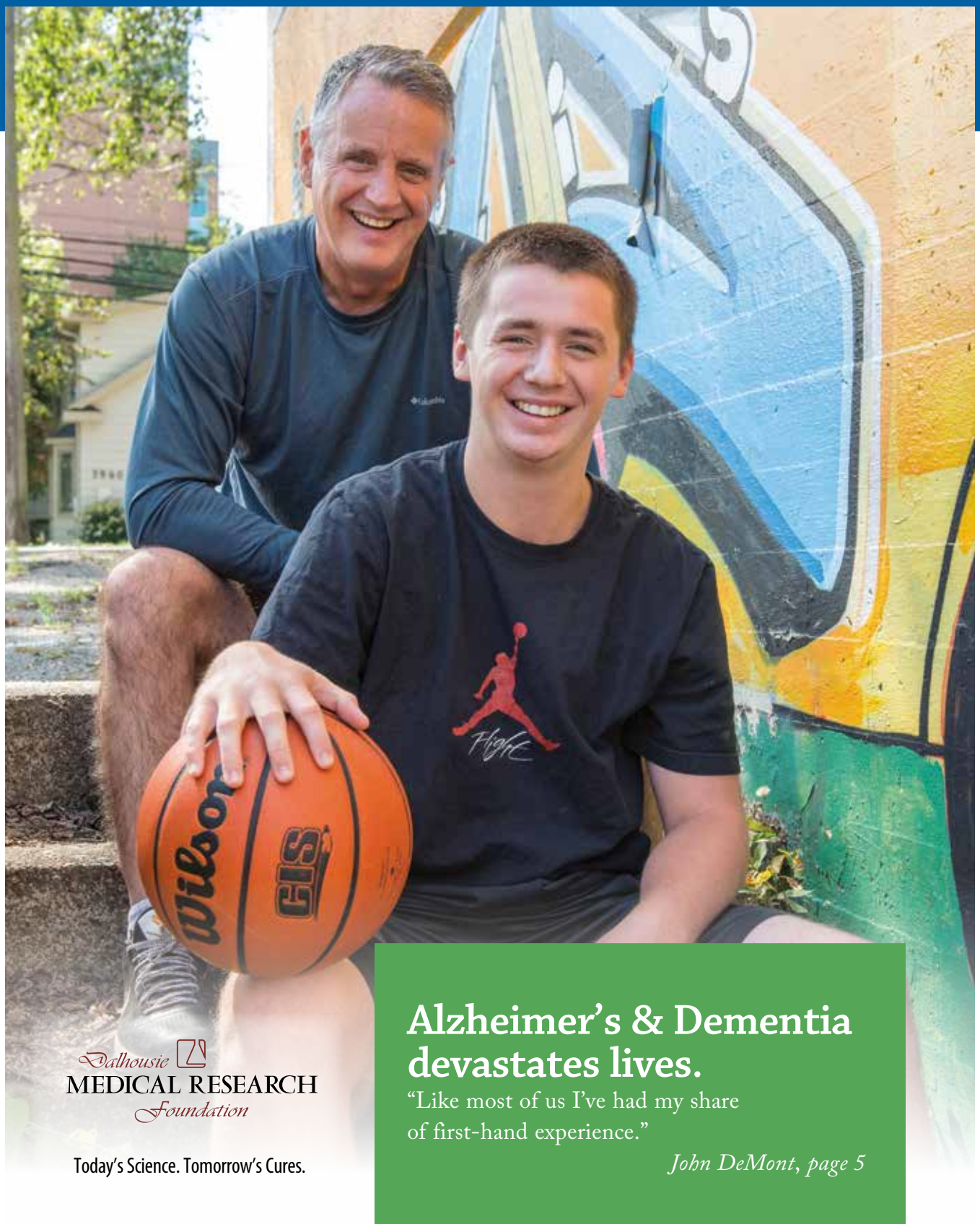
the philanthropist

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Newsletter

Fall 2014 Issue



Dalhousie MEDICAL RESEARCH Foundation

Today's Science. Tomorrow's Cures.

Alzheimer's & Dementia devastates lives.

"Like most of us I've had my share of first-hand experience."

John DeMont, page 5

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(Photo: John Sherlock Photographer)

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Warm Greetings from the Executive Director

Jyl A. MacKinnon DMRF Executive Director
(Photo: Johanna Matthews)

Hello Philanthropist readers,

I am delighted to bring greetings to you on behalf of the Dalhousie Medical Research team! Our group has expanded to include Ms. Christena Copeland (see article, page 24). We extend a sincere welcome to her.

Joanne Bath is now our Director of Development and her primary objective is leading the Foundation's Major Gift initiative. We would like to acknowledge the tremendous support from our Board of Directors who have shown remarkable generosity to this important priority. (p.10-11)

In this issue, we celebrate an extraordinary pledge for MS research from Ms. Margot Spafford, as a beautiful tribute to her friend, Gillian Morrow. (p. 8)

Throughout this Philanthropist issue, you will read about the incredible research happening right here, and the impact of that work on people's lives. This research is being funded because of you.

Gifts from the Molly Appeal add up to make a huge difference. In the 35 years since Molly Moore's vision of "everyone giving what they can," you've contributed $6 million to her appeal! Molly was definitely right.

Estate gifts of all sizes, adopts, major gifts, memorial or celebration gifts – your donations fund world-class research at Dalhousie Medical School; $3 million this past year. Thank you so much for your loyal support! The research awards and grants made possible by your support can be seen in this issue. (p.16-17)

When I started with the Foundation in 2002, I worked on the Molly Appeal for Neuroscience for the Brain Repair Center. One of our featured patients that year was Mr. Fred West with his wife and champion, Mrs. Ann West. We are thrilled to have the Wests participate in this year's Molly Appeal, 12 years later! (p.22-23)

Special thanks go to team members Dina, Laurel, Kaye, Jane, Joanne and Christena for their dedication and passion for medical research.

In closing, thank you for making a difference and improving patient care through medical research.

Sincerely,

Jyl MacKinnon DMRF Executive Director

Message from the Board Chair

Frank C. Sobey,
DMRF Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome Ms. Jyl MacKinnon, as our new Executive Director. Jyl has been with DMRF for 12 years and has been a tremendous team player. She will undoubtedly help us build on our strengths.

I echo Jyl's welcome to Christena Copeland, and congratulate Joanne Bath on her new position as Director of Development.

On behalf of the Directors, I would also like to thank Alison Edwards for leaving the Foundation in such great shape. Her detailed notes, binders, files and countless e-mails are helping make Jyl's transition as seamless as possible.

We are in an exciting era for Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation! Historically we have been a "Planned Giving" shop and are most known for our significant endowment, largely grown by estate gifts. Although we are keeping up our gift planning efforts, we will be adding a focus on Major Gift fundraising, with the goal of increasing our level of research funding in perpetuity. Watch for updates in the next Philanthropist issue.

Speaking of giving, Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation is proud to have been the largest contributor to the Zebrafish Core Facility opening October 2014, in the Life Sciences Research Institute, with an $800,000 contribution. We are pleased to have funded a total of $3 million in research this fiscal year.

The DMRF combination of a growing endowment and major gifts has enabled us to consistently increase the amount of funding support for medical research at the School of Medicine, therefore helping improve the quality of life of those in Atlantic Canada and around the world.

Congratulations to the DMRF staff, Board and especially you, our donors, for another successful year.

