

the philanthropist

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Newsletter

Spring 2014 Issue



Planning for the future

Dr. Ford Doolittle was recently awarded the Gerhard Herzberg Gold Medal – the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council's (NSERC) highest honour!

See page 8



Today's Science. Tomorrow's Cures.

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Cover Photo: Dr. Ford Doolittle in courtyard of Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building (Photo: Courtesy Dalhousie Communications, John Sherlock Photographer)

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Thank You and Au Revoir...

Alison C. Edwards, DMRF Executive Director, MBA, CGA

It was six years ago that I had the honour of being appointed the 3rd Executive Director of Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) following in the footsteps of Dr. Peter Gordon (1979-1989) and Ms. Jean Sloan (1989-2007). It was a tough decision but I have chosen this year (the 35th anniversary of the Foundation) to move on to the next phase of my life and to pass the baton on to another. It is with great pleasure and pride that I announce that DMRF Director of Development – Ms. Jyl MacKinnon (who has been with the Foundation in various roles since 2002) will be taking over the leadership position of Executive Director effective July 1, 2014.

Before I sneak off into the sunset though, I want to acknowledge a few of the many individuals with whom I have had the pleasure of connecting during my tenure at DMRF. First, the office team who are the loyal backbone of this Foundation's operations.

Laurel – thank you for your calm, consistent and professional diligence at the front desk.

Kaye – thank you for your dedicated efforts in ensuring the Foundation follows consistent policies & procedures and for the gentle but firm financial guidance when I so often needed it.

Jane – thank you for your incredible attention to micro-detail for the Molly Appeal and the Philanthropist newsletter and for your endless historical curiosity.

Joanne – thank you for your boundless energy and enthusiasm with our first major gifts campaign and for your personal joie de vivre.

Jyl – thank you for your consummate fundraising commitment and your continual demonstration of grace and compassion with all of our donors.

Dina – to me you are the heart of the Foundation; your incredible efficiency, endless creative initiative and always positive attitude assisted me beyond measure – thank you for being you.

Thank you to a fabulous group of board volunteers. You are all so generous with your time, your pocketbook, and your expertise. In particular, I would like to thank our Board Chair – Mr. Frank C. Sobey, our past Board Vice Chair Mr. Rod MacLennan and our current Board Vice Chair Mr. Allan Shaw – you all have been incredibly supportive and I am constantly amazed at the volunteer time you have given and continue to commit to this Foundation.

Special shoutouts as well to Dr. Tom Marrie – Dean of Medicine, Dr. Harold Cook – past Dean, Dr Gerry Johnston – Associate Dean of Research, Ms. Carla Ross – Director of Research Development, Dr. Roger McLeod – Chair of DMRF's Scientific Advisory Committee, Ms. Cindy Pettipas – Administrative Director of Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute and Mr. Rob McDowall – Dalhousie University Executive Director of Development for Health Faculties.



Alison C. Edwards, DMRF Executive Director and Frank C. Sobey, DMRF Board Chair



DMRF Staff (l to r) Laurel Purcell, Alison C. Edwards, Jane Greenlaw, Jyl MacKinnon, Joanne Bath, Kaye Folland, Dina Teixeira
(Photo: Danny Abriel)

Thanks to all of you for your never-ending assistance in helping me to advance the cause of supporting medical research at Dalhousie Medical School.

Thank you to the many researchers, their trainees, technicians and admin staff for your 24/7 passion for medical research. To me all of you should be the \$10 million rock stars of our community.

And last but by far not least, thank you to all the donors who give to DMRF. I couldn't meet you all but I hope somewhere along the line you received one of our handwritten thank you notes. The Foundation's mandate of supporting medical research excellence continues every day because of you!

It is bittersweet to officially leave this fabulous organization. I know though, that I am definitely leaving it in excellent hands with Jyl and the rest of the staff/board team. I will always be a staunch annual supporter of DMRF in addition to the bequest that is included in my will. Forever etched in my mind will be Molly Moore's words - *Together we all can continue to make a difference.* 🙏

