

# Capacity Building to Support a Diverse Cancer Research Ecosystem

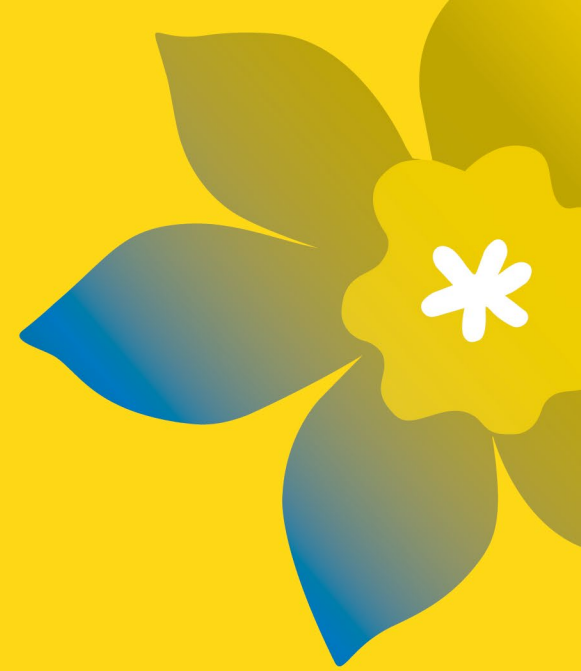
Judy Bray,  
VP, Research Partnerships  
Canadian Cancer Society

ICRP Meeting - May 14,15, 2024

**LIFE**  
IS BIGGER  
THAN CANCER



Canadian  
Cancer  
Society





# The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS)

**Our beginning:** Officially formed in 1938 and began funding research a decade later with a grant from the Canadian Medical Association, based on the interest of the King George V Silver Jubilee Fund

**Our purpose:** To unite and inspire all Canadians to take control of cancer.

**Our Mission:** In trusted partnership with donors and volunteers, we improve the lives of all those affected by cancer through world-class research, transformative advocacy and compassionate support

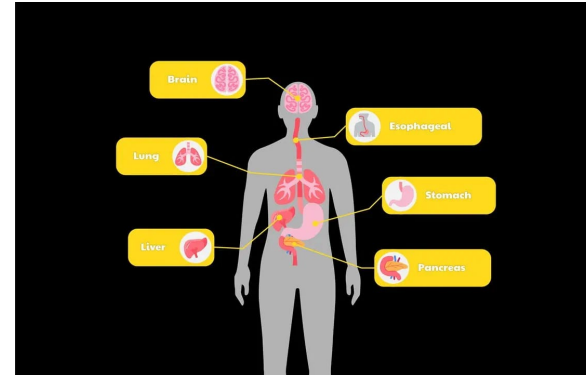
## **What we do:**

- Educate people on reducing risk and detecting cancer early
- Offer support services to answer questions, manage life with cancer, find community and connection, build wellness and resilience
- Provide trusted cancer information
- Advocate to governments to shape healthy public policies
- Foster innovation in partnership with the Creative Destruction Lab
- Support clinical trials through the Cancer Clinical Trials Group (CCTG)
- Fund research on all cancers, across all research themes from prevention to palliation and end-of-life care and across Canada



## Examples of Current Research Programs

❑ **Breakthrough Team Grants** – focused on the six cancers with a 5-year survival rate of less than 30%. Grants up to \$1.5M per year for 5 years. Funding 10 multidisciplinary teams for a total investment of \$55.5M (\$15M from partners)



- ❑ **Challenge Grants** - support cancer research projects across the cancer continuum and across disciplines, with an ultimate goal of solving a problem (i.e. a “challenge”) that is meaningful to people affected by or at risk of cancer. Grants up to \$175K per year for 3 years. Diversity across career stage, geography, gender and other dimensions of diversity was a component of the evaluation process.
- ❑ **Disruptive Innovation Grants (CCS/Hecht)** – high-risk, high impact. No preliminary data required. Increase diversity by attracting expertise and resources from other health conditions and other disciplines into the cancer field. Anonymized 2-page Letters of Intent to reduce reviewer bias. Ongoing.



## CCS Health Equity Research Grants - 2022


**Purpose:** to advance cancer-related health equity.


**Projects:** Collaborative, co-created by people both affected by cancer and by structural marginalization, and designed to address the systemic, structural, and institutional factors that sustain health disparities in Canada.

**Perspective:** A social determinants of health perspective in identifying and defining both the health equity need and the community of focus, taking care to consider the intersectionalities of such communities

**Applications:** 22 Abstracts received; 21 invited to submit full applications

**Results:**

  
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Awarded 6 grants in 6 provinces for an investment of \$1.6M. Included applications from Black, Indigenous and Immigrant communities



## CCS Health Equity Research Grants - 2024

**Purpose:** to advance cancer-related health equity. **Funding Envelope:** \$9M

**Projects:** Collaborative, co-created by people both affected by cancer and by structural marginalization, and designed to address the systemic, structural, and institutional factors that sustain health disparities in Canada.

**Special Funding Call (\$6):** grant applications focused on breast cancer in the following underserved communities:

- Indigenous, that is First Nation, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)
- Black, that is people of Black African or Caribbean descent,
- Living in a rural or remote area (population of 10,000 or less, or with limited access to healthcare facilities and services)
- Living with metastatic or advanced breast cancer
- Diagnosed with breast cancer between the ages of 15 and 39 (adolescents and young adults (AYA))
- Male breast cancer

**Applications:** 49 Abstracts received; 30 invited to submit full applications



# CCS Training Awards - 2023

**Purpose:** to support growth and innovation in the next generation of diverse cancer researchers across Canada at the Master's, Doctoral and Postdoctoral levels while fostering long term connections with Canada's cancer research ecosystem through a combination of exposures to other disciplines, knowledge translation, engagement, and mentorship opportunities. Applications from Black and Indigenous Scholars were encouraged.





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**Applications:** Applications from Black and Indigenous Scholars were encouraged for PhD and Post-doc award levels, but Black candidates only were invited to apply for Master's level awards.

### Launch Partners:





Canadian  
Cancer  
Society

**Thank you!**