Frank C. Sobey, DMRF Board Chair

Thank You

and Thank You again to Sobeys Floral

Jyl MacKinnon, CFRE – DMRF Executive Director

Once again, we express our sincere gratitude for Sobey's annual Maritime-wide "Molly's Garden" floral campaign in support of the Molly Appeal for medical research. Each year, Sobey's donates a dollar for every single rose bouquet purchased for Mother's Day in their Maritime stores. Their 2013/14 campaign raised $9,070.00 in support of cancer research at Dalhousie Medical School and will help purchase a Live-Cell Imaging Facility. Thank you so much for your loyal and generous support and this wonderful contribution to the work of Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation!

Photo: Courtesy Sobeys Floral

Financials at a Glance

The Foundation is pleased to present a summary of its financial results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014. Complete audited statements are available online at www.dmrf.ca or by calling us at 902-494-3502 or 1-888-866-6559 (toll free).

During the 2013/14 year, DMRF experienced an increase in its fund balance of $9.5 million, bringing the total fund balance at the end of the year to just under $70 million.

In keeping with our mandate to provide an increasing level of support to Dalhousie Medical School, the Foundation has recently undertaken a focused effort to secure large lifetime gifts. Growing the endowment enables us to provide more funding on an ongoing basis, particularly in the areas of core facilities and bridge funding. During the year, a number of our donors provided generous major gifts, resulting in donation revenue of $3 million. More information on these areas of research emphasis can be found throughout this newsletter.

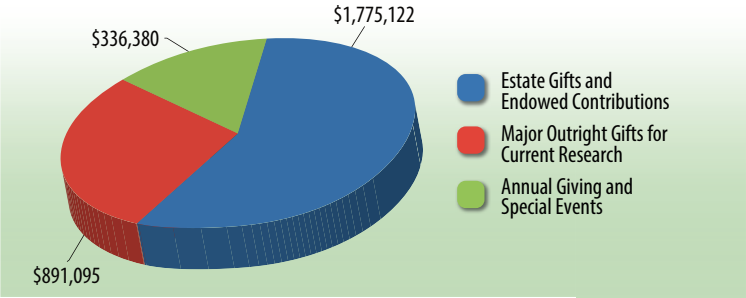
The Foundation earned $10.5 in investment income during the year, $2 million from interest and dividends and $1.8 million from the sale of investments. The remaining $6.7 million represents an increase in the market value of investments held by the Foundation at year end.

During the year, the Foundation paid out research grants of more than $3 million to the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine. A detailed breakdown of grants awarded can be found on pages 16 and 17. General operating and fundraising expenses came in at $975,000, an increase of less than twenty percent over the prior year.

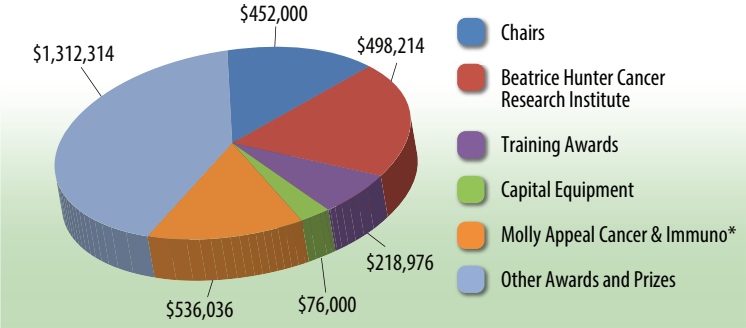
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Revenue	**2014**	2013
Investment Income	**$10,549,306**	$5,982,094
Donations	**3,002,597**	**1,928,406**
	13,551,903	**7,910,500**
Expenditures		
Research	**3,093,540**	**2,621,964**
Less: recoveries of prior years	**(90,199)**	(12,249)
Net research expenditures	**3,003,341**	2,609,715
General Operating and Fundraising	**975,880**	**822,839**
	3,979,221	**3,432,554**
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures (Expenditures over Revenue)	**$9,572,682**	**$4,477,946**
Fund Balance, end of year	**$69,405,394**	**$59,832,712**

Complete audited financials are available online at www.dmrf.ca or by calling 1-888-866-6559.



Total Contributions 13/14 **$3,002,597**



Research Funding 13/14 **$3,093,540**

*Molly Appeal includes two campaign pay outs in 13/14 fiscal year – Immunology 12/13 & Cancer 13/14. This change in timing of funding distribution enables earlier use of the Molly funds. For 14/15 and onward, one Molly Appeal campaign will be paid out each year.

John DeMont and son, Sam (Photo: John Sherlock)

Reflections on Alzheimer's and Dementia

By John DeMont

Jyl MacKinnon, Executive Director,

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) recently spoke with John DeMont, senior writer and columnist for the *Chronicle Herald* and *Herald Magazine*.

Our designer, Cindy Schultz, drew Jyl's attention to John's article *The Long Goodbye* (*Chronicle Herald*, October 26, 2013) about his personal experience of living through dementia with both of his parents. Jyl asked John to reflect on how the neuroscience research being supported by this year's MOLLY Appeal could benefit him and his family.

John DeMont:

"I'm not a big science guy, as my grade 11 chemistry teacher would attest. But I do understand basic cause and effect.

And, even though I'm still flummoxed by the periodic tables, I get the value of scientific research.

I know that today valuable insights are being gained at Dalhousie Medical School all the time.

We haven't found a cure for Alzheimer's or dementia yet. But we're making important progress.

We just have to keep going, searching for ways to solve those terrible riddles. That's why the work at the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank is so important.

Alzheimer's and dementia devastates lives. Like most of us I've had my share of first-hand experience.

The hardest thing that's happened in my life has been watching my dad – a varsity athlete at Acadia university and an investment company vice-president – and my mom, a golfer, bridge-player and coal miner's daughter from Cape Breton, succumb to Alzheimer's and dementia.

Unlike so many other sufferers they weren't taken before their time. But their last years were so hard to see.

My wife, Lisa and kids, Sam and Belle, watched it happen too. Their lives were as altered by my parent's disease as mine and my brother's were.

It's heart-breaking for me to think about any of them ever being afflicted by the same cruel diseases that took mom and dad.

I want my wife and kids to have long, eventful lives. I want Belle and Sam to have great families and children just like we have. I want all of their days to be filled with warmth and laughter.

In a perfect world I wouldn't have to watch another loved one go through these diseases. My deepest wish is that neither will any of my family members.

My knowledge about scientific matters hasn't improved much over the years.

But now I do know this: the men and women in the lab coats are our best hope of a cure for a type of disease that doesn't discriminate by age, gender, background or economic circumstances.

The kind of research that changes the world isn't cheap. Some things are just worth the price."

Dr. Vic Rafuse

By Melanie Jollymore

Practical approaches to ALS:

Dr. Vic Rafuse pursues new strategies for diagnosing and treating ALS

Dr. Victor Rafuse, a professor in Dalhousie's Department of Medical Neuroscience and director of the Brain Repair Centre, is exploring innovative new approaches to ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

Among many projects, Dr. Rafuse and his team are working towards a simple test for diagnosing ALS in its early stages, when treatments have the best chance of altering the course of the disease. "ALS is difficult to diagnose," he says. "Often by the time a person is diagnosed, many motor neurons and their synapses have died. Early diagnosis is critical."

He and his colleague, Dr. Ying Zhang, have developed a new technology for rapidly screening potential treatments for ALS and are working with a Canadian-led team to use this technology to screen thousands of compounds. At the same time, he is working on a gene therapy to help people with ALS breathe more easily, and launching new projects to explore the links between metabolism and ALS.

One man's refusal inspires a top

Mike Watson of East Gore, Nova Scotia, is determined to live life to the fullest, even in the face of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), a neurodegenerative disease that is usually fatal within a few years of diagnosis.

