



75 Years

of
Serving
Cancer
Research

2019-2020 ■ Annual Report



"This year

the Cancer Research Society celebrated its 75th anniversary. So many years of funding some of the most promising research projects, supporting the work of outstanding researchers and maintaining our place as a leader in the Canadian cancer research community."

Manon Pepin ■ President and Chief Executive Officer

Summary



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A Message from the President of the Board of Directors



François Painchaud ■
President of the Board of Directors

As President of the Society's Board of Directors, I am proud to present you with the Cancer Research Society's 2019-2020 Annual Report. The tremendous work the team accomplished during this year marked by an unprecedented global health crisis is amply clear.

Throughout 2019-2020, the Society celebrated an important historical milestone: 75 years of dedication to our mission- a mission which has remained unchanged since its founders **Betty Caplan, Hattie Rolbin, Mildred Singer** and **Etta Kastner** decided to focus on research to prevent, detect and treat cancer.

Despite many of our activities having been affected by the pandemic, which led to decreased revenues following the cancellation of a few in-person fundraisers, the Society nevertheless continued its work through virtual activities and thanks to the immense generosity of thousands of donors and loyal partners.

Furthermore, we are so pleased that the meetings with project evaluation committees could be held in spite of the circumstances, thus making it possible for us to award grants and bursaries to 74 research projects for a wide variety of cancers. Three very promising research projects are presented later in this document.

If there is a lesson that the pandemic has taught us, it is that one of our strengths resides in the diversity of our approaches. Whether through mass mailing, digital fundraising campaigns, numerous varied events or strategic initiatives, now more than ever we must stay the course so that our journey can continue to evolve.

As the Society celebrates its 75th birthday and its full coming of age, the Society has demonstrated a great capacity for reinventing itself, innovation, finding solutions and implementing new ways of doing things. These transformations bode well for the future.

We were also pleased to welcome three new administrators to our board, namely **Ghassan Deko, Sean O'Brien** and **Marie Valcourt**. Their expertise and respective experience will undoubtedly be beneficial to the organization's mission of defeating cancer.

In closing, I would like to thank our President and Chief Executive Officer, **Manon Pepin**, and her team for the excellence with which they have guided the Society through the most uncertain and unparalleled of circumstances. We will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever and while the coming years will still have their share of challenges, they will undoubtedly be auspicious.



Manon Pepin ■

President and Chief Executive Officer

A Message from the President and Chief Executive Officer

In 2019 and 2020, the Cancer Research Society celebrated its 75th anniversary. Despite the upheaval in our lives caused by the pandemic surrounding COVID-19, it has been a unique opportunity to acknowledge the unparalleled contributions of so many people who have supported our mission over the years. These 75 years dedicated to the service of cancer research have allowed us to highlight the progress that has been made by our researchers throughout the country and the real impacts the Society has made since its very beginning.

A NEW MILESTONE

Celebrating 75 years is about delving into the history of a Society that reminds us of the vision once held by four women who chose to focus on science. Throughout the months marked by the Society's anniversary, we have underscored the importance of the work done by people who have dedicated themselves to the cause. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Celebrating a 75th anniversary is about taking the time to fully acknowledge and appreciate the commitment of a vast network of contributors. First of all, allow me to thank the donors without whom we would not be able to achieve such remarkable results. You assist us in our mission and make support for cancer research both possible and tangible.

In addition to our generous donors who believe in our cause, numerous corporate partners provide us with invaluable support by investing their time, energy and financial resources. They are proving to be essential allies that will allow us to fund targeted, ambitious projects to fight cancer.

I would be remiss if I did not speak about the indispensable community of researchers who drive research progress forward on a daily basis. Thanks to you, the prospects for cancer survivorship have never been better. We can count on you at all times, because in spite of the advances, you know the road ahead better than anyone. I would also like to thank the more than hundred members of the project evaluation committees who volunteer their valuable time to recommend research that will be beneficial to the entire scientific ecosystem.

A RENEWED TEAM AND A DEDICATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the year that just drew to a close, the Society solidified its foundations by renewing a portion of its board of directors. I am delighted to be able to count on them and on the entire staff who is more motivated than ever to fulfill our objectives. I would also like to underscore the continued support, encouragement and dedication shown by the members of the Board of Directors presided by **François Painchaud**.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

The pandemic may currently be at the forefront of our minds, cancer, however, will not be taking a break. So, we cannot let our guard down, this disease remains the country's most deadly. This health crisis has shown us that scientific research is the key to resolving health issues such as cancer.

With that in mind, the 2022-2027 strategic plan will be at the heart of the coming years' actions, based on the premise that cancer research is more essential than ever.

OUR MISSION ■ The Cancer Research Society is a pan-Canadian non-profit organization whose mission for the past 75 years has been to exclusively fund research on all types of cancer to prevent, detect and treat this disease.

OUR VISION ■ Our vision is to outsmart cancer by focusing on research. It is the key to fighting this disease.

OUR PROMISE ■ Each donation we collect is exclusively dedicated to research. Each donor can be confident that his or her contribution directly helps a researcher to advance research.

OUR INSPIRATION ■ We draw the inspiration to fulfill our mission from our donors' immense generosity, from our corporate partners' unwavering support, as well as from cutting-edge scientific research.

DETERMINATION ■ Since 1945, the Cancer Research Society has been working steadfastly toward a single goal: outsmarting cancer.

PASSION ■ The Cancer Research Society is committed with conviction, rigour and determination to do everything in its power to help Canadian researchers find solutions to outsmart cancer.

INTEGRITY ■ The Cancer Research Society uses the funds entrusted to it in an efficient and responsible manner, based on strict governance rules, while respecting and protecting the interests of its donors.

