



Lung Cancer Connection: Spring 2024 Newsletter

Stay connected with us on social media!



Welcome to the Spring edition of *Lung Cancer Connection* – our bridge to the community, keeping us connected and informed about the strides we're making together in spreading awareness, advocating for change, and bringing hope for a brighter, healthier future.

This season is a busy one for our organization.

As the flowers bloom and the air fills with renewed energy, we're excited to host the next event in our **Lung Cancer Summit Series** in Hamilton, Ontario, bringing together advocates and leading experts in the field to share the latest on ground-breaking research, innovative treatments, and promising developments in lung cancer care. And let's not forget the eagerly anticipated **2024 Give a Breath 5K Walk/Run**, happening in Edmonton, Halifax, Toronto, and Vancouver, as well as virtually. While these events have their own unique focus, one thing they have in common is a commitment to raising awareness and uniting our community in solidarity and hope.

We're also thrilled to announce that next month will see the launch of our new website, along with the release of **Your Comprehensive Guide to Lung Cancer**. These resources represent a significant step forward in our mission to provide accessible information and support to those impacted by lung cancer.

Additionally, we're embarking on a fresh approach to advocacy with a new public affairs strategy aimed at amplifying our collective efforts to drive meaningful policy change across Canada. More details on this, including how you can get involved, will follow in the coming weeks.

Amidst all these developments, one thing remains unchanged – our core focus of being there for those that need us -- whenever and wherever that may be -- offering support, resources, and compassion every step of the way. And one of the ways we continue to do this is through our **Airways of Hope** program, providing essential support services, including healthcare navigation, peer and group support, and one-on-one support through

a registered social worker. This holistic approach ensures that individuals facing lung cancer receive comprehensive care throughout their journey.

Shem Singh
Executive Director
Lung Cancer Canada

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Get Ready for Give A Breath 5K on June 1st!

There is still time to register for *Give A Breath 5k* and be a part of something truly impactful. Join us on Saturday, June 1, 2024 in Edmonton, Halifax, Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, or Virtually!

Give A Breath 5K is Canada's premier fundraising and awareness-building event in support of the lung cancer community. Founded by Tim Monds and his family as a way to raise much-needed awareness of the impacts of lung cancer, and to help raise funds to support patient care and research across Canada, *Give A Breath 5k* hosted its first 5k walk/run in 2019 in Edmonton. Since that time, *Give a Breath 5k* has grown into a national event, with walks/runs in communities across Canada.

Last year, through the generosity of sponsors, donors and participants, *Give A Breath 5K* events held across Canada raised more than \$130,000 in support of Lung Cancer Canada's Airways of Hope program and lung cancer research.

Join us on June 1st and be part of the movement! Register today.

[Register Here!](#)



Lung Cancer Summit Series Hamilton – May 28

There's still time to **join us tomorrow, Tuesday, May 28** for our next Lung Cancer Summit in Hamilton, ON! Are you ready to be part of a transformative event dedicated to providing essential resources and information for anyone impacted by a lung cancer diagnosis?

Mark your calendars for May 28th for the next event in our Lung Cancer Summit Series that brings together leading experts, advocates, and those with lived experience to ignite change and drive progress within the lung cancer community.

Join us as we unite to challenge perceptions, break barriers, and redefine the future of lung cancer care. Together, we can make a difference and bring hope to those impacted by this disease.

Register today and help us spread the word!

[Register here!](#)



Our speakers:

Dr. Rosalyn Juergens
Lung Cancer Research Update

Dr. Christian Finley
Lung Cancer Screening in Ontario

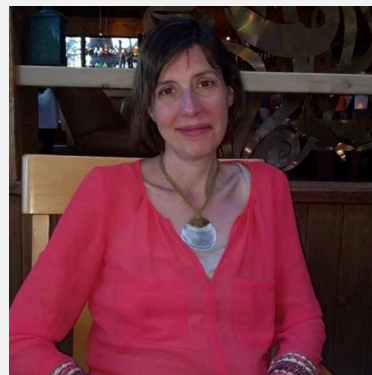
Dr. Callista Phillips
New Treatments & Advancements

Karen Ellis
Managing Shortness of Breath

Dr. Karen Zhang & Ruth Locis
Managing Relationships

Andrea Redway Memorial Fund

"A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others"
- The Wonderful Wizard of Oz



Recently, our community bid farewell to Andrea Redway, a remarkable individual who valiantly lived with lung cancer for nine years. Andrea's legacy is one of resilience, advocacy, and unwavering dedication to the cause of lung cancer awareness and research.

As a cherished member of Lung Cancer Canada, Andrea was a beacon of hope for countless individuals affected by this disease. Her journey, marked by courage and determination, inspired all those who knew her.

A graduate in Economics and Law, Andrea's professional journey took her across continents, where she made significant contributions to strengthen and reform local justice systems. Yet, it was her tireless advocacy for patient-centered medicine, research, and early screening that truly defined her legacy.

