

the philanthropist

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Newsletter

Spring 2013 Issue



Planning for the future

Susan and Phil Evans know only too well the impact of Alzheimer's disease on individuals and their caregivers. Susan's mother, Bunny Moir, an uncle and two aunts all had the disease.

See page 4

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MEDICAL RESEARCH
Foundation

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Cover Photo: Phil & Susan Evans at

home (Photo: Courtesy of Evans Family)



Hello Philanthropist Readers...

Alison C. Edwards, DMRF Executive Director (Photo: DMRF files)

I am feeling somewhat philosophical this month. How many times have we all had a bad experience only to think to ourselves – IF ONLY I had made a different choice in that moment, then this bad thing would not have happened. However, in my view we have no idea how many times we have already made other decisions that prevented something untoward from taking place, or even better, we made a choice that caused something fabulous to happen. Often we don't even know firsthand the far-reaching effect of our decisions.

I think this also relates to a new phrase - Impact Investment - investments made in organizations with the intention of generating measurable social and environmental impact. When you take the time and resources to invest in something such as education, business or philanthropy, you have the potential to create a long-term impact. And when you support medical research you can make an amazing impact.

Mrs. Beatrice Hunter of River John, Nova Scotia had an impact when she bequeathed \$12.5 million to DMRF for cancer research. Her gift was the impetus for the creation of the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute at Dalhousie University in 2009 to which DMRF provides over \$600,000 in funding every year.

When they established the DMRF Picchione Visiting Scholar Program in 1988, Pat and Susan Picchione made an impact that altered the career of researcher Dr. Steven Barnes (see story on page 7).

When Ms. Margot Spafford recently adopted three Dalhousie researchers and agreed to be a public ambassador for the Foundation's new

Adopt-A-Researcher program, she impacted three lab teams (researchers, trainees and technicians) and motivated other donor adopters to sign up.

I would of course be remiss not to mention one of the most impressive influencers for our Foundation - Ms. Molly Moore. With her first donation of \$5 in 1980 and her belief that if we all give what we personally can, then together we can make a big difference, she has had an incredible and far-reaching impact. Her gesture led to the creation of the annual Molly Appeal campaign which over 33 years has raised \$5 million – 100% of which has gone back to support medical research in the Maritime Provinces. Now that is a good return on investment!

When you decide to make an impact by supporting medical research, the effect is more extensive than you know. You give employment to incredibly dedicated individuals who are in their labs at all hours. You keep businesses open which supply lab equipment, supplies, uniforms, and maintenance services. You help recruit stellar individuals and their families to our region which enlarges the need for other local community services such as restaurants, entertainment and so on. But most importantly you help give optimism to all of us hoping for improved treatments and cures. All of these impacts improve quality of life.

Every dollar makes an impact. Every action makes an impact. And to quote The Body Shop® founder, Anita Roddick, "If you think you are too small to make an impact, go to bed with a mosquito ☺".

DMRF Executive Director

Welcome Laurel & Joanne

It is with great pleasure that I would like to introduce two fabulous individuals who have recently joined the DMRF team.

Ms. Laurel Purcell joined the Foundation last spring as part-time office clerk. She is assisting our Office Manager Dina Teixeira with the many day-to-day tasks of a charitable organization such as receiving donations, production of receipts and database entry. If you drop in to see us or call us on the phone, it is likely Laurel's wonderful face or voice that will greet you.

Ms. Joanne Bath joined the Foundation last fall as our first Director of Major Gifts. DMRF is excited to be launching a major gifts partnership with Dalhousie University toward a goal of raising \$10 million to support multiuser research facilities and operating grants for medical researchers at Dalhousie sites throughout the Maritimes. Joanne comes to us from the IWK Foundation with a wealth of experience and will be leading this campaign on behalf of DMRF.