Not so for Mike, whose fighting spirit has sustained him for more than 10 years. "My life is really pretty good," says Mike. In fact, he and his wife, Brenda, are planning a road trip to Florida this fall, now that he has won the fight to regain his Nova Scotia driver's licence. It's just one of many battles the former Canadian Navy submariner has fought and won since being diagnosed with ALS.

Mike first noticed something was wrong in 2001, when he found himself exhausted and barely able to cope with 12- to 16-hour shifts helping stranded airline passengers and preparing ships for deployment in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. As time went on, he began having trouble breathing and also began choking on his food – to the point that Brenda was performing the Heimlich manoeuvre on a near-monthly basis.

Mike Watson and his family (Photo courtesy of Watson family)

to give in to ALS neuroscientist

By Melanie Jollymore

Mike Watson and Dr. Vic Rafuse (Photo: Keith Jollymore)

Even when describing these terrifying experiences, and the long ordeal of tests and false leads before he was finally diagnosed, Mike punctuates every sentence with a smile. Attitude, it would seem, is everything. When asked what has kept him strong, without hesitation he says, "A willingness to adapt to change."

And adapt he has. Mike breathes with the aid of a ventilator at night, eats by way of a tube inserted directly into his stomach, uses a portable sound system to talk, and gets around outside the house in a motorized wheelchair. At home, he insists on walking.

"Mike's attitude is amazing," says Dr. Victor Rafuse, a leading ALS researcher and professor of medical neuroscience at Dalhousie Medical School who also happens to be the director of the Brain Repair Centre. "His spirit is irrepressible, he doesn't give up. As a result, he's lived longer and in better health than anyone with his kind of ALS would normally expect to."

Mike has bulbar ALS. This form of ALS first affects motor neurons in the brain stem and upper spinal cord, compromising muscular control of breathing and swallowing. It tends to progress to respiratory failure within two to three years of diagnosis.

According to Mike, consuming 3,000 calories a days is the secret of his ability to stave off the worst effects of ALS. "If I lose weight, I die," says Mike emphatically. "I tell everyone who's newly diagnosed, 'Don't lose weight. You've got to keep your body mass to fight the disease.'"

Conversations with Mike have inspired Dr. Rafuse to launch a study exploring the links between metabolism and ALS. Most of all, Mike's story about the long and difficult road to diagnosis has compelled Dr. Rafuse to embark on new research he hopes will lead to a simple test for diagnosing ALS.

"If we could diagnose the disease at an early stage, before symptoms have progressed, we could intervene to save motor neurons and their synaptic connections to muscles," says Dr. Rafuse. "This would preserve function, extend life and improve quality of life."

Dr. Rafuse and his colleagues in the growing ALS research group at Dalhousie are studying ALS from many different angles, to learn what causes this disease to develop and progress and, therefore, how it might be stopped.

"It's an exciting time for ALS research in Halifax," Dr. Rafuse says. "We have new researchers coming in and new avenues of exploration opening up." He says the expansion of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank to include brain and spinal cord tissues donated by people who had ALS – to be funded by this year's Molly Appeal – will give the researchers a powerful new tool.

For Mike and Brenda, who have visited Dr. Rafuse and toured the Brain Repair Centre labs several times, it's almost overwhelming to see the effort and dedication of the researchers who are seeking solutions to this difficult disease. They recognize the fighting spirit and are pleased to add their own efforts by supporting this year's Molly Appeal. "You can't ever give up," says Mike. "In research, or in life, it's not an option."

Margot Spafford and Gilliam Morrow (Photo: DMRF)

Gillian's Hope

By Christena Copeland

Italian philosopher and theologian

Thomas Aquinas once said, "There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." These words apply beautifully to the friendship between Gillian Morrow and Margot Spafford, a relationship that has spanned several decades and is founded on laughter and shared experiences. This true friendship has created Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation's DMRF Gillian's Hope MS Research Fund – or Gillian's Hope – a transformative gift from Margot that will establish an endowment to improve levels of Multiple Sclerosis research.

"With advice from DMRF, I was able to set up an endowment fund so that anybody can donate whatever they want into it, says Margot. "This option made perfect sense to me."

Gillian's Hope will support local research including diagnosis, treatment, epidemiology, impact of new therapies, new imaging, and other potential areas. "The researchers here are so passionate," enthuses Margot. "They are so grateful for whatever amount you give. It's their life's work." Margot has been an ambassador and supporter of DMRF's Adopt-a-Researcher program for many years. (See Adopt-a-Researcher facing p. 9)

"When I was diagnosed with MS, I didn't think I would have a problem," says Gillian, "because I thought surely they'd have a cure in a few years. But now, I'm twenty-one years into this. The research needs to take place so people like me can be free. There are a lot of people out there who are depending on this research."

Indeed, the Nova Scotia Multiple Sclerosis Integrated Database (NS MSID) Update Project found that one in every 500 Canadians will be affected by the disease. Nova Scotia has one of the highest incidents of MS in Canada; almost more than double the national average.

While Gillian and Margot have shared many experiences since their friendship began in their late teens, Gillian's Hope is an especially meaningful tribute to their bond.

"I'm overwhelmed that Margot would pick me to put her energy into," marvels Gillian, with a smile. "That's amazing. Three cheers to Margot."

"Gill's MS journey has touched so many. I am humbled to be included among her many close friends", says Margot. "Gill is loved by so many and is a true inspiration to us all."

To find out more about Gillian's Hope, and how to give, please contact the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation at 902-494-3502 or email christena.copeland@dal.ca.

When you
Adopt-a-Researcher
you don't just write
a cheque,
you write
happier endings.

MOLLY Appeal BBQ 2014

For the fifth year in a row, Thermo Fisher Scientific generously sponsored the annual MOLLY Appeal BBQ which provides an opportunity to celebrate – both the success of the previous year, and the launch of the new campaign.

Thanks to the generosity of all of our donors, the 2013/14 **MOLLY Appeal for Cancer research raised a total of $270,000!** Dr. Roy Duncan was on hand to accept the cheque presented by Jyl MacKinnon, DMRF Executive Director. 100% of the funds raised will help establish a Live-Cell Imaging Facility, allowing researchers to better understand and treat cancer. THANK YOU!

The 2014/15 MOLLY Appeal for Neuroscience was launched with the help of Dr. Sultan Darvesh, Director of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank to which all proceeds will be directed. The tissue bank provides a vital resource for researchers of Alzheimer's and other dementias as well as many other nervous-system disorders including ALS, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and spinal cord injuries.

Dr. Sultan Darvesh and Dr Roy Duncan (Photo: Bruce Bottomley)

Profiles of some of the many neuroscience researchers working to improve understanding and treatments in these areas are featured in this issue alongside the experiences of patients who are benefitting from and inspiring the research.

Joanne Bath, DMRF Director of Development (Photo:Danny Abriel)

Health Research Matters

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation

With excerpts from *The road to wellness* by Matt Semansky which first appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of *Dalhousie magazine.*

The landscape of healthcare in the Maritimes is changing. There is promising research on the cusp of becoming the next great medical discovery. While research conducted here holds enormous potential, there are many opportunities for investment in both the funding of researchers, and the acquisition of equipment and technologies. Investment in these opportunities will take research to the next level.

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) is making great strides in supporting the many researchers that grace Dalhousie Medical School. Firstly, we are proud to have contributed $2 million to the medical school's Life Sciences Research Institute (LSRI). The LSRI is a state-of-the-art, multi-disciplinary facility, equipped with the technological tools needed to recruit and retain the best-caliber physicians, scientists and research trainees to our region.

Secondly, DMRF is delighted to have given an additional $800,000 to assist with the opening of the new zebrafish core facility lab located in the LSRI.

