A YEAR OF CELEBRATION!

POZJANNUAL REPORT

25th anniversary



| Education | Support | Advocacy | Research |

Celebrating 25 Years of Dedication. Shaping the Future Ahead!

This year, we reflect on our achievements and celebrate a remarkable milestone: 25 years of unwavering commitment and heartfelt service to the lymphoma community. Our silver anniversary is not just a moment to reflect on our journey but also an opportunity to envision the path ahead.

Over the past quarter century, Lymphoma Canada has stood as a symbol of hope, advocating the cause of those affected by lymphoma. Our mission, painted by values of compassion, integrity, excellence, influence, innovation, and inclusivity, has guided our efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many. As we pause to celebrate this milestone, we recognize that our mission extends far beyond the achievements of the past; it is a continuous pledge to future generations.

Our vision, life unlimited by lymphoma, remains the cornerstone of our aspirations. As we look to the next 25 years, this vision guides us toward a future where empowering patients and the lymphoma community through education, support, advocacy, and research continues to drive our efforts.

Empowerment lies at the heart of our mission. We can genuinely express our core values through empowering the lymphoma community. It extends through every initiative, whether providing education that enlightens, advocacy that amplifies voices, or research that breaks new ground. We aim to ensure that every individual impacted by lymphoma feels supported, informed, and empowered to navigate their journey confidently.

The road ahead is filled with hope! As we venture into the future, our focus sharpens on strategic objectives designed to amplify our impact: expanding our reach across Canada, enhancing our educational services, improving access to novel therapies, and driving research advancements.

This ambitious journey is not one we walk alone. Our gratitude extends to the lymphoma community, our partners, supporters, and our dedicated team, whose resilience, generosity, and commitment fuels our progress.

Together, we will transform our vision into reality, creating a future where lymphoma no longer limits life but is a condition met with hope and support.





Antonella Rizza

10torella Rizza



Claudio Grossi Board Chair



OUR MISSION

Empower patients and the lymphoma community through education, support, advocacy and research.

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Dr. Pamela Skrabek, MD, MSc, FRCPC CancerCare Manitoba *Winnipeg*, *MB* In 2023, Lymphoma Canada celebrated its 25th anniversary since its founding, and we would like to take this opportunity to share our story with you.

In 1998, in provinces apart, Patricia Manson and Debora Sterritt realized the absence of Canadian organizations focused on lymphoma support. In response, they established The Lymphoma Research Foundation of Canada (LRFC) in Vancouver and the Canadian Lymphoma Foundation (CLF) in Toronto, which later merged to form Lymphoma Canada.

The LRFC, founded by Patricia Manson after her battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, aimed to bridge the gap in lymphoma research support. Despite her passing in 1998, Manson's vision lives on through Lymphoma Canada.

The CLF was established by Deborah Sterritt in 1988 after her diagnosis of lymphoms, driven. by the lack of Canadian lymphoma support organizations. Her experience led her to ensure that Canadian patients had access to essential resources, resulting in the founding of the CLF.

The merger of LRFC and CLF in 2000 created Lymphoma Foundation Canada, later becoming Lymphoma Canada in 2019.

Since its inception, Lymphoma Canada has been dedicated to empowering patients and the community through education, support, advocacy, and research. The organization provides free resources, hosts educational webinars, advocates for patients, and funds promising Canadian research studies.

The past 25 years have been made possible by generous supporters who share our mission of empowering patients and the lymphoma community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our supporters who have helped us fulfill our mission.





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Empowering Through Education

Your generous donations empower lymphoma patients and their caregivers with comprehensive Canadian focused educational resources, webinars and national patient conferences.

Supporting Lymphoma Community

Thanks to your support, we have created a fostering welcoming environment for patients, their families, and caregivers to share their journeys and experiences with lymphoma openly.

Advocating for Patients

Your contributions empower Lymphoma Canada to lead advocacy efforts, ensuring fair access to cuttingedge treatments and innovative care nationwide.

Advancing Lymphoma Research

Your financial support helps advance innovative research efforts aimed at enhancing treatment outcomes and quality of life for those affected by lymphoma.

Become a Volunteer

Lymphoma Canada is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to support our initiatives in different areas. Your eagerness to make a difference is valued and welcomed in our community.