Laurel Purcell DMRF Office Clerk
(Photo: Nick Pearce)



Joanne Bath, DMRF Director Major Gifts
(Photo: Nick Pearce)

Laurel Purcell had recently retired with over 35 years of service at the Nova Scotia Department of Justice when she came to work at DMRF in May 2012. She had been the Sheriff of Halifax Regional Municipality for the previous ten years where she was responsible for security in all courthouses, prisoner transportation and the service and execution of numerous types of court orders. Laurel is a graduate of St. Francis Xavier University and holds a Certificate in Management from Saint Mary's University and the Canadian Institute of Management.

Laurel says, "Having recently retired from full-time employment, I knew I would enjoy some additional time off but still wanted to continue to work. This position fulfills both of those desires. It is a totally new type of work environment for me and I am continually learning new things. Staff members have been wonderful and I appreciate the opportunity to be part of such a hard-working and dedicated team."

Joanne Bath joined DMRF in November 2012 as the new Director of Major Gifts. She received her degree in Social Work from Memorial University of Newfoundland and she will always be a very proud Newfoundlander. Joanne comes to DMRF with 10 years of experience in philanthropy. Her career in fundraising started with the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. John's followed by seven years raising funds to help women and children at the IWK Health Centre. She has undertaken numerous intensive programs in management and leadership and holds a certificate in major gift fundraising from the University of Wisconsin.

Joanne has a passion for fundraising to create better health outcomes and is a strong advocate for better mental health. Joanne is looking forward to building lasting relationships with donors who are as interested as she is in learning more about the amazing discoveries happening at Dalhousie Medical School – discoveries which benefit individuals living here at home and far away. [📄](#)



Jyl MacKinnon, DMRF Director of
Development (Photo: Johanna Matthews)

It is with great delight and pride that I report that DMRF's Director of Development – **Ms. Jyl MacKinnon** – has completed the final exam to obtain her **CFRE designation!!!!**

CFRE (Certified Fundraising Executive) is the global provider of certification for professional fundraising and the only practice-based credential for career fundraisers.

To become CFRE designated, practitioners must meet established eligibility requirements including achievement of a minimum number of points for each of four sections: Education; Professional Practice; Performance; and Service. After demonstrating that these requirements have all been met, a final comprehensive four hour examination must be taken.

Congratulations Jyl on this fabulous accomplishment!

Planning for the future

By Marie Weeren



Phil & Susan Evans on the green (Photo: Courtesy Evans Family)

Susan and Phil Evans know only too well the impact of Alzheimer's disease on individuals and their caregivers. Susan's mother, Bunny Moir, an uncle and two aunts all had the disease.

"It's been devastating watching the effects of the disease on my family," Susan says. "It's not a very comforting feeling to see my mother and her three siblings die with a disease... But we can't change the past, so we try to make the most of every day and focus on making a difference for future generations. We want to do what we can to try to help with a cure, or at least treatment."

The Evans have helped a great deal. "Phil and Susan are such a beautiful example of philanthropic support," says Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Director of Development Jyl MacKinnon. "They've come at it from every angle. They adopted a researcher and funded studentships for graduate students who are the future of Alzheimer's research. They made a major gift to the prestigious DMRF Irene MacDonald Sobey Endowed Chair in Curative Approaches to Alzheimer's Disease and have arranged for a bequest gift to help future generations, so perhaps other families don't have to deal with this cruel disease."

It was Susan's aunt, Jean Morse, who inspired the Evans to become involved with the Foundation. Jean, a longtime Molly Appeal donor, established an endowment for Alzheimer's



Jean Morse, Susan Evans' aunt (Photo: John Sherlock)

research. Her husband, Dr. Bill Morse – the brother of Susan's mother – had the disease.

"While the research on Alzheimer's first caught our interest in DMRF, it was the commitment and enthusiasm of Foundation staff that has kept us there," Susan says.

The fact that DMRF is located in Nova Scotia is also a plus. Susan grew up in the Annapolis Valley, and she and Phil return often to the province to visit family. A Dalhousie graduate, Susan was a teacher specializing in learning disabilities before returning to the university to earn her law degree.