Zebrafish provide an ideal model organism for the study of normal development and disease progression. This is due to the large number of progeny that each couple produces, with up to 200 embryos every seven days and to the fact that the embryos and larvae are small, transparent and undergo rapid development.

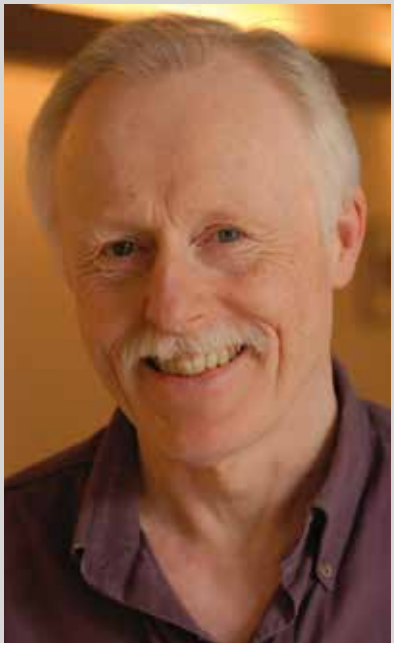
Core facilities are designed to support a large number of researchers across a variety of research areas. For example, the LSRI zebrafish facility will support the research of over 15 faculty members, plus their trainees and technical staff in cancer research, cardiac development, neurobiology, and genetics. This innovative core facility has the capacity to house over 75,000 adult zebrafish and is one of the largest in the country. The systems that regulate temperature, water salinity, pH, flow rate and oxygen pressure are all automated and can be monitored and controlled remotely through web-based access. Adjacent to each fish room is an anteroom for

the preparation of brine shrimp feed for the fish, storage of tanks and breeding chambers, and incubators for raising zebrafish larvae. This specialized core facility will play a pivotal role in expanding the use of the zebrafish model at Dalhousie University, and contribute to making Dalhousie a national leader in this field. As a core, this facility will be accessible to the broader research community, providing training opportunities in zebrafish techniques to highly qualified personnel across the entire Atlantic Region.

With a strong focus on supporting core facilities like the zebrafish lab and on attracting and maintaining outstanding researchers, DMRF is placing an increased emphasis on major gifts. A greater focus on major gifts will promote the long-term goal of extensively growing the Foundation's endowment. Growth of our endowment ensures we are able to expand and develop the funding of research at Dalhousie Medical School.

"Core facilities are about more than equipment and space. They are also about people. We require not just scientific technologies, but the expertise to access those technologies."

Gerry Johnston, Associate Dean, Research, Dalhousie Medical School



Gerry Johnston, Associate Dean, Research, Dalhousie Medical School (Photo: DMRF files)

DMRF is focused on two key areas in our major gift fundraising efforts for health research at Dalhousie. One is the establishment and maintenance of world-class facilities and technologies that will be operated by experts and available to multiple researchers. The second is the development of bridging and matching funds; monies that get research started and keep it going. The two major investment priorities that have been identified are the DMRF Core Facilities Fund and the DMRF Research Investment Fund.

Zebra fish lab (Photo: DMRF) files)

Growth of the DMRF Core Facilities Fund will provide a sustainable source of funding for existing and future core facilities at the medical school. This fund will ensure that Dalhousie researchers have the support they need to apply their knowledge to research that will impact the well-being of our Maritime communities, our country, and even our world.

Dr. Gerry Johnston, Assistant Dean of Research at the Faculty of Medicine says the DMRF Core Facilities Fund is critical to keeping Dalhousie researchers on the cutting edge. "We have a large number of people doing truly excellent research," states Dr. Johnston, "but you need high-end facilities to keep researchers on par with researchers around the world." Dr. Johnston further explains that a strong and cohesive research community leads to shared ideas that mutually impact different areas of study. Often a discovery in one area of research can lead to advancements in another; thus the immense importance of core facilities.

A strong DMRF Research Investment Fund will help researchers continue their vital work when they are experiencing a gap in grants and other funding. "Having some bridge funding capacity helps us maintain expertise and the momentum of research," adds Dr. Johnston. "We're providing researchers with the necessary support they need so they can maintain a stable operation over a long period of time." In essence, bridge funding allows the medical school to uphold research excellence well into the future.

Joanne Bath, Director of Development for DMRF, has been hired to focus fundraising efforts on these important priorities. "I am passionate about supporting research at the medical school, be that core facilities or bridge funding," says Bath. "The work conducted there is making a significant difference in the field of health and wellness, and it's happening right here in our own back yard. This research has a global impact. That's why we're excited to share our story, and we're confident it will inspire philanthropic investment into work that is saving lives, and promoting advances in our health care system."

Thanks to the generosity of our donors here in the Maritimes and across the country, DMRF is able to make a major contribution to the establishment of research excellence.

Partners

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation sincerely appreciates the continued support of the following companies for participating in the Partners in Medical Research Program. We extend our sincere thanks to their many employees who regularly contribute gifts through automatic payroll deduction to support local medical research. Your support has added up to $2 million so far. Thank you!

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Colchester East Hants Health Authority
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Cumberland Health Authority
Energie NB Power
High Liner Foods Inc.
I.M.P. Aerospace Components Ltd.
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Labatt - Oland Brewery
Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd.
Maple Leaf Foods Inc.
Miramichi Regional Health Authority
Moosehead Breweries Limited

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Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation is pleased to recognize individual contributions of $100+. Donations listed include those received over the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

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Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation acknowledges those who through their estate plans were generous in their support of medical research. The following estate gifts were received during the 2013/2014 fiscal year.

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A Holiday Tree

Cheque payable to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation. Credit cards (VISA, Mastercard, American Express) can be paid by phone Toll Free: 1-888-866-6559

See over to complete the form

☐ **1st ornament**
In Honour of :

☐ I want to be anonymous.
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Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation

Holiday Tree

DMRF's Holiday Tree will be erected in the foyer of the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building on Monday, December 1st, 2014.

For every Holiday Tree donation of $25, we will place an ornament on the tree. The ornament will be marked by a tag with the name of the honouree and of the donor (unless they wish to remain anonymous). Our goal is to fill every inch of branch space on our tree! All proceeds will go directly to support this year's Molly Appeal campaign for Neuroscience Research here at Dalhousie Medical School.

See over to complete the form

YES! I want to put an ornament on the Holiday Tree.

the Molly Appeal for MEDICAL RESEARCH

Name : _____

Street Address : _____ Town : _____

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Each Holiday Tree donation of $25.00 puts one ornament on the tree.

Purchase as many ornaments in honour of or in memory of as many folks as you want.

A tag will be placed with each ornament naming the honouree.

