



INSTITUT ATLANTIQUE
DE RECHERCHE SUR
LE CANCER

ATLANTIC
CANCER RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Remember Your Local Cancer Research Organization On World Cancer Day

(Moncton, NB) – February 2, 2012 – World Cancer Day, which takes place every year on February 4th, is the singular initiative under which the entire world can unite together in the fight against the global cancer epidemic. With research facilities located in Moncton, New Brunswick, the Atlantic Cancer Research Institute (ACRI) is part of an integral world-wide scientific community helping to put the pieces of the cancer puzzle together.

“World Cancer Day is a reminder to us all to take action against the increasing burden of cancer,” says Françoise Roy, Executive Director of ACRI. “World-wide, cancer cases are projected to almost double to over 21 million by 2030. However, this is mostly due to the increasing and aging population. It should not underestimate the fact that tremendous progress has been made in unraveling the mysteries of this disease and finding solutions.”

The survival rate from cancer currently stands at 62%, a dramatic improvement over 33% in the 1960s. This shows the importance of major research breakthroughs in detection and treatment. In Atlantic Canada, the incidence of cancer is significantly above the national average, which drives home the importance of continued research.

“Ultimately, our understanding of cancer biology and the application of translational research will allow discoveries that we hope leads to positive impacts on cancer-related care such as early detection, better diagnostic, and improved treatments,” says Dr. Rodney Ouellette, President and Scientific Director at ACRI. “Our scientists are taking several different innovative approaches to tackle these cancer questions.”

Twenty year cancer survivor, Lillian Murray, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1991, knows first hand how important research is in helping to find a solution to cancer.

“Research, I believe, has played a large part in my journey, as each time I had a recurrence, a new and better treatment was available,” says Lillian. “That is, I believe, why I am still here fighting, after 20 years.”

Since its inception in 1998, ACRI has evolved to become a leading not-for-profit biomedical research centre in Atlantic Canada. Research that is based right here in Atlantic Canada benefits us all as it brings innovation and solutions right to our own communities.

On World Cancer Day, the community is invited to visit www.CancerResearchSavesLives.ca to read inspirational cancer survivor stories as well as leave their own messages and stories on the Wall of Hope.

Cancer Facts:

- In the 1960s the cancer survival rate was 33%. Today it is 62%. Based on current incident rates, 40% of women and 45% of men in Canada will develop cancer during their lifetimes.
- An estimated 177,800 new cases of cancer and 75,000 deaths from cancer were expected to occur in Canada in 2011. Prostate, lung, breast and colorectal cancer account for the top four newly diagnosed cancers.
- In 2011, an estimated 1,990 people were expected to die of cancer in New Brunswick, and 4,800 new cases were expected to be diagnosed.
- For men in New Brunswick, prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed type of cancer.
- For both men and women in New Brunswick, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death.
- For women in New Brunswick, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed type of cancer.
- 8400 - Number of Atlantic Canadian men diagnosed with cancer each year.
- 6500 – Number of Atlantic Canadian women diagnosed with cancer each year.

- Generally, across Canada, both incidence and mortality rates are higher in Atlantic Canada and Quebec. For every 100 men diagnosed with cancer in British Columbia, we have 130 in Atlantic Canada. For every 100 women diagnosed with cancer in British Columbia, we have 120.

About ACRI

ACRI was established in 1998 as a private, not-for-profit organization. Located at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton, with state-of-the-art facilities, ACRI has become a centre of excellence in cancer research. The research team of approximately 45 people is working to discover the genetic origins of cancer, develop new diagnostic tools and therapies to improve the survival rates of those affected by cancer and ultimately, to find ways to beat the disease. For more information, please visit www.AtlanticCancer.ca or find us on Facebook under “Atlantic Cancer Research”.

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