## **ANNUAL REPORT** 2015 2016



100% research since 1945





Pierre Dansereau and Laurette Légaré



# SURVIVING AFTER THE **DEATH OF YOUR CHILD**

In April 2013, Charlotte Légaré died after a struggle with pancreatic cancer. Charlotte was the beloved daughter of Laurette and Gaston Légaré, and the wife of Pierre Dansereau.

A parent should not have to experience the extreme sadness associated with the death of a child. However, that is exactly what Laurette Légaré did. Today, at 97 years old, she has survived the passing of her husband, son, and daughter, Charlotte.

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### CHARLOTTE, A WOMAN, A COLLEAGUE, AND GOOD FRIEND

For twenty years, Charlotte worked at McGill University in the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Department. She was highly esteemed and deeply loved by her colleagues. In 1995, she was awarded the prestigious Award for Excellence in Service. With this award, the members of the administrative and support staff acknowledged Charlotte's outstanding contributions to graduate and postdoctoral education. Charlotte was considered the heart of her department. In her honour, the university even lowered its flag to half-mast the day of her funeral.

### CHARLOTTE DID NOT DIE IN VAIN

No amount of money can bring Charlotte back. However, for Mrs. Légaré, creating the Charlotte Légaré Memorial Fund is one way she can keep her daughter's memory alive and perhaps even save some lives in the process.

"My gifts to the Cancer Research Society are my way of honouring her memory. I know that the money I give to the Society will go directly to funding research in pancreatic cancer – the cancer that ultimately took my daughter. I don't want another family to go through the same suffering I did."

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive summary	
Our impact in 20165	
Cancer research	

Research with impact
Impact of Scholarships for the next generation of scientists10
Partners working together for a cure

"We must move forward. It's important for us to give some meaning to her death while at the same time thinking about future generations," said Pierre Dansereau, Charlotte's widower. "Charlotte would be so pleased that we have honoured her memory in this way and that research into pancreatic cancer will continue because of her."

### ABOUT PANCREATIC CANCER

- Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in both men and women.
- Pancreatic cancer has the lowest five-year survival rate for both females and males. Out of 100 women and 100 men, only eight women and seven men will survive five years after the diagnosis.

### THE LEGACY OF CHARLOTTE AND LAURETTE

The Charlotte Légaré Memorial Fund was created in 2013. To date, the donations to the Fund have financed three promising research projects in pancreatic cancer – projects that would not have seen the light of day without Mrs. Légaré's support.

"I know that my gifts also have the power to attract more donations. I hope that through my example others are inspired to give in order to fund cancer research," Mrs. Légaré stated. "I hope that over time, we will be able to finance more research. I am delighted to hear about the advances made thus far in pancreatic cancer detection and treatment. I know that my gifts have contributed to these advances. I am happy that I am doing my part."

Mrs. Légaré is acting according to her convictions. Not only has she created the Fund, but she has also included the Cancer Research Society in her will. Thus, her legacy of giving to research will live on even after she is gone.



Our funding across Canada	4
Our expert committees	5
Our fundraising activities	ô

Thanks to our donors18	
Our financial activities	
Our Board of Directors	

### **EXECUTIVE** SUMMARY



Domenic Pilla Chairman of the Board



huliabo

Andy Chabot President and Chief Executive Officer

### Thanks to you, our research has an impact

Your donation and Mrs. Légaré's, along with donations from our other 190,000 donors, have enabled the Cancer Research Society to fund 172 of the best research projects in Canada. Thanks to you, we have invested more than \$14 million in our research programs. It is because of your support that we are able to make a maximum effort in preventing, detecting, and treating this terrible disease.

Among the projects funded through your donations is the Guzzo Environment-Cancer Research Chair of the Cancer Research Society in partnership with the University of Montreal. This project was instrumental in the historic judgment by the Superior Court of Quebec that three tobacco companies would have to pay more than \$15 billion in punitive damages to nearly 100,000 Quebec victims, a first in Canada for such a class action. The methodology developed by world-renowned epidemiology researcher Jack Siemiatycki estimated that more than 90% of all lung cancers are legally attributable to smoking. This testimony was one of the determining factors in establishing the liability of the tobacco companies and in calculating the amount of compensation to be paid.