INNOVATION ■ The Cancer Research Society supports innovative projects that are creative and based on ground-breaking ideas because the solutions to cancer will come from research.

EXCELLENCE ■ Guided by the highest standards and an uncompromising commitment, the Cancer Research Society seeks to exceed research expectations.

François Painchaud 1
President
Associate Attorney, ROBIC

Heidi Lange 2
Vice-Presidente and Secretary
President, Lange Consultants

Marie Valcourt 3
Treasurer
Audit Partner, KPMG

Ghassan Deko 4
Director
Regional Director, Risk Management,
Commercial Credit Group, Eastern
Canada, RBC Royal Bank

Benoît Durocher 5
Director
Executive Vice-President and Chief Economic
Strategist, Addenda Capital Inc.

Annie Lemieux 6
Director
President, LSR GesDev

Peter McCarthy 7
Director
President and Chief Executive Officer,
BMO Insurance

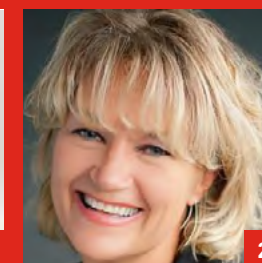
Monique Mercier, AD. E. 8
Director
Attorney

Sean O'Brien 9
Director
Executive Vice-President,
Wealth Management,
iA Financial Group

Dorothy Quann 10
Director
Attorney

Joanna Wilson 11
Director
Executive Vice-President,
National Practice Lead,
Health, Edelman

George Zogopoulos 12
Director
Surgeon, Hepato-pancreato-biliary,
McGill University Health Centre
Associate Professor of Surgery
and Oncology, McGill University



A Committed Board of Directors

The Cancer Research Society is pleased to be able to rely on exceptional people who volunteer their talents and expertise in service of the Society. We sincerely thank them for their involvement.



75 Years of Serving Cancer Research



1945 Inauguration of the Cancer Research Society

In the 1940s, Montrealer **Betty Caplan's** mother was diagnosed with cancer. With the help of her friends **Hattie Rolbin**, **Mildred Singer** and **Etta Kastner**, **Betty Caplan** inaugurated the Cancer Research Society in 1945. The organization was endowed with a single mission: to raise funds to help doctors and researchers find the means to outsmart the disease through research. Betty remained the President of the Society until 1954.

1946 First Grants

Less than a year after its creation, the Cancer Research Society awarded its first four grants each worth **\$600**, an investment equivalent to **\$34,000** in 2020.

1947 A Renowned Researcher

McGill University gynecologist **J. Ernest Ayre** was among the first four beneficiaries of a Society grant. Throughout his career, he was a pioneer in the field of cervical cancer, tasked with perfecting and promoting the Pap test for women. Still today, the Pap test is the best screening tool available to prevent and treat cervical and uterine cancer across the world.

1948 A Major Partner

The Bank of Montreal became a major partner of the Cancer Research Society. This historic partnership allowed the Society to quickly become a key player in funding cancer research in the country. The Society can still count on BMO's invaluable support to this day.



1950 "Come to the game"

In 1950, the Montreal Royals mythical baseball team where greats from the sports hall of fame have played, organized an exhibition game to benefit the Cancer Research Society.

The slogan used to promote the event was a good demonstration of the strong desire to fight cancer **"Come to the game - help strike cancer out!"**.

In the nineteen-forties, **Betty Caplan's** mother was diagnosed with cancer. In discussions with family and friends she learned that they were all affected by cancer in one way or another. She also realized that there was no Canadian organization that focused exclusively on cancer research. In fact, little research was undertaken on the disease in Canada at that time. She wanted to take action.

In 1945, she created the Cancer Research Society with her friends **Etta Kastner**, **Hattie Rolbin** and **Mildred Singer** and endowed the organization with the mission of raising funds to support the doctors and researchers who work to find ways of outsmarting cancer.

Just one year after it was created, the Society awarded its first four grants worth **\$600** each. Since then, the Society has invested over **\$318 million** exclusively to cancer research.

For over 75 years, we have proudly upheld both that mission and our founders' commitment.

We invite you to visit the website celebrating the Society's **75 years of action.**



1950 Inauguration of a Cancer Screening Clinic

Thanks to the Society, the Herbert Reddy Memorial Hospital was inaugurated on October 23, 1950. The two levels of government invested **\$50,000** to redevelop the space and purchase equipment. The Society covers the cost of maintenance, the hiring of a social worker and treatment for certain patients.



1965 Carcino-Embryonic Antigen

Recipients of the Society's grants, **Philip Gold** and **Samuel Freedman** published a study on their revolutionary discovery, Carcino-Embryonic Antigen (CEA), a protein found in 70% of cancer patients that can be detected in blood work. Their discovery made CEA the first significant human tumour marker and it is still the blood test most often used in oncology throughout the world today. Their work significantly contributed to shaping the modern era of cancer immunology and tumour markers.

1970 Research Impacts

At the beginning of the 1960s **Richard Margolese** received funding from the Society for his work on breast cancer screening. Throughout his brilliant career, he led numerous studies that changed the way we treat early-stage breast cancer. He received many distinctions during his career, including the Order of Canada in 1997.



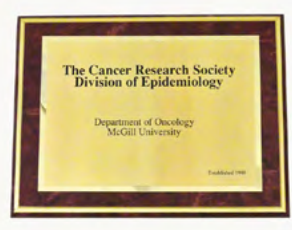
1982 First Woman Researcher Funded by the Society

According to our archives, **Rosemonde Mandeville-Sayeh** was the first woman to receive a grant from the Society. Forty years later, she has published 185 articles in international scientific journals and has supervised the dissertations of close to 80 graduate students.