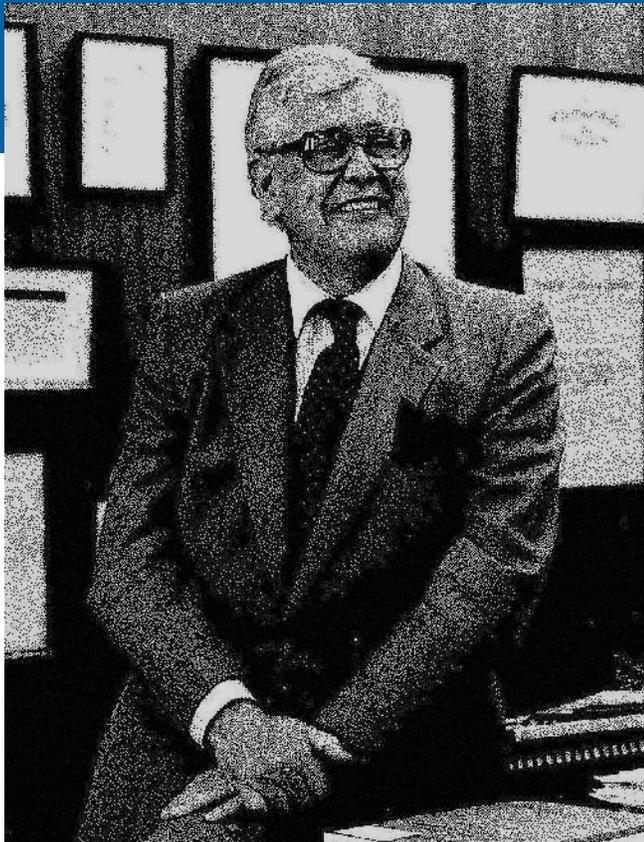
DMRF Executive Director

Proceeds from this event will go to DMRF to support Prostate Cancer Research

TELUS MOTORCYCLE RIDE FOR DAD
Join the fight against prostate cancer

JUNE 7TH 2014 from 9AM – 3PM
Cole Harbour Place
51 Forest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth, NS
Pre-registration Friday, June 6th 4pm – 8pm

DMRF: 35 Years and Counting...



By Alison C. Edwards

Dr. J. Donald Hatcher, Dalhousie Dean of Medicine 1976–1985 who, along with other founders, shared the vision and perseverance that led to the formation of DMRF in 1979 (Photo: DMRF files)

Every successful initiative is the result of a number of factors – the right timing, the right individuals and the right project. The creation of Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation was no exception.

In the 1970s, stars aligned, individual champions from a variety of backgrounds crossed paths and an impactful and long-lasting foundation came to fruition through their determination and desire to make a difference.

When **Dr. J Donald Hatcher** was appointed Dean of Medicine at Dalhousie University in 1976, he immediately recognized that the lab equipment in the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building (opened in 1967) was approaching the decade mark and was in desperate need of updating and replacement. He was determined that something should be done.

Around the same time, **Mrs. Nora Balders**, a Guinness heiress living in the south end of Halifax, wanted to support medical

research in a big way and wanted others to do so as well. Nora would become the catalyst for DMRF's creation.

Recently DMRF Executive Director Alison C. Edwards and former Dean of Medicine Dr. T. Jock Murray had the pleasure of visiting one of the Foundation's founding board directors, **Mr. H. Reuben Cohen** and his wife, Astrid, in Moncton, where they heard the following historical account.

While acting as Chairman of the Dalhousie University Investment Committee, a role he held for 13 years, Reuben was approached by Mr. Gordon Cowan, law professor and eventual Chief Justice of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, and asked to visit a client named Nora Balders. When Reuben visited, Mrs. Balders explained that she wished to make a \$1 million contribution to support local medical research if the goal of a \$10 million endowment was targeted and she wanted Mr. William (Bill) Sobey involved in this initiative.

After follow-up discussions with Dean Hatcher and Bill Sobey, Reuben Cohen returned to visit Nora Balders with the happy news that a group led by Bill Sobey was committed to achieving this ambitious goal. That day Mrs. Balders wrote a cheque for \$1 million. Reuben thanked her profusely but that is not the end of the story.

As he was on his way out the door, Mrs. Balders' long-time housekeeper slipped Reuben a crumpled \$5 dollar bill. She said that she didn't have a lot but believed strongly in the cause of medical research and felt that if we all gave what we personally could, then, together, we could make a huge difference. Reuben remembers marvelling that he left the house with a \$1 million cheque and a \$5 dollar bill and that both were given with the same fervour and hope.

*When Reuben relayed his story to Dean Hatcher and Bill Sobey, they were deeply touched. It struck them that many other folks probably felt the same way and that a grassroots campaign was a fabulous idea. Reuben and Bill Sobey returned to Mrs. Balders' home, approached the housekeeper with this idea and requested permission to use her name. She was a very humble individual and agreed but she wanted only her first name to be used. And thus, in 1980, the annual **Molly Appeal** was launched. Now 35 years later, over \$5 million has been raised through this campaign alone – with generous collective public support inspired by Molly's initial \$5 gift.*



(above) DMRF founding members and supporters meeting January 25, 1979 (l to r including founding Board Directors) Mr. Reg A. Cluney, Mr. James Kinley, Lunenburg, NS, Mr. B. G. Irwin, Miss Barbara Hinds, Ms. Nora Balders, Halifax, NS, Dean J. Donald Hatcher, Dalhousie Dean of Medicine, Dr. Peter C. Gordon, Mr. Elliott Spafford, Halifax, NS, Mr. Gordon Hughes, Windsor, NS, Mr. William M. Sobey, Stellarton, NS, Mr. H. Reuben Cohen, Moncton, NB (Photo: DMRF files)