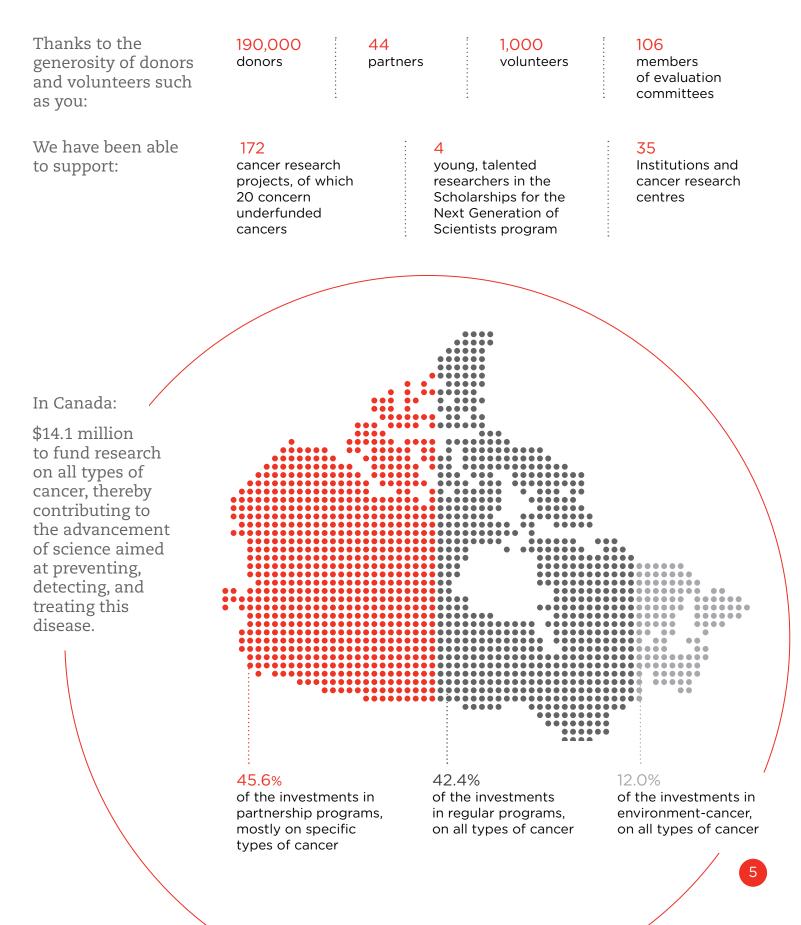
### Doing more with your support

Although its mission is to fund research on all types of cancer, the Society remains aware of existing disparities in cancer research in Canada and throughout the world. Recent statistics indicate that some types of cancer receive less funding, even though they affect a vast majority of patients. The Cancer Research Society is committed to ensuring that all cancers are adequately supported and, in this regard, has established a number of alliances and partnerships to address this issue. In fact, the subject has received particular attention in the strategic planning of the Cancer Research Society.

Moreover, the Society is a member of the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance (CCRA), an umbrella organization of cancer funding agencies. The Cancer Research Society adheres to the objectives of the CCRA: to target more difficult-to-treat cancers and to establish new collaborations between research funding agencies. By funding "orphan" cancers, such as pancreatic or lung cancer, the Society is working to compensate for this disparity in cancer research. Mrs. Légaré's visionary donation for pancreatic cancer highlights the urgency of addressing this gap and paves the way for the generosity of other donors.

Thanks to you, we are intensifying our fight against all cancers. Thank you for your trust and generosity!

### OUR **IMPACT** IN 2016





### CANCER **RESEARCH**

The Society's mission is clear: To fund research on all types of cancer to improve the way we prevent, detect, and treat the disease.

Without a doubt, research saves lives!

### A DECREASING MORTALITY RATE:

The mortality rate for people diagnosed with cancer has fallen by **15.1%** over the last 25 years.

### AN INCREASING SURVIVAL RATE:

In the 1940s, the five-year survival rate was **25%**. Now, the overall rate is **60%** and there are some cancers that have a much higher survival rate (breast and prostate cancer).

- Today, **87%** of women who have received a breast cancer diagnosis succeed in overcoming it. The breast cancer mortality rate has reached its lowest point since 1950.
- The five-year survival rate for prostate cancer is above **96%** for men between the ages of 49 and 79. It is at 99% for men between 60 and 69 at the time of diagnosis.

### WHERE DO YOUR DONATIONS GO?

Within the 2016 fiscal period, \$14.1 million was distributed in support of 172 innovative research projects throughout Canada, of which 75 were new projects.

### RESEARCH WITH **IMPACT**

Discover the recent advances our funded researchers have made in the past year – thanks to your donations!

### 1. RESEARCH IS CHANGING THE BASIC WAY WE SEE CANCER CELLS: STARTING WITH OXYGEN LEVELS

Dr. James Uniacke and his team at the University of Guelph in Ontario are examining why cancer cells thrive in stressful environments, such as hypoxia (lack of oxygen), while normal cells in the same conditions go into a dormant state and eventually die. When



tumours adapt to hypoxia, they become very aggressive. The mechanisms used by cancer cells to adapt could become a prime target for cancer therapy. Targeting this mechanism would allow doctors to selectively attack cancer cells, while keeping healthy cells intact. Dr. Uniacke's latest results were published in the prestigious journal *Cell Reports*.

