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Celebrating a milestone for Allied Health Research at BC Cancer

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A team including several BC Cancer dietitians, led by dietitian Eleah Stringer as PI, was recently awarded a \$25,000 Nursing and Allied Health Research Grant, generously supported through the BC Cancer Foundation. This multi-centre study aims to describe enteral feeding practices and experiences among head and neck cancer patients treated at BC Cancer. This project also aims to build research competency among graduate dietetics students from UBC, who are involved in this study and receive mentorship from the dietitians on the team (Katie Tsoupakis, Arlene Nguyen and Lindsay Van der Meer).



Primary investigator Eleah Stringer describes why this grant is so significant:

“Dietitians are well-known for the excellent clinical care they provide to their patients, but are under-represented in research. I’m proud of my dietitian colleagues for stepping up to the plate as we enter into this new era of embedding nursing and allied health research into our cancer system. I’m also grateful to Michael Smith Health Research BC for providing me the opportunity to seize research funding opportunities and create some scaffolding so we can further develop dietitian-led, nutrition research. This grant represents a significant milestone in the growth of dietetic practice, as we collaborate across centres and with UBC to tackle a patient information need through research.”

Collaborating with UBC Master of Nutrition and Dietetics students is also an opportunity to help future dietitians meet required research competencies to enter practice, while contributing to a relevant and meaningful project.

“What excites me most about this research project is the chance to support head and neck cancer patients at BC Cancer by being part of research that directly impacts their care, helping them better understand their options and feel more confident in their treatment decisions” describes MND student Jaeli Ibbetson.

Fellow MND student Janet Ho sees the link between this research project and the patient care journey:

“Understanding when and why enteral feeding is used during treatment allows health care professionals to identify best practices and areas for improvement, ensuring that patients receive timely, appropriate and patient-centered support throughout their cancer journey.”

What makes this milestone significant is that it is the first BC Cancer dietitian-led research team to receive a grant of this size. More information on the grant and project can be found here: [Funding Decisions](#) | [Nursing and Allied Health Research and Knowledge Translation](#)

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Coast Salish teachings: Thee eat "Truth" | Eyhh slaxin "Good Medicine" | Nuts a maht "We are one" | Whax hooks in shqwalowin "Open your hearts and your minds" | Kwum kwum stun shqwalowin "Make up your mind to be strong" | Tee ma thit "Do your best"

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