(left) Mr. H. Reuben Cohen, one of DMRF's founding Board of Directors (Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Cohen)

*Subsequently, she allowed all to know her full name – **Molly Moore**. We lost Molly in 1998 but her legacy of giving will live on in perpetuity to help generations to come.*

*In 1979, Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation was officially registered as an independent charitable organization. (See photo above with **founding Board Directors**).*

Bill Sobey was appointed as the first Board Chair – a role he enthusiastically held for 10 years until his unexpected passing in 1989. Bill's death was an incredible loss to all and his steadfast dedication to DMRF will never be forgotten. It was Bill who ensured (with a conversation and a handshake in those days) that pledge commitments were made and honoured.

*Early on Dean Hatcher and DMRF's first Executive Director, **Dr. Peter Gordon**, sought the advice of **Mr. Graham W. Dennis**, Publisher and Chief Executive Officer of the Halifax Herald Ltd. Graham immediately donated the salary of a full-time public relations expert. **Ms. Barbara Hinds**, an accomplished and highly regarded journalist, had the respect and trust of the medical and research community and a "nose for news". She wrote countless articles about local medical research and Graham Dennis provided wide distribution through his newspapers, *The Halifax Chronicle Herald* and *The Mail Star*.*

Graham Dennis played a vital role in the early stages of the Foundation and his interest and support continued on for many years. Whenever the Dean or Board Chair Bill Sobey approached him, Graham never failed to come through. In recognition of his generosity and support, the Board awarded him the first DMRF Outstanding Service Award in 1982.

All these individuals were key players in the early development stages of the Foundation. Their initial dream was to create a research foundation with a \$10 million endowment and \$500,000 in annual research support. How extremely pleased they all would be to know that 35 years later the Foundation is still going strong, is approaching the \$70 million endowment mark and this year will distribute over \$3 million in research grants and awards. Definitely a cause for celebration!! 🎉



Molly Moore making first online gift to DMRF's MOLLY Appeal 1998 (Photo: DMRF files)

DMRF

Dr. W. Alan Curry Endowment

Dr. W. Alan Curry, Professor and Head of Dalhousie's Department of Surgery, 1940 to 1957, was well known for his surgical skills and training of future surgeons. In honour of her late husband, Gladys, Dr. Curry's wife, bequeathed a gift to medical research. Upon her death in 1979, her bequest made a substantial contribution to the founding initiative of DMRF and established the Curry Endowment. Since 1980, this fund has provided support to Anatomy & Surgery students through the DMRF Curry Studentship.

Dr. & Mrs. Curry instilled in their family a belief in the importance of funding medical research. Alan and Gladys were the maternal grandparents of Margot Spafford, a loyal and generous supporter of DMRF. In addition, Margot's father, Elliott Spafford was among the founding Board members of the Foundation.

Margot has wonderful memories of her grandparents' work. She is extremely proud of them and remembers her grandfather as a humble man and a highly-respected surgeon. Margot recalls catching a taxi when leaving her grandparents' home and the cab driver asking "Is Dr. Curry your grandfather? He is a wonderful man. He saved my life".

In addition to her many generous gifts to DMRF, Margot continues to be an enthusiastic champion of the Foundation's Adopt-a-Researcher Program. She says "I am happy to be an ambassador for DMRF and the many skilled researchers at Dalhousie Medical School who come here from all over the world." Margot wants people to know about the groundbreaking research being done at the medical school and is passionate about the importance of providing funding to keep researchers here.

Longtime DMRF Board member, Charlie Mitchell has been a friend of both the Curry and Spafford families since childhood. Charlie recalls visiting the Curry home, across from the Victoria General Hospital, when he also learned to have great respect for the work of Margot's grandfather and his colleagues, as well as the generations of researchers who have followed in Dr. Curry's footsteps.



Adopt-a-Researcher (circle 1 to c) Drs. Graham Dellaire, Craig McCormick & George Robertson and Margot Spafford (Photo: John Sherlock)

Charlie first joined DMRF's Board in 1989 at the invitation of former DMRF Executive Director, Dr. Peter C. Gordon. Charlie has served on the Board Executive Committee ever since and is Chair of the Planned Giving Committee.

Charlie and his wife Shelley, a professional artist who over many years has generously donated her work to DMRF's "Molly's Garden" charity auction events, have recently made a gift in honour of Dr. Curry. Their gift supports the DMRF Curry Studentship which is awarded to talented medical students who choose to pursue medical research at the beginning of their careers.