DALHOUSIE MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
RESEARCH AWARDS AND GRANTS

Researcher Awardees (in alphabetical order)	Faculty Rank	Award	Award Amount (rounded to nearest $100)	Department	Research Area
Dr. Bal Chauhan	Professor	DMRF Adopt-A-Researcher Grant	**$130,000**	Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences	Glaucoma
Dr. Alon Friedman	Professor	DMRF Capital Equipment Grant	**$30,000**	Medical Neurosciences	Epilepsy
Dr. Stan Kutcher	Professor	Dalhousie Sun Life Financial Endowed Chair in Adolescent Mental Health Research	**$26,000**	Psychiatry	Adolescent Mental Health
Dr. Joanne Langley	Professor	Dalhousie CIHR GSK Endowed Chair in Vaccinology Research	**$12,500**	Pediatrics	Vaccinology
Dr. Patrick Lee	Professor	DMRF Cameron Endowed Chair in Basic Cancer Research (via BHCRI)	**$280,000**	Microbiology & Immunology; Pathology	Cancer
Dr. Paola Marignani	Associate Professor	DMRF Adopt-A-Researcher Grant	**$38,800**	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Cancer
Dr. T. Alex Quinn	Assistant Professor	DMRF Capital Equipment Grant	**$20,000**	Physiology & Biophysic	Cardiovascular disease
Dr. Ken Rockwood	Professor	DMRF Kathryn A Weldon Endowed Chair in Alzheimer's Research	**$125,000**	Geriatric Medicine	Alzheimer's Disease and other dementia related illnesses
Dr. Chris Sinal	Professor	DMRF Capital Equipment Grant	**$26,000**	Pharmacology	Obesity
Dr. Phil Tibbo	Professor	Dalhousie Paul Janssen Endowed Chair in Psychotic Disorders	**$8,500**	Psychiatry	Psychotic Disorders including schziophrenia

SUBTOTAL – INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHER AWARDS $696,800

Trainee Awardees (in alphabetical order)	Trainee Level	Award	Award Amount (rounded to nearest $100)	Department	Research Area
Ms. Rafael Andrade (Supervisor - Dr. Paola Marignani)	PhD Candidate	DMRF Kathryn A Weldon Travel Award	**$2,000**	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Tumour metabolism
Ms. Rafael Andrade (Supervisor - Dr. Paola Marignani)	PhD Candidate	DMRF Crease Graduate Studenship (via BHCRI)	**$4,700**	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Tumour metabolism
Andrew Chan (Supervisor - Dr. Keith Brunt)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Katelyn Robarts Research Studentship	**$5,000**	DMNB - Pharmacology	Study of video laryngoscopes
Mr. Owen Chauhan (Supervisor - Dr. David Anderson & Dr. Adrian Levy)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Bergmann-Porter Research Studentship	**$5,000**	Medicine & CH&E	Cancer
Ms. Jessica Corbin (Supervisor - Dr. Younes Anini)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Carl Tupper Research Studentship	**$5,000**	Physiology & Biophysics	Anatomical study related to perforator flaps
Ms. Claudia Cote (Supervisor - Dr. Ansar Hassan)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Katelyn Robarts Research Studentship	**$5,000**	DMNB - Cardiac Surgery	Heat shock proteins
Mr. Paul D'Alessandro	4th Year Medical Student	DMRF Donald J Hatcher Research Prize	**$2,000**	Division of Medical Education	Cancer & education
Mr. Drew Debay (Supervisor - Dr. Sultan Darvesh)		DMRF Kathryn A Weldon Travel Award	**$2,000**	Medical Neurosciences	Neuroimaging of cognitive impairment
Ms. Elizabeth Evans		DMRF Dr. John & Elizabeth Beattie Research Studentship	**$5,000**	Atlantic Research Centre	Structure/function of "FAST" proteins
Mr. Simon Gebremeskel (Supervisor - Dr. Michael Bezuhly)		DMRF Kathryn A Weldon Travel Award	**$1,200**	Microbiology & Immunology	Fat graft retention
Ms. Nada Ismaiel (Supervisor - Dr. Dietrich Henzier)	2nd Year Medical Student	DMRF Dr. Thomas Coonan Research Studentship	**$5,000**	Anaesthesia, Pain Management & Perioperative Medicine	Cholesterol homeostasis & energy metabolism
Ms. Courtney Jollymore (Supervisor - Dr. Sultan Darvesh)		DMRF DeWolfe Graduate Studentship	**$10,000**	Medical Neurosciences	Neuropathology of MS and Alzheimer's
Mr. Robert Laprairie (Supervisor - Dr. Eileen Denovan-Wright)		DMRF Kathryn A Weldon Travel Award	**$2,000**	Pharmacology	Huntington's disease
Ms. Lesley Lathan (Supervisor - Dr. Stacy Ackroyd-Stolarz)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Dr. Harold W Cook Research Studentship	**$5,000**	Emergency Medicine	Influenza vaccine during pregnancy
Mr. Valentin Mocanu (Supervisor - D.r JF Legare)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Leo Alexander Research Studentship	**$5,000**	Cardiac Surgery	Use of peripheral vasopressors
Ms. Maggie Moores (Supervisor - Dr. Sultan Darvesh)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Barsham Music-in-Medicine Research Studentship	**$5,000**	Medical Neurosciences	Alzheimer's disease
Mr. Blair Murray (Supervisor - Dr. Scott Halperin)		DMRF MacLennan Research Studentship	**$5,000**	Pediatrics	Vaccinology
Dr. Chungen Pan (Supervisor - Dr. Roy Duncan)	Postdoctoral Fellow	DMRF Rosetti Fellowship (via BHCRI)	**$9,200**	Microbiology & Immunology	Cancer

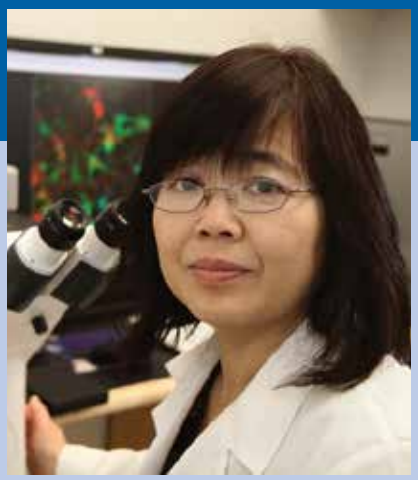
(Funding provided from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014)

Trainee Awardees (in alphabetical order)	Trainee Level	Award	Award Amount (rounded to nearest $100)	Department	Research Area
Ms. Randi Parks (Supervisor - Dr. Denis Dupré)	PhD Candidate	DMRF MacDonald Graduate Studentship	$10,000	Pharmacology	Gender & aging re cardiovascular
Ms. Shona Philip (Supervisor - Dr. Keith Brunt)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Katelyn Robarts Research Studentship	$5,000	DMNB - Pharmacology	Gender & aging - cardiovascular
Mr. Kyle Phipps (Supervisor - Dr. Michael Bezuhly)		DMRF W. Alan Curry Research Studentship	$5,000	Plastic Surgery	Plastic Surgery
Ms. Alexandra Reda (Supervisor - Dr. Roger McLeod)		DMRF Kathryn A Weldon Travel Award	$1,300	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	NMR on amino acids
Dr. Lori MacNeil (Supervisor - Dr. Chris Sinal)	Postdoctoral Fellow	DMRF Reynolds Fellowship	$22,500	Pharmacology	Knee arthroplasty
Mr. Corey Smith (Supervisor - Dr. Bal Chauhan)	PhD Candidate	DMRF DeWolfe Graduate Studentship	$10,000	Physiology & Biophysics	Non-invasive detection & monitoring of eye disease
Mr. Jeremy Springer (Supervisor - Dr. Paul Johnson)	2nd Year Medical Student	DMRF Barsham Music-in-Medicine Research Studentship	$5,000	Surgery	
Mr. Matthew Stoyek (Supervisor - Dr. Frank Smith)		DMRF Kathryn A Weldon Travel Award	$1,500	Medical Neurosciences	Zebrafish heart control
Mr. Ethan Tournishey (Supervisor - Dr. Tony Reiman)	1st Year Medical Student	DMRF Katelyn Robarts Research Studentship	$5,000	DMNB - Oncology	
Ms. Amy Trottier	4th Year Medical Student	DMRF Goldbloom Medal in Pediatrics	$1,000	Pediatrics	Pediatrics
Ms. Barbala Podor (Supervisor - Dr. Alan Fine)		DMRF Neuroscience Graduate Studentship	$5,000	Physiology & Biophysics	
Matthew MacDougall (Supervisor - Dr. Alan Fine)		DMRF Neuroscience Graduate Studentship	$5,000	Medical Neurosciences	
Mr. Robert Laprairie (Supervisor - Dr. Eileen Denovan-Wright)		DMRF Neuroscience Graduate Studentship	$5,000	Pharmacology	
Mr. Jordan Warford (Supervisors - Drs. Alex Easton/David Hoskin)		DMRF Neuroscience Graduate Studentship	$5,000	Pathology	
Dr. Colin Yeung (Supervisor – Dr. Nicholas Giacomantonio)	Postdoctoral Fellow	Sobey Fellowship	$55,000	Cardiology	Pediatrics
SUBTOTAL – INDIVIDUAL TRAINEE AWARDS			**$169,400**		