1984 For the first time, \$1 million were awarded in yearly research grants

1986 A Committed Partner

The CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund has been one of the Society's partners since 1986. Over the years, more than **1 million dollars** have been raised for cancer thanks to their support alone.



1988 Creation of the Epidemiology Division

A **\$1 million** grant was awarded to create the Cancer Research Society's Epidemiology Division at McGill University.

It was at that university that division director **Eduardo Franco** studied the causes of cancer, more specifically cancers associated with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). His team's research proved that vaccination could prevent cervical cancer. It was an important discovery which contributed to the development of the HPV vaccine we know today.

1990s Researchers Who Made Huge Impacts

Thanks to funding received from the Society **Dr. Steven Narod** and **Dr. Patricia Tonin** launched a global collaboration on research into the factors that cause breast and ovarian cancer.

They were part of the team that identified the genes responsible for breast and ovarian cancers, BRCA1 and BRCA2. This discovery now allows us to assess the risk of developing these two types of cancer and to take upstream action to reduce the number of deaths among women who carry the genes.

1997 Close to 7,400 Kilometres in 90 Days for Research

Frances MacGillivray Gougeon raised over **\$35,000** for cancer research by travelling across Canada from Vancouver (British Columbia) to Saint-John's (Newfoundland) on in-line skates in just 90 days.

During her travels, she met many passionate Canadians who, like her, believed that research is our best hope to defeat cancer. Her endeavour made headlines.



1999 The Rob Lutterman Memorial Fund

Rob Lutterman lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in 1999 at the age of 63. His family and a group of his friends decided to organize an annual ski day to celebrate his life, raise money for cancer research

and commemorate Rob's life through his passion: skiing.

The Cancer Research Society's Rob Lutterman Memorial Fund was thus created to promote and finance pancreatic cancer research. It was the first Society fund completely dedicated to defeating this particularly deadly type of cancer.



2002 The Start of the Saint-Lambert Games

Dr. Volker Blank, a researcher at McGill University and beneficiary of a research grant, launched the Saint-Lambert Games to raise funds for research. From its first edition to date, the Saint-Lambert Games have raised over **\$100,000**.



2007 Read for the Cure

Emily Babiak, Christine Biggar, Sara Street and **Susan Culver**, members of a book club in Toronto used their common passion to support research. In 2007, they created Read for the Cure, a unique literary event where booklovers come to share an evening with best-selling authors. Thanks to a generous partnership with Penguin Random House, the Read for the Cure evenings are held in many major Canadian cities and have raised nearly **\$1.6 million** for the Society's Cancer-Environment Fund^{MC} which finances promising research projects that study the environmental causes of cancer.



2009 Our Spokesperson

Stéphane Rousseau celebrated 10 years of involvement in the fight against cancer. Hard hit by cancer at a very young age, he felt compelled by the Society's mission.

Since then, Stéphane has taken on the role of volunteer spokesperson to help create public awareness about the importance of actively supporting cancer research. In addition to taking part in many of the Society's events, in 2020 Stéphane launched the 4th edition of the CRS Challenge.

His motivation? Contributing to creating a world where cancer can no longer separate us from our loved ones.



2010 CRS Challenge

The CRS Challenge offers the general public the means to take meaningful action against cancer by physically surpassing themselves and raising money for the cause.

Carefully elaborated, these challenges of approximately 10 days can include hiking

in never-before-seen places and mythical mountain climbing from one side of the globe to the other.

Since its inception in 2010, the CRS Challenge has attracted over one thousand participants and has raised over **\$7 million** for research.



2013 Urban BBQ: The Summertime Get-Together

Our first Urban BBQ was organized in 2013.

Hosted by the RBC Royal Bank (Quebec), this event welcomes people from Montreal's business community in a friendly and festive atmosphere.

Since its creation, the BBQ has been organized each spring to support the Cancer Research Society.

Thanks to participants and corporate partners, the Urban BBQ has raised over **\$2.5 million**, revelling in the know-how of renowned guest chefs like **Louis-François Marcotte, Ricardo** and **Marc-André Jetté**.

2020 318 Million Thanks

In its 75 years of existence, the Cancer Research Society has never deviated from its 100% research-focused mission. Respected within the pan-Canadian scientific sphere for the uniqueness and excellent quality of the research projects that it supports, the Society is also supported by hundreds of thousands of donors throughout the country, as well as thousands of partners and foundations. Thanks to them, **\$318 million** have been distributed in grants since the Society was created. The colossal work that has been accomplished to date would never have been possible without the support of all those who believed and continue to believe in its mission.

A Year Marked by a Pandemic

2020 was marked by the spread of COVID-19, a pandemic which significantly upended the usual course of our activities.

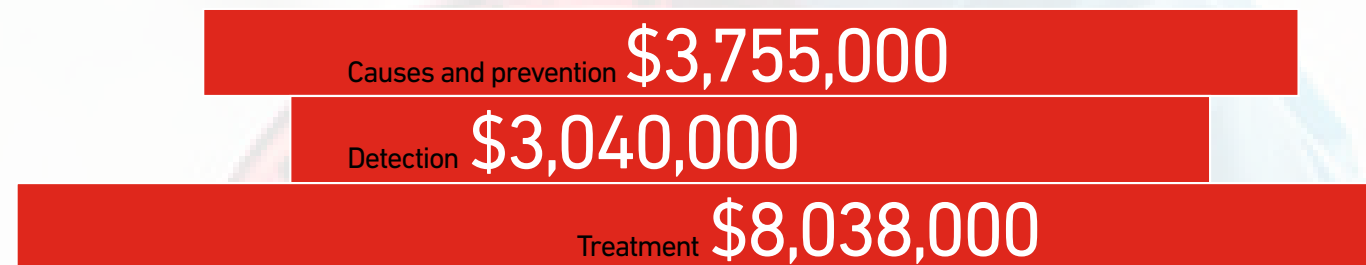
As of mid-March, the Board created a crisis management committee to oversee the continuation of operations and comply with the government's confinement guidelines.