Thanks to such generous and loyal support, DMRF, in its 35th anniversary year, will continue to strive to fulfill its mission of funding excellence in medical research in the Maritimes. 🏠



(l to r) DMRF Chair Frank C. Sobey, Margot Spafford and Charlie Mitchell (Photo: DMRF files)

DMRF Irene MacDonald Sobey Endowed Chair in Curative Approaches to Alzheimer's Disease

Recognizing the devastating impact of Alzheimer's on individuals and their families, the Sobey Foundation and family made a \$2 million commitment to launch a DMRF Research Chair in memory of Irene MacDonald Sobey who was afflicted with the disease. With the conviction that medical research holds the key to a cure, this gift brings the goal of advancing the discovery of effective treatment closer to realization. We are therefore pleased to announce that **Dr. Sultan Darvesh** has recently been selected to hold this prestigious Chair.

Dr. Darvesh has had a distinguished career at Dalhousie medical school with numerous accolades. As a medical student, he was awarded the **DMRF Dr. W. Alan Curry Studentship** (1985) to pursue Anatomy research. (See story page 6). Three years later, he received the **DMRF Dr. J. Donald Hatcher Research Prize**, which is awarded each year to the graduating MD considered to have carried out the most meritorious and significant research during their undergraduate medical program. After completing a residency in Neurology at Dalhousie in 1993 and a fellowship in Behavioural (Cognitive) Neurology at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care at the University of Toronto in 1994, Dr. Darvesh returned to Dalhousie where in 2003 he received a **DMRF Research Excellence Award**.

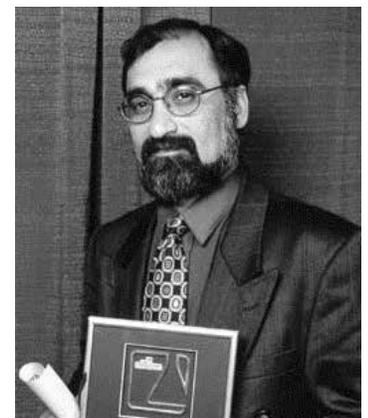
Dr. Darvesh is Professor of Medicine (with cross appointments in Neurology, Geriatric Medicine and Anatomy & Neurobiology) and is the founder and Director of the Behavioural Neurology Program and Clinic. His focus is on assessment and management of patients with cognitive impairment. In addition, Dr. Darvesh is co-founder and Director of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank. Established in 1993 and housed in the Tupper Medical Building, the Bank collects brain tissues for examination and experimentation crucial to Dr. Darvesh and other neuroscience researchers around the world. Known internationally as a leading expert in research on brain tissue and dementia, Dr. Darvesh continues to receive awards, grants and prizes in recognition of his pioneering work.

*Irene MacDonald Sobey,
mother of William M.
Sobey DMRF Chair
1979–1989, and
grandmother of Frank
C. Sobey DMRF Chair
1998–present (Photo:
Courtesy Sobey Family)*



Dr. Darvesh has developed innovative strategies for diagnosis and treatment of neurodegenerative disorders concentrating on butyrylcholinesterase – a single enzyme in the brain vital to early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's. He and his colleagues have mapped out areas of the brain that contain this enzyme, particularly the areas that are affected in dementias, using new techniques to refine and improve brain-scanning and imaging technologies.

“The drugs that are available now, treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's and not the actual disease,” notes Dr. Darvesh. “Currently, a confirmed diagnosis requires post-mortem examination of the brain tissue under a microscope.” He is searching for ways to diagnose Alzheimer's earlier, “We hope to detect signs of Alzheimer's in the brain before the disease develops significantly and major symptoms occur.” For Dr. Darvesh, “failure is not an option when it comes to finding a cure”. 🧪



*(left) Dr. Sultan Darvesh recently appointed Sobey Chair in Alzheimer's Research
Dr. Sultan Darvesh received DMRF Dr. W. Alan Curry Studentship, DMRF Dr.
Hatcher Prize and pictured (right) DMRF Research Excellence Award.
(Photos: DMRF files)*

Dr. Ford Doolittle wins Canada's top science prize

By Charmaine Gaudet

Dr. Ford Doolittle has always taken the path less travelled. As one of the world's foremost molecular geneticists, he has spearheaded new ideas about evolution that have compelled scientists to reconsider widely-held theories on how DNA works.

Dr. Doolittle is a Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Dalhousie Medical School. Over four decades, he and his colleagues have been at the forefront of fundamental research in microbiology and molecular biology.

For his enormous contributions, he was recently awarded the Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering, Canada's top scientific award. Given by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to recognize excellence, it comes with a \$1-million prize.

The significance of the award is not lost on Dr. Doolittle. It confirms everything I've done in my scientific career," he says.

While many scientists pursue more tangible discoveries, Dr. Doolittle is known for his creative ideas. "Ideas provide an underlying philosophical and theoretical basis for generating scientific discoveries and they represent many of our major scientific breakthroughs. I've never made a major discovery in the traditional sense so receiving this award is a nod to the importance of fundamental ideas in advancing science."

