



The Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network

Creating the Team Canada of Cancer Research to improve outcomes for cancer patients through precision medicine

QUICK FACTS

- Named in honour of Terry Fox's journey to raise funds for cancer research
- Unites the best scientists and clinicians from cancer research institutes and hospitals across Canada to share data, harness new technologies and create unprecedented collaborations
- Funded by the Government of Canada with \$150M over five years, to be matched by Network partners
- Aims to create Canada's largest cancer case database – the MOHCCN Gold Cohort – containing 15,000 cancer genomes with related clinical data within five years, to enable new discoveries for the benefit of cancer patients

What is the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network?

The Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network is the realization of a long-standing vision of the Terry Fox Research Institute. Inspired by Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope, the Network represents a powerful collaborative platform that aims to close the gap between research in the lab and patient care in the clinic. Just as Terry Fox united Canadians with his run and dream to end cancer, the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network aims to unite our cancer researchers to pursue that same goal with precision medicine.

Accelerating precision medicine for the benefit of Canadian cancer patients

Precision medicine is a framework for cancer care that targets the unique genetic characteristics of each cancer patient's tumour. It provides the best opportunity to personalize therapies, making sure each patient gets the precise treatment they need at the right time. This will not only make individual treatments more effective, it will also aim to reduce side-effects associated with current therapies.

Targeted therapies are not available today to most cancer patients because of a lack of access to the data required to support precision medicine interventions. To make precision medicine a reality, the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network is allowing leading researchers, oncologists and institutions to work together with cancer patients to find new ways to collect and share clinical and genomic data. This data will then be analyzed using artificial intelligence and other state-of-the-art technologies and methods to allow researchers to pinpoint the Achilles' heel of each person's cancer and find the best treatment options for thousands of patients across the country.

This bold vision hopes to revolutionize cancer treatment for Canadians, establishing our country as a world leader in precision medicine and bringing us closer to achieving Terry's dream of finding new cures for cancer through research.

Key Achievements*

- Signed 24 member institutions from all 10 Canadian provinces
- Established Network governance structure with all regions represented
- Formed 11 Working Groups composed of thought leaders from across the country, working together to shape Network policies that support data generation, curation, ingestion and sharing
- Provided over 3,000 cases representing 22 cancer types for the MOHCCN Gold Cohort by 60 cohorts from 5 Regional Consortia
- Completed a Pan-Canadian Request for Applications that has helped identify 21 new cohorts that will bring over 6,000 new cases for the Network and further increase collaborations among researchers and clinicians
- Launched and funded two programs to support training the next generation of experts in precision medicine: Clinician-Scientist Award and Health Informatics and Data Scientist Awards

* As of April 17, 2023