Richard Wassersug Biography

Richard Wassersug, Ph.D., is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Urologic Sciences at the University of British Columbia. He also holds adjunct professorships in the departments of Medical Neuroscience and Psychology at Dalhousie University, in Canada and in the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia.

Richard is the Co-Lead in developing the Prostate Cancer Supportive Care program in the Vancouver Prostate Centre. This program started in January 2013 with the ultimate goal of providing supportive care to prostate cancer patients and their partners along the entire disease trajectory, from diagnosis to end of life.

Richard has authored or co-authored more than 250 peer-reviewed papers, and over 30 popular science and health-related articles. For much of his career, he studied the biology of reptiles and amphibians, and he continues to do some research in that area. However recently his main focus has turned to the psychology of androgen deprivation in various populations ranging from advanced prostate cancer patients to male-to-female transsexuals. This research is motivated by a desire to help prostate cancer patients recognize and adapt to the common hormonal therapies used to treat that disease.

Dr. Wassersug has arguably the most diverse research program of anyone in Canada. This is reflected in the agencies that have supported his research over the past two decades. These include the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Environment Canada, the Canadian Space Agency, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Parks Canada, the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of British Columbia, the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute, the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, and Prostate Cancer Canada.