Among Dr. Doolittle's most influential contributions is his assertion that because of a process called lateral gene transfer – the swapping of genes across species – Darwin's evolutionary tree is an inadequate model for understanding two-thirds of life's history on earth. The prevalence of gene swapping among bacteria is now accepted as fundamental to

our understanding of the creation of new pathogens and the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria. In another pioneering study, he argued that the majority of DNA in complex organisms like humans is parasitic or "selfish" and propagates itself even though it has no apparent useful purpose.

"Ford Doolittle has tackled and provided significant insights about fundamental questions that go to the very heart of the human condition – specifically how cells, the building blocks for all organisms, have evolved. The impact of Ford's work has been enormous, adding to the ability to create, manage and interpret large sets of data that underpin so many aspects of modern medical research," says Dr. Gerry Johnston, the medical school's Associate Dean of Research.

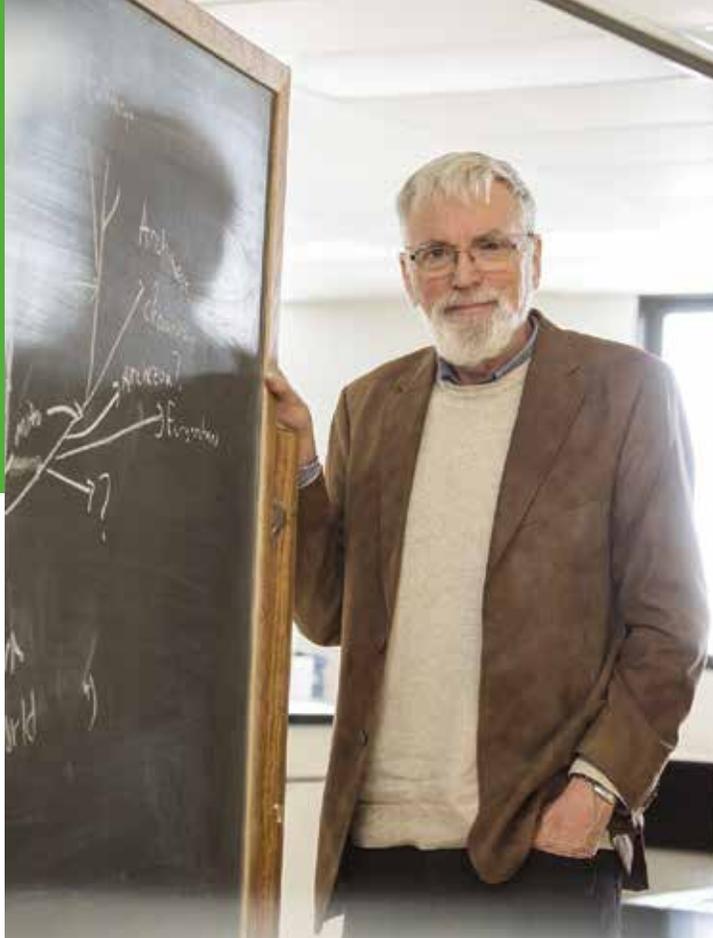
Born and raised in Illinois, Dr. Doolittle received his BA and PhD from Stanford and Harvard universities and came to Dalhousie in 1971 on a Medical Research Council of Canada Scholarship. Soon afterwards, he proved the controversial notion that chloroplasts were once free-living bacteria that now serve evolutionary interests within their hosts.

Over time, his ground-breaking work earned him international acclaim and many awards and honours including the Award of Excellence from the Genetics Society of Canada. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Doolittle could have pursued a career at any university but he chose Dalhousie. "Dalhousie was and still is a very collegial place. This is a good place to do good research and Nova Scotia is a lovely place to live."

He credits agencies such as Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) for providing critical funding for





Dr. Ford Doolittle (Photo: Globe & Mail February 2014).

Dalhousie researchers. “Research funding is limited in Nova Scotia and federal agencies are increasingly focusing on translational research. DMRF’s contribution is vitally important particularly for basic researchers and researchers starting their careers.”

“DMRF is proud to have provided support for Dr. Doolittle in his career,” says Jyl MacKinnon, DMRF’s Director of Development, adding that “he was the first recipient of our most prestigious award – the Max Forman Senior Research Prize.”

Dr. Doolittle and his Dalhousie colleagues have built a strong evolutionary biology team. “This is the best place in the world to do this kind of work. The Herzberg award will help to ensure that this work continues,” he says.

*“Contingent triptych #12”
(Photo: Courtesy of Ford Doolittle personal collection)*



“ He was the first recipient of our most prestigious award – the Max Forman Senior Research Prize.”

~ Jyl MacKinnon

Dr. Doolittle will use his prize money to explore functional DNA in the human genome. He also intends to hire more graduate students and postgrads. “Since I started here, I’ve had 18 PhD students and 31 postdocs come through my labs. They have gone on to successful academic careers in Canada, the U.S. and beyond. I’m extremely proud of them.”

