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Lung Cancer Connection: Summer 2025 Newsletter

Stay connected with us on social media!



Welcome to the Summer Edition of Lung Cancer Connection!

This season brings fresh energy and a powerful new chapter for Lung Cancer Canada. We're thrilled to welcome **Dr. Rosalyn Juergens** as our new President — a leading oncologist, long-time Lung Cancer Canada advisor, and passionate champion for equity in care. As we look ahead under her leadership, our focus remains clear: ensuring that everyone affected by lung cancer has access to the care, support, and innovation they deserve.

Already, 2025 is shaping up to be a year of growth and impact. **Give a Breath 2025** united Canadians across the country in a powerful show of solidarity and purpose — raising awareness and critical funds for lung cancer research and support. And this September, we'll be on the ground in Alberta for the **Calgary Lung Cancer Summit**, bringing together patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals to connect, learn, and advocate for change.

We're also excited to share a major update on our expanding **research efforts**. This year, Lung Cancer Canada is supporting a growing portfolio of patient-focused research through several key initiatives, including the Give a Breath Research Award, the Lung Ambition Alliance Award, and the Geoffrey Grant Memorial Award. These awards are more than grants - they're an investment in progress, hope, and the future of lung cancer care.

As we look toward the fall, we're preparing to launch our **2025 Lung Cancer Policy Series** focused on *Time to Patient* — exploring how to accelerate access to the testing, treatments, and innovations that save lives.

We'll also be releasing our **2025 Faces of Lung Cancer Report**, a powerful snapshot of the lived experience of lung cancer in Canada today. Grounded in real stories and national data, this year's report moves from awareness and access to impact and transformation. By elevating patient, caregiver, and clinician voices, it highlights urgent care gaps and drives action toward more equitable access to screening, diagnosis, treatment, and support — for everyone, everywhere.

And this November, we'll come together in cities across Canada and online for the **Evening of Hope** — a heartfelt celebration of courage, community, and the road ahead.

In this issue, you'll find stories and updates that reflect the heart of our mission, and the strength

of the people behind it. Whether you're newly diagnosed, advocating for change, or supporting a loved one, there's a place for you in this movement.

Thank you for being part of the Lung Cancer Canada community. Together, we're turning progress into possibility, and possibility into hope.

With Gratitude,

Shem Singh
Executive Director
Lung Cancer Canada



A Leadership Transition Marked by Growth, Gratitude, and New Possibility

As summer unfolds, Lung Cancer Canada marks both a milestone and a moment of transformation. After an extraordinary tenure as President, Dr. Stephanie Snow passes the torch to Dr. Rosalyn Juergens — ushering in a bold new chapter shaped by compassion, collaboration, and the pursuit of equity in lung cancer care.

Dr. Snow's leadership has been rooted in empathy, inclusion, and an unwavering commitment to patients and families. Under her guidance, Lung Cancer Canada has evolved into a truly national organization: expanding bilingual resources, scaling virtual programs, and forging vital partnerships across the charitable, clinical, and policy landscapes.

"Each President leaves their mark," reflects Dr. Snow. "I'm proud of how we've grown, not just as an organization, but as a community. This family is what makes Lung Cancer Canada so unique, and it's been an honour to help strengthen it."

Her presidency also elevated the patient voice in powerful ways — advancing health technology assessments, amplifying stories of survivorship, and positioning Lung Cancer Canada as a trusted advocate in a space too often marked by stigma and neglect.

Now, as Dr. Rosalyn Juergens steps into the role of President, Lung Cancer Canada enters a period of growing momentum — where innovation is accelerating, survival rates are improving, and the need to close persistent care gaps is more urgent than ever.

A leading medical oncologist, clinical researcher, and long-time advisor to the organization, Dr. Juergens brings both deep clinical insight and a passionate commitment to action.

“This is a moment of real possibility for lung cancer care in Canada,” says Dr. Juergens. “But possibility only matters if we act on it. My goal is to turn this momentum into measurable change, in how quickly people are diagnosed, how equitably care is delivered, and how meaningfully patients and caregivers are supported throughout the journey.”

She continues:

“I’ve seen firsthand the barriers patients face: in screening, testing, treatment, and trials. And I’ve seen what’s possible when we break those barriers down. We save lives. We restore hope. That’s the work ahead, and I’m honoured to lead it with this remarkable community.”

As the only national charity in Canada exclusively dedicated to lung cancer, Lung Cancer Canada’s mission continues across four core pillars: advocacy, patient support, public awareness, and research. Under Dr. Juergens’ leadership, advocacy will take on an even more focused and strategic role — informed by the lived experiences of patients and guided by five national advocacy priorities:

1. Increasing survivorship through equitable access to screening
2. Breaking down barriers to timely and comprehensive biomarker testing
3. Ensuring every patient can access the most effective treatments
4. Boosting public and private investment in lung cancer research
5. Expanding access to clinical trials across all regions and populations

“Dr. Juergens brings a fire and urgency to this work — and a deep understanding that meaningful change happens when advocacy, support, science, and community come together,” says Shem Singh, Executive Director of Lung Cancer Canada. “She’s a connector, a changemaker, and a leader with both the expertise and the heart to guide us into an ambitious new chapter.”

