



MORRIS J. WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

CLL Live 2026 Chair



Raymond Vles

Board Chair, CLL Canada

Raymond Vles has experienced two cancers in his life, thyroid cancer in his thirties and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) diagnosed in his mid-fifties. Both cancers were successfully treated, and he is now in remission and in good health.

Since 2020 he has been Board Chair of CLL Canada, a volunteer organization of patients and caregivers dedicated to enhancing the lives of Canadians affected by Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) through education, advocacy and access to reliable information. He is also the facilitator of the Quebec CLL Support Group and a patient partner with the

Pôle Santé of HEC et Catalis Québec.

He retired in May 2020 after working for the City of Montreal in various capacities, including Information System Pilot, Change management Consultant and Internal Organizational Development Consultant. Prior to joining the City, he worked as an independent consultant and group facilitator, assisting clients in the public and private sector in the management of environmental and other public policy issues.

Raymond Vles holds a master's degree in organizational development as well as a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Environmental Studies. He is fluent in spoken and written English and French. Raymond has two adult children and lives with his spouse in Montreal, Canada.

CLL Live 2026 – Medical Advisor



Alina S. Gerrie, MD MPH FRCPC

Associate Professor, University of British Columbia
Hematologist, Centre for Lymphoid Cancer, BC Cancer
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Alina Gerrie is a hematologist and Associate Professor in the Divisions of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). She is a member of the Lymphoma Tumour Group at BC Cancer and a Clinician Investigator with the Centre for Lymphoid Cancer at the BC Cancer Research Centre. She completed her medical degree and internal medicine residency at the University of Toronto, followed by hematology residency at UBC. She undertook a fellowship through the Royal College Clinical Investigator Program and earned a Master of Public Health

degree from Harvard University. Dr. Gerrie is involved in translational, clinical trial, and outcomes-based research related to leukemia and lymphoma, particularly chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), and currently serves on the Global Partnership Committee of the International Workshop on CLL (IWCLL) and as the President of the Canadian Hematology Society.

CLL Live 2026 – Faculty



Amber Bourgeois, MSN-NP(F), PhD

Nurse Practitioner, BC Cancer Victoria
Victoria, BC

Dr. Amber Bourgeois, MSN-NP(F), PhD (she/her), has worked in oncology for over twenty years. She is currently a nurse practitioner in hematology at BC Cancer and recently completed her PhD in the School of Nursing at the University of Victoria, with a research focus on health equity and cancer care. As both a clinician and health systems researcher, Dr. Bourgeois integrates clinical expertise with research to advance equitable access to

cancer care and improve patient experiences across the cancer continuum. Her work aims to support the development and implementation of equitable cancer service innovations in real-world healthcare settings.



David Scott, MBChB PhD

Clinical Director, Centre for Lymphoid Cancer
Professor, Faculty of Medicine,
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

Dr. David Scott is the Clinical Director at Centre for Lymphoid Cancer and Professor at Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia.

Dr. Scott's lab focuses on discovery and development of clinically relevant biomarkers to improve disease classification and patient care. Dr. Scott is a member of the Lymphoma/Leukemia Molecular Profiling Project Consortium and is leading a large international project

along with distinguished lymphoma clinicians and experts in Cancer Genomics to uncover lymphoma pathogenesis and genomic mechanisms underlying treatment failure in aggressive lymphoma. Also, Dr. Scott is co-leading a large scale applied research project funded by Genome Canada, Genome BC, Canadian Institutes of Health Research and BC Cancer Foundation to address the most significant knowledge gap in lymphoma care; the genome biology of relapsed lymphoid cancers. Dr. Scott has a strong track record of discovery of biomarkers applicable to aggressive B-cell lymphomas and is recognized as an expert in biomarkers and the tumor microenvironment of these diseases. Dr. Scott has developed prognostic and predictive biomarker assays and filed four patents to date, which reflects the true translational nature of his research.



Eleah Stringer

Clinical and Research Dietitian, BC Cancer
Health Professional-Investigator, Michael Smith Health
Research BC
Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition
Victoria, BC

Eleah (she/her) is a Clinical and Research Dietitian at BC Cancer, a Health Professional-Investigator with Michael Smith Health Research BC, and Canada's only Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition. Her research is motivated by patient-identified information needs. Currently, she's looking at the effects of intermittent fasting in people with CLL. During her time off, she can be found exploring the

outdoors with her two daughters in her hometown of Victoria.



Diego Villa, MD FRCPC, MPH

Medical Oncologist, BC Cancer – Vancouver Cancer Centre
Clinical Associate Professor, University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Diego Villa is a Medical Oncologist at the BC Cancer – Vancouver Cancer Centre, and Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia. In addition to attending to patients with lymphoid malignancies, he also teaches trainees and conducts research in B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphomas. His main research interests include mantle cell lymphoma as well as primary and secondary CNS lymphomas. He presently leads national prospective trials of novel therapies in aggressive lymphomas. Over the years he has collaborated with several international groups

on NHL studies, with over 150 publications in the peer-reviewed literature. Dr. Villa is also lymphoma co-chair with the Canadian Cancer Trials Group.