When Dr. Doolittle isn’t pursuing research ideas or mentoring trainees, he turns to his other passion – photography. He recently received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD).

His photography portrays often-overlooked details of ordinary life: the corner of a table at a neighbourhood restaurant or bits of garbage on the sidewalk.

“I approach science and photography similarly. I focus on a particular thing and try to explore it in a way that perhaps no one else has.” 🧪



Beatrice Hunter

Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute *(the Hunter Institute)*

Beatrice Hunter was the daughter of

Dr. Owen & Mrs. Pearle Cameron. Her father was a rural Nova Scotia doctor. Growing up, Beatrice came to understand her father's frustration when he couldn't do more to help his patients in the face of serious illness. She also learned that medical research could help and was imbued with a strong commitment to support medical research in her community.

When Beatrice was a young woman she left her home in River John, Nova Scotia and moved with her husband, John to Ontario. While she never returned to live in her native province, she never forgot her roots or her community and what she had learned from her family. She maintained her belief that local research could improve not only the practice of medicine but, more importantly, the lives of patients in need of medical care as well as the lives of patients' families. This led her to send generous annual gifts to DMRF from her new home.

In addition to her annual gifts, in 1997 Beatrice made an anonymous donation of \$2.2 million to DMRF. Her generosity made it possible to set up a state-of-the-art vision laboratory and to help equip a much-needed cancer research lab.

Upon her death in 2001, Beatrice Hunter bequeathed \$12.5 million to DMRF in memory of her parents. This was the largest single donation in the Foundation's history. Building on Beatrice's hope and commitment to improve cancer research and treatment for patients in the Atlantic region and across the country, DMRF carefully stewarded her gift, endowing it to provide substantial and stable support for cancer research in perpetuity through the Cameron Endowment.

Such funding stability was the catalyst that sparked the growth of a local cancer research network and took cancer care to a new level across Atlantic Canada. Common vision, strategic approach and collaborative action plans gave rise to knowledge sharing and teambuilding among cancer researchers throughout the region and attracted talented cancer investigators.

In April 2009, in recognition of the tremendous opportunity her gift provided, the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute (the Hunter Institute) was established as the centre of a thriving cancer research community with strong ties across the region – a powerful way to work together and have a positive impact on people's lives.

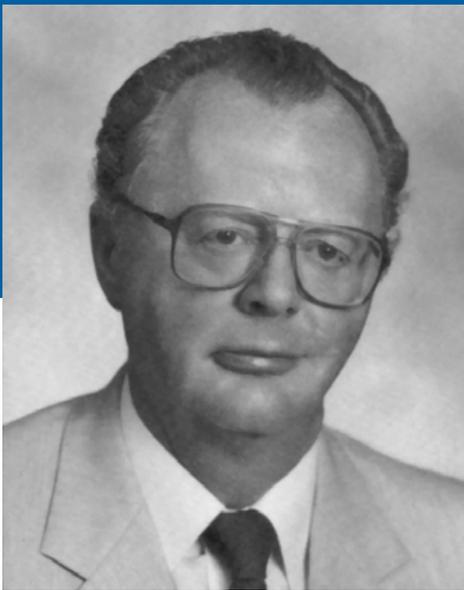
DMRF will provide support for cancer research in perpetuity. This 2013/14 fiscal year for example, DMRF's Cameron Endowment will disburse over \$600,000 to the Hunter Institute because of the generous legacy Beatrice has provided to honour her parents. 



*Dr. Owen & Mrs. Pearle Cameron,
Beatrice Hunter's parents*



John & Beatrice Hunter (Photos: DMRF files)



DMRF William M. Sobey Fellowship in Cardiology Research

W. M. Sobey
William M. Sobey
Chairman
DMRF Board 1979-1989

William M. (Bill) Sobey

was central to founding the medical research foundation. When Ms. Nora Balders requested a way to fund medical research and challenged funding partners to match her \$1 million gift, Bill Sobey committed to realizing the vision of a Foundation and worked to find the key people who could help make it possible to reach the initial \$10 million goal.

When DMRF was formally established in 1979, Bill Sobey became the first Chair of the Board of Directors – a role he filled with great enthusiasm, recruiting new members, committing financial support and leading the charge to fulfill DMRF’s mission. He continued to serve as Chair over the next ten years and, under his leadership, the Foundation flourished, surpassing its initial target, to build an endowment of over \$13.5 million during his tenure. Sadly, his leadership was cut short by his own medical problems. Bill Sobey lost his personal battle against heart disease and passed away suddenly in 1989.

