Excellent partnerships for excellent science

There are many ways to join in BioCanRx's mission of advancing Canada's most promising biotherapeutics into clinical trials. We welcome opportunities to partner with organizations on a range of important activities, such as:

- providing relevant technical knowledge, expertise or assets to collaborate on product development, manufacturing, clinical testing or socio-economic evaluation;
- contributing funds directly to Clinical trials, Enabling studies or Catalyst projects;
- supporting or providing training programs that will ensure sufficient personnel are available to deliver new biotherapies to patients across Canada as they are developed;
- collaborating on outreach programs that engage patients and their families across Canada in setting the course for the future of cancer treatment:
- sponsoring the BioCanRx annual conference, which will bring together more than 260 researchers and their colleagues in the private, charity and government sectors to explore new frontiers of cancer research and stimulate valuable collaborations;
- helping our mission by advocating within your organization and network.

Contact BioCanRx

Scientific Partnerships Dr. John Bell Scientific Director jbell@ohri.com

Partnerships

Dr. Stéphanie Michaud President and CEO smichaud@biocanrx.com

Dr. Kelley Parato

Director, Scientific Affairs keparato@biocanrx.com

Nancy Boyle

Director, Communications, Marketing and Engagement nboyle@biocanrx.com





Together, we can do this

BioCanRx is a network that is uniquely positioned to help Canada and the world accelerate the development of effective biotherapeutics for cancer treatment. Canada has the discoveries and innovations. We have the experts and facilities. We have the support of Canadians. Now BioCanRx is bringing them together, along with the pharmaceutical industry and cancer charities, to advance the development of biotherapeutics that have the greatest potential to significantly improve and transform cancer treatment.

Not just a granting body

To deliver on our promise to start four clinical trials of novel cancer biotherapies, we are funding advanced, preclinical research that may not yet be ready for traditional financing.

But as a network, we have important goals that go beyond simply funding worthy science. We intend to build and foster a vibrant network of expertise that will have a leadership role in the world and become the foundation for a productive biotherapeutics sector in Canada.

BioCanRx will fund promising projects that take advantage of cross-pollinated ideas originating from this network. An important consideration in our funding decisions is that a project be collaborative, with partners across disciplines and institutions or involving the private, charity or government sectors. For us, excellent partnerships are just as important as excellent science.

What research are we supporting?

We are currently focused on three areas of biotherapeutics research - oncolytic viruses, adoptive cell therapy and therapeutic antibodies - and have a fourth program that assesses the clinical, social and economic impact of new therapies in development.

"What makes the concept of BioCanRx so exciting is that by working together we could find really effective combinations that might not come to light for a decade, if ever. This is a great thing for patients." —Dr. John C. Bell



Not the usual funding process

When our Research Management Committee of international experts reviews project proposals, they have more options than a simple 'yes' or 'no.' They can combine proposals. They can select a portion that needs further elaboration to enable a project's success. They can change the research-funding stream to which a project was submitted. They can even recommend that a promising approach be refocused on a cancer or subset of patients for which the therapeutic is most likely to be effective. And as a network, BioCanRx can connect project leaders with other funding partners.

This is all done to invest in a rational portfolio of biotherapies that provide the greatest possible benefit to patients and are attractive commercialization prospects for industry.

THERAPEUTIC ANTIBODIES

Natural antibodies are small proteins that the body produces to flag viruses, bacteria and cancer cells for destruction by the immune system. BioCanRx scientists are developing synthetic antibodies armed with potent toxins that can kill cancer cells directly, as well as antibodies directed to drive the patient's immune response towards heightened anti-cancer activity. These kinds of antibodies have already shown great promise in the clinic, and are without doubt the most successful anticancer biotherapeutics to date.

CLINICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

The BioCanRx network is supporting its biotherapeutic development projects with work on the social and economic impact of these therapies, as well as clinical trial design. This program will identify gaps and advance solutions in the adoption of BioCanRx cancer biotherapeutics and companion technologies by cancer patients, physicians, health-care systems, commercial partners and health-care markets.

OUR RESEARCH INVESTMENT PROGRAM

CATALYST PROGRAM ENABLING STUDIES PROGRAM V CLINICAL TRIALS PROGRAM 1111 1111 11111

ADOPTIVE CELL THERAPY

Immune cell therapy involves engineering or isolating cancer-fighting immune cells from a patient's tumour, growing large numbers of these cells in the laboratory and then infusing them back into patients. Immune cells are naturally present in most tumours, but usually lack the strength or numbers to eradicate the cancer on their own. The immune cells can also be genetically or biologically manipulated to become more powerful. This approach has led to some unprecedented clinical responses in

patients with advanced cancers.

ONCOLYTIC VIRUSES

This new and highly innovative approach to cancer treatment uses cancer-killing viruses to target, infect and kill tumour cells. At the same time, these viruses train our immune system to identify cancer cells, which can provide lasting anti-tumour responses so the cancer doesn't spread and recur. Several of these viruses, including T-VEC (Amgen) and Pexa-Vec (SillaJen), are already in mid-to-late stage clinical trials and showing promising results in patients with solid tumours.





Just as the pharmaceutical industry invests in new technologies in a staged, milestone-driven approach, we have distinct cancer research programs and levels of funding in our development pipeline that progressively flow toward the clinic.

The Catalyst Program supports short-term, early stage projects that can advance to the next stage in the BioCanRx research pipeline, or generate scientific tools and methods that can be used by other BioCanRx network researchers.

The Enabling Studies Program funds work required to prepare and position biotherapeutic products and platforms for clinical testing in patients.

The Clinical Trials Program provides funds for Phase I clinical trials of novel cancer biotherapies that have been substantially developed in Canada.

Greater than the sum

BioCanRx is committed to excellent science in a field with great promise. Our focus is on translating this science into what we hope will be significantly better therapies for cancer patients. BioCanRx will fund translational projects to accelerate the development of these therapies from the laboratory to the clinic. To that end, we have a goal of advancing four new cancer biotherapies into Canadian-led clinical trials by 2020.

But what sets us apart is our commitment to combinations.

We combine experts — from across disciplines, across sectors and across Canada — so they can work together to combine biotherapies. The effect of this is greater than simple addition. Combining biotherapeutic approaches can amplify effectiveness and result in significantly better outcomes compared to the benefits of an individual biotherapy used on its own.

The existing science gives us good reason to believe that rational groupings of biotherapeutics will generate the greatest gains for patients. BioCanRx is in a unique position to catalyze the development of combination therapies, which impresses international researchers in the field. Usually, the work to test new drug combinations only begins once individual therapies are on the market. Now, BioCanRx can catalyze the study of rational and compelling therapeutic combinations at the clinical development stage, driven by strong science and our desire to do the best for patients.

Biotherapeutics have a different kind of math.

BioCanRx bolsters these three programs through access to specialized core facilities in the network (such as infrastructure to produce biotherapeutics for use in human clinical trials) and through our program of activity that evaluates and positions the technologies for the greatest clinical, social and economic impact.