*PS: Dr. Uniacke also received a Scholarship for the Next Generation of Scientists from the Cancer Research Society in 2014!* 

### 2. FINDING AN "OFF- SWITCH" FOR CANCER

Dr. Thomas Simmen, a researcher from the University of Alberta, and his team have found that a protein named TMX1 could function as an "off-switch" for cancer. His research results, funded by the Cancer Research Society between 2013 and 2015, were



published in the August issue of *The Journal of Cell Biology*. The paper describes how TMX1 can determine the aggressiveness of a cancer. If tumour tissue has a lot of TMX1, chemotherapy treatments will work and reduce tumour growth via oxidative stress. In contrast, tumours with low TMX1 are resistant to treatment and grow much faster. Understanding what regulates the level of TMX1 in tumours will provide new therapeutic approaches targeting this mechanism. This work is currently being pursued as an international collaboration. Congratulations to Dr. Simmen and his team on their discovery!

### 3. INVESTIGATING CELLS WITH TUMOUR-KILLING CAPACITIES

Gamma delta T-cells ( $\gamma\delta$  T cells) are special types of T-cells that kill many cancers, including breast cancer. Therapies based on these  $\gamma\delta$  T cell levels are being studied because they are associated with better patient outcomes.

### Dr. Lynne-Marie Postovit and her

team at the University of Alberta are learning exactly how these cells recognize breast cancer targets. They have learned which proteins on breast cancer cells are contacted by special receptors on  $\gamma\delta$  T cells enabling



them to kill the tumour cells. However, tumour cells seem to protect themselves by producing a certain protein called Nodal – which is associated with poor patient outcomes. Nodal was shown to affect the maturity of the  $\gamma\delta$  T cell, and decrease its efficiency against cancer. As a result, when breast cancer cells make more Nodal, the  $\gamma\delta$  T cells have a harder time killing these cells. The reverse is also true. If Nodal expression is suppressed in breast cancer cells, then  $\gamma\delta$  T cells can kill cancer more easily. This study of Nodal and  $\gamma\delta$  T cells will help improve  $\gamma\delta$  T cell therapies, while deepening the understanding of Nodal's role in breast cancer.



### 4. PERSONALIZING TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS WITH OVARIAN CANCER

Dr. Anne-Marie Mes-Masson, 2015 recipient of a jointly funded Ovarian Cancer Canada/Cancer Research Society Operating Grant, has already achieved outstanding results in her research funded by generous donors! With her collaborator Dr. Diane Proven-



cher and their teams at the University of Montreal Health Centre, Research Centre (CRCHUM) in Quebec, she recently published a paper in *Oncotarget*, a highly respected scientific journal. Their results show that PARP inhibitors, a new class of drugs for ovarian cancer, do not work in all women with mutations in their BRCA genes. While trying to uncover factors that affect treatment response, Dr. Mes-Masson and her colleagues discovered that defects in other cellular pathways affect the maximum benefit of these treatments. This work has allowed the team to propose a new model to distinguish patients who are likely to benefit from this class of drugs from women who will not respond to treatment and will therefore need different therapeutic approaches.

### 5. TREATMENTS OF CHILDHOOD CANCERS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON SURVIVING ADULTS

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is the most frequent cancer in children, and up to 80% of cases can be cured. However, many of these children may be at risk of experiencing treatment-related side effects as adults. This is what a group of pediatric cancer researchers is trying to determine.

Dr. Daniel Sinnett, a researcher at the Centre de recherche du CHU Sainte-Justine in Montreal, is leading a project studying the late effects of childhood cancer treatments. This project is an initiative by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, funded in



part by Cancer Research Society donors. The current data shows that some childhood ALL survivors seem to suffer from problems often encountered in older patients, indicating that the treatment they received for their cancer as children may trigger premature aging. There is a pressing need to address the childhood-to-adult transition in these ALL survivors. Dr. Sinnett and his team are currently studying this phenomenon. "I was inspired by my motherin-law's battle with ovarian cancer in the early 1990s. I came away with a strong sense that the way forward was to engage the patient's immune system to recognize and attack the cancer."

**Dr. Brad Neslon** Vancouver, BC



### 6. THE GRePEC PROGRAM

The goal of the GRePEC Program (Research and Prevention Group on Environment-Cancer) is to support research teams and major research projects which study the links between the environment and cancer. This GRePEC program is made possible because of contributions from our donors, the Government of Quebec, and Rio Tinto Alcan. Three major research projects have been funded by the GRePEC program since its start, and two salary bursary awards have been granted.

These GRePEC salary awards allow two Quebec universities (University of Montreal and McGill University) to create new epidemiologist positions. As a result, **Dr. Scott Weichenthal** and **Dr. Vikki Ho** were each offered a five-year salary award in 2016.

"Outdoor air pollution is a complex mixture of gases and particles emitted by a diverse range of sources including traffic, industry, and other combustion processes. My research program seeks to identify new environmental risk factors for cancer in-



cidence and other chronic illnesses that can be targeted for regulatory/non-regulatory interventions to improve public health. Over the next four years, my program will provide state of the art information on exposure-disease associations that have not been previously examined and will provide innovative advances to air pollution exposure assessment for population-based studies. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address an important public health concern in Canada and around the world."