In recognition of Bill’s life, his belief in the importance of medical research and his dedication to DMRF, Doris – “Doe”,

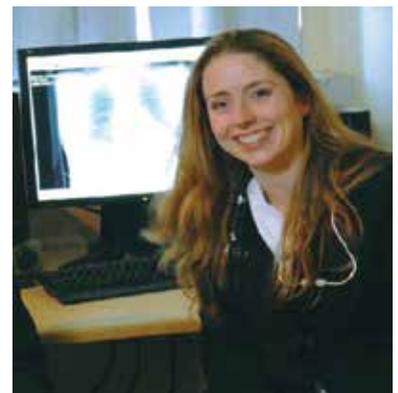
his widow, his children and his siblings came together and, as a tribute to him and others facing heart disease, set up the DMRF William M. Sobey Fellowship in Cardiology. Providing funding for research-related training of specialists planning a career in academic cardiology, the fellowship was established to improve the level of cardiac care by providing an opportunity to study with the world’s experts at internationally-recognized centres in the hope that fellows would return to Dalhousie.

Drs. Gabrielle Horne, John L. Sapp Jr. and Sarah Ramer all completed a DMRF William M. Sobey Cardiology Fellowship and are all members of Dalhousie’s Faculty of Medicine, Division of Cardiology.

Dr. Gabrielle Horne completed her Fellowship in Molecular Cardiology at the Krannert Institute of Cardiology in Indiana. She is Associate Professor of Medicine and her research interests include interventricular septal mechanics in heart failure and somatic cell gene therapy. Dr. Horne holds a PhD in physiology, is a multiple peer review grant recipient and is interested in cardiac imaging. Her clinical interests include heart failure, echocardiography and adult congenital heart disease.

Dr. John Sapp completed a Fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (Harvard University). He is Professor of Medicine and Director of Electrophysiology. His principal research interests include interventional electrophysiology, arrhythmia management, implantable defibrillators, bi-ventricular pacing and, in particular, Body Surface Potential Mapping to aid ablation of difficult cardiac arrhythmias, novel methods of cardiac ablation, and studies of bi-ventricular pacing for heart failure.

Dr. Sarah Ramer completed an echocardiography Fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, focusing on exercise stress echocardiography. She is Assistant Professor of Medicine and she directs the stress echocardiography program, administering and assessing results of tests, which help physicians diagnose coronary artery disease, dynamic valvular problems and pulmonary hypertension. Dr. Ramer is Director of the Cardiology Residency Training Program. 🏠



(top) Dr. Gabrielle Horne & Dr. John Sapp;
(bottom) Dr. Sarah Ramer (Photos: DMRF files)



Tribute to Bob Smye

By Jyl MacKinnon, DMRF Director of Development

The world lost a very bright light on February 2nd, 2014, when Bob Smye passed away quite suddenly from heart complications. Many of you will remember his BIG smile when he participated in the Molly Appeal for cardiovascular research, along with his beautiful daughters: Maddie, Allie and Hannah.

It was our Molly Appeal designer, Cindy Schultz who recruited her neighbour, Bob to be our “poster boy”.

“I knew Bob would be perfect for this campaign.” Cindy says. “I have never known a man with so much love to give... and so much to live for. He would do anything to help heart disease research – for himself, and others. I also knew Bob would be a pleasure to photograph because he was so incredibly funny. And, of course, his daughters are all adorable. Bob had the world’s biggest heart, and we all miss him like crazy.”

Bob's larger than life. His eyes sparkled, especially when he talked about his amazing wife, Denise Meade and “his girls.” To them, we send our heartfelt condolences.



(Photos: DMRF files)



Scotiabank Charity Challenge




HALIFAX, NS - MAY 16-18 2014

#BlueNose2014  



For the 6th year running, we'll take to the streets of Halifax & Dartmouth MAY 17th & 18th

To JOIN the MOLLY'S RUNNERS BLUE NOSE TEAM

WALK or RUN: Register for any of the events:
5km, 10km, HALF or FULL Marathon

DONATE: Be a supporting sponsor by giving a gift to support the whole Team or help an individual reach their goal

CHEER: Come out and join the fun!

To recognize MOLLY'S RUNNERS TEAM members, look for MOLLY DAISY TATTOOS. Find the TEAM banner at the finish to cheer members across the line.

All are welcome – young/old,
faculty/staff/students, family/friends.
Come have some fun for a great cause!



**Support a great cause
Raise Funds for
Neuroscience Research**



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

alison.edwards@dal.ca
or jane.greenlaw@dal.ca

DMRF Board Profiles



*Malcolm Fraser, joined DMRF Board 2013
(Photo: Courtesy Malcolm Fraser)*

Malcolm Fraser is CEO and founder of ISL Digital Marketing, a company that helps organizations adapt their marketing strategies to meet changes in modern consumer behaviour.

Malcolm is a proven leader in the digital marketing industry, having been recognized nationally over the last 19 years for his innovative approach to applying technology to strategic business challenges. Through Malcolm's leadership, ISL has been recognized for its innovation in web, social and mobile mediums. Malcolm often speaks nationally and internationally about the influence of technology on social change, best practices in digital marketing, and future trends in the industry.

