

Meet Jessica, the new CPQR Fellow leading our work on access to care! Jessica is a PhD student at Vrije University medical centre in the Netherlands and a RO Resident at the University of Ottawa studying regional disparities in accessibility to radiotherapy. Under the guidance of CPQR member, Michael Brundage, Jessica will help CPQR look at the variations in RT utilization in Canada.

We've had a chance to sit down with Jessica to learn a bit more about her.

Q: What is something the Canadian cancer system has been struggling with that you want to fix?

A: We are so fortunate to live in a country with a universal health-care system, but inequitable access to cancer services is a challenge that many Canadians still face. Improving access to essential cancer services like radiotherapy is something that I hope to achieve in my career, starting with this exciting work with CPQR and through my PhD.

Q: What is the most inspiring thing about your work?

A; The opportunity to work alongside, bring together and learn from so many experienced individuals and organizations across Canada who are as equally passionate about improving how cancer care and radiotherapy are delivered is truly inspiring and humbling.

Q: What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

A: The best piece of advice I've been given comes from my dad, who said, "It's important to never stop learning, but the key is, to learn how to learn."

Q: What are your top 3 favourite podcasts/books?

A: Sideways Stories from Wayside School (Louis Sachar), Being Mortal (Atul Gawande), Serial (podcast)