# Survey results from a patient co-led priority for research and clinical practice for older adults with cancer

<u>Sandeep Dhillon¹,</u> Bonnie Leung¹², Deepjot Sanghera¹, Schroder Sattar³, Stuart Culbertson², Penelope Hedges², Daniel J. Renouf², Sabrina T. Wong¹⁴, Lorelei Newton⁵, Caroline Mariano², & Kristen R. Haase¹² 1. School of Nursing, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. 2. BC Cancer, Vancouver, Canada. 3. College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, Regina, Canada. 4. Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. 5. School of Nursing, University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada.

### **Background**

- Older adults with cancer face complex and systemic barriers to care
- Caregivers also experience significant burdens
- Geriatric assessment is recommended but underused in Canada

This project is part of a multi-phase, patient and community co-led study to improve geriatric oncology services in BC.

- In **Phase 1**: 6 care and 6 research priorities were identified by conducting focus groups and interviews with 24 participants.
- Phase 2: We validated and ranked these priorities through a province-wide survey.

### **Objective**

To report findings from Phase 2, which aimed to validate and rank identified care and research priorities among older adults, caregivers, healthcare providers, and community members.



## Methodology

Study Design: Cross-sectional online survey

Sample: N=109

- Older adults (31%)
- Caregivers (19%)
- Healthcare providers (21%)
- Community (34%)

#### Survey:

- 19 items, ranking 6 care + 6 research priorities
- 5 open-ended questions

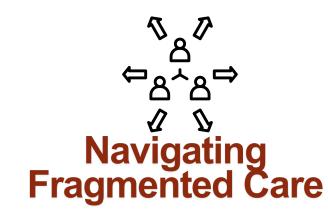
#### Analysis:

- Quantitative: Descriptive statistics; Linear regression
- Qualitative: Thematic analysis of open-ended responses

# **Key Insights**







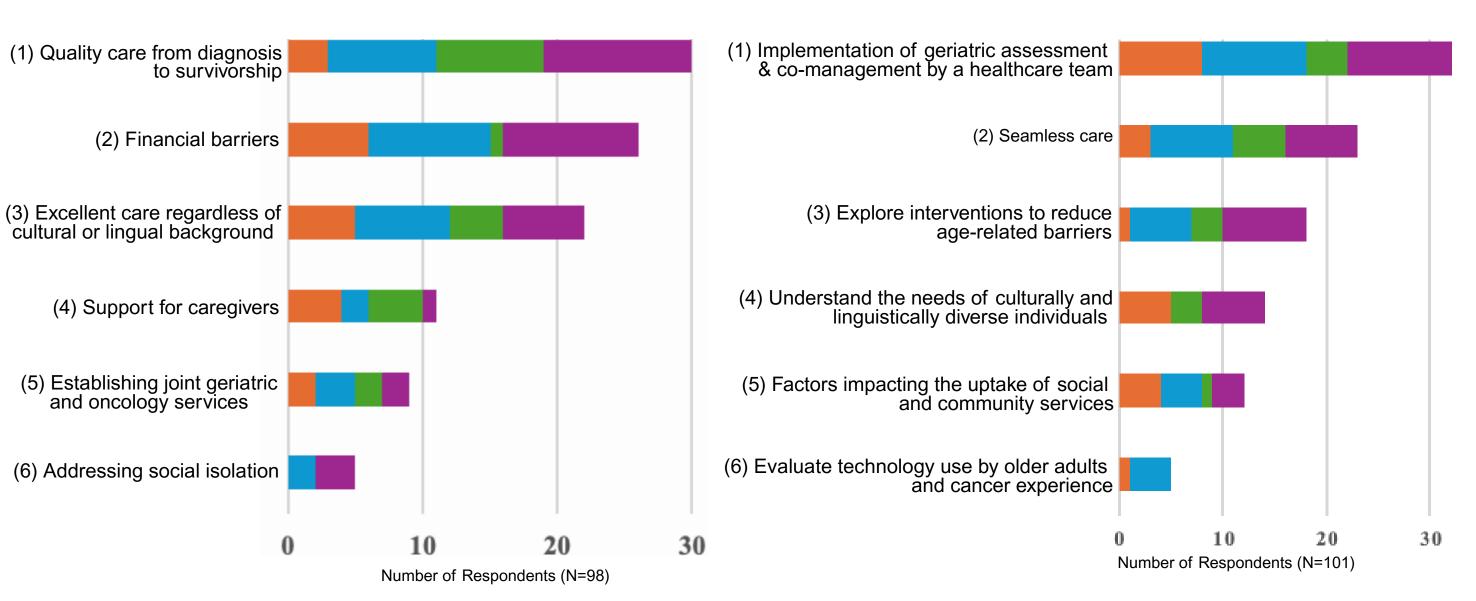






**Research Priorities** 

### **Care Priorities**



#### ■ Healthcare Professionals or Healthcare Worker

- Older Adults Diagnosed with Cancer, Living with Cancer, or Cancer Survivor
- Caregiver of an Older Adult with Cancer
- Community Member or General Public

### Results

#### **Top Care Priority (n=106):**

- 1. Addressing financial barriers (e.g., medication costs, transportation, housing).
- 2. Continuity of care.

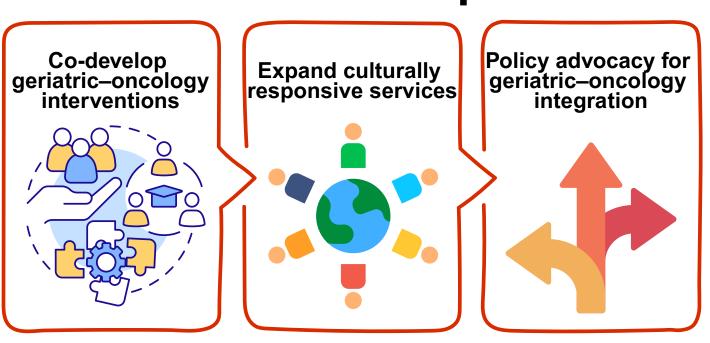
#### **Top Research Priority (n=106):**

1. Implementation of geriatric assessment and interdisciplinary team-based management.

### **Implications**

Our findings underscore the need for integrated geriatric oncology services that address financial, cultural, and systemic barriers to care. These priorities provide a foundation for developing tailored interventions and policies to improve cancer care for older adults in Canada.

### **Next Steps**



#### **Acknowledgements**

This research was funded with an Insight Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada. Dr. Kristen Haase is Michael Smith Health Research BC Scholar.