Simultaneously, to bring cancer research back to the forefront within the context of a pandemic, we were particularly present in the media and on social media, launching a digital campaign entitled "**Cancer doesn't take a break**". The goal of the initiative was to remind people that those diagnosed with cancer were among the patients most vulnerable to COVID-19.

As for the previously organized fundraisers, they all had to be cancelled, postponed or reinvented. Among them the Challenge trips across the globe, for which **Stéphane Rousseau** is the spokesperson, were postponed one after the other. The Urban BBQ organized in partnership with the RBC Royal Bank (Quebec) also had to be cancelled.



+ \$14, 8 M Status of Research



Investing for the Future

12 GRANTS FOR EMERGING SCIENTISTS

Since its creation, the Society has distributed over

■ **\$318 million** in the form of research grants thanks to the generosity of partners and donors from all across Canada.

The commitment and support of the general public, major donors and corporate sponsors are at the heart of our mission. They allow us to fund the country's best research projects through a series of funding programs with high impact potential.

Over the years, the Society has built a solid reputation within the scientific community thanks to the quality and rigour of its selection processes which ensure that the most promising research projects get the funding they deserve.

2019-2020 INVESTMENTS \$15 million

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic having paralyzed the country since March of 2020, the Society maintained all of its scientific programs and its funding for research projects into prevention detection and treatment. We are really proud to have been able to maintain our competitions and honour our commitments.

144 operating grants were funded between September 1, 2019, and August 31, 2020. Among these grants, we are proud to point out that 74 new and promising research projects were announced. In addition to these 74 projects, 38 projects were co-funded in partnership with other organizations or thanks to research funds created by families affected by cancer. Besides the grants that were awarded, other projects from previous years continued to receive funding as grants are of a two-year duration.

Note that in 2019, the Cancer Research Society evaluated 357 requests for funding.

FUNDING APPLICATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Each year the Society gathers researchers together to evaluate research project proposals as part of the Operating Grants and Scholarship for the Next Generation of Scientists competitions.

In spite of the pandemic, seven virtual evaluation committee meetings with over 100 researchers from all across the country were held between April and June of last year to evaluate the projects. The virtual endeavour was quite conclusive.

The Society would like to thank all of the experts who invested their time and energy to conduct an exhaustive assessment of applications. Their dedication and collaboration with our mission is most appreciated.

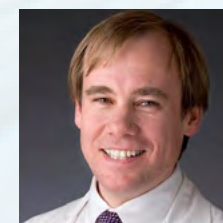
AN IMPORTANT INVESTMENT IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN ONCOLOGY

An important step in a new joint initiative by the Cancer Research Society, Oncopole, MEDTEQ and the Institut TransMedTech was made in December of 2019 with the announcement of the Onco-Tech Competition recipients.



For the first time in Quebec's history, the Onco-Tech competition brought together industrial leaders and researchers to improve patients' lives by offering the oncology sector cutting-edge equipment.

This major **\$2.6 million** grant allowed five selected projects to benefit from targeted expertise which could accelerate the development of innovative medical technologies to outsmart cancer.



Dr. Mark Basik

A NEW PRESIDENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2020, the Society had the privilege of announcing the nomination of **Mark Basik** as President of its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). **Dr. Basik** is a surgical oncologist at the Segal Cancer Centre, a researcher at the Lady Davis Institute and Associate Professor and Herbert Black Professor of Surgical Oncology at McGill University.

His medical practice and research focus on breast cancer treatment and the most invasive and difficult-to-treat forms of the disease.

Dr. Basik and his team study varied approaches to cancer, for example through the use of tumour samples from his patients to determine the genes and proteins that are likely to affect the key elements in the biology of the tumours and their resistance to current treatment. His research aims to establish anchor points for the development of innovative breast cancer therapies.

He is a long-standing partner of the Cancer Research Society. After several years as evaluator reviewer during the assessment and awarding of the Society's operating grants, he became a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee in 2015. The Society is therefore very pleased that he accepted the SAC presidency and wants to work with him to help determine the best scientific priorities for the Society in the coming years.

At the same time, the Society would like to thank **Michel Tremblay, Ph.D.**, for his three-year mandate as President of the SAC. Under his govern and leadership, the Society more than ever reaffirmed its commitment to supporting fundamental research while exploring new avenues such as drug repurposing and translational research.



TO CELEBRATE OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

To highlight this important milestone in our history, the society produced a **televised advertisement** which was broadcast on several television channels from one ocean to the other. This campaign marked the 75th anniversary by reaching out to the various Canadian communities that contribute to funding cancer research. Many other initiatives, the variation of the logo in its 75th anniversary edition, blogs, social media posts, articles – were all used in turn to remind us of this anniversary year.