Join Our Mission

Together, we achieve more. Your valuable time, skills, and actions have significantly amplified the voices of the lymphoma community, driving forward our collective mission with strength and unity.



Stay Connected

Stay updated on the latest developments, news, and updates from Lymphoma Canada by subscribing to our e-newsletter. Keep connected and engaged with our community's ongoing conversations.



Make a Difference

Your kindness is the foundation of our continuous support and services to the lymphoma community. Take a stand today by contributing in any way you can: donate, participate in surveys, join our peer support programs, volunteer for events, or take part in our Laps Around Lymphoma fitness challenge. Together, let's make a lasting positive impact.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our esteemed donors, sponsors, dedicated healthcare professionals, and tireless volunteers who stand with us. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in delivering care and comfort to lymphoma patients and their families. Through your commitment, we have offered a helping hand during their most challenging moments.

The gratitude and heartfelt messages we have received over our 25 years shows the significant impact we have achieved together. We're truly thankful for your support and are proud to share these expressions of appreciation with our community.

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I am very fortunate to have the support of all my loved ones around me. I don't think I would have gotten through this sometimes, as it has taken a toll on my physical, mental and emotional health. That's why organizations like Lymphoma Canada are so important. To raise awareness, provide support and help advance research.

- Patrick



We are so blessed to have an organization like Lymphoma Canada from which to glean knowledge.

- Anonymous

66

I have CLL and have yet to be treated. It gave me a much better understanding of what I will face should that time come. I felt much more hopeful about my future. Thank you, Lymphoma Canada, for organizing the conference!

- Anonymous



Lymphoma Canada has been a great partner to clinicians across the country to help provide better clinical care, research, and education with a focus on the needs of Canadians. Importantly, Lymphoma Canada is a key voice of patient advocacy for all Canadians touched by lymphoma

- Joh

Whether you're navigating a recent diagnosis, undergoing cancer treatment, or celebrating your triumph over lymphoma, Lymphoma Canada is here to provide an array of resources for you and your loved ones. Each year, we offer specialized support, aimed at empowering lymphoma patients and their caregivers to navigate the complexities of their health journey. Our accessible materials are available in English and French, offering a wealth of patient-centred resources and educational content on our website.





Patient Resource Manuals

Annually, Lymphoma Canada extends its outreach by shipping patient resource guides to cancer centers and hospitals across Canada, ensuring comprehensive support for lymphoma patients nationwide. These books serve as indispensable references, particularly beneficial for those navigating a recent diagnosis and eager to explore treatment options specific to their lymphoma subtype. In 2023, the demand for these and other educational resources surged remarkably, leading to the dissemination of over 6,000 printed materials, all provided free of charge. In 2023, all patient resource manuals (Hodgkin Lymphoma, Non-Hodkin Lymphoma, and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Leukemia) were updated to include the latest research and can be accessed on our website **lymphoma.ca/resources**.

Webinar Series

In 2023, Lymphoma Canada hosted 14 webinars, which were attended by close to 2000 registrants. These sessions were featured in both official languages and led by professionals from across the country. Topics of interest included Diagnostic Tests & Scan Anxiety – How to Cope with the Unknown While Waiting for Results, Understanding the Emotional Impacts at all stages of Lymphoma & CLL, and New & Innovative Cancer Therapies for Lymphoma/CLL Patients.

We extend our sincere gratitude to AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, Kyowa Kirin, Novartis, and Seagen for their generous sponsorship of our educational webinars.

National Conference and French Conference

2023 marked the seventh Annual National Patient Conference on Lymphoma and CLL and the Third Francophone Conference on Lymphoma and CLL for Patients. With over 600 eager participants tuning in from the comfort of their homes, the English conference spanned three days in October and was the most well-attended conference to date. The French conference also took place virtually over the course of a day in November, with almost 200 registrants. The conferences brought together leading hematologists, oncologists, and lymphoma specialists to discuss treatment options, clinical trials, cutting-edge research, and survivorship topics. Recordings for the English and French conferences can be found on our website.



At Lymphoma Canada, we have developed a range of support initiatives tailored to lymphoma and CLL patients as well as their caregivers. Our diverse programs aim to foster connections within the community and offer invaluable support throughout the individual's lymphoma journey. Through our peer-mentoring program, and virtual monthly support group, individuals can engage with others who share similar experiences, providing mutual encouragement and understanding.

