**INTRODUCTION**
As cancer survivors live longer, fertility becomes an important health concern. Existing and emerging technologies may prevent the risk of infertility (ex: sperm and egg freezing), although the lack of a trained workforce knowledgeable about oncology and reproductive health is a barrier to care.

In 2013, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) published updated clinical practice guidelines for fertility preservation and recommended that clinicians:
1. discuss the potential impact of cancer treatments on future fertility with reproductive-aged patients with cancer and
2. be prepared to refer patients to a reproductive specialist, if appropriate.

However, research shows that proper pre-treatment fertility counseling is disseminated to only a minority of newly diagnosed patients with cancer. Therefore, there is an urgent need in our oncology healthcare system to strengthen the management of patients' reproductive function during a cancer diagnosis.

**OBJECTIVES**
The overall objective of this initiative is to bring awareness and knowledge to oncology health care providers (HCPs) and patients with cancer about the importance of fertility preservation.

The project specific goals are:
- To develop a suite of patient education material to bring awareness and promote patient activation
- To put in place a dissemination strategy for patient education material including both paper and electronic means (such as the electronic patient portal OPAL)
- To streamline the referral process from oncology to the MUHC Reproductive Centre
- To educate health care professionals about the importance of fertility preservation for patients starting cancer treatments

**METHODS / INTERVENTIONS**

**RESULTS**
Development and implementation of a suite of patient education tools to spread the word about fertility preservation options for patients with cancer

**BROCHURES**
One brochure for MEN & one brochure for WOMEN to explain the fertility preservation process and facilitate the discussion between the oncology HCPs and patients

**WAITING ROOM POSTERS**
Placed in high traffic patient areas with the purpose of increasing awareness about fertility preservation options

**BOOKMARKS**
Given to patients as a quick reminder of the key steps in the fertility preservation process

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**
Available on the MUHC Reproductive centre website: www.muhc.ca/reproductivecentre

**PATIENT IMPACT**
The patient educational material created through this initiative, as well as efforts to educate health care providers and patients about the importance of fertility preservation could provide significant means of facilitating timely access to fertility preservation services and bridging the gap between the oncology health care providers and fertility specialist.