“Rosalyn isn’t just a colleague — she’s a friend and a trusted partner in this work,” adds Dr. Snow. “Her passion for lung cancer advocacy is boundless. With her at the helm, the future is in exceptional hands.”

As we thank Dr. Snow for her extraordinary leadership, we welcome Dr. Juergens with open arms and high hopes. Together, we look ahead — to a future where no one faces lung cancer alone, and where every voice is heard, every life is valued, and every possibility is pursued.



Free to attend!

Friday, September 26 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Philip & Harriet Libin Knowledge Exchange Centre and Auditorium

Arthur JE Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Whether you're a patient, caregiver, or advocate — this FREE event offers the latest updates on:

- New Clinical Trials
- Molecular Testing
- Lung Cancer Screening
- Palliative Care
- Inspiring Patient Stories

CALGARY LUNG CANCER SUMMIT

Be Informed. Be Connected.

2025 Lung Cancer Summit Series Continues!

Calgary, you're invited! Lung Cancer Canada's 2025 Summit Series is coming to you!

We're bringing together those with lived experience, clinicians, and advocates in Calgary for an afternoon of connection, education, and impact. Whether you're living with lung cancer, supporting someone who is, or working on the front lines of care — this is your space to learn, ask questions, and be part of the conversation shaping the future of lung cancer in Canada.

Calgary Lung Cancer Summit

Date: Friday, September 26, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM MST (followed by a casual reception)

Location: Libin Knowledge Exchange Center & Auditorium

Arthur JE Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre

3395 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary

What to Expect:

Engaging presentations and conversations on:

- New Clinical Trials
- Advances in Molecular Testing
- Screening & Early Detection
- Palliative Care: Enhancing Quality of Life
- Living with Lung Cancer – Shared Patient Experiences

Register For Calgary Here!

Want to see a Lung Cancer Summit in your city or town? Let us know! Write us at info@lungcancercanada.ca

Together, we can drive education, advocacy, and meaningful change in more communities.



Advancing Lung Cancer Research: Innovation, Equity, and Impact

At Lung Cancer Canada, research is very much at the heart of what we do, because research saves lives.

From better diagnostics to more personalized therapies, research has transformed the landscape of lung cancer care. But there's still more to do. Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in Canada and is one of the most underfunded and overlooked. That's why we continue to invest in bold, patient-centered research that drives equity, improves outcomes, and sparks meaningful change.

We are proud to have already awarded over \$150,000 in 2025 to Canadian research teams advancing discovery across the care continuum — from diagnostics and treatment to access and patient navigation. And we're just getting started.

Inaugural Give a Breath Research Award Recipients

Funded through the Give a Breath 5K, this new award supports innovative projects for patients living with advanced or metastatic lung cancer, specifically after first-line therapy.

- **Dr. Cheryl Ho (BC Cancer):** Leading research on a novel lab test that could personalize immunotherapy for patients with oncogene-driven non-small cell lung cancer. By analyzing tumour blood vessels and immune markers together, the study aims to uncover new strategies for more effective, targeted treatment with fewer side effects.
- **Dr. Donna Murrell (London Health Sciences Centre):** Conducting a clinical study to assess the safety of repeat radiation in patients with oligoprogression (progression in areas away from the main tumour), while they are on other treatments. The goal: to help patients stay on their preferred systemic therapy longer, while treating metastatic disease, and maintaining quality of life.

2025 Lung Ambition Award Recipients

In partnership with AstraZeneca and the Lung Ambition Alliance, Lung Cancer Canada is proud to co-lead this national research awards program focused on improving the patient pathway.

- **Dr. Emilian Olteanu (BC Cancer):** Investigating the use of bronchoalveolar

lavage (BAL) fluid to detect tumour DNA in early-stage lung cancer. This less-invasive method could improve diagnosis, especially for tumours located in hard-to-reach areas of the lung.

- **Dr. Antoine Desilets (CHUM, Montreal):** Advancing a next-generation liquid biopsy using whole-genome sequencing to identify tumour DNA through blood samples — with the potential to enable faster, earlier diagnosis and more personalized treatment for patients with early-stage lung cancer.

Two Research Awards Are Now Accepting Applications!

Geoffrey Ogram Memorial Research Grant

Founded in honour of lung cancer advocate and former Lung Cancer Canada Board member Geoffrey Ogram, this award funds high-impact projects focused on early detection, prevention, and disparities across populations.