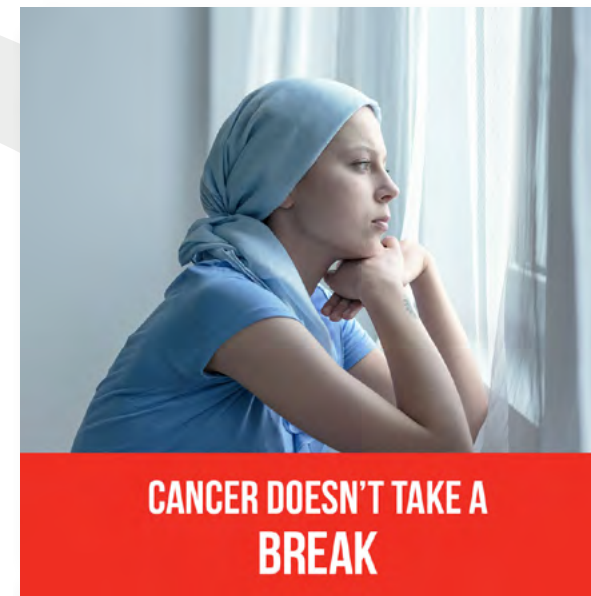
FUND THE UNFUNDED

A very special digital offensive was set up in the spring of 2020, an initiative whose objective was to encourage funding for research which, for various reasons, had not benefitted from financial support.

The campaign was carried out during April and May of 2020 and generated really positive results collecting close to **\$100,000**.

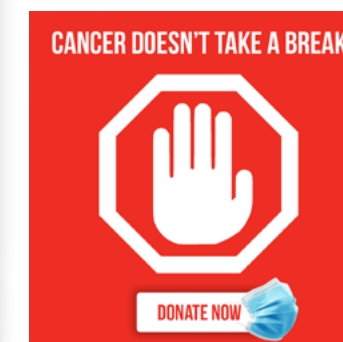


Noteworthy Initiatives



"CANCER DOESN'T TAKE A BREAK"

During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society was quick to react, and multiplied its **"Cancer Doesn't Take a Break"**-themed fundraising, which included **producing a video** and a digital billboard campaign.



A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION WITH RICARDO

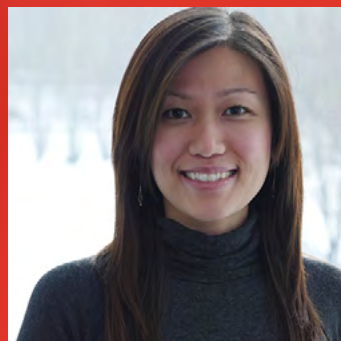
The summer of 2020 led to a collaboration between the Society and Ricardo Media. A fundraiser that was as brief as it was special took place throughout the summer of 2020. For every donation of \$50 or more, donors received a special edition of a magazine with Ricardo's best outdoor recipes. It was an initiative greatly appreciated by gourmets!

Researcher Profiles

Vikki Ho Ph.D. ■

Researcher
Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier
de l'Université de Montréal

"Research is fundamental. It is so important to be able to understand how to prevent the emergence of an illness right from the beginning in order to live longer, healthier lives."



Vikki Ho, a researcher at the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal's research centre, was the recipient of the salary bursary from the Cancer Research Society's Environment-Cancer Research and Prevention Group. She is one of the leading epidemiologists studying the impact of environmental factors on the risk of developing cancer. "I focused my research on prevention and epidemiology in order to analyze and understand the risks to which the population is exposed or the behaviours it could adopt to prevent the possible development of cancer."

Epidemiology requires vast studies on a very large number of people in order to study the frequency and distribution of health problems over time and space, as well as the role of the factors that determine them. By following certain groups within the population over a very long-term, sometimes several decades, epidemiologists can extrapolate information in order to make appropriate changes for the population as a whole.

"The main goal of my research is to study the risks of exposure to toxic products in a workplace and to determine the factors that could prevent cancer."

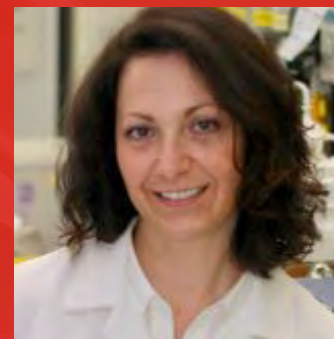
The data emanating from this research will have a real impact on people's lives. That is why it is important that the population is interested in science and that we invest in cancer research. "But cancer is a slow-evolving illness. We need these studies to continue over 10, 20, even 30 years before being able to analyze the effects of exposure to certain chemical products in our workplaces."

Recall that research has proven to be effective. Cancer survival rates have increased according to the type of cancer. In the beginning of the 1990s survival rates were just 55%, now it is closer to 63%. We must therefore continue to fund research projects like those of Dr. Ho. It is the only way to defeat this illness.

"The main goal of my research is to study the risks of exposure to toxic products in a workplace and to determine the factors that could prevent cancer."

Paola Marignani Ph.D. ■

Professor
Dalhousie University



The work of Paola Marignani, Ph.D., who also received a grant from Society, focuses on understanding lung cancer. More specifically, her team studies how two cancer protein suppressors work together to suppress the formation of lung tumours.

Her goal is to develop and apply innovative strategies that will allow us to understand the molecular mechanisms of illnesses.

"Cancer had a direct impact on my life on many levels. The only way for me to concretely contribute to improving cancer patients' quality of life is to use my analytical skills as a scientist to understand the molecular mechanisms that give rise to these illnesses and encourage their recurrence."

"It's thanks to continued support that researchers will discover new, more ingenious and precise means of curbing cancer."

Benjamin Lok Ph.D. ■

Clinical Researcher
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Benjamin Lok, Ph.D., has also been involved in cancer research for very personal reasons.



"Certain people among my family and friends have suffered with cancer. I have seen the suffering that this illness can cause and my research mission is to improve affected patients' outcomes by finding ways to help them live better and longer."

The grant that I received from the Society funds my project that uses a new type of cancer model called "organoid" which uses a 3D environment to allow cancer stem cells to develop. This way, we can test new types of treatment on these lung cancer models to find the best ways of fighting this illness.