Dr. Scott Weichenthal, McGill University

"This salary award has made my program of research on environmentcancer a reality. As a junior investigator, having support from the Cancer Research Society has enabled me to work at the University of Montreal and CRCHUM as part of a world-renowned



team of researchers passionate about cancer prevention. Our research team consists of experts in cancer epidemiology, occupational hygiene, clinical medicine and biostatistics. The opportunity to focus on the environment-cancer relationship through a multi-disciplinary approach, which I strongly believe is the future of science, would have been impossible without the support of the donors of the Cancer Research Society. A sincere thank-you to the donors for investing in improving the health of Canadians through the identification of lifestyle and environmental factors that can be modified to prevent cancer from occurring in the first place."

Dr. Vikki Ho, University of Montreal

# IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE **NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS**

We often hear about Canada losing its best and brightest to the United States or elsewhere. Canadian science loses when this happens.

The Cancer Research Society thinks this "brain drain" is an important societal issue, so much so that it has established a scholarship to help retain the most talented cancer researchers in Canada. The Society wants Canadian researchers to stay in Canada or to come back here to pursue their career after studying or interning abroad.

With this goal in mind, the Scholarship program for the Next Generation of Scientists was born. The program has two components and covers a three-year period. The first component is a one-year postdoctoral salary awarded to a candidate completing his or her fellowship. The second is an operating grant (for a maximum of two years and non-renewable) awarded once the candidate has obtained a faculty position at a recognized Canadian institution.

Description		Annual Amount
1 <sup>st</sup> phase		
Postdoctoral fellowship for Postdoctoral Researcher	Year 1	\$40,000

2 <sup>nd</sup> phase		
Operating Grant	Year 2	\$60,000
for Researcher	Year 3	\$60,000

Total	\$160,000

During the 2016 financial year, the Cancer Research Society awarded four grants to young and talented researchers.

"I was very happy and fortunate to receive the Scholarship for the Next Generation of Scientists from the Cancer Research Society. It played a critical role in obtaining my current position as Assistant Professor at Université de Sherbrooke. My research



goal is to understand how cancer treatments affect the immune system so that better immune-boosting treatments can be given to Canadians with cancer in order to prevent cancer spread and improve survival. I really appreciate this funding support to kick-start my research career."

Lee-Hwa Tai, PhD Awardee 2016 University of Sherbrooke, QC

"Cancer affects so many Canadians in different ways. There is an unquenchable need to increase our understanding of the many facets of the disease. Cancer research is definitely an aim worth pursuing. My research looks at how cancer cells grow



and die. Cells receive signals to tell them whether to grow and divide, to morph into a specific cell type (e.g., a muscle cell or a neuron), or even to die. These signals are transmitted by classes of proteins, known as enzymes, which modify other proteins. In many cancers, such as melanoma, there is an abundance of enzymes responsible for acetyl modification and of proteins that recognize this modification. Drugs that target these processes are being developed and are promising. My funded research will help me define how acetyl recognition works in melanoma and to identify which proteins implicated in the acetylation process are appropriate targets for therapies. In the end, this information will help us come up with better treatments."

Jean-Philippe Lambert, PhD Awardee 2016 University of Toronto, ON "My research focuses on glioblastoma, a lethal and incurable brain tumour, with an average survival of only 11 to 13 months. These tumours have a very specific way of packaging their DNA and if this packaging is disrupted, we can reduce or eliminate the ability of



cancer cells to grow. This Scholarship from the Cancer Research Society will allow me and my team to better understand how these molecules affect DNA packaging in cancer cells. The final goal is to develop new therapies that target this cancer- specific DNA packaging and the responsible molecules. This approach is a significant departure from current treatments and gives us hope to achieve better clinical outcomes for patients by cutting the tumour at its roots."

Marco Gallo, PhD Awardee 2016 University of Calgary, AB "Cancer stem cells (CSC), thought of as the root of cancers, are the rare population of cancer cells responsible for tumour initiation and formation. Previous work has revealed the existence of a unique pattern of chromosome organization in CSC, responsible for the



aberrant expression of genes that normally prevent a cell from becoming cancerous. G9a is a protein that promotes the establishment of this CSC pattern and, as such, represents a possible therapeutic target for eradicating cancer. With the support of the Scholarship received from the Society, I am planning to identify non-toxic, new molecules that inhibit the activity of G9a and alter the function of CSC, without affecting the integrity of normal cells. Ultimately, my work may lead to a new therapeutic option aimed at selectively targeting cancers and increasing patient survival rates. This fundamental work could not be accomplished without the support of the Cancer Research Society and its generous donors!"

Yannick D. Benoit, PhD Awardee 2016 McMaster University, ON



### **PARTNERS** WORKING TOGETHER FOR A CURE

Our partners make it possible for us to move cancer research forward. With their support, we can fund more and more cancer research.