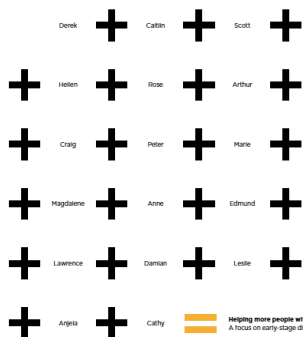
From her involvement with Lung Cancer Canada and the Canadian Cancer Survivors' Network to her role as a patient representative on the board of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Andrea dedicated herself to improving health outcomes in lung cancer.

To honour Andrea's legacy, a memorial fund was established to support Lung Cancer Canada's work in research, patient and family support programs, and advocacy initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for those affected by lung cancer.

To learn more or to provide support, [visit the link here.](#)

Together, we can continue Andrea's mission of raising awareness, funding research, and providing hope to individuals and families impacted by lung cancer.

2024 Faces of Lung Cancer Survey



We want to hear from you! Each year, Lung Cancer Canada publishes the *Faces of Lung Cancer Report*, a comprehensive overview of the state of lung cancer in Canada, including the latest statistics, updates on research and treatment advancements, and insights into the experiences of those living with lung cancer.

To ensure that the report remains relevant to the needs and interests of the Canadian lung cancer community, we want to hear from you. What



would you like to learn more about in the 2024
Faces of Lung Cancer Report?

[Make your voice heard by completing the survey linked here!](#)

Spotlight on Research at Lung Cancer Canada:

Lung Cancer Canada believes in the promise that research represents – a promise of hope and a better future for all of those impacted by lung cancer. Without a doubt, lung cancer research has had a transformative impact on patient outcomes, healthcare practices, and public health strategies, underscoring the importance of continued investment and collaboration in this critical area of cancer research. That's why Lung Cancer Canada is proud to be supporting the Canadian lung cancer research community.



2024 Lung Ambition Award Recipients Announced

A joint initiative between Lung Cancer Canada, The Lung Ambition Alliance and AstraZeneca Canada, the Lung Ambition Awards program is a Canadian-based lung cancer research awards program designed to help address key gaps in lung cancer care and improve the patient pathway.

Awards are granted to research being done to improve patient care in any of the following three key areas:

- Enhancing early detection – including research into methodologies like screening, incidental pulmonary nodules and blood-based testing, particularly for those individuals not meeting current screening criteria
- Improving the timeliness and/or coordination of care – including ways in which institutions or health care systems can improve care along the patient pathway
- Addressing disparities to improve equity – including identification of systemic barriers and ways to overcome them

The 2024 Lung Ambition Award winners' research has the potential to transform lung cancer care from rethinking screening to improving the patient experience when treating advanced disease. On behalf of the partnership, Lung Cancer Canada is pleased to announce the recipients for the 2024 awards program:

- **Dr. Fei Geng**, leading a team at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, is working towards revolutionizing lung cancer screening by developing and evaluating a new blood-

based test with the potential to cost-effectively screen more people with the goal of detecting more lung cancers earlier.

- Currently, lung cancer screening criteria (in Ontario) is limited to people aged 55 – 74 who have smoked cigarettes every day for 20 years.
 - This research has the potential to change lung cancer detection, as well as screening for other cancer types.
- **Dr. Natasha Leighl**, leading a team at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Ontario, is incorporating liquid biopsies (a simple blood draw) into care for patients with advanced lung cancer care. Two sets of patient groups will have access to liquid biopsies – those who need more information about their cancer’s molecular profile and those who have stopped responding to a targeted treatment. The liquid biopsy results can help determine the patient’s most effective treatment and start it more quickly.
 - The inclusion of liquid biopsies will be evaluated for treatment value and cost-effectiveness.

New Funding Opportunity!

The 2024 Geoffrey Ogram Memorial Research Grant will be accepting applications starting June 1, 2024.

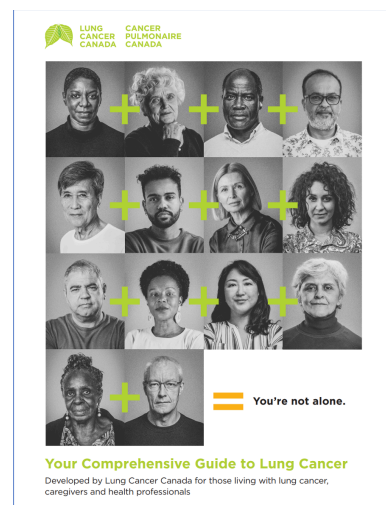
The Ogram family established the Geoffrey Ogram Memorial Research Fund in memory of our former Board member to provide a mechanism for scientists to study innovation and accelerate the application of new knowledge relating to the early detection of lung cancer and the etiology of lung cancer in different demographics and populations.

Applications will be accepted starting June 1 until September 30, 2024. For more information on how to apply, [visit our website here](#).



A Comprehensive Guide to Lung Cancer - Coming June 2024!

Stay tuned for more information on how to get your copy of the new Guide digitally or as a hard copy. Available in both English and French, with more languages coming soon.



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