"Thank you to all of the donors for their incredible support! Both our community of researchers, and ultimately the patients for whom we conduct the research are so very grateful."

Donors are crucial to the Cancer Research Society. It is thanks to them that we are able to support so much research and researchers and carry out our mission.

Catelyn, Michelle, April and Cassandra Passchier know better than anyone that there will never be enough time with our loved ones, having lost their mother to cancer in 2006. With research at heart, they decided to pay tribute to their mother by raising money for cancer research in 2011.

Donor Profiles



“Our mother was able to remain with us for another 11 years thanks to cancer research. But there is still so much to learn about cancer.”

For close to five years, they took part in races and other fundraising initiatives. However, they realized that with the immense support of their family and friends they were able to raise significant donations. “Our mother was able to remain with us for another 11 years thanks to cancer research, but there is still so much to learn about cancer.”

The Cancer Research Society challenged the Passchier sisters to raise **\$60,000** over four years, sum that would be matched by the Society in order to provide a full Operating Grant to a researcher within a field of their choosing. “It’s amazing! Thanks to this matching the cost is zero; 100% of every dollar will go directly to research. One of the aspects that was really important to us was that everything would go to the cause of our choice.”

The Passchier sisters created an annual event, *Walk 4 a Cure*, as well as other events. Their dedication led them to not only meet, but surpass their objective, raising a total of **\$65,300** in four years.

Michelle, the eldest, then determined which type of research the funds should be dedicated to. They chose nutrigenomics, the study of the relationship between food, health and the human genome. The Isaiah 4:31 Memorial Fund, so named as it was their mother’s favourite Bible verse, was added to the Cancer Research Society’s grants. Following a competition and the evaluation committee members’ recommendations, the research project submitted by **Michael Wilson**, Senior Scientist in Genetics and Genome Biology at Toronto’s SickKids Hospital, was selected.

The Passchier sisters were not only able to fund this innovative research that would not have been possible without the financial support, but they also formed a bond with the researcher, even visiting his laboratory. “It’s really nice to be able to be directly involved. None of us is really associated with the scientific field so it was really cool to see what they do on a daily basis. Everything became all the more real. It’s not like we just made a donation and that was it; researchers do extraordinary work that contributes to advancing research to fight cancer.”

Signature Events



Each year, the Cancer Research Society organizes signature events which shine through their originality and the genuine interest they generate among participants and donors. These events are an opportunity to mobilize the community around the importance of supporting cancer research.

This year, the Society’s event’s sector experienced a number of major challenges: the cancellation of many events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also an obligation to reinvent itself. However, prior to the implementation of the confinement guidelines, a few fundraising activities were held.

READ FOR THE CURE 2019



In October and November of 2019, the Read for the Cure evenings organized in collaboration with our partner Penguin Random House, were very successful. Held in four cities (Ottawa, Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal), they were able to gather 1,100 participants, distribute 3,300 books and raise **\$100,000** for cancer research.

These unique annual fundraisers unite best-selling authors to discuss their recent publications, their writing process and - often - their personal stories about cancer, in an effort to support a worthy cause. Since its inception, Read for the Cure has raised over **\$1.6 million**.

All Read for the Cure proceeds are invested in the Cancer Research Society's Environment-Cancer Fund, which provides financial support for promising research projects that study the environmental causes of cancer.

We would like to thank the many sponsors who contributed to the success of these events, in particular RBC Royal Bank (British Columbia), Andrews Engineer, The BMO Mastercard Affinity Card Program, Paper Label, Westmount

Gallery, Amgen, BMO Bank of Montreal, Lindsay Kenney LLP, Mercedes-Benz Downtown Ottawa and Delmanor.

A REAL CHALLENGE ON MEXICAN SOIL

In early March of 2020, before the pandemic unravelled on the world, a group of five young women undertook their CRS Challenge in Mexico's remote forests as part of the program's 10th anniversary.

This enthralling event helped participants take on a tough challenge for the cause, as well as discover a rich and fascinating history that originated more than 2600 years BCE. From the jungle, to Rancho El Paraiso, then onto the great site of Ek Balam, in Chichén Itzá and many other mythical places in the region. They were able to meet a welcoming people who gracefully shared their culture. Of course, all of the other Challenges planned throughout the course of 2020 had to be postponed. Nonetheless, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to all the participants who registered for the Challenges and who are very much looking forward to taking up their Challenge again and surpassing themselves for a great cause.



ACCORDS CÉLESTES 2019



The second edition of the Accords Célestes took place on October 29th in Montreal with some 350 guests. The evening, carried out in partnership with **Céleste Levure**, raised a net amount of **\$125,000**, the entirety of which was dedicated to cutting-edge cancer research.

Expertly hosted by actor-animator **André Robitaille**, the Accords Célestes evening returned with a bang; boasting a refined triple pairing of food, music and wine. For the occasion, star chef **Antonin Mousseau-Rivard** from the Le Mouso and Le Petit Mouso, created a menu that lived up to his reputation. An eclectic musical ambiance complemented course and singer-songwriter **Charlotte Cardin** crowned the evening accompanied by **Aliocha** in front of a fan-filled crowd. One of the evening's highlights was without a doubt the vibrant tribute to **Stéphane Rousseau**, celebrating his 10-year anniversary as spokesperson for the Cancer Research Society.

The Society would like to thank the evening's major partners who made Accords Célestes possible, including Duchesnay, Olymel, SFL Wealth Management, Benny & Co, La Cage Brasserie sportive, Industries Lassonde and ROBIC.



