To: All faculty, staff and students in the Department of Oncology

From: M. Levine

Date: October 29, 2015

Re: Department of Oncology Appointments – Drs. Dhesy & Whelan

I am pleased to announce the following appointments in the Department of Oncology effective September 1, 2015, for an initial three year term:

Dr. Bindi Dhesy
Associate Chair, Education

Dr. Dhesy is a medical oncologist who was first appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine in 2003. In 2004 she completed a MSc in Health Research Methodology at McMaster. She was promoted to an Associate Professor in the Department of Oncology in 2010. Dr. Dhesy has been the Department Education Coordinator (DEC) since May 1, 2012. In her capacity as DEC, Bindi has been a tireless advocate for education. She ensures faculty members are actively involved in educational activities, mentors faculty preparing for tenure and promotion review, coordinates annual faculty development workshops, and works closely with the Postgraduate Directors and Chair of the Fellowship Committee in supporting and developing the postgraduate and fellowship programs. She supports our very successful annual student research day, chairs Regional Rounds in the Cancer Centre, chairs the Department Education Committee and represents the Department within the Faculty of Health Sciences. Most recently Bindi has initiated a strategic plan in education for the Department, which will be designed to ensure that the diversity and strength in Oncology is well represented in educational programs within the Department, within the Cancer Program, and within the Faculty. In recognition of Dr. Dhesy’s leadership, I am appointing her as Associate Chair, Education.

Dr. Tim Whelan
Associate Chair, Research

Dr. Whelan is a radiation oncologist who completed an MSc in DME at McMaster in 1993. In 1994 he joined the Faculty of Health Sciences as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. In 1998, he was promoted to Associate Professor in Medicine and in July
2005 to Professor. He was Head of the Division of Radiation Oncology from 2007-2011. Dr. Whelan holds a Tier I CRC Chair in Breast Cancer Research. His leadership in key clinical trials has led to practice change on an international level, whether in evaluating new methodologies to support shared treatment decision making or in evaluating the effectiveness of shorter radiation regimens. His research has always been well informed by his appreciation that every patient’s priorities are different and that these priorities help drive the questions we pursue through research. Tim is committed to mentoring trainees and young faculty members and to ensuring that the Department fosters and develops the next generation of clinical researchers. In his role as Head of the Radiation Program, Tim led the development of the integrated program with the Walker Family Cancer Centre, and fostered a multidisciplinary approach to research across radiation oncology, radiation therapy, and medical physics. As Associate Chair, Research, Tim will be refreshing and developing the Department’s strategic plan for research and developing mechanisms to create an energetic environment that fosters and applies research that supports excellence in cancer care for our patients and for the health care system.

As the Department of Oncology moves into its ninth year and as I look to the end of my second terms as Chair, I am confident that the appointments of Dr. Dhesy and Dr. Whelan will strengthen the Department of Oncology and help set it on an even more successful path for the future.

Please join me in welcoming Bindi and Tim to their new roles.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.(C), FASCO
Professor and Chair, Department of Oncology
Buffett-Taylor Chair in Breast Cancer Research
McMaster University

ML:ld