Program Support (In Decending Grant $ Order)	Program Name	Grant Amount	Research Area
Program Support	DMRF Core Facilty Infrastructure Support	$800,000	Zebrafish Core Facility
Program Support	DMRF Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute (BHCRI) Grant	$484,308	Cardiovascular
Program Support	DMRF Molly Appeal Grant (2013/14)	$270,000	Matching Funds to Genome Canada
Program Support	DMRF Molly Appeal Grant (2012/13)	$266,036	Mental Health
Program Support	DMRF IGNITE Grant	$100,000	Lab Support
Program Support	DMRF Olwen Dorothy Farrell EGAD Grant	$60,000	Research Training
Program Support	DMRF DMNB (Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick) Grant	$51,165	Research Training and Other Support
Program Support	DMRF Reynolds Grant	$39,476	Pharmacology
Program Support	DMRF Clinical Investigator Program (CIP) Grant	$37,000	Research Training
Program Support	DMRF Adolescent Mental Health Initiative	$33,000	Core Research Facility
Program Support	DMRF Ophthalmology Grants	$33,000	Ophthalmology
Program Support	DMRF Research Sponsorship	$18,250	Program Infrastructure
Program Support	DMRF Miscellaneous Grants Under $5,000	$15,072	Various
Program Support	DMRF Integrated Health Research Training Program (IHRTP) Grant	$10,000	Research Training
Program Support	DMRF Conference Grant	$5,000	Research Training
Program Support	DMRF Conference Grant	$5,000	Pharmacology
SUBTOTAL – PROGRAM GRANTS		**$2,227,307**	
TOTAL DMRF RESEARCH FUNDING 2013/14		**$3,093,540**	

Researcher Profiles *By Melanie Jollymore*

Dr. Rob Brownstone (Photo: John Sherlock)



Dr. Ying Zhang (Photo: DMRF files)

The science of motion:

Dr. Rob Brownstone deciphers spinal circuits' control of movement.

Neurosurgeon and scientist Dr. Rob Brownstone is deciphering the complex neural networks in the spinal cord that control our ability to move – from the rhythmic pattern of walking to the finely calibrated grasp of the hand. This fundamental knowledge about is the essential first step to finding ways to restore lost abilities to people living with injuries or diseases that impair their motor function.

"Whether a person is living with ALS, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, or a spinal cord injury, it involves changes to the nervous system that result in a reduced ability to move," notes Dr. Brownstone, Canada Research Chair in Spinal Cord Circuits and professor in the departments of Surgery and Medical Neuroscience at Dalhousie Medical School. "By learning how the nervous system functions in normal and altered conditions, we're laying the groundwork for the treatments of the future."

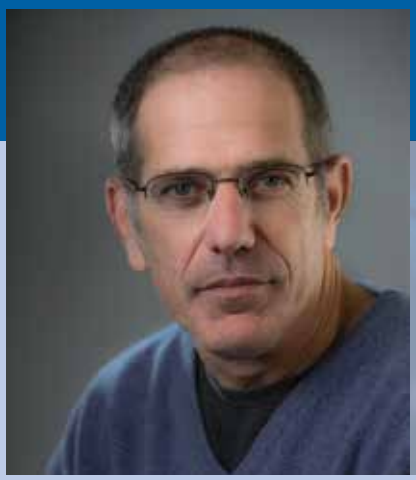
Dr. Brownstone is enthusiastic about the expansion of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank to include spinal cord tissues, which will open new avenues of exploration to the growing group of spinal cord and motor neuron researchers in Halifax.

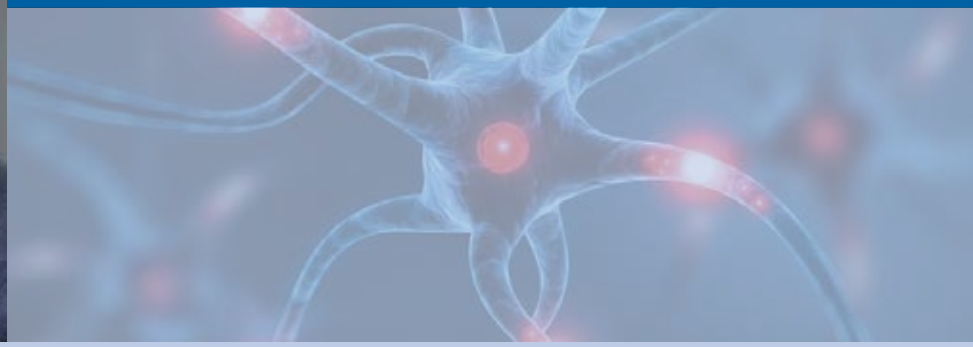
A new territory in exploring ALS:

Dr. Ying Zhang embarks on studies of the role of interneurons in ALS.

One of Canada's top-ranked spinal cord researchers, Dr. Ying Zhang is also one of the first scientists in the world to explore the role of interneurons in ALS. "The interneurons form a network that controls the motor neurons, which in turn connect to and control the muscles," says Dr. Zhang, an assistant professor in the Department of Medical Neuroscience at Dalhousie Medical School. "Knowledge is very limited about how they're involved in ALS."

Dr. Zhang is looking forward to the expansion of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank to include brain and spinal cord tissues donated by people who had ALS. "When we find proteins in lab studies that could be involved in ALS, we can go to the tissue bank to see if the same proteins are found in human ALS tissues," she says. "This will be very helpful."





Dr. Alon Friedman (Photo: courtesy Dr. Friedman)

New hope for epilepsy:

Dr. Alon Friedman seeks to halt disease-causing damage to blood vessels in the brain.

Dr. Alon Friedman is on the forefront of world efforts to prevent brain diseases, such as epilepsy, by detecting and treating damaged blood vessels in the brain.

A new recruit to Dalhousie Medical School and the IWK Health Centre, Dr. Alon Friedman arrived in Halifax from Israel's Ben-Gurion University in July 2014, to accept his new role as William Dennis Chair in Epilepsy Research.

"I was impressed by the collaboration between scientists and clinicians, and the facilities for brain research – I knew it would be a positive environment for translating my findings to the patient," says Dr. Friedman. "It was also appealing to me that the Dennis family cares so much about epilepsy research, they would fund a research chair. It's important to me that people in the community are promoting and supporting research."

Dr. Friedman has found that damage to blood vessels in the brain – from brain injury, stroke, high blood pressure or other reasons – is associated with epileptic seizures. "When these vessels are damaged, substances in the blood cross the blood-brain barrier into the nerve tissues, where they can have toxic effects," he explains. "My aim is to develop new technologies and treatments for detecting and repairing vascular damage and early brain changes before disease develops."

In addition to epilepsy, vascular damage in the brain can lead to emotional and psychological problems, cognitive impairment, and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's.

Tissues and data in the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank will be an important resource for Dr. Friedman. "The brain bank will allow us to compare clinical histories of donors with the pathologies of their brains, to see how blood-brain-barrier damage was involved at various stages of disease," he says. "We want to identify a mechanism we could target in early stages to prevent further deterioration."