2020 URBAIN BBQ



PRÉSENTÉ PAR / PRESENTED BY



AU PROFIT DE / TO BENEFIT THE



The Urban BBQ presented by RBC Royal Bank (Quebec), is an annual event which on average gathers over 1200 members of Montreal's business community to support the Cancer Research Society.

Since its beginnings, the event has raised over **\$2.5 million**. Against all expectations and despite being cancelled due to the pandemic, this year's edition still provided an opportunity to contribute to cancer research in its turn. Indeed, **\$146,000** were raised thanks to numerous partners and participants who decided to honour their financial contributions. Their commitment to the cause is both remarkable and inspiring.

We offer them our warmest thanks and say we'll see you next time in 2021!

Community-Driven Events

Each year, companies, foundations and individuals rally around the cause and organize fundraising activities. While some of the events were cancelled, others were able to deftly reinvent themselves. We would like to highlight the success of some of those initiatives, like that of Gold's Gym, the Canadian Legion's Movember Dance (Sutton), the Canam Group's head-shaving challenge, the Scotia Bank Charity Challenge in Montreal, the Omnium de golf de David Boutin, and the Douglas Brian Shapiro Memorial Golf Tournament.

THE 2020 CYCLO-GOLF CLASSIC AND SHERBROOKE CYCLO-CLASSIC

Every year, so many participants and volunteers participate in the Cyclo-Golf Classic and, as of last year, the Sherbrooke Cyclo-Classic. Due to the circumstances surrounding the pandemic, the Cyclo-Golf Classic had to cancel the Montreal event. The organizers of the Sherbrooke Cyclo-Classic, however, were able to adapt their event into a virtual cycling challenge thanks to the support of Université de Sherbrooke and the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke.

Thanks to this reinvented format, close to **\$85,000** were raised for research. We offer our sincere thanks and congratulations to the organizers and participants and perhaps most especially to the major partners including Scotiabank and BMO Insurance. We would also like to highlight the involvement of the CHU's Vice-Dean, **Nathalie Rivard**, as well as Professor **Darel Hunting** and researcher **Bernard Paquette**.

THE 2020 JOURNÉE DE LA MARCHÉ DU RÊVE

Year after year, campers and participants get together at the Camping Domaine du Rêve in Saint-Angèle-de-Monnoir to walk and take part in the various activities offered as part of the research fundraising day. Among the activities, in addition to the walk which is the very heart of the day, participants could make donations as part of a bottle drive, a silent auction or during the lighting of the hope lanterns.

Bolstered by the strength of its first six editions, this year's edition had to adapt, like so many others, to comply with health guidelines and social distancing. We can nonetheless qualify this 7th edition as a success- it raised a record sum of **\$12,500!** We would like to thank **Julie Duguay** and her committee who organized this wonderful event.

THE 2020 SAINT LAMBERT GAMES

For 19 years the Saint-Lambert Games have been welcoming participants of all ages for a day filled with outdoor activities and friendly competitions in an effort to raise money for cancer research. As large gatherings were not permitted, the organizing committee offered participants an opportunity to substitute the usual events with their own personal challenges for the cause. Whether it was walking or cycling, one and all were invited to get moving, either on their own, or with their family, as they took on made-to measure challenges in the month of June 2020.

The 2020 virtual edition of the Saint-Lambert Games broke the record by raising over **\$13,340** in donations. Since their beginnings in 2002, the Saint-Lambert Games have donated over **\$100,000** to the Cancer Research Society.

The Society would like to offer its sincere thanks to **Dr. Volker Blank** and his family, the organizing committee and the participants, as well as the many donors. We are so pleased to have **Dr. Blank** as a contributor and eagerly await the next edition!



Thank You to Our Partners

The Cancer Research Society is fortunate to count on a number of partners that support its mission. We would like to offer them our warmest thanks for their unwavering support.

■ \$100,000 and up

- BMO Bank of Montreal/BMO Mastercard/BMO Insurance
- Canam Group
- RBC Royal Bank/RBC Securities/RBC Capital Markets

■ From \$50,000 to \$99,999

- CanadaHelps.org
- CN/CN Railroaders/CN Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund
- Innovairre

■ From \$25,000 to \$49,999

- Alre Properties
- Benevity
- PayPal

■ From \$10,000 to \$24,999

- Conam Charitable Foundation
- Duchesnay Inc.
- Elekta Ltd.
- Epic Games
- Gestion Immobilière et Fondation Luc Maurice Inc.
- Groupe Deschênes Inc.
- Lilo
- Markham-Waterloo Mennonite Conference
- Maud and Christina Duncan Charitable Foundation
- Zwig Family Foundation

■ From \$5,000 to \$9,999

- BCF s.e.n.c.r.l.
- Bell Canada
- Benny & Co.
- Canderel Inc.
- The Charles Norcliffe Baker & Thelma Scott Baker Foundation
- Colas Canada Inc.
- Desjardins Financial Security
- Développement Métro - Montréal Corporation
- Hydro-Québec
- Industries Lassonde Inc.
- La Cage Brasserie Sportive
- Mary Ann Hood Alter-Ego Trust
- Olymel S.E.C.
- The Private Giving Foundation
- ROBIC S.E.N.C.R.L./LLP
- SFL Wealth Management/SFL Financial Centre Westmount
- Scotiabank
- Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
- Sun Life Financial Canada
- TFI International
- United Way of Greater Toronto
- Wellington Laboratories Inc.