Lymphoma Links Peer-Mentorship Program

Frequently, we hear patients and caregivers say that they would benefit from speaking with someone who has been through a similar experience. Lymphoma Canada continues to connect patients and caregivers to mentors through the Lymphoma Canada Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Program. Join our "Lymphoma Links" mentorship program where patients and caregivers can either seek support as mentees, individuals in need of guidance or offer their expertise as mentors, aiding others based on their own experiences with lymphoma. To get started, click here to apply: Lymphoma Canada Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Program - Lymphoma Canada.

Online Support Programs

Lymphoma Canada extends support and information to patients and caregivers through various channels, such as email and phone assistance, and a monthly virtual support group conducted on the first Wednesday of every month in collaboration with the Wellspring Cancer Support, a Canadian non-profit specializing in cancer support. These avenues provide a welcoming and secure space where individuals can seek the assistance and support they require. For more information, please visit our website, Lymphoma Canada Wellspring Support Group - Lymphoma Canada.



Lymphoma Canada is dedicated to enhancing outcomes for lymphoma patients by advocating for equitable access to cutting-edge therapies nationwide. We firmly believe that every individual diagnosed with lymphoma deserves access to the necessary care and treatments for their well-being regardless of the province in which they may reside. To achieve this goal, we actively engage decisionmakers by submitting objective patient feedback on emerging lymphoma and CLL therapies under consideration for public funding in Canada.



Advocacy Campaign

In March of 2023, Lymphoma Canada advocated on behalf of lymphoma patients across Canada for timely and equitable access to all novel lymphoma therapies. We called on federal and provincial agencies and organizations responsible for drug approval in Canada to improve access to novel lymphoma therapies that patients direly need. Since then, we have heard back from Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency (CADTH), the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA), and other health ministers recognizing their alignment with Lymphoma Canada in the desire to improve access to cancer therapies. Lymphoma Canada will continue to advocate against inequalities that impact lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic leukemia (CLL/SLL) patients.

Throughout the year, Lymphoma Canada further advocated alongside the Cancer Collaborative, the Advocacy for Canadian Childhood Oncology Research Network (Ac2orn), LLSC, and Myeloma Canada via an open letter for timely reimbursement, approval and increased access to CAR-T in Canada, which was published on healthing.ca.

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) & Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS) Submissions

Lymphoma Canada continues to advocate for patients when it shares the patient experience related to new therapies. In Canada, Health Canada oversees the approval of lymphoma therapies at the federal level. Two key organizations, namely INESSS for Quebec residents and CADTH for other provinces, review novel treatments based on economic, clinical, and patient perspectives. Lymphoma Canada actively advocates for patients by conducting and promoting patient experience surveys for all lymphoma drugs and treatments under consideration by CADTH and INESSS. These surveys, shared through our national emailing list, offer crucial insights for decision-makers as they evaluate which therapies to fund. For further details, please reach out to info@lymphoma.ca.



Update to National CLL Relapsed/Refractory Treatment Guidelines.

Treatment guidelines provide valuable information for healthcare professionals (HCPs), allied HCPs, patients, and care partners/caregivers.

Based on available evidence and existing provincial guidelines, national Canadian guidelines summarize published research and literature while further analyzing the approaches of the different provincial guidelines. Lymphoma Canada works with members of our Scientific Advisory Board and specialists (hematologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists) across the country who are knowledgeable and well-published on lymphoma subtypes to develop these national guidelines.

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) is one of the most common lymphoproliferative diseases in North America. In the second half of 2022, Lymphoma Canada and a group of Canadian clinical experts updated and developed the Canadian guidelines for the frontline and relapsed/refractory treatment of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. At the start of 2023, these articles were published in the Leukemia Research journal. The full article for frontline treatment can be found here. The full article for relapsed/refractory treatment can be found here.



General Practitioner Algorithm for the Early Diagnosis of Lymphoma

Over the past several years, Lymphoma Canada received feedback from our Scientific Advisory Board, comprised of hematologists/oncologists from across Canada, that lymphoma patients are diagnosed at later stages of the disease.

Most Canadians rely on their primary care physician to be educated in all medical areas and to ensure their symptoms are diagnosed early, considering primary care physicians are often the first point of contact for patients with undiagnosed health concerns. Although general practitioners have a substantial mental library of medical information, lymphoma is regrettably often misdiagnosed throughout Canada despite being the fifth most common cancer in Canada. An early diagnosis of lymphoma is essential as catching the cancer earlier usually allows for more treatment options and a better prognosis for lymphoma patients.