- Alberta Innovates
- Andy Chabot Research Fund
- Atlantic Cancer Research Institute (ACRI)
- Bergeron-Jetté Foundation
- C17 Council
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Cancer Research Society Division of Epidemiology at McGill University
- CancerCare Manitoba Foundation
- Carcinoid-NeuroEndocrine Tumour Society Canada
- Charlotte Légaré
   Memorial Fund
- CURE FoundationEnvironment-Cancer
- Fund™, Cancer Research Society
- Exactis Innovation
- Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS)
- Ganotec/Marc-André Pigeon Research Fund
- Give for the Cure
- ISAIAH 40:31 Memorial Fund
- Kathryn Jeanne Randle
   Memorial Fund
- Marjolaine Bazinet-Michel Caya Research Fund

- Merck Canada
- Ministère de l'Économie, de la Science et de
- l'Innovation du Québec
- Myeloma Canada
- New Brunswick Health Research Foundation
- Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- Ovarian Cancer Canada
- Pancreatic Cancer Canada
- PROCURE Biobank/ Cancer Research Society Partnership
- Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation
- R. Howard Webster Foundation
- Read for the Cure
- Rio Tinto Alcan
- Rob Lutterman
- Memorial Fund • Steven E. Drabin
- Research Fund
- The Guzzo Environment-Cancer Research Chair of the Cancer Research Society in partnership with the Université de Montréal
   University of Alberta
- University of Alberta
   University of Calgary
- University of Calgary
   University of Ottawa

### We also want to thank our new partners.

- Ann Matyas Memorial Fund
- Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute

• Breast Cancer Society

Benoit Gagnon

of Canada

**Research Fund** 

- Daniel Primeau Research Fund
- Jean Doré Research Fund
   Dina Drimoau Momorial
- Rina Primeau Memorial Fund



From left to right: Marjorie Gagnon (daughter of Benoit Gagnon), Dr. Moutih Rafei (researcher at the University of Montreal), Janique Gagnon (daughter of Benoit Gagnon), François Gagnon (son of Benoit Gagnon), Andy Chabot (President and CEO, Cancer Research Society).

### BENOIT GAGNON RESEARCH FUND

Mr. Benoit Gagnon was a generous donor of the Cancer Research Society. He passed away in January 2015, only months after a diagnosis of T-cell prolymphocytic leukemia (T-PLL), a rare and aggressive tumour. Before his death, Mr. Gagnon expressed his wish to contribute to research on this type of rare cancer. In honour of his wishes, his wife and children created the Benoit Gagnon Research Fund in 2016. To date, this fund has amassed enough financing to support a research projected by Dr. Moutih Rafei, a professor in Pharmacology at the University of Montreal. His funded research will focus on improving the outcomes of bone marrow transplants in patients with leukemia.

"I want to thank the Gagnon family for their exceptional generosity. I would also like to thank the Cancer Research Society, which evaluated my research project and awarded it a joint grant with the Benoit Gagnon Research Fund. Be assured that we will continue to work tirelessly over the next few years to fight the terrible disease that is cancer."

#### Dr. Moutih Rafei University of Montreal, QC

12

## THE VALUE OF **WORKING TOGETHER**

### THE GROWTH OF PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

Personalized treatments, including immune- and gene-targeted therapies, can help deliver clinical benefits to suitable patients, while sparing others from needless treatments.

However, studies designed to test experimental medications need to have enough patients screened in order to identify only those suitable for treatment with personalized medicine. This can become a difficult and costly barrier against finding such treatments.

The Cancer Research Society knows the importance of personalized medicine.

### PUTTING OUR MONEY TO ACTION

In April 2016, personalized medicine in Canada received a \$4 million boost through the Cancer Research Society, representatives from Merck Canada, and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation. Thanks to donors across the country, the Cancer Research Society was able to contribute to this exciting personalized medicine program.

The Personalize My Treatment program, or PMT, was developed by Exactis, a national not-for-profit organization, with funds from public and private sectors. Partly funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Exactis identifies specific categories of patients based on patient blood and tissue samples. These samples will be part of a database stratifying patients according to their shared molecular properties; the information will allow researchers to quickly identify patient-treatment matches. Ultimately, this innovation will decrease the number of unnecessary treatments and biopsies, and reduce the incidence of side effects because the chosen treatment will be specifically tailored to each patient).

This announcement is a testament to the power of collaboration and to the potential for research to improve patient care. The Cancer Research Society is proud to have been part of this initiative since its inception.

Left to right: Andy Chabot, Cancer Research Society; Bruno Battistini, NB Health Research Foundation; Jennifer Chan, Merck Canada; The Honourable Victor Boudreau, NB Minister of Health; Gerald Batist, Exactis Innovation; The Honourable Brian Gallant, NB Premier; Chirfi Guindo, Merck Canada; Rodney Ouellette, Atlantic Cancer Research Institute.





### OUR **FUNDING** ACROSS CANADA

Here is a list of institutions that have received funding from the Cancer Research Society in the fiscal year 2015-2016.