Deadline: September 30, 2025

Grant Value: Up to two grants of \$25,000 each

For More Information: <https://lungcancercanada.ca/about-us/research-program/geoffrey-ogram-memorial-research-grant/>

Give a Breath Research Award – Round Two Now Open!

A second round of funding is now available to support new projects focused on treatment innovations beyond first-line therapy for advanced or metastatic lung cancer patients.

Deadline: September 30, 2025

Grant Value: Up to two grants of \$25,000 each

For More Information: <https://lungcancercanada.ca/about-us/research-program/give-a-breath-research-award/>

Through continued investments like these, Lung Cancer Canada is helping to close the research gap — one that has long left lung cancer behind.

Thank you to the donors, research teams, and partners who make this progress possible. Together, we're building a future where breakthroughs are not the exception, but the expectation — and every Canadian affected by lung cancer has hope, options, and time.

Stay tuned for more announcements and impact stories in the months ahead.

LUNG CANCER CANADA POLICY FORUM

Bridging the Gap: Precision Medicine in Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment

A three-part forum examining the systemic delays that lung cancer patients face from diagnosis to treatment.

Moderated by Dr. Stephanie Snow

Diagnostic Delays & Biomarker Testing
October 7 - 2:00-3:30 PM EST

Treatment Access & Drug Approval Processes
October 28 - 2:00-3:30 PM EST

Collaborative Strategies for Reducing Delays
November 18 - 2:00-3:30 PM EST



Our Sponsors:



2025 Policy Series: It's Time to Get Serious About Lung Cancer

In 2024, Lung Cancer Canada launched its Lung Cancer Policy Series to turn advocacy into action — creating a national platform where policy, clinical, and patient voices come together to tackle the most urgent challenges in lung cancer care. Now in its second year, the 2025 edition builds on that momentum with a sharp focus on one critical issue: timely and equitable access to precision medicine.

This year's series, moderated by Dr. Stephanie Snow, Medical Oncologist and Past President of Lung Cancer Canada, will explore the growing gap between scientific possibility and patient reality. Dr. Snow brings both clinical expertise and a strong voice for patient-centred care to the conversation — guiding a series of national dialogues that aim to dismantle the delays that too often stand between lung cancer patients and life-saving innovation.

Bridging the Gap: Precision Medicine in Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment

Moderated by Dr. Stephanie Snow

Dates: October 7, October 28, and November 18

Time: 2:00–3:30 PM EST

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Despite rapid advancements in biomarker testing and targeted therapies, the promise of precision medicine is still out of reach for too many patients. Long waits for diagnosis, inconsistent access to biomarker testing, and fragmented treatment pathways continue to stand in the way of better outcomes.

This three-part series will bring together thought leaders from across Canada — clinicians, researchers, policymakers, administrators, industry leaders, and patient advocates — to address these challenges head-on. Together, we'll explore bold, practical strategies to improve time to patient and ensure more Canadians benefit from the right test and the right treatment at the right time.

Session 1: Diagnostic Delays and Biomarker Testing

Tuesday, October 7 | 2:00–3:30 PM EST

The opening session will explore how delayed diagnosis and inconsistent biomarker testing are undermining access to personalized care. We'll examine best practices for test implementation,

the impact of provincial infrastructure gaps, and what it will take for governments to standardize precision medicine delivery across the country.

Session 2: Treatment Access and Drug Approval Processes

Tuesday, October 28 | 2:00–3:30 PM EST

Session 2 will turn to the next link in the chain: how we get patients the treatments they're tested for. We'll look at the shortcomings in drug approval and funding timelines, the role value-based healthcare can play in improving access, and the policy shifts needed to bring innovation to patients faster.

Session 3: Collaborative Strategies for Reducing Delays

Tuesday, November 18 | 2:00–3:30 PM EST

We'll close the series by bringing it all together — focusing on how federal and provincial governments, healthcare providers, researchers, industry leaders, and patient advocates can align around shared goals. We'll spotlight successful cross-sector partnerships, explore new models for integration, and surface actionable policy recommendations.

Why This Series Matters

Lung cancer patients don't have time to wait. Precision medicine has transformed what's possible in lung cancer — but that promise is lost without a system that delivers the right tests and treatments at the right time. The 2025 Lung Cancer Policy Series is Lung Cancer Canada's call to action. It's an opportunity to advance real solutions, grounded in evidence, experience, and equity.

With your voice, expertise, and partnership, we can build a faster, more equitable path forward.

Stay tuned for registration details and speaker announcements!

Together, we can turn advocacy into action — and action into change.



2025 Faces of Lung Cancer Report: Stories That Unite Us. Change That Moves Us.

Lung Cancer Canada is proud to announce the upcoming release of the 2025 Faces of

Lung Cancer Report, a powerful portrait of the real-life impact of lung cancer in Canada. This year's report will be officially launched at a national policy briefing on **Wednesday, November 6, 2025, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM EST.**

Registration and speaker details will be available soon!