In Canada, there is no one resource for the diagnosis of lymphoma amongst general practitioners. In this regard, in 2023, Lymphoma Canada released a new guide titled "*General Practitioner Algorithm for the Diagnosis of Lymphoma*," which aims to assist general practitioners in ensuring a timelier diagnosis of lymphoma by raising awareness of the rising lymphoma incidence and mortality rates in Canada, drawing attention to common clinical presentations of lymphoma, and presenting a generalized easy-tofollow algorithm for diagnosis Lymphoma Canada is dedicated to enhancing outcomes for lymphoma and CLL patients through strategic investments in impactful research studies. These studies aim to drive positive changes in healthcare, health systems, and overall health outcomes related to malignant lymphoproliferative diseases.

2023 Lymphoma Canada Research Grant Recipients

Dr. Ingrid Spadinger | Vancouver, BC

The study will investigate the "Heterogeneity of Dose to the Circulating Blood Volume During Total Body Irradiation", which will shed light on critical aspects of treatment delivery and patient outcomes.

Dr. Robert Kridel and Dr. Tomohiro Aoki | Toronto, ON

The study will focus on "Tumor-Microenvironment Ecosystem of ALK-negative ALCL at Single Cell Resolution", looking to offer invaluable insights into the complex interplay between cancer cells and their surrounding environment.



Dr. Ingrid Spadinger

Dr. Robert Kridel

Dr. Tomohiro Aoki

These researchers exemplify dedication and innovation in advancing our understanding of lymphoma, offering hope for improved treatments and outcomes for patients.

Empowering Lymphoma Patients for Research Awareness & Funding

Through the courage and openness of Deborah Sterritt and Harjeet Kaur, two individuals directly impacted by lymphoma, we were able to highlight the critical need for continued research funding. Their personal stories raised awareness and emphasized the potential for research to improve patient care and outcomes significantly.



World Lymphoma Awareness Day

On World Lymphoma Awareness Day, Lymphoma Canada joined the global lymphoma community to say *We Can't Wait to Focus on Our Feelings*. Lymphoma Canada organized the illumination of 20 monuments nationwide to raise public awareness of lymphoma cancer. This day also marked the start of our 4th annual Laps Around Lymphoma virtual fitness challenge, where Canadians walked 100,000 steps in honour of the 100,000 plus Canadians living with lymphoma. The event also raised awareness about lymphoma and funds to support the lymphoma community.





Montreal

wississauga







Calgary

Mary Jon

From Lymphoma patient to tireless Lymphoma Canada volunteer and advocate.

Mary Jon's journey with follicular lymphoma began in 2005, shortly after her diagnosis she recognized a lack of readily available Canadian resources led her to Lymphoma Canada. Motivated by the support she received by Lymphoma Canada and by a desire to assist other patients in accessing essential information and necessary support, Mary Jon became deeply involved with our organization.

As a founding member of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of Lymphoma Canada, Mary Jon actively not only facilitates educational forums for patients but she also mentored other patients. Currently, she serves on Lymphoma Canada's Patient, Family & Advisory Committee, as well as our Patient Support & Research Committee.

With previous experience as a manager and teacher in the healthcare sector, Mary Jon brings invaluable expertise to her volunteer roles. Her extensive experience includes serving on various boards and committees, where she has held positions such as President, Chair, and Treasurer.

Mary Jon finds great joy in enriching her own life and the lives of those she supports through her volunteerism. We sincerely appreciate Mary Jon's invaluable contributions and inspiring journey with us and hope that her involvement with Lymphoma Canada continues during the organizations next 25 years.





From Cyclist to Cancer Survivor: A Journey of Resilience and Advocacy

Meet Robert Michon, the Board Treasurer at Lymphoma Canada, as he shares his inspiring story!

I have always been an avid cyclist and have participated in numerous charity rides. For ten consecutive years, I rode in the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer from Montréal to Quebec City in support of (and later, in memory of) my sister, who was battling cancer.



In 2019, a move to Gatineau motivated a change of venue; I participated in the CIBC Charles-Bruneau ride in support of pediatric cancer care and research. Shortly after my first Charles-Bruneau event in July 2019, I consulted my doctor regarding lumps in my throat.