- British Columbia Cancer Agency
- CancerCare Manitoba
- Centre de recherche du CHUM (CRCHUM) -Institut du cancer de Montréal
- Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)
- Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec (CHUQ)
- Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke (CHUS)
- Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute
- Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont
- Hôpital Sainte-Justine
- Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)
- Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM)
- Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)
- Lady Davis Institute Jewish General Hospital
- McGill University
- McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)
- McMaster University
- Mount Sinai Hospital Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute
- Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- (formerly Ottawa Health Research Institute)
- Queen's University
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- Université de Montréal
- Université de Sherbrooke
- Université Laval
- University Health Network (UHN)
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia

University of Calgary

- University of Guelph
- University of Manitoba
- University of Ottawa
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Toronto
- University of Victoria
- University of Windsor
- Western University

"The Cancer Research Society has shown its understanding of the importance of fundamental research in accomplishing the multifaceted feat of curing cancer. We are very grateful for this support and feel that the Society and its donors should be congratulated for their devotion to the cancer cause."

**Dr. Thomas Moss, PhD** Centre de recherche du CHUQ, QC

### OUR EXPERT COMMITTEES

### We depend on our committees to ensure that we fund the best and most innovative research

projects in cancer. Our experts also act as our ambassadors throughout Canada in the cancer research community. Our teams are strong and include the most distinguished Canadian scientific and medical researchers in oncology.

#### SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This committee of experts advises the Cancer Research Society on the choice of its scientific orientations.

Dr. Ivan Robert Nabi (President) Dr. Dwayne Barber Dr. Mark Basik

Andy Chabot<sup>2</sup> Dr. Eduardo Franco Dr. Douglas Gray

- Dr. Lynne-Marie Postovit
- Lucille Beaudet<sup>1</sup> Dr. Donna Senger
- <sup>1</sup> Scientific Advisor, Cancer Research Society

<sup>2</sup> President and Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Research Society

#### MEDICAL EXPERT COMMITTEE

These experts help to increase visibility and to position the Cancer Research Society as an invaluable reference when it comes to answering questions

related to cancer. Dr. Rebecca Auer Dr. Mark Basik Dr. Julie Carrier Dr. Louis Gaboury Dr. Karen Gelmon Dr. Anand Ghanekar Dr. Michelle Ghert

- Dr. Wassim Kassouf Dr. Denis Soulières
- Dr. Christian Steidl
- Dr. Jean-Luc Urbain
- Dr. Peter Watson
- Dr. George Zogopoulos
- GRANT APPLICATIONS EVALUATION COMMITTEES

In order to ensure a fair and proper administration of grants, the Cancer Research Society has established a rigorous selection process that is carried out by our committees of experts, so that our grants are awarded to the best researchers and most innovative research projects across Canada.

"The goal of the Cancer Research Society is to fund innovative projects in cancer research. I am honoured to be a grant reviewer for the Society. I see first-hand the excellence that exists in Canada. We should be proud of the research prowess that exists in



this country. Being involved with the Society allows me to use my knowledge to advance cancer research even further!"

Dr. Mark Basik, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec Member of the Medical Expert Committee, and the Scientific Advisory Committee, and Reviewer

#### **EXPERT GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Dr. Jean-François Côté Dr. Jean-Sébastien Delisle Dr. Jim Dimitroulakos Dr. Peter A. Greer

Dr. Jeffrey Medin Dr. Morag Park Donna Senger

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Dr. George Zogopoulos

Dr. David LeBrun

### OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Donations and fundraising activities are among the initiatives used by the Cancer Research Society to finance the best research projects across Canada.

Here is a snapshot of some of our fundraising activities during the 2015-2016 year.

### CRS CHALLENGE<sup>™</sup> PROGRAM

The CRS Challenge<sup>™</sup> program is a series of fundraising travel campaigns for the Cancer Research Society. Program participants have the opportunity to take on physically challenging expeditions in exotic locations, and in the process dig a little deeper into their own souls.

Congratulations to Monique Leblanc for participating in the greatest number of Challenges. So far, she has raised over \$100,000 for the cause!



Monique Leblanc

### WITH HOPE IN EACH STEP, THESE FOUR SISTERS WALK!

Ten years ago, Michelle, Caitlyn, April and Cassandra lost their mother, Sandy Joyce Passchier, to cancer – a cancer that started as breast cancer in 1995 and spread to her lymphatic system and sternum. Since that time, these four natives of Ontario have been determined to raise as much money as they can to fight cancer!

Since they began their fundraising efforts with the Cancer Research Society, the Passchier sisters have raised over \$65,000 for research on nutrigenomics - the science of how nutrition and genes interact, especially in the prevention or treatment of disease.

"When we walk, it's about walking for a cause and putting the maximum amount of money into research without getting anything in return. We are a third party event for the Cancer Research Society, and since we do the work the Society has agreed to give 100% of the money we raise to cancer research in the field of our choice," explained **Michelle Kuipery**. "Our mom was a fundraiser, so I know she would be happy."

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### CYCLO-GOLF 2016

Golfers and cyclists joined forces for the first time and raised \$210,000 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cyclo-Golf Classic to benefit the Cancer Research Society. Presented by McKesson Canada and Scotiabank, this event was held at the Elm Ridge Country Club, Ile Bizard, Quebec.

"More research is essential if we are going to improve the ways we prevent, detect, and treat the disease," stated Board Member Mike Bouchard, who cycled in honour of his mother, who had breast cancer.