■ From \$1,000 to \$4,999

- 9129-0429 Québec Inc.
- ABC Gestion Parasitaire Inc.
- Acier Bata Inc.
- Accord Business Credit Inc.
- Addenda Capital
- Alliance Nav Inc.
- All Charities Campaign
- Amgen Canada
- Aqueduct Foundation
- Beaulieu Vision Care
- Benefaction Foundation
- Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
- Brain Finance
- Bryan Ventures Inc.
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- Highline Foods
- Industrial Alliance - Financial Group
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- Mackenzie Financial Corporation
- Maçonnerie G.Y. Inc.
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- Mercedes-Benz Ottawa Downtown
- Métro Richelieu Inc.
- Minto Properties Inc.
- (Les) Missionnaires Oblates De Saint-Boniface
- Moncton Wildcats Hockey Club Ltd.
- Michel Carmel MD Inc.
- Mohammed Kanwal Family Foundation
- Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation
- Munich Life Management Corporation Ltd.
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- Omnium de Golf David Boutin
- Partie de cartes de C.A.S.A.
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- Quadrel Ltée
- Québec International
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- Rogers Communications Inc.
- Rosetown Farming Co. Ltd.
- S.T. Maçonnerie Inc.
- (The) Sahara Foundation
- Servantes De Notre-Dame Reine du Clergé
- Sieges Ducharme Duplantie
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
- Société en Commandite D.D.O.
- Sœurs Missionnaires de Notre-Dame des Anges
- Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
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- TKNL Créateurs d'expériences
- Télésystème Ltée
- Telus Corporation
- Trac-World
- Transfab Magnetic Solutions
- Transformer Table Inc.
- Unifix Inc.
- United Way/Centraide of Ottawa
- Veltman Holdings Ltd.
- Victoria Foundation
- The Winnipeg Foundation
- Wyalta Resources Ltd.
- Yves R. Hamel et associés Inc.

Thank You to Our Contributors

The financial support awarded by the Cancer Research Society is made possible thanks to the generosity of partners, thousands of donors, as well as certain partners that co-finance the grants, including earmarked funds. We would like to highlight their contributions to our mission and thank them.

- Bergeron-Jetté Foundation
 - The Cancer Research Society Cholangiocarcinoma Fund
 - Cancer Research Society's Environment-Cancer^{MC} Fund, funded in part by Read for the Cure
 - Charlotte Légaré Memorial Fund
 - Give for a cure Research Fund
 - Katherine Campbell MacDonald Memorial Fund
 - Rob Lutterman Memorial Fund
-
- Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute
 - C17 Council
 - Canadian Institutes of Health Research
 - Canadian VHL Alliance
 - CQDM (Federal)
 - CURE Foundation
 - Dalhousie University
 - Fonds de recherche du Québec-Santé
 - Granulosa Cell Tumour Research Foundation
 - Immune Biosolutions Inc.
 - Institut TransMedTech
 - MEDTEQ
 - Oncopole
 - Ottawa University
 - Ottawa University and the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
 - Ovarian Cancer Canada
 - Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation
 - Université de Montréal

Legacy Gifts

Each year, committed individuals choose to perpetuate their support for the Cancer Research Society by making a legacy gift.

This year, the Society received over **\$1,682,000** through such donations.

We would like to pay tribute to these people who, through their hope-filled gesture, contributed to offering future generations a world where cancer will be a thing of the past.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Edwin J. Batiuk | • Joyce Muriel Nichols |
| • Olga Victoria Beresford | • Suzanne Pariseau |
| • Marie-Paule Binette | • John Herbert Pincott |
| • Claire Ann Bissonnette | • Gisele Poulin Scallon |
| • Elaine Cantley | • John Randle |
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| • Myrtle Violet Goff | • Keith Frederick Wigget |
| • Marjorie Alberta Gow | • Lloyd Douglas Wilcox |
| • Monique Lanoie | • Dorothy Denise Wood |
| • Katherine Campbell MacDonald | • John George Wynne |
| • Kristiane Maltais | |
| • Norma Jean McLean | |
| • Natalie Dorothy Moran | |

The results of the financial year ending on August 31, 2020, posted a 5% decrease. The immense generosity of our donors allowed us to compensate for losses generated by the cancellation of a number of our events because of the pandemic. Also, certain research projects were completed while others were delayed, which explains the decrease in the revenues coming from certain research partnerships. The financial situation remains stable in spite of the current pandemic, and the Society still has the means to achieve its strategic objectives and maintain the funding for some of the most promising Canadian cancer research projects.

Financial Situation 2019-2020

INCOME STATEMENT ON AUGUST 31 (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	2020 Total	2019 Total
REVENUES		
Annual campaigns	20,556	17,187
Major donations and planned giving	2,289	3,626
Benefit events and others	1,044	2,676
Partnerships - research contributions	3,006	5,688
Investment income, realized	1,685	2,029
Investment income, unrealized	498	(341)
Other revenues	336	
	29,414	30,865
EXPENDITURES		
Annual campaigns	11,272	8,880
Major donations and planned giving	406	165
Benefit events and others	895	1,480
Administration	1,500	1,538
Amortization of real estate, equipment and software	68	61
	14,141	12,124
SURPLUS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH	15,273	18,741
GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (including related expenses)	12,387	14,832
(SHORTFALL) EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	2,886	3,909

FINANCIAL SITUATION AS OF AUGUST 31 (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

ASSETS - current

Cash	4,899	2,931
Accounts receivable	379	259
Prepaid expenses	278	166
Other current assets	96	91

5,652 **3,447**

Investments	36,619	35,574
Fixed assets	363	360

42,634 **39,381**

LIABILITIES - short term

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	278	305
Deferred contributions	949	539

1,227 **844**

Lease inducement	124	140
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1,351 **984**

FUND BALANCES

Allocated funds	6,770	9,259
General funds	34,513	29,138

41,283 **38,397**

42,634 **39,381**

For over 75 years,
the Cancer Research Society
has been a true force in
the service of research.



Graphic Design / Luc Girouard

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