Now in its 8th year, Faces of Lung Cancer is more than a publication — it's a platform for change. The 2025 edition builds on the spirit of community and equity established in last year's report, moving from awareness and access to impact and transformation. Through deeply personal stories and expert insight, the report highlights not only the challenges people face across the lung cancer pathway — from screening to survivorship — but also the solutions that are within reach.

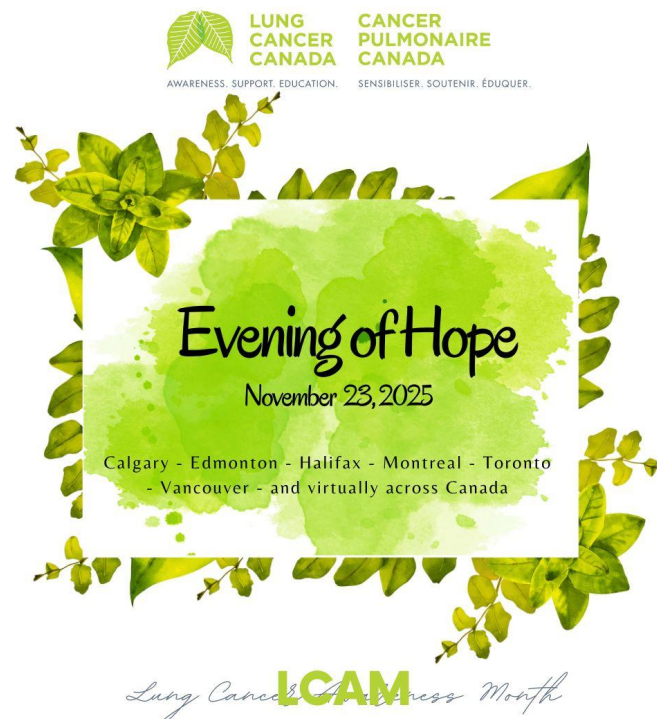
At its core, Faces of Lung Cancer is about turning lived experience into action. Each section of the 2025 report explores a system-level challenge — like delayed diagnosis, treatment inequities, or gaps in survivorship support — through the voices of those living it, the clinicians navigating it, and the advocates pushing for change.

This year's themes include:

- **From Diagnosis to Discovery** – Timely screening, imaging, and biomarker testing
- **Access and Innovation in Treatment** – Barriers to targeted therapies and funding delays
- **Living with Lung Cancer** – Managing the disease as a chronic illness
- **The Power of Support** – Caregiver stories and community networks
- **The New Faces of Survivorship** – Young adults, long-term survivors, and underrepresented voices
- **Turning Hope Into Action** – Research and policy momentum to close the equity gap

This national report helps guide Lung Cancer Canada's advocacy priorities and raises the voices of those too often left out of public discourse. It's about telling the full story — and making sure that story leads to change.

Mark your calendars...and stay tuned for registration and speaker details!



An Evening That Lights the Way Forward: Join Us for the 2025

Evening of Hope!

Save the Date: Sunday, November 23, 2025

Every story. Every life. Every moment of courage.
This fall, we invite you to be part of something extraordinary.

On Sunday, November 23rd, Lung Cancer Canada will host the 2025 Evening of Hope — a national, multi-city event celebrating the strength, resilience, and community spirit that define the lung cancer journey. Held in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and more cities to come — as well as a national online experience — this unforgettable evening offers space for connection, reflection, and renewed purpose.

It's more than an event. It's a movement of solidarity, remembrance, and unwavering hope.

What to Expect

Whether you're attending in-person or joining virtually, the Evening of Hope will bring together those with lived experience, healthcare professionals, advocates, and allies across the country — united in their determination to make lung cancer a priority and ensure no one faces it alone.

Expect a powerful evening filled with:

- Stories of strength from those living with and beyond lung cancer
- Tributes to loved ones and to those we've lost — who remain with us in spirit
- Inspiring messages from leaders in advocacy, medicine, and the community
- Moments of connection that remind us we are never alone in this journey

Why It Matters

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Canada, yet it remains one of the most underfunded and stigmatized diseases. The Evening of Hope is a response to that silence — a night that shines a light on the stories that matter, the lives that inspire, and the future we're building together.

It's a night to honour.
It's a night to believe.
It's a night to fuel the change we urgently need.

Save Your Spot!

Registration will open soon — and we'd love to have you with us.
Sign up now to be among the first to receive updates, location details, and your invitation to this deeply meaningful night.

Let's stand together. Let's celebrate how far we've come — and look ahead to all that's possible. Together, we are the light in the darkness. Together, we are the hope.

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