Michael Sharpe

1965 - 2016

ESTRO is sad to announce that Michael Sharpe, from Toronto, Canada, died on the 22 June 2016. We send our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Michael was born in 1965 and received his Ph.D. in Medical Biophysics from the University of Western Ontario in 1997. He began his professional career as a Staff Physicist in Radiation Oncology at the William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Michigan and was certified by the American Board of Medical Physicists in 2000.

He joined the Radiation Medicine Programme at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and the University of Toronto, Department of Radiation Oncology in 2002. He was appointed as Associate Professor in the Departments of Radiation Oncology and Mechanical and Industrial Engineering.

Mike was responsible for taking the Radiation Medicine Programme at Princess Margaret on a most exciting journey of rapid technology adoption and adaptation. His arrival in Toronto led to a period of dramatic and sustained innovation that has propelled the programme to global recognition for advancing the technology and practice of radiotherapy.

His primary areas of interest were rapid implementation of novel technologies for precision radiation therapy, the development of adaptive radiotherapy, and principles and methods for quality improvement.

Michael had an active interest in devices that improve patient access to high-quality treatment, for improving treatment accuracy and precision of radiation treatments and contributed to many products that are used for the benefit of cancer patients around the world.

His activities extended well beyond the walls of the Princess Margaret. He led the Clinical Quality Programme for the Radiation Treatment Programme at Cancer Care Ontario, he was an active member and Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, and a Diplomat of the American Board of Medical Physicists.
Mike will be remembered as a generous teacher and mentor for many young medical physicists, oncologists, and radiation therapists who benefited from his wisdom and experience. His excellent teaching skills were sought after world-wide, he participated as a faculty member in the teaching courses of the American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), and was a founding faculty member for the Advanced Treatment Planning course of ESTRO in 2011. His intelligence, conviction, and energy inspired students and colleagues alike.

Mike was a loving husband and was incredibly proud of his two lovely children. He was a passionate cyclist and shared his love for the sport with many close friends and colleagues – making bonds that will last forever. Mike loved life and shared his enthusiasm for living with many, including many close friends in the ESTRO community.

We will miss him very much.

David Jaffray

On behalf of the colleagues at the Princess Margaret Cancer Center and University of Toronto

Colleagues and friends can leave a message on the following link

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1776245472597143/