

pERC Member - Oncologist

Dr. Sunil Desai, MBChB, DCH, MRCP(UK), FRCP(C)

Dr. Desai received his medical degree in the UK 1976 and after post graduate training emigrated to Canada in 1984. He has been a practicing paediatric Haematologist/Oncologist for 22 years in a tertiary care center. Besides managing paediatric patients with all malignancies, his specific area of expertise is paediatric leukemias, lymphomas, neuroblastoma, treatment of relapsed paediatric malignancies and Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT).

Dr. Desai has been involved in the research ethics arena since 1990 to present. He was a member of Research Ethics Committee for Alberta Cancer Board from 1990-2006 and Chair of this committee from 1998-2006. During this time he oversaw the implementation of the application of the Tri-Council Policy Statement for Ethical Conduct for research Involving Humans for approval of all cancer related experimental protocols.

He is currently a member of the Research Ethics Committee for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (2006-present) and has just been appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee from April 2011.

He founded and Chaired the Committee of Chairs, Research Ethics Board in the Province of Alberta from 1999 - 2006. The composition of this Committee consisted of all the 5 Chairs and REB coordinators of the REB in the province of Alberta, with the aim of the committee being to harmonize and provide a consistent approach to REB approval process.

Dr. Desai has been involved in paediatric cancer research as a member of the Paediatric Oncology Group (1988 to 2000) and Children's Oncology Group (2000 - present). He is the Institutional Principal Investigator representing Stollery Children's Hospital (SCH), Edmonton for the Children's Oncology Group (2006 to present).

In September 2006, he was appointed Medical Director of paediatric clinical oncology research in the Division of Paediatric Haematology/Oncology (SCH). In this capacity he oversees the implementation of all clinical research.

C¹⁷ is an organization representing all seventeen pediatric cancer centers in Canada. He has been a member of the DVL (Developmental and Therapeutics) Committee since July 2009. This committee's mandate is to define the role of new investigational agents, both in the pre-clinical phase and Phase I for the treatment of childhood malignancies.

He is a member of the Provincial Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant group in Alberta.

Besides his professional research interests, Dr. Desai is an active volunteer in the community in Edmonton. He has participated in the South Asian Committee of the Canadian Diabetes Association since 2000 and recently helped with the organization of a community awareness conference called "Matter of Cancer".