Dr. Friedman is collaborating with researchers in the Biomedical Translational Imaging Lab (BIOTIC) at the IWK and QEII to advance new technologies for early detection of blood-vessel damage in the brain. He hopes such technologies will be used in the future to screen for blood-vessel damage in anyone at risk – due to concussion, high blood pressure, family history, and other possible factors – so they can be treated early and effectively to avoid brain disease.

Stopping Alzheimer's disease in its tracks

Dr. Sultan Darvesh pioneers technology for early diagnosis while searching for cure.

For 20 years, Dr. Sultan Darvesh has searched for a key to unlocking the mystery of Alzheimer's disease. A neurologist and a chemist, Dr. Darvesh felt he would find such a key in the brain chemistry of people who had died of the disease. With this vision in mind, he worked to establish the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank, where he could carefully store donated brains and study how brains affected by Alzheimer's disease differ from healthy brains and those affected by other forms of dementia.

"We discovered that an enzyme called butyrylcholinesterase, or BChE, gathers around the plaques and tangles you find in Alzheimer brains," says Dr. Darvesh, a professor in the Departments of Medicine (Neurology and Geriatric Medicine) and Medical Neuroscience. "When we found that it ignores similar plaques in normal brains, we realized we had discovered a unique marker of Alzheimer's disease."

From this discovery, Dr. Darvesh is pioneering the world's first technology for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease in its early stages. He and his collaborators have found a compound that binds with BChE in the living brain and lights up in PET and SPECT scans to reveal the disease. "Until now, the only way to positively identify Alzheimer's disease has been to examine the patient's brain after death," notes Dr. Darvesh. "Our new technology is a huge advance that opens the door to the possibility of stopping Alzheimer's in its tracks."

Dr. Sultan Darvesh
(Photo: Courtesy Capital Health Research Office)

Dr. Darvesh has also found that BChE plays an active role in the Alzheimer's disease process. He and his collaborators are now working to identify a compound that will block BChE and prevent Alzheimer's from taking hold.

"The Maritime Brain Tissue Bank is fundamental to our work," says Dr. Darvesh, "to what we've learned so far, and to our search for a cure."

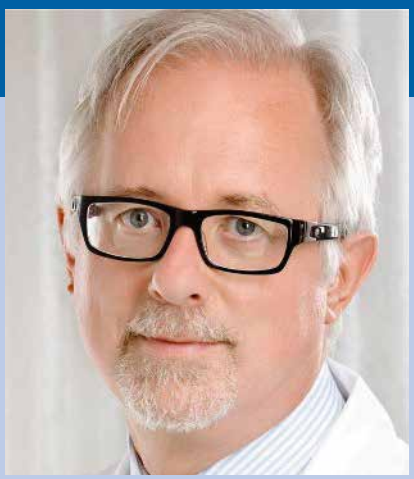
Sobey Chair Announcment l.to r. David Sobey, Donald Sobey, Dr. Darvesh and Frank C. Sobey (Photo: Pridham's Studio Ltd.)

Sobey Chair Announcement

Members of the Sobey family celebrated the appointment of Dr. Sultan Darvesh as the new "DMRF Irene MacDonald Sobey Endowed Chair In Curative Approaches to Alzheimer's Disease" at a beautiful event held at the Crombie on May 30th 2014.

As the name of his research chair suggests, Dr. Darvesh aims to halt the devastating impact of this disease on our aging society.

Thank you again to the Sobey Family for your generosity, and vision. Your support has an incredible impact on our Alzheimer's research.



Dr. Kenneth Rockwood (Photo: courtesy Dr. Rockwood)

Calculating Alzheimer risk:

Dr. Kenneth Rockwood uses math to understand the aging brain.

Alzheimer researcher Dr. Kenneth Rockwood wants to know how, and why, the brain changes as we age. But unlike researchers who use high-powered microscopes to examine the brain, Dr. Rockwood uses complex mathematical equations and large sets of population health data. His colleague, mathematician Dr. Arnold Mitnitski, has created mathematical models that analyze the data to show how the brain changes over time.

Dr. Rockwood particularly wants to learn why some people are susceptible to Alzheimer and some are not. "We now know that many factors, such as head injury, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and a history of depression, can increase the risk," he says. "But we don't know why some people's brains resist these insults while others' do not, or why Alzheimer progresses in some people but takes a slower, more benign course in others."

The models make the importance of exercise clear: "Exercise is crucial not only to preventing Alzheimer, but to keeping our minds sharp as we age," notes Dr. Rockwood. "Our models are helping determine the amount and intensity that's required."

Halifax couple faces Alzheimer's disease with extraordinary good humour and grace

By Melanie Jollymore

At the age of 58, Fred West was in good physical health, enjoying life with his wife and family. But something wasn't quite right. His wife, Ann, began noticing that Fred was forgetting things. At first, it was just minor details, but then he began missing appointments. When Fred, a budget officer with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation, couldn't remember how to use his income-tax preparation software, the couple knew something was seriously wrong. They did not delay in seeking a referral to Dr. Kenneth Rockwood at the Memory Clinic.

"Both of my parents developed dementia and died in their early to mid-70s," says Ann. "I was well aware of how this could go and wanted to get Fred the best help, as soon as possible."

Dr. Rockwood diagnosed Fred with mild cognitive impairment at the age of 59, which was somewhat reassuring for the Wests. However, the disease progressed quickly enough that, just one year later, in 1999, Dr. Rockwood told the Wests that Fred most likely has Alzheimer's disease.

"Hard as this was, it wasn't the end of the world," recalls Ann. "There is medication for Alzheimer's disease that can really make a difference if it's started early enough, so Fred started taking this right away. The biggest part of Dr. Rockwood's treatment, though, is exercise, and he convinced Fred to commit to regular exercise."

Now, 15 years later, the couple continues to exercise together almost every day. In addition to a twice-weekly "fit for life" class at the "Y," they do yoga at home five or six mornings a week, and enjoy walking, swimming and other physical activities. And, Fred is doing remarkably well.

"He doesn't have a memory any more, but he's physically fit and he enjoys life," says Ann. "He still has a sense of humour and is the same positive person he's always been." She credits the relatively slow progress of Fred's cognitive decline to the fact that they intervened early. Their good quality of life, she credits in part to decisions that she and Fred made, soon after his diagnosis, to simplify life.

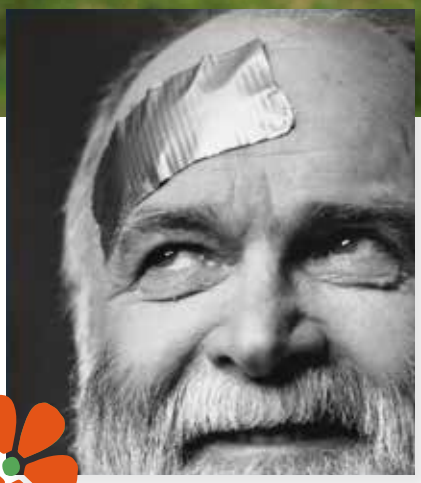
"We made sure we had our wills, advance directives and all our other paperwork in order, before it became too difficult for Fred, and several years ago moved into an apartment within walking distance of amenities. We also made arrangements for our brains to someday be donated to the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank, and our bodies to Dalhousie Medical School," explains Ann, who had already retired from her job as chief technologist at the QEII's clinical microbiology lab by the time of Fred's diagnosis.

The two are big supporters of medical research and, in 2002, took part in the Molly Appeal to raise money for the Brain Repair Centre. The couple is delighted to be taking part in the Molly Appeal once again, this time to raise money – and awareness – for the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank.

