

Merrylee has 17 years clinical experience as a radiation therapist and for the past 7 years has worked as a Research Radiation Therapist with a focus on education and practice-based research at the Odette Cancer Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Her activities have led to Practice-Based Researcher and Education Research Unit appointments at the Sunnybrook Research Institute and an appointment as Lecturer with the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto. Merrylee proudly represents her profession as a member of the Quality and Standards Committee for the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO) and as a member of the Quality Assurance Committee for the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario (CMRTO). However, Merrylee feels her most meaningful accomplishments have come through her activities as member and past lead of the Radiation Therapy Patient Experience Group at the Odette Cancer Centre. Merrylee hopes to continue to positively impact the patient experience both locally and now nationally as a new member of the CPQR steering committee.

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

A: I am lucky enough to have been involved in several projects that focus on patient engagement and experience at Sunnybrook. Through these projects I have met several current and former patients that are not only willing, but truly enthusiastic about coming forward with their own stories in order to improve the experience for future patients. This caring and concern for those who come after is always inspiring to me and makes me want to work harder realize their vision of a better experience for our patients.

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

A: I'm usually too stubborn to listen to advice but my mom recently told me to wrap my leftover cheese in aluminum foil so it would keep longer. She was right!

Q: What are your favorite 3 books/podcasts?

A: Too many favorite books to narrow it down to just 3! I am a podcast fan and if you see me with my headphones in, I'm probably listening to one of my current favorites: Radiolab, Criminal or Ear Hustle.