Supervisor Name: Paulina Cybulska

Project Title: Perioperative adverse events in elderly women undergoing gynecologic oncology surgery

Hospital/Research Institution: University Health Network

Email: Paulina.cybulska@uhn.ca

Field of Research (2 keywords): gynecologic oncology, geriatric oncology

Department: Obstetrics & Gynecology

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? NO

Brief Project Description (<300 words):

Background: The elderly population is continues to expand and management of gynecologic cancers in the elderly poses a challenge. Compared to one hundred years ago, the 75-84 year age group is nearly 20 times larger and the >85 year group nearly 50 times larger. With increased age comes increased cancer risk and higher surgical incidence. Furthermore, the elderly have more comorbidities, higher frailty and lower reserve. In order to accommodate these unique needs and limitations, their specific surgical and medical considerations must be thoroughly investigated.

Objectives: To determine the incidence of perioperative adverse events in elderly (age ≥75) women undergoing gynecologic oncology surgery for uterine and ovarian cancers and to examine the effect of preoperative performance status on these outcomes. A secondary objective is to identify opportunities for perioperative optimization of this population in order to implement a program at Princess Margaret Cancer Center for this unique population.

Methodology: After acquiring REB approval, a retrospective analysis of all women aged ≥70 years who underwent gynecologic oncology surgery at the University Health Network between January 1 2016 and
December 31 2018. Multiple data points, including age, performance status, ASA class and perioperative adverse events will be abstracted from the medical record. To capture any minor complications that may be missing from the medical record, we will obtain data from the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP). Surgical complexity and adverse events in women aged ≥75 years will be compared to those aged 70-74 years undergoing treatment for the same malignancies.

Outcomes: The outcomes of interest are to describe the surgical approach and surgical complexity of women undergoing treatment for endometrial and ovarian cancers. We will compare these in women aged 70-74 to those in women aged ≥75 years. Additionally, we will compare preoperative co-morbidities between the groups as well as post-operative adverse events (within 30 days of surgery). Describing and defining the unique challenges faced by elderly women during their cancer treatment will aide in the development and implementation of a program tailored to addressing their needs.