"We're happy to help in any way we can," says Fred, in his good-natured way. For her part, Ann notes that, "Twelve years ago, when we first got involved with the Molly Appeal, I wouldn't have dreamed that Fred would still be with me and doing so well, this many years later. The good years we've had have been such a gift." Fred concurs: "I just love spending time with my wife. We've been married for 53 years and look forward to many more."

Although Ann and Fred have made the best of their experience with Alzheimer's disease – and Ann is grateful that so far she has shown no signs of the dementia that affected both of her parents – they appreciate the urgent need for earlier diagnosis and better treatments. "These diseases affect so many people," Ann says. "We have to do what we can to support our researchers' efforts to find a cure. Helping them expand the capacity of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank is an important step we are proud to take."
(See Molly Appeal facing page.)

Spend time with Fred, and you'll find research also prolongs quality of laugh.



Fred West (Photos: John Sherlock)

He's back! Fred was a champion for the 2002 Molly Appeal "Duct Tape" Brain Repair campaign, after his doctor diagnosed dementia, suspecting Alzheimer's. A remarkable 12 years later, thanks to research, early diagnosis, and the love and support of his wife, Ann – Fred is as jovial as he is active – once again throwing his support behind the Molly Appeal. For this, and Fred's laughter, we are truly grateful.

DALHOUSIE MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building 5850 College Street
P.O. Box 15000, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2

the Molly Appeal for MEDICAL RESEARCH

100% of your gifts support **neuroscience research** and the **Maritime Brain Tissue Bank**.

I support neuroscience research with my gift of:

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I prefer to use my: ❒ VISA ❒ MC ❒ AMEX

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

SIGNATURE : _____

❒ I prefer my donation to remain anonymous. I do not wish to have my name appear in the DMRF annual report or have my gift publicly acknowledged in any donor recognition program.

For more information or ways to give: 1.888.866.6559 mollyappeal.ca

Welcome Christena!

On behalf of all of us at Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, it is my great pleasure to welcome Christena Copeland to our team! Christena is our Manager of Planned Giving and Communications.

Christena will look after estate planning, gifts of shares, our Adopt-a-Researcher program and she will play a leadership role in executing our new Communications Strategy.

Christena has a P.R. degree and comes to us with wonderful philanthropy experience from her years at Phoenix House and more recently, the Red Cross.

It is an exciting time at Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation and we are delighted to have Christena on our team.

~ Jyl MacKinnon, DMRF Executive Director

Christena's Corner

Message from DMRF Manager, Planned Giving & Communications

Christena C. Copeland (Photo: courtesy Christena)

I am honoured to be the newest member of the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation team. Every day, I learn more about the incredible research being conducted at Dalhousie Medical School and, in particular, the immense generosity of our donors. I look forward to working alongside Jyl, Joanne, Jane, Dina, Laurel and Kaye, as well as the stellar researchers and students whose passion drives our work. I also look forward to getting to know you, our donors.

As manager of planned giving and communications, I have the privilege of helping donors like you create their legacy gift; it's a beautiful and profound experience. Having had heart surgery three years ago, I am all too aware of the importance of medical research. I am proud to say that my surgeon, Dr. Jean François Legare, sits on the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee. Dr. Legare was instrumental in repairing my heart and in my subsequent recovery. With gratitude and commitment, it is my vow to support the Foundation, to the utmost of my abilities, just like you do. Truly, it is research that is paving the way to the successful management and treatment of, and ultimately the recovery from, the many illnesses that can dramatically affect our lives.

As a Nova Scotia girl, who grew up in Pictou County, I look forward to traveling the province and beyond to visit you and answer any questions you may have about Planned Giving and the work of the Foundation.

I send you my best wishes!

Christena

Christena Copeland

Please send me:

- ☐ information about the "Adopt-a-Researcher" Program
- ☐ a booklet on writing my Will

Information about supporting medical research through:

- ☐ a properly worded gift to DMRF in my Will
- ☐ gifts of stocks and bonds
- ☐ gift annuities (for those age 70 & over)

☐ **I have already remembered Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in my Will.**

To find out more about adopting a researcher please contact Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Manager, Planned Giving & Communications by phone: (902) 494-1856 or e-mail: christena.copeland@dal.ca

A postage-paid envelope is included for your convenience. Please clip and mail to:

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation 1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, 5850 College Street, PO Box 15000, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2

Barbara Mulrooney a tireless advocate for brain tissue donation

Barbara Mulrooney knows the devastation of Alzheimer's disease. In 1991, she and her husband, Edward, learned he most likely had the disease. As often happens with early-onset dementia, the disease progressed rapidly. But, before he died – in 2000 at the age of 62 – he and Barbara arranged to donate his brain to research.

"We filled out the forms to donate Edward's brain to the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank while he was still well enough to understand what this meant," Barbara recalls. "It was important to him to feel he could be helping others."

Barbara has devoted countless hours since to spreading the word about brain-tissue donation. She volunteers with two support groups for people caring for loved ones with dementia. "I always encourage people to fill out the donation forms," she says. "I urge them to do it early, so the person with the disease is aware their brain will go to research. The brain bank needs healthy brains, too, for comparison, so everyone should consider donating their brain."

Another benefit of donating Edward's brain was that, as part of the donation process, an autopsy was performed. This revealed that Edward did indeed have Alzheimer's disease, a relief to Barbara. "Before, there were always these questions," she says. "What if it was an undiagnosed tumour, what if it was something that could have been helped?"

Barbara is enthusiastic about Dr. Sultan Darvesh's work to develop technology for diagnosing Alzheimer's in the living brain. She and Edward got to know Dr. Darvesh, Director of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank, over many appointments while Edward was living with the disease. She often invites him to speak to her support groups.

Edward Mulrooney with his pal Franco (Photo: courtesy of Barbara Mulrooney)

Barbara loves to hear Dr. Darvesh talk about his research and the advances he and his colleagues are making in understanding and treating brain disease. "It's amazing what's happening here… Halifax is becoming a hub for brain research and that's something for us to be very proud of. Donating to the Molly Appeal to help Dr. Darvesh expand the brain bank, and making plans to donate our brains, are great contributions."

Your gift to medical research is a step toward future cures.

Please consider directing your next In Memoriam gift to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation.

Our memorial packages are available in funeral homes across the Maritimes. Packages include a sympathy card that you may give to the family acknowledging your gift, or, at your request, the Foundation will notify the family designate on your behalf.

Your donations support the purchase of much-needed research equipment, right here in the Maritimes.

Memorial donations may also be made online by visiting: www.dmrf.ca or www.mollyappeal.ca
Or, by calling us at 1-888-866-6559

Jean Morse died in 2007

Today she'll help in the search for a cure for Alzheimer's.

Jean, a social worker, spent her life helping people. She enjoyed an adventurous life with her husband Dr. Bill Morse and was a proud mother of six children. Jean and her family knew firsthand the importance of supporting medical research and made arrangements with Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation to establish an endowment for Alzheimer's research. Thanks to Jean Morse our researchers are making strides in the discovery of treatments for Alzheimer's. Include a bequest to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in your will. Contact us today to find out how!

To remember medical research in your estate plan, please be sure to use the Foundation's complete name: **Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation**

1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, 5850 College Street, PO Box 15000, Halifax, NS B3H 4R2
e-mail dmrf@dal.ca website www.dmrf.ca telephone (902) 494-3502 toll-free 1-888-866-6559

Dalhousie MEDICAL RESEARCH Foundation

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation is an independently registered charity established for the purpose of providing financial support for research activities in the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University and its affiliated research institutions.

Today's Science. Tomorrow's Cures.