family advisors have demonstrated their commitment to supporting our Cancer Care team. They make recommendations on what matters



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most to patients and families receiving cancer care at Humber and have collaborated with us on many projects. The most inspiring one has been the implementation of our Cancer Care Peer Support Program in 2022 that was spearheaded by our Patient and Family Advisors (PFA). Oncology nurses participated alongside our PFA in Peer Support Volunteer training in creating the program and digitizing some of the processes into a digital platform. Our Peer Support Program was named a Leading Practice by Health Services Organization – Accreditation Canadian in October 2023. It has been an honor working with our patients and my oncology nursing colleagues in achieving this amazing recognition.

What inspired you to pursue a career in Cancer Care?

During my nursing undergraduate program, I always had clinical placements at Sunnybrook Hospital on either the oncology unit or radiation centre. I guess you can say that the profession found me. I have had many individuals both personally and professionally who influenced my path as an oncology and palliative care nurse. My first nursing job was at a downtown teaching hospital where I was initially hired in the General Medicine Unit, but was transferred to Oncology. Overtime, I was given the opportunity to educate new nursing staff about cancer care and treatments, work with home care nurses, participate in external oncology and palliative care committees, and work with oncology and palliative care leaders at the regional and provincial levels. These opportunities solidified my oncology career.

The field of oncology is constantly evolving with growing cancer research and novel cancer therapies, which makes oncology nursing practice exciting, but also complex. The opportunity for life-long learning is indeed applicable in oncology.

Despite all the advances in cancer therapies, personalized medicine, and technology, it is the patients who continue to inspire me. There is nothing more rewarding than patients teaching us about how to live and witnessing their strength and courage as they move and heal in their cancer journey.

As oncology nurses, we walk with our patients and families, caring for more than their physical symptoms of cancer and related treatments.

The professionalism and compassion that my oncology nursing colleagues display everyday with their patients also inspires me. I am grateful to walk and learn with them.