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SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN CANCER RESEARCH

IMPACT REPORT

July 2020

**Fondation
du Centre universitaire
de santé McGill**



**McGill University
Health Centre
Foundation**

YOUR GENEROSITY CHANGES LIVES.

Thank you for your remarkable support of the McGill University Health Centre. Your gifts to cancer research, Alzheimer's research and many other areas of the hospital are helping change the course of lives and medicine.

Now more than ever, investing in medical research is critically important. As the world takes on health challenges like COVID-19 and increasing rates of cancer, we must support innovation in the medical field. Your gift to create the Ken Verdoni Liver Metastases Fellowship is doing just that. Your generosity supports young cancer researchers, providing them with valuable experience and helping them launch careers as prominent cancer scientists. It is a beautiful tribute to your husband to help these researchers advance understanding of cancer with a fellowship bearing his name, and we are certain that many important discoveries will come from your support.

In these pages, you will learn about the most recent Ken Verdoni Liver Metastases Fellow, Dr. Miran Madhar Rada, and how his work is helping make a difference in the lives of cancer patients.



Dr. Julia Burnier, Investigator in the Cancer Research Program and Prisca Bustamante, PhD student, work in the lab.

KEN VERDONI LIVER METASTASES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Since the creation of the Ken Verdoni Liver Metastases Research Fellowship in 2016, two researchers have received the fellowship. The first was student Nisreen Samir Ibrahim. The current holder of the fellowship is Dr. Miran Madhar Rada.



DR. MIRAN MADHAR RADA

Dr. Rada has held the Ken Verdoni Liver Metastases Research Fellowship since 2018. He has a PhD in molecular cell biology and biochemistry from University of Leicester and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Albany Medical College, New York. He credits the Ken Verdoni Fellowship with helping him build his career as a scientist in cancer research.

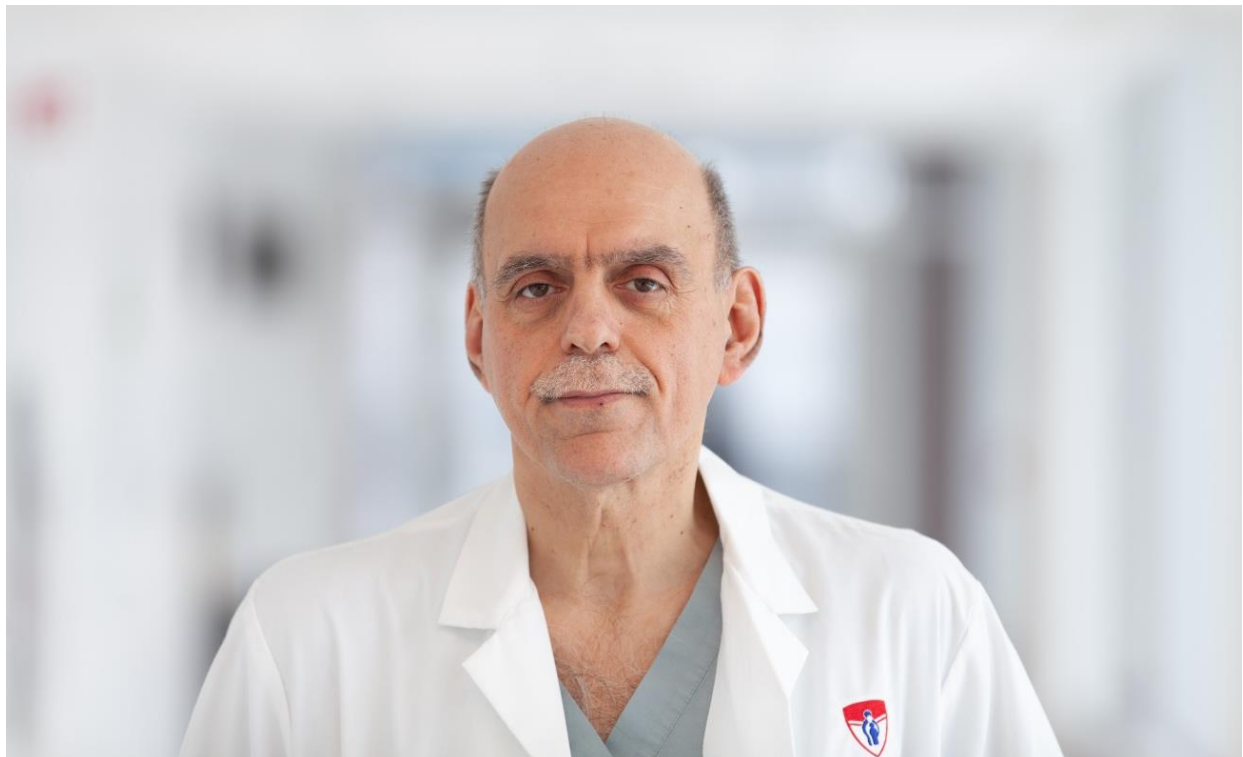
RESEARCH

Dr. Rada's research focuses on one of the two major types of colorectal cancer liver metastases. The *desmoplastic* form of the cancer receives the blood supply it needs to survive by growing its own blood vessels. The *replacement* form takes over existing blood vessels in the liver instead of growing its own. Most of the existing drugs for colorectal cancer liver metastases target the desmoplastic type, meaning there are few treatments for the replacement type. Dr. Rada's work focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms of the replacement type of colorectal cancer liver metastases to inform the creation of new drugs to treat this devastating disease. Dr. Rada's research will lay the groundwork for other scientists to develop drugs and treatments that can stop replacement type cancer from taking over the body's blood vessels. This work will also help treat patients with lung and brain cancer.

CANCER RESEARCH

Now and in the future, your generosity supports the critical work of Dr. Peter Metrakos. Dr. Metrakos is a researcher and a surgeon with expertise in liver metastases and other liver disorders. His lab is currently undertaking the following cancer research:

- **Discovery for precision care** - Using artificial intelligence-based tools and blood test analysis, this program aims to optimize current treatment strategies for the management of metastatic disease, with a focus on colorectal cancer liver metastases and hepatocellular carcinoma.
- **Molecular mechanisms** – The lab is studying the molecular mechanisms of primary liver cancers and metastatic disease to better understand how it grows and spreads, and how to treat it.
- **Biobanking** – The team is building a repository of cancer tissue samples from various patients that will allow them to compare cancer types, test treatments and conduct research outside the body.



Dr. Peter Metrakos, Cancer Research Program Leader

THANK YOU

Thank you for your wonderful generosity. Your support is helping advance research into treating colorectal cancer liver metastases and educating the next generation of highly skilled cancer scientists. Already, the Ken Verdoni Liver Metastases Fellowship has resulted in numerous publications that will help inform cancer physicians and scientists worldwide.

Your gifts to Alzheimer’s research are helping advance understanding of this devastating disease, and your numerous other areas of support are helping the MUHC remain a centre for cutting-edge research and excellence in patient care.

On behalf of the many physicians and scientists you support, thank you again for your remarkable support.

**This fellowship is very important to
building my career as a scientist in the
cancer field.**

– Dr. Miran Madhar Rada, Ken Verdoni Liver Metastases Fellow