The diagnosis came quickly: Stage 2 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In the time it takes to take a PET scan, I went from fundraiser to patient. My hemato-oncologist prescribed a series of six chemotherapy sessions and was confident that I would have a positive outcome. Nonetheless, it was a stressful period for me and my family.

The support nurse at the local cancer center held an information session for new patients just beginning their chemotherapy. The group was composed of patients with different types of cancers and chemo protocols. Therefore, I received general information but nothing specific to my Diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma and the R-CHOP chemotherapy protocol.

A Google search on lymphoma delivers 242 million results: how do I find credible information relevant to me? That is where Lymphoma Canada played an important role. Through their website and **patient resource manuals**, I was able to learn more about the specific sub-types of lymphoma and better anticipate the side effects of my treatment. The information I was able to obtain from Lymphoma Canada made my cancer journey less stressful for both me and my family.

Fast forward to January 2020, when I passed a negative PET scan: no trace of my lymphoma! And I have remained cancer-free ever since then. In recognition of my successful battle against cancer and the assistance I received from Lymphoma Canada, I applied to become a member of the Board of Directors. In my volunteer work as a Director, I hope to "pay it forward" and help others achieve a successful outcome in their battle against lymphoma.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our supporters, whose unwavering commitment to our cause serves as the foundation of our accomplishments. Your dedication enables us to make a meaningful and lasting impact.

Bid for a Cure

Meet Scott Wiseman: a remarkable and dedicated supporter of Lymphoma Canada.

We are so grateful to Scott Wiseman for his annual management and running of the **Bid for a Cure** online auction in support of our cause. Scott's belief in the essential role that Lymphoma Canada plays in supporting the lymphoma community is the motive behind his exceptional contribution to this cause. His efforts are truly inspiring and profoundly amplify our organization's impact.

Explore the opportunity of hosting a fundraiser for Lymphoma Canada, aimed at raising awareness and extending support to those impacted by lymphoma. Your contributions enable us to offer essential Canadian lymphoma and CLL resources at no cost to patients and caregivers.

To learn more about organizing an event in support of Lymphoma Canada, please visit Host a Fundraising Event.

BID FOR A CURE

ONLINE AUCTION

2023 Annual Report

Laps Around Lymphoma

In its fourth year, the Laps Around Lymphoma Virtual Fitness Challenge once again united Canadians coast to coast in support of the lymphoma community. The event invited participants across Canada to take 100,000 steps in support of over 100,000 Canadians living with lymphoma.

Thank you to all who participated, helped spread awareness, and raise funds during our annual Laps Around Lymphoma event. With your support, we achieved our highest turnout ever. Special thanks to Paul Henderson for his impactful video and CP24 Breakfast for hosting Lymphoma Canada CEO, Antonella Rizza, on their show.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, whose generosity and dedication made this event possible.

As we reflect on the success of 2023s challenge, we are thrilled to announce that registration is now open for the 5th annual Laps Around Lymphoma event scheduled to take place virtually from September 15 to September 30, 2024. Join us in supporting the lymphoma community and be an integral part of this impactful movement. Register today.



Thank you to our sponsors for making this day possible:

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Education Sponsors



Par for the Cure Golf Tournament

2023 marked the 12th annual Par for the Cure golf tournament, held at the Carrying Place Golf and Country Club. We owe the success of this event to the generous contribution of our golfers, donors, and sponsors.

The funds garnered through Par for the Cure will help us maintain vital services and broaden our support for lymphoma patients and their families. From educational programs to emotional support, advocacy efforts, and research initiatives, these resources will significantly impact countless lives.

We sincerely thank our sponsors for their generosity, which played a crucial role in making this event possible. Their unwavering support has made a momentous difference.

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As we conclude the 2023 annual report, we are grateful for the journey of the past 25 years and optimistic about our road ahead.

Our mission, guided by compassion and innovation, has empowered countless individuals affected by lymphoma. Looking forward, we remain committed to expanding our reach, enhancing education, improving access to therapies, and advancing research.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our community, partners, supporters, and team for their dedication.

Together, let's create a future where lymphoma is met with hope and support.

To support Lymphoma Canada, please visit lymphoma.ca/donate



December 31, 2023, audited financial statements are available at **lymphoma.ca** La version française du rapport annuel est disponible.

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