



Prostate Cancer Canada Network Ottawa (PCCNO) brings 120 experts and advocates together for 'Prostate Cancer - Discover the Future' at the Ottawa Convention and Event Centre this past weekend.

Sunday, September 17 2017

Ottawa: Prostate Cancer Canada Network Ottawa (PCCNO) brought 120 experts and advocates together for "Prostate Cancer - Discover the Future" at the Ottawa Conference and Event Centre this past weekend.

Working in partnership with Prostate Cancer Canada and The Ottawa Hospital, the conference featured leading medical specialists in prostate cancer treatment, as well as individuals involved in integrative care and complimentary treatments.

Dr. Chris Morash, Medical Director of The Ottawa Hospital's Prostate Cancer Assessment Centre and a team of urology/oncology specialists addressed 120 advocates and experts representing many parts of Ontario and Quebec this past Saturday morning.

"We were just thrilled to have six of Ottawa's best prostate cancer specialists from The Ottawa Hospital sharing the stage for over two hours to provide important insights about innovations and new technologies for those affected by a prostate cancer diagnosis," said Larry Peckford, Chair of the local Ottawa Prostate Cancer Network.

Jennifer Van Noort, Vice-President, Philanthropy and Leadership Giving at The Ottawa Hospital Foundation who moderated a panel discussion with the medical specialists remarked:

"I hope the Ottawa community is reassured of the world class caliber of prostate cancer care and research here at The Ottawa Hospital. Dr Chris Morash, Dr Rodney Breau, Dr Ilias Cagiannos, Dr Luke Lavallee, Dr Scott Morgan and Dr Christina Canil shared some of the latest innovations and ideas at The Ottawa Hospital to help address countless aspects of prostate cancer, including screening, surgery, clinical trials, treatment options and more.

"We are deeply grateful that donations and investments in support of this critical care and research continue to make these innovations possible and directly impact men and families in our community," she added.

The event was launched on Friday evening with remarks by Rocco Rossi, CEO of Prostate Cancer Canada who spoke of the ongoing reluctance of some men to seek medical attention in a timely fashion when experiencing symptoms associated with prostate cancer.

"Prostate Cancer Canada is pleased to support this conference," noted Rossi "Early detection saves lives. When detected early, the survival rate for prostate cancer is over 90 percent.

Prostate Canada Canada recommends that men get a PSA test starting at age 40 to establish a baseline number.”

A statement provided by the Honourable Allan Rock who served as Honorary Chair offered his own endorsement of the conference given his own personal experience in dealing with prostate cancer:

“I congratulate the Prostate Cancer Canada Network and its partners for presenting such a timely and valuable event which will encourage vigilance in detection and broaden our understanding of treatment options.”

Dr. Gillian Flower, Naturopathic Doctor with the Ottawa Integrative Cancer Centre (OICC), took the stage to speak about her Centre’s emphasis on integrative, whole-person care. The OICC team, which includes naturopathic doctors, physicians, acupuncturists and counselors, provides supportive strategies to complement the care that patients may receive through conventional channels.

Flower elaborated on a \$3.85M research collaboration between the OICC and the Ottawa Health Research Institute. This 11-year study will investigate the impact of naturopathic care on the survival and quality of life of patients undergoing surgery for gastric, esophageal and lung cancers. “We hope that initiatives such as these will not only contribute to the body of literature for natural therapies but also serve to harmonize complementary and conventional care options for patients” explains Flower.

Conference partner, the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation, shared its focus on cancer coaching which provides ongoing support to individuals and their families at all stages from diagnosis, to treatment, and remission. Patricia Barrett-Robillard, Cancer Coach with the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation explained that cancer coaching is about starting where patients are at to determine what supports are required to ensure that individuals can navigate appointments, institute lifestyles changes and cope with the stresses that inevitably emerge after diagnosis.

The conference concluded with a presentation by Dr. Rob Rutledge. Dr. Rutledge is a Halifax-based Oncologist, CEO of the Healing and Cancer Foundation and was trained as a Radiation Oncologist at the Ottawa Hospital. Dr. Rutledge is author of the Healing Circle which underscores the scientific benefits of exercise, nutrition and meditation to both prevent and improve outcomes after a prostate cancer diagnosis.

The Ottawa Prostate Cancer Canada Network holds monthly meetings open to anyone who has an interest in prostate cancer and its impacts. For more information, visit www.pccnottawa.ca

Photos from the conference are available.

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