

FALL 2016

# FOUNDATION NEWS



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Cover Story:*  
Donors Share in Scientist's  
Tremendous Research Progress  
PAGE 2

*Profile:*  
Dr. Versha Banerji  
PAGE 3

Centre of Hope  
PAGE 4

Learning from CancerCare  
Manitoba's Best and Brightest  
PAGE 5

Quick Facts  
PAGE 6

Monthly Donor Spotlight  
PAGE 7

Camp Indigo  
PAGE 8

*Events Pages:*  
Community Events  
Mark Your Calendars!  
PAGES 9&10

# DONOR IMPACT

Donors are the fabric of CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. Each donor – individual, community or corporate – is unique, special and integral to our organization fulfilling our “Raison D’etre,” supporting CancerCare Manitoba’s strategic priorities. We exist for a very clear purpose. To help CancerCare improve outcomes for Manitoba’s cancer patients, those currently dealing with a diagnosis and those who will unfortunately be diagnosed in the future.

In the Fall 2016 edition of Foundation News, you will read inspiring stories that demonstrate the tremendous impact of generous donations. These stories are diverse and beautiful – just like a piece of woven fabric. You will come to know Dr. Versha Banerji, M.D. FRCPC, and to appreciate how CancerCare Manitoba Foundation donors have enabled this gifted clinician scientist and her team to break new research ground. And you will read about two recent conferences sponsored by the Foundation which brought many talented and motivated people together to enhance CancerCare Manitoba’s position as a leader in cancer care.

You will learn how your donations enabled expansion of the Centre of Hope to include both breast and gynecological cancers. Hope is a tranquil place where women living with cancer can seek support and comfort. We will introduce you to Madeline Haskett, a woman who received treatment from CancerCare Manitoba and then turned that experience into a recurring gift to the Foundation so she can help make a difference in the lives of others. And you will be touched by the smiling faces of the children enjoying all that Camp Indigo has to offer. It’s a very special place, generously supported by donors, that allows kids receiving cancer treatment or recently off therapy and their siblings to just be kids for one special weekend every June.

I hope you will be inspired by the profile of the many and varied Community Events that raised precious funds for the Foundation during the past several months. We continue to be in awe of the creativity and passion Manitobans demonstrate for our organization. I also hope you will be motivated to participate in or support one of our four annual Signature Events. Challenge for Life 2.0 this past June was a huge success – nearly 760 participants raised over \$975,000. We are very excited about the 2017 event as it’s our tenth anniversary and we plan to make it even bigger! We are also looking forward to our bi-annual Bottoms Up! Evening in support of colorectal cancer which will take place in April 2017.



My heartfelt appreciation for your continued and generous support of CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. Please know you are helping create More Tomorrows Together for Manitobans and their families living with cancer.

*Annitta Stenning*

**Annitta Stenning**  
President & CEO

## Reflection from a Board Member



“With my wife having been diagnosed with, and treated for brain cancer since 2001, it was important for me to get involved in supporting CancerCare Manitoba through the work of the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. Since joining the Foundation’s Board three years ago, I have been inspired and am proud to be associated with the efforts of the Foundation and CancerCare Manitoba in providing world class patient care and research. While we have a lot to be proud of, the challenges going forward to provide increased infrastructure for cancer treatment and research remain our priority. I am confident in our collective ability to meet these challenges.”

Ken Cranston  
CANCERCARE MANITOBA  
FOUNDATION BOARD VICE CHAIR

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# DONORS SHARE IN SCIENTIST'S TREMENDOUS RESEARCH PROGRESS

*“I think this award shows how committed the Foundation’s donors are to my success.”*

## YOUR DONATIONS HELPED FUND DR. BANERJI'S RESEARCH TEAM

### CURRENT TEAM MEMBERS

Cheryl Pelletier  
SENIOR TECHNICIAN

Dr. Nabanita Chatterjee, PhD  
Coordinated Fellowship  
funded by CancerCare  
Manitoba Foundation  
and Research Manitoba

Ryan Saleh  
SUMMER STUDENT

### PREVIOUS TEAM MEMBERS

Armando Poepl  
SENIOR TECHNICIAN

Dr. Iris Gehrke, PhD  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW  
Coordinated Fellowship  
funded by CancerCare  
