Taking research on the road!

Submitted by Amanda Bolderston, RTT, FCAMRT, University of Alberta

The University of Alberta’s Radiation Therapy Program (RADTH) celebrated MRT Week with a research roadshow! Two faculty members, Amanda Bolderston and Jackie Middleton, visited the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary and the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton to spread the research love with Fiona Mitchell, the Alberta Health Services Radiation Therapy Professional Practice Lead.

The RADTH program prepares undergraduate students for research with a final year methodology course. Students learn research skills in class, and then carry out a research project when they go into their clinical placements in the fall. They usually have a team supporting them, and research mentors are very important to the process. Previous students have presented, published and won awards for their projects.

Amanda and Jackie hit the road to drum up some research ideas for future students, to offer support for therapists who want to get involved in their own research, and to encourage people to think about being research mentors.

Over thirty therapists stopped by to chat, win some prizes and offer ideas. JMIRS and CAMRT provided swag (thank you!) and encouragement to publish and apply for the CAMRT research grant of $5,000. Thank you to the staff and leadership at both centres for making us so welcome – and to the therapists interested in research we say get in touch – we’re here to help!