The newly introduced cycling component allowed the Classic to gather a record 200 participants.

Since its inception in 1994, the Classic has raised more than \$2.5 million for cancer research.

### URBAN BBQ<sup>™</sup> 2016: AN APPETITE FOR RESEARCH SURPASSING ALL EXPECTATIONS!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Urban BBQ<sup>™</sup>, the most important signature fundraiser to benefit the Cancer Research Society, was held on May 25 with over 800 attendees from the Montreal business and artistic communities. Presented by RBC Royal Bank, this event held at Windsor Station raised \$425,000.

"We view health as a priority and because of this we support this cause, both financially and voluntarily, with the aim of raising as much money as we can to fund the best research in Canada," stated Martin Thibodeau, President, Quebec Headquarters, RBC Royal Bank, and Honorary Chairman of the Urban BBQ<sup>™</sup>.

Thank you to all our third-party event champions this year! Together, we work toward finding a cure for cancer!

- 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Saint-Lambert Games
- 3 days base camp hiking trip to explore the South Rim of the Grand Canyon
   Bibby Financial Services employees
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Vicki Woloschuck Memorial Golf Tournament
- Alexandra Lavoie « Big bad band » show
- Brooks Roadrunner
   Football Club
- Buzz it AlOff in memory of my mother (Al La Cavera)
- Casa Saint-Eugène
- Chantal Leblanc
   Tennis Event
- Chicks with stix
- Geneviève Pagé -Journée Bougez Santé !
- Hope for Life Ball
- LaSalle Legion Dart Tournament
- Lave-auto pour une grande cause - Chocolaterie St-Philippe
- Les fantaisies de Lili
- Lucie Asselin Bowl-a-thon
- Marche Domaine du Rêve
  Marchethon de la Croix
- Marchethon de la croix de Secours Arménienne
  Marie-France Cartier -
- On pose pose pause pour la cause

- Marjolaine Bazinet Michel Caya Memorial Fund
- Molly & William St-Hilaire
- Fundraising activity
- Nail the cancer 2015
   Omnium de golf
- David Boutin • Patty Shapiro's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration in memory of Douglas Brian Shapiro
- Ras-le-coco du cancer
- Read for the Cure
- Rob Lutterman Ski for a Cure
- Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 266, Pierre-Boucher
- Scotiabank Charity
- Challenge • Soirée à la mémoire de Jean Doré à Pointe à Caillère
- Soirée spectacle -
- Marie-Ève Gauthier
- Step Up for the Cure -
- Vanier-Massey High School • Vente de bijoux M.
- et Mme Gervais • Vente de pâtisseries -
- Location Park Avenue • Walk 4 a cure
- .....
- Urban BBQ<sup>™</sup> 2016. From left to right: Terrence Galarneau (RBC), Domenic Pilla, Stéphane Rousseau, Martin Thibodeau (RBC), Tony Loffreda (RBC), Andy Chabot (Cancer Research Society).
- 2. The Passchier sisters. From left to right: Caitlyn Passchier, Cassandra Vedder, Michelle Kuipery, and April Douwes.
- 3. Participants of the Rob Lutterman Ski for a Cure event: From left to right: Jack Kivenko, Ralph Lipper, Rob Lutterman's grandson Ryder Lippman, Elliott Lippman, Randy Lutterman, Jonathan Finkelstein, John Ramsbottom, and Sonia Chatoyan.
- 4. Cyclists from the Cyclo-Golf Classic 2016.
- 5. Read for the Cure event, 2016.











## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Thank you to our donors whose names appear below, and to those who have wished to remain anonymous. Your gifts have supported the cause of cancer research during the 2016 fiscal year.

### \$100,000 AND ABOVE

- Alberta Health Services
- Alberta Innovates
- CURE Foundation • Fonds de recherche
- du Québec Santé
- Lemaire Family Foundation
- Merck Canada Inc.
- Mirella & Lino Saputo Foundation

### \$25,000 TO \$99,999

- Bell Canada
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- Breast Cancer Society of Canada
- CancerCare Manitoba
- CN's Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund

#### \$10,000 TO \$24,999

- BMO Bank of Montreal
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18

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You are one of over 188,000 individual donors who have financially supported the mission of the Cancer **Research Society. THANK YOU!** 

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"Cancer research is important. We all know that lives

are extended because of research. About 16 years

ago, my wife and I were diagnosed with cancer.

Unfortunately, she lost her battle three years ago.

Making my gift to cancer research brings me great

satisfaction. I know that in some way I am helping.

Research makes a difference and so do my gifts to

"My wife was a longtime supporter of the Cancer

Research Society and we talked about supporting

the cause even after she was gone. I always feel good

about my gifts to the Cancer Research Society. I talk

about it a lot to my morning coffee group here in Sturgeon Falls. Many people don't seem interested in

talking about research, but I think it's so important!

