Philanthropy-funded research transforms cancer treatments

Advances at Princess Margaret Centre help all Canadians and patients around the world

Philanthropy also funds early-stage research ideas. They may be crazy out-of-the-box ideas, but if right, they will lead to paradigm changes in our diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Dr. Aaron Schimmer
Assistant Cancer Research Director, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network

We are at the cusp of transforming cancer treatment, and we’re on the threshold to double down on investment in research, says Dr. Aaron Schimmer, research director at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

The advances made here help not only Ontarians but all Canadians and patients globally, he adds. "If we were not for this support, the cutting-edge research we do at The Princess Margaret...," says Dr. Schimmer, who is also president of the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute’s (CCSRI) Department of Medicine, Medical Biophysics, and Institute of Medical Science, Trinity Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. "Philanthropy also funds early-stage research ideas. They may be crazy out-of-the-box ideas, but if right, they will lead to paradigm changes in our diagnosis and treatment of cancer," says Dr. Schimmer. He points out that this doesn’t mean investments in research at the Princess Margaret can be leveraged to increase the funds needed. "It’s essential that we all work together. As a result, our scientific will go out and run on the information through external funding," he says.
Memories motivate generosity
Philanthropy supports programs and projects to impact the world

While more than three-quarters of Canadian say they feel good when they support a cause that means something to them, only a small number of Canadians--of the thousands who have made a donation in the past--contribute to the full range of causes and organizations that matter to them. In this year’s report, Philanthropy Canada aimed to provide a deeper understanding of the charitable giving landscape.

INSPIRING HOPE AND IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

While some charities may have survived on reputation alone in the past, this year and age you have to be front and centre in people’s thinking.

Stephen DeWitt, CEO, The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Canada

The number of patients that we have, the number of treatments that we have for different types of cancer, says Dr. Schimmele. "We did research for this and we identified that there were two patients who we could see more patients, and we also wanted to ensure the design of our new clinic would enhance both the research and the patient experience--from the lighting and landscaping to the art on the walls, and the use of natural light in our kitchen--to pay a part of the facility to another." In terms of patient care, the design of the clinic is intended to promote a sense of well-being, including features such as a calming color palette and soothing design elements that promote a sense of calm and relaxation.

One day, treatments will work for everyone with CF.

Your donation supports groundbreaking research and ensures access to life-saving medications for Matthew and thousands of other Canadians living with cystic fibrosis.

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If 22-year-old Julianne had been diagnosed today, she would have seen her 30s.

In 2016, Julianne Mlacak was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer called osteosarcoma. While receiving treatment, she bravely became an advocate and fundraiser for cancer research, participating in the Ride to Conquer Cancer. Four years later, at just 22 years old, Julianne passed away. Her legacy continues to live on through her loved ones who continue to raise funds for life-saving research at The Princess Margaret. Today, thanks to donor support, we’ve drastically improved outcomes for osteosarcoma patients. If Julianne had been diagnosed in 2023, she would have had more time with her loved ones. The research we do today saves lives tomorrow.

Support The Future of Cancer Breakthroughs and donate today at thepmcf.ca

Bernalette & Joe Mlacak, Cancer Advocates & Parents of Julianne