A graduate of Mount Allison University, Malcolm is a seasoned entrepreneur who has served as an advisor to the Entrepreneurs' Forum and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development. He has been consistently recognized as one of Atlantic Canada's Top 50 CEOs and takes great pride in mentoring other entrepreneurs to help them build successful businesses and give back to their communities.

Malcolm serves on the Board of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. His involvement in these and other organizations has enabled him to act on his commitment to the development of the arts community and forward thinking policy change for our region. Malcolm's enthusiasm for research and development in our communities lends itself to his support of **Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation** and the organization's work to attract leading researchers to our region and support their efforts. He joined DMRF's Board in 2013 and is a vital addition to the Communications Committee. 



*Janet MacMillan, joined DMRF Board 2013
(Photo: Courtesy Janet MacMillan)*

Janet MacMillan APR, Fellow CPRS, is a Partner with NATIONAL Public Relations. Janet serves as lead strategic counsel to a number of the firm's clients and specializes in such areas as risk, reputation and crisis management, citizen engagement, governance and regulatory matters. She guides clients in such sectors as renewable energy, oil and gas, mining and other resources, and infrastructure development. Janet's career with NATIONAL Public Relations (formerly MT&L, which she co-owned for ten years) spans over 25 years. NATIONAL Public Relations is Canada's largest public relations firm with more than 375 professionals, offering clients a great depth and breadth of communications expertise across geographies and practice areas. The firm serves regional, national and international clients from offices in Halifax, St. John's, Saint John, Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, New York, London, UK, and Denmark. In 2006, Janet was inducted as a Fellow in the Canadian Public Relations Society. She is certified by the U.S.-based Institute for Crisis Management and the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). Janet's professional career began at Halifax's Neptune Theatre, followed by an exciting period with the IWK Children's Hospital in Halifax where she launched the highly successful Children's Miracle Network Telethon and expanded the hospital's public relations and fundraising profile.

Janet has considerable governance experience, having served on (or currently serving on) international, national and regional boards. She joined the Board of Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in 2013 for a renewable three-year term and brings strong expertise in Communications, Fundraising and Public Relations. She is a key member of DMRF's Communications Committee. 

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 BNF# 11922 9318 RR0001



Leaving a legacy to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in your will?

(Photo: Johanna Matthews)

Many of you have requested information on leaving a gift to the Foundation in your will. I thought perhaps we should include a section in this Philanthropist issue on that topic. If you are interested in leaving a legacy to medical research in your will - here is some information that you may find useful:

First, be sure to use the Foundation's official name "Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation" to ensure that your gift comes to the right place! Including the mailing address and charitable number is important as well:

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation

1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building
5850 College St., P.O. Box 15000, Halifax NS B3H 4R2
(902) 494-3502

Registered Charity Number: BN# 11922 9318 RR0001

It is also important to share the above official name and contact information with your Executor.

Charitable bequests can take several forms and come in all different sizes (don't be intimidated about the amount). As we've said before "every gift in every will makes a difference."

Purpose: You can designate the purpose of your gift to a research area that you are passionate about or to the area of greatest need (undesigned).

Power to Vary Provision: We encourage donors to include a "Power to Vary" clause in their will (the designated research area may be too restrictive or the specific disease may be cured).

The provision should read as follows:

"Notwithstanding the above, if at any time in the judgement of the Board of Directors of the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, all or any part of the income from the fund cannot usefully be applied for the expressed purpose, then the unexpended funds may be used for other medical research approved by a majority of the directors of the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, keeping in mind the original intent of the bequest."

Jyl MacKinnon, CFRE
DMRF Director, Development
Ph: (902) 494-3502

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



Thank You!

Molly Appeal Luncheon
for Cancer Research
October 2013 at Ashburn



Photos: Nick Pearce

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

Guest Speakers for Cancer Research included:

Dr. Roy Duncan, Dr. Jason Berman,
and

Karrie-Ann Wilkie,

mother of Mark, who passionately recounted her family's
personal experience in search of better cancer treatments and
the impact that support for research has on patients.

PLEASE mark your calendars....

Upcoming Molly Appeal Luncheon will focus
on Neuroscience Research and will take place
at Ashburn on **Thursday, October 23rd, 2014**

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



Olwen Dorothy Farrell died in 2009



Today, she is shaping the future of medical research.

Olwen loved Berwick. She cherished her time on the farm, in the apple orchards and the flower gardens.

She knew that successful orchards need nurturing and dedication to flourish, like medical research.

That's why she left a generous gift in her will to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation.

Like us, Olwen believed that today's science leads to tomorrow's cures.

**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 dmerf@dal.ca website www.dmerf.ca telephone (902) 494-3502 toll-free 1-888-866-6559

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.

