The Women's Probus Club of
North Shore Vancouver
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November 2026 **NEWSLETTER** **Vol. 20: No. 3**

Monday, November 16 at 10 am

West Vancouver Yacht Club - 5854 Marine Drive, West Vancouver

NOVEMBER SPEAKER: Dr. Tamara Shenkier, Medical Oncologist

Topic: ***"Breast Cancer 101: What every woman should know - and what has changed in 30 years"***

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Monday: November 16th speaker

Dr. Tamara Shenkier, Medical Oncologist



Breast Cancer 101: What Every Woman Should Know — and What Has Changed in 30 Years

Dr. Tamara Shenkier is a Vancouver-based medical oncologist and educator who retired from BC Cancer in November 2025 after a 31-year clinical career, focused on breast cancer care since 2014. She held senior leadership roles in medical education and governance, including Program Director of the UBC Medical Oncology Training Program and Chair of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Medical Oncology Specialty Committee, and was the inaugural Medical Director of the After Breast Cancer Service, a BC Cancer–BC Women's collaboration supporting survivorship care.

She also played a central role in physician leadership and engagement, serving as President of the BC Cancer Medical Staff Engagement Society and the BC Cancer Medical–Dental Staff Association, revitalizing physician voice, collaboration, and wellness across the organization. More recently, she served as Vice-Chair of the Provincial Health Services Authority Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (PHSA HAMAC), contributing to system-level medical governance. She has an ongoing advisory role on the PHSA Provincial Cancer Committee. She was recognized with the YWCA Women of Distinction Award (Education, Training & Development) in 2024.

Presentation outline

Breast cancer is not one disease, and its diagnosis and treatment have changed remarkably over the past three decades. Having treated women with breast cancer as a medical oncologist from 1994 to 2025, I have had the privilege of witnessing—and participating in—this extraordinary evolution in care.

In this presentation, I will explore what we know about breast cancer today, how we diagnose and treat it, and some of the most important changes I have seen over my career. I will also share some of the lessons learned along the way, including why more treatment is not always better, how advances in our understanding of tumor biology have made treatment increasingly individualized, and what the future may hold.

1. Breast Cancer: The Big Picture

2. "You Have Breast Cancer": What Happens Next?

3. How Is Breast Cancer Treated?

4. Thirty Years of Change: What We Know Now That We Didn't Know Then
Using examples from my career, I will explore some of the most important changes in breast cancer care

5. After Treatment: Living With and Beyond Breast Cancer

6. Where Are We Going?
A look at the future of breast cancer care

	2026-27 Season of Speakers	
Monday 7 December 2026	Luncheon and Special Christmas Event: **Nicole Adam,** Florist	*"Seasonal Bouquet Demonstration"*
	2027	
Monday 18 January, 2027	**Alan Cadwell**	*"AI & You: Protecting Your Information in a Digital World"*
Tuesday 16 February, 2027	**Jennifer Helman**, Program Coordinator, Recycling Council of BC	*"Recycling in BC – A Fresh Start"*
Monday 15 March, 2027	**Nicole Garton,** President and General Counsel, Heritage Trust	*"What I Wish I Had Known - An Executor's Guide"*
Monday 19 April, 2027	**Dr Julio Montaner,** Executive Dir. BC Centre for Excellence for HIV/AIDS	*"The Story of HIV/AIDS Past to Present"*
Monday 17 May, 2027 Probus 20th Anniversary Celebration	Alzheimer's Society of BC and Yukon	*"An Introduction to Brain Health"*

Monday 21 June, 2027	**Kim Bolan**, Crime Reporter, Vancouver Sun	"*Organized Crime in Canada and Globally*"