Researchers are not only finding ways to cure cancer,

but are also finding ways for people with cancer

to live longer! I'm encouraging my whole family to

support cancer research and making this a family

Gabriel Primeau, Sturgeon Falls, ON

the Cancer Research Society."

affair!"

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### OUR FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

The financial statements for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2016 show a solid performance with an increased contribution to research. The slight reduction of revenue is attributed mainly to decreased estate giving, an item that is conjectural and beyond the Society's ability to control. Being mindful of optimizing revenues and cancer research, the Society has been actively pursuing new partnership initiatives. This in turn has permitted an increase in both the number of research projects supported by the Society across Canada (to 172) and its contribution to research, which stands at \$14.1 million or \$1.2 million above the previous year.

Financial Activities		2016			2015	
As at August 31, 2016 (in thousands \$)	GENERAL FUND \$	RESTRICTED FUNDS \$	TOTAL \$	GENERAL FUND \$	RESTRICTED FUNDS \$	TOTAL \$
REVENUES						
Donations from public	11,014		11,014	11,027		11,027
Major and planned gifts	1,562	444	2,006	3,499		3,499
Fundraising projects and partnerships	1,885	4,686	6,571	1,972	5,520	7,492
Investment income, realized	1,988	7	1,995	1,801		1,801
Change in unrealized gain/ (loss) on investments	(52)		(52)	423		423
	16,397	5,137	21,534	18,722	5,520	24,242
EXPENSES						
Research grants	6,380	7,741	14,121	5,246	7,680	12,926
Administration	1,575		1,575	1,394		1,394
	7,955	7,741	15,696	6,640	7,680	14,320
Campaign expenses	6,255	8	6,263	5,906	25	5,931
	14,210	7,749	21,959	12,546	7,705	20,251
"Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues) before amortization and after	2 107	(2 (12)		C 17C	(2105)	7 001
research grants"	2,187	(2,612)	(425)	6,176	(2,185)	3,991
Amortization of property, equipment and software	49		49	69		69
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues) after research grants	2,138	(2,612)	(474)	6,107	(2,185)	3,922



The Society received official accreditation through the Imagine Canada Standard program, which is awarded to organizations that demonstrate excellence in Board Governance, Financial Accountability and Transparency, Fundraising, Staff Management, and Volunteer Involvement.

Administration costs have remained stable at 7% versus 6% in 2015, the slight increase being mainly accounted for by lower estate giving revenue as mentioned above. With a healthy balance sheet and total assets of \$31.8 million, the Society is well-positioned to meet all its short- and long-term research commitments. The Cancer Research Society is one of 200 charitable organizations in Canada accredited under the Standards Program of Imagine Canada, the umbrella organization of the Canadian

charitable and not-for-profit sector. We take this accreditation status very seriously, as its compliance attests to the Cancer Research Society's highest standards of governance and integrity.

Through the Imagine Canada Standard program, the Society received official accreditation, which is awarded to organizations that demonstrate excellence in Board governance, financial accountability and transparency, ethical fundraising, staff management, and volunteer involvement.

Financial Position		2016		2015
As at August 31, 2016 (in thousands \$)	GENERAL FUND \$	RESTRICTED FUNDS \$	TOTAL \$	TOTAL \$
ASSETS CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash	1,308	4,231	5,539	5,961
Accrued interest	84		84	95
Receivables	86		86	138
Prepaid expenses	239		239	257
Other assets	40		40	38
	1,757	4,231	5,988	6,489
Marketable securities	25,675		25,675	25,658
Fixed assets	185		185	232
	27,617	4,231	31,848	32,379
LIABILITIES LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT	27,617	4,231	31,848	32,379
	<b>27,617</b> 536	4,231	<b>31,848</b> 536	<b>32,379</b> 564
LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT		4,231		
LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	536	4,231	536	564
LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	536 691	4,231	536 691	564 720
<b>LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT</b> Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred contributions	536 691	4,231	536 691	564 720
LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred contributions FUND BALANCES Invested in property, equipment	536 691 <b>1,227</b>	4,231	536 691 <b>1,227</b>	564 720 <b>1,284</b>
LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred contributions FUND BALANCES Invested in property, equipment and software	536 691 <b>1,227</b>		536 691 <b>1,227</b> 185	564 720 <b>1,284</b> 232
LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred contributions <b>FUND BALANCES</b> Invested in property, equipment and software Endowment	536 691 <b>1,227</b>	116	536 691 <b>1,227</b> 185 116	564 720 <b>1,284</b> 232 115
LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred contributions <b>FUND BALANCES</b> Invested in property, equipment and software Endowment Externally restricted	536 691 <b>1,227</b>	116 3,936	536 691 <b>1,227</b> 185 116 3,936	564 720 <b>1,284</b> 232 115 3,687
LIABILITIES, ALL CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Deferred contributions <b>FUND BALANCES</b> Invested in property, equipment and software Endowment Externally restricted Internally restricted	536 691 <b>1,227</b> 185	116 3,936	536 691 <b>1,227</b> 185 116 3,936 179	564 720 <b>1,284</b> 232 115 3,687 123

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