Susan moved to Calgary to join the law firm Bennett Jones. She did not know anybody when she got there, but she would meet a very important somebody – her future husband, Phil.

"As head of the land department for Anderson Exploration, he was one of my first clients," Susan says. "Six years later we were married, and I left private practice to work in the oil industry."

Today, Phil and Susan spend their winters in southern California and enjoy travel, especially exploring Europe by riverboat and North America by train. Closer to home, Phil puts his decidedly green thumb to good use, and has taken home Calgary's award for curb appeal.

“We can’t change the past, so we try to make the most of every day and focus on making a difference for future generations.”

– Susan Evans

Susan was deeply involved in public, professional and charitable board work. This service continued long after she took early retirement.

Susan encourages others to find charities for which they can develop a personal interest and passion. She also notes that there are many ways to support the non-profit sector that go beyond the financial.

Currently, Susan serves on the board of the Prostate Cancer Foundation in Calgary – another organization close to the Evans’ hearts. Phil is a prostate cancer survivor.

“Several years ago Phil and I decided to focus on two or three major charitable causes,” Susan says. “So we did considerable research through the years to determine the ones where we wanted to focus our giving. That is not to say that we don’t continue to support local initiatives. But we just felt it was more meaningful to choose a few where we felt that we had a personal passion and we could make a difference.”

Susan explains, “Phil and I have been very lucky in having wonderful careers in the oil industry, and now we have the time to do something for others. The world has been great to us and we want to do our bit.”

This desire led to their decision to make a legacy gift to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation. It is a decision which carries with it tax benefits, but most importantly, it contributes to the greater good.

“The underlying motivation is our desire to make a difference to our communities and benefit future generations,” Susan says. “Just imagine the day when Alzheimer’s is a disease of the past.” ☐

DMRF Max Forman Senior Research Prize

The DMRF Max Forman Senior Research Prize is the Foundation’s most prestigious award. It was originally established many years ago by Mrs. Sophie Forman in memory of her late husband, Max Forman, local businessman, respected entrepreneur and philanthropist in the community. The Forman Prize now honours the memory of both Sophie and Max Forman and pays tribute to their generous support of medical research. The prize, awarded every two years, includes an acknowledgement plaque and \$10,000, presented to a senior Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine researcher in recognition of a demonstrated career of excellence in research and achievements which have enriched the academic environment and advanced scientific understanding in our Maritime research community.



Dr. Benjamin Rusak (l.) receives DMRF Max Forman Prize 2012/13 from Frank C. Sobe DMRF Chair (Photo: Kerry Delorey, Calmen Photography)

Dr. Benjamin Rusak – 2012 Recipient

Dr. Rusak, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and member of the Brain Repair Centre is an eminent scientist and internationally recognized authority on biological rhythms and sleep disorders. He has led a distinguished career in medical research of over 35 years at Dalhousie University. DMRF is proud to have awarded Dr. Rusak the Max Forman Prize in June 2012. ☐

First DMRF Gunn Family Prize in Alzheimer's Disease Research

In our *Philanthropist* newsletter Spring 2012 issue (pg. 6), we told you about the Gunn Family and their personal connection to Alzheimer's Disease via family matriarch Barbara Gunn who is afflicted with this debilitating illness.

Barbara's husband, Roy, who has generously supported graduate studentships in the lab of Alzheimer's researcher Dr. Don Weaver, also wanted to give a gift which would have a long-lasting impact in Alzheimer's research. A prize was established last year by the Gunn Family (Roy and his four children: John, Loraine, Philip and Alan) in honour of Barbara (MacLellan) Gunn, RN (VGH – Class of 1955) – beloved wife and mother.

The prestigious **DMRF Gunn Family Prize in Alzheimer's Disease Research** (\$10,000) is to be awarded every three years to a medical student, graduate student or post-doctoral fellow whose research achievements in **Alzheimer's disease** (AD) have significantly enriched and advanced the identification of improved treatments and/or a cure.

The first competition took place in 2012 and the first prize winner is **Dr. Ian MacDonald**, a Dalhousie PhD candidate

who has been working for the last three years in the lab of Professor and neurologist Dr. Sultan Darvesh.

Ian's research focuses on the development of a novel diagnostic approach for AD. In particular, he is working to understand the role of the enzyme butyrylcholinesterase in the normal brain and in those with AD. Currently, definitive AD diagnosis can only happen with autopsy. It is anticipated that butyrylcholinesterase imaging agents will permit early detection



(top) Loraine Petrie and her Dad, Roy Gunn (Photo: Kerry Delorey, Calnen Photography (bottom) Roy Gunn accepts thanks to the Gunn Family for establishing the DMRF Gunn Family Prize in Alzheimer's Research from Jyl MacKinnon, DMRF Director, Development (Photo: Kerry Delorey, Calnen Photography)



Dr. Ian MacDonald First Gunn Family Prize in Alzheimer's Disease Research recipient 2012 (Photo: Courtesy Dr. Ian MacDonald)

of AD pathology in the living human brain which will aid diagnosis and monitoring of the efficacy of therapeutics used to treat AD.

Since commencing his graduate work, Ian has co-authored four journal articles, two as first author. He also co-authored one patent and has two more in preparation. In addition, Ian has presented his work at scientific meetings around the world.

One of the external reviewers for the DMRF Gunn Family Prize made the following comment in regard to Dr. Ian MacDonald:

"It was clear... that Ian is a serious young researcher who is worthy of the encouragement this award may provide to support his enthusiasm for his work. I was attracted by the quality of publications and summaries, the overall objectives of his work, and by the person himself. The volunteer work and public availability that Ian is engaged in is not only admirable, it is self-motivating, as I'm sure he has discovered, and demonstrates that he understands the higher objectives of research on Alzheimer's disease, not merely the scientific enterprise." □



*Dr. Steven Barnes
(Photo: courtesy Dr. Steven Barnes)*

DMRF Picchione Visiting Scholar award brings a top vision researcher to Dalhousie to stay

As some of you may recall from a previous Philanthropist article (Spring 2012, page 7), the year 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the DMRF Picchione Visiting Scholar Program.

We would like to once again extend our sincere thanks to Pat & Susan Picchione and highlight the story of a Visiting Scholar who first came to Dalhousie in 1997.

By Melanie Jollymore

A DMRF Picchione Visiting Scholar Award turned out to be the ticket that brought retinal neurobiologist Dr. Steven Barnes to Dalhousie to stay.

The award allowed Dr. Barnes to travel to Halifax in 1997 to conduct electroretinography experiments with Dr. François Tremblay, a clinical scientist at Dalhousie Medical School and the QEII Health Sciences Centre.

“When I embarked on the trip, it didn’t cross my mind that I would ever end up on faculty at Dalhousie,” says Dr. Barnes, who was an associate professor at the University of Calgary at the time. “I was simply thrilled with the opportunity that the DMRF Picchione award gave me to work with a leading expert in the technique I wanted to explore.”

But when Dr. Barnes learned that plans were underway to establish a world-class retina and optic nerve research laboratory (funded through DMRF) at Dalhousie, and that there would be a place there for him, he was sold. He accepted the offer and joined the university in 1998. “Our retina research group really took off,” he says. “We have an incredibly synergistic group of scientists and clinicians working together to understand how the retina works and what happens in diseases like glaucoma.”

Dr. Barnes also works closely with leading vision researchers at the famous Jules Stein Eye Institute at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), across town from where he grew up. Coincidentally, Dr. Pat and Susan

Picchione, Dalhousie medical alumni who established the Picchione Visiting Scholar Program through DMRF more than 25 years ago, have resided in California for many years. Small world!

“Cross-pollination of ideas and technology is essential to our progress in research.” notes Dr. Barnes. Travel support for researchers, like that provided by the DMRF Picchione Award, is critical to making that happen. ☑



*Dr. Vincent 'Pat' and Susan Picchione
(Photo: Courtesy Picchione Family)*



Thank You!

Molly's Luncheon 2012
was a huge success.



Scenes from MOLLY Appeal Luncheon for Immunology Research, October 2012 at Ashburn

We would like to extend a tremendous THANK YOU to DMRF Board member R. Diane Campbell and The Berkeley® for generously sponsoring this annual event.

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Ian Alwayn, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Surgical Lead of the Multi-Organ Transplant Program, Surgical Director, Kidney Transplant

Becky & Gerard d'Entremont spoke of the impact of immunology research which is happening at Dalhousie Medical School.

Alison C. Edwards, DMRF Executive Director welcomed all.

Frank C. Sobey, DMRF Chair thanked speakers and guests.
(Photos: Johanna Matthews)

For next year's MOLLY APPEAL Luncheon PLEASE WATCH FOR DETAILS on our website www.dmrp.ca in the Fall of 2013.

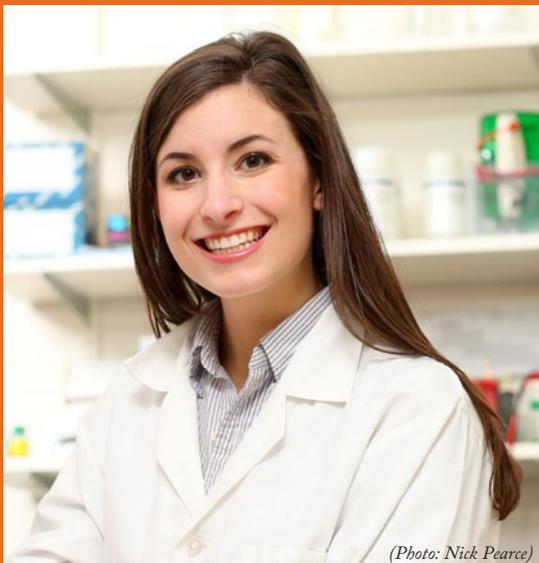
For anyone interested in further information on the annual MOLLY APPEAL Luncheon please call Jane @ (902) 494-2693 or email mollyappeal@dal.ca ☑





(Photo: Nick Pearce)

Randi Parks, MacDonald Graduate Studentship Award Recipient 2012/13



(Photo: Nick Pearce)

Jaime Wertman, DeWolfe Graduate Studentship Award Recipient 2012/13

DMRF Graduate Studentships

support individuals undertaking medical research training in pursuit of a Master's or PhD at Dalhousie in order to: **Foster** the development of high quality, broadly trained medical researchers; **Enhance** the important contribution graduate students make to research; **Provide** support for acquiring professional skills crucial to obtaining a graduate degree and developing a successful career.

In 2012/13, DMRF awarded two new graduate studentships each in the amount of \$10,000 per year for two years.

DMRF Graduate Studentships

DMRF MacDonald Graduate Studentship

for research in the area of cardiovascular disease was awarded to **Ms. Randi Parks**. In September 2009, Ms. Parks joined the Department of Pharmacology lab of Dalhousie Professor Dr. Susan Howlett. Ms. Parks initially joined as a full time Masters of Science student but has since transferred to the PhD program.

Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in Canada. In women, the incidence of cardiovascular illness has been linked to a decline of sex hormones during menopause. Gender differences in heart disease are likely due to differences in the function of individual heart cells in men and women.

Randi's research aims to determine the specific sex differences in the function of heart cells and will improve the understanding of the effects of estrogen. Her work is important as it will elucidate mechanisms that may be responsible for gender differences in heart disease. Ultimately, results will help adjust treatments for heart disease in older men and women and improve the quality of life for those affected with cardiovascular illnesses.

Randi has always been intrigued by the ability of individual cells in the myocardium of the heart to contract in perfect rhythm. The fact that heart function differs in men and women is fascinating to her and she intends to devote her career as a research scientist to understanding the gender differences in cardiac physiology and pathophysiology with the ultimate goal of treating heart disease with gender specific therapies.

DMRF DeWolfe Graduate Studentship

for research in a medical field was awarded to **Ms. Jaime Wertman**. In January 2012, Ms. Wertman joined the lab of Associate Professor Dr. Denis Dupré – a molecular biologist and immunologist in Dalhousie's Department of Pharmacology. Ms. Wertman, winner of the Dalhousie Biology medal for highest program marks in her graduating class, is now enrolled in Dalhousie's Masters of Science program working to better understand prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is a common disease that affects 1 in 7 Canadian men. In most cases, the primary tumor is not the cause of high levels of mortality. The spread of cancer cells (metastasis) is the cause of 90% of solid-tumor related deaths. Research suggests that prostate cancer follows a particular pattern through the body, normally to the bones, lungs or lymph nodes. This movement is linked to a gene receptor called CXCR4. Jaime is investigating the interaction of CXCR4 with a specific molecule (superoxide dismutase or SOD1). This discovery is recent and could regulate cell survival, growth and spread. Outcomes of Jaime's research will contribute to the search for a more effective therapy to block prostate cancer metastasis.

Jaime says that from a young age, it was obvious to her that she was destined to be a scientist. She is passionate about the potential implications and outcomes of her research in the area of prostate cancer. She is determined to transfer this enthusiasm into meaningful knowledge and results. ☐

Milestones for Molly's Runners and the Blue Nose Marathon!



Sunday, May 19, 2013 will mark important milestones for both the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon and for Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation's Molly's Runners.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Blue Nose Marathon and the 5th anniversary of the Charity Challenge.

In addition, this will be the 5th consecutive year running for DMRF's Molly's Runners Team! Over the past 5 years DMRF's Molly's Runners have raised over \$50,000 to support medical research. The Molly's Runners 2013 Team is hoping to top previous efforts with the strongest performance yet, both in terms of the largest number of participants and the highest amount of dollars raised.

Please gather your sponsors and sign up to run or walk and join the team ...OR join by being a supporting sponsor.



All proceeds support the
Molly Appeal for Medical Research!

(Photos: DMRF files)



Join us May 19, 2013

Molly's Runners at the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon

Anyone is welcome to join or support Molly's Runners. To join the team, you do not have to be a runner – you can also WALK – you can enter any of the race categories – 5K, 10K, half marathon or full marathon – you can be any age – all are welcome.

JOIN : To Join Molly's Runners Team 2013 please contact Team Captain, Alison Edwards DMRF Executive Director **Call (902) 494-3502**

Email Alison.Edwards@dal.ca or go to the Blue Nose site – www.blunosemarathon.com, click on the Registration tab and follow the instructions.

DONATE : You can also donate as a sponsor either to the whole Molly's Runners team or to an individual team member who is registered as a participant.

CHEER : You can stop by Citadel Hill on race morning (Sunday May 19th) to watch all the excitement and commotion. It's always a really fun event !!!



So many ways to be involved – as our campaign namesake Molly Moore once said
“If we each give what we can, together we can make a big difference!”

Today's Science. Tomorrow's Cures.



The Molly Appeal began over thirty years ago with a simple gesture – a \$5.00 donation from a lady named Molly Moore. She believed that if every person gives what they can to support medical research, then together we can make a big difference. *She was right.*

Thanks to Molly's inspiration and your kindness and generosity, we look to a future filled with hope.

Contact us today to help create change through medical research.



DALHOUSIE MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, 5850 College Street
PO Box 15000, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2
902.494.3502 Toll-free 1.888.866.6559 www.mollyappeal.ca

Please accept my gift of:

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$120 other \$ _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please make your cheque or money order payable to:

THE MOLLY APPEAL

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.

Registered Charity BN# 11922 9318 RR0001



Dear Jyl,

I support the Molly Appeal and I have made a bequest to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in my will.

What else can I do to support medical research?

Provide an In Memoriam Gift Honour a loved one who has passed away with a gift to support medical research in their memory. You may also wish to express your sympathy to family members who have lost a loved one

with an In Memoriam gift. In Memoriam packages are available in funeral homes across the Maritimes. Packages include a sympathy note card should you want to leave a personal note for the family. Or, a card can be sent from the Foundation to the next of kin on your behalf notifying them of your gift (no dollar amount is given). Many donors choose to list Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation as their own or their loved one’s Charity of Choice in the obituary in lieu of flowers.

Make a Tribute or Celebration Gift Donors are recognizing holidays or other special occasions and milestones by giving charitable gifts instead of material objects to family and friends. The Foundation can provide customized cards for birthdays or other celebrations or place cards for weddings or other special events to let recipients know a gift to support medical research has been made in their honour.

Adopt-a-Researcher The best part of this program is that it is created to match donors’ area of research interest with research priorities. The first step is to identify the area of research you or your community group is passionate about supporting. Give me a call or send an e-mail (please see below for my contact information) and I will prepare a few funding priorities for your review. Please note that each research project is reviewed for scientific merit before any funding is accepted. When you

“Adopt-a-Researcher” you will have the opportunity to meet with the Researcher and their team, visit their lab and get regular updates on the advancements they are making in their research thanks to your support.

Be an Ambassador Tell your friends and family about the incredible research happening right here, pass along your copy of the Philanthropist to someone who’s never read it, or invite a new guest to join you at the Molly Appeal Luncheon held in the fall. Help spread the word about Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation and our Molly Appeal!



*Jyl MacKinnon, CFRE
DMRF Director, Development*

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 Director of Development Jyl MacKinnon by phone: (902) 494-2356 or e-mail: jyl.mackinnon@dal.ca

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2013



(Photos: Courtesy Ride For Dad)

**RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU ARE WILLING TO
FIGHT FOR LIFE**

The Telus Motorcycle Ride for Dad Fighting Prostate Cancer

Pre-Registration

Friday, May 31

4:00 - 8:00 pm

Cole Harbour Place

51 Forest Hills Pkwy

Dartmouth, NS

Ride Day

Saturday, June 1

Cole Harbour Place

51 Forest Hills Pkwy

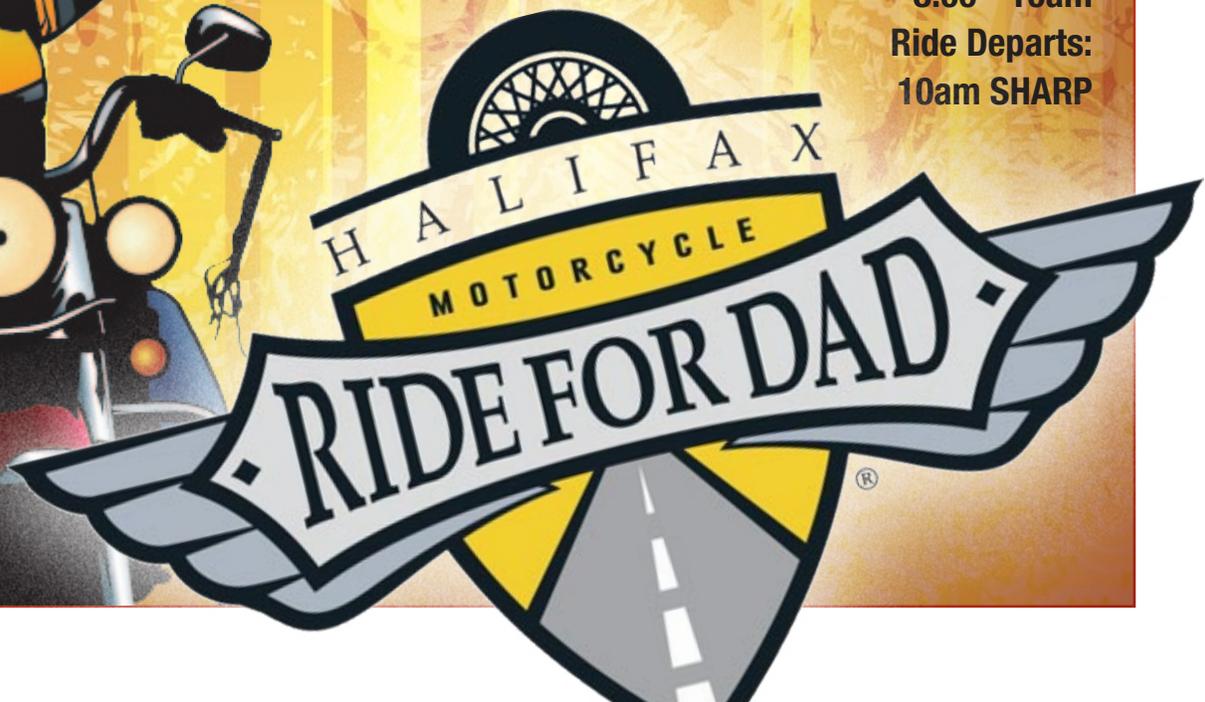
Dartmouth, NS

Registration:

8:00 - 10am

Ride Departs:

10am SHARP



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



For more information about Adopt-a-Researcher please contact:

(902) 494.2356 jyl.mackinnon@dal.ca

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dmrf.ca

Focusing on Research

By Marie Weeren



Heidelberg Engineering, an international company specializing in optical instrumentation, began its partnership with Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in 2010 through a donation to the Foundation's Adopt-a-Researcher Program in support of Dr. Balwantray Chauhan's vision research.

This gift of \$75,000 per year for two years provided much-needed funding for a trainee to work in glaucoma research under Dr. Chauhan's supervision. This past winter, Heidelberg Engineering continued its generous support with a second, even larger and longer-term gift of \$80,000 per year for five years.

"We are grateful to Dr. Chauhan for introducing us to Heidelberg Engineering, and we so appreciate the company's most generous gifts," says Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Director of Development Jyl MacKinnon. "This is a wonderful example of working together to benefit medical research."

As Dr. Chauhan explains, Heidelberg Engineering's donation supports investigator-initiated research efforts to understand glaucoma and the early detection of the disease. By the time

(l. to r.) Dr. William Baldrige, Professor and Head, Medical Neurosciences and Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Dalhousie Medical School; Dr. Gerhard Zinser, Managing Director and Head of Research & Development, Heidelberg Engineering and Dr. Balwantray Chauhan, Professor and Research Director, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Dalhousie Medical School and holder of the Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Chair in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Research, all pictured outside Heidelberg Engineering supported vision research laboratory located in the Life Sciences Research Institute (LSRI), Dalhousie University. (Photo: Courtesy Dr. Balwantray Chauhan).

symptoms are present, the disease is usually quite advanced. The research focuses on how the optic nerve head – which carries information from the eye to the brain and is damaged in glaucoma – changes as the disease progresses. This knowledge can help clinicians in their decision-making about diagnosis and treatment.

"To be able to understand and to detect these changes in the optic nerve head is very, very important," says Dr. Chauhan, professor, research director, and holder of the Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Chair in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Research.

Dr. Chauhan says Heidelberg Engineering is making devices which can image the optic nerve head. "It's a very good partnership in the sense that I'm interested in knowing biologically what's going on and they've got the instrumentation to help detect it. It's a natural alliance."

As with all donations to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, 100 per cent of these Adopt-a-Researcher gifts support research. Dr. Chauhan recalls that the first equipment grant he received, not long after joining Dalhousie Medical School over 20 years ago, came from the Foundation. The grant was for the purchase of a confocal scanning laser biomicroscope. The story comes full circle as this was the first piece of equipment manufactured by Heidelberg Engineering.

"I think DMRF does a fantastic job," Dr. Chauhan says. "Research funding is just so crucial everywhere and research is becoming more and more expensive, so I think anything we can do to increase the activities of the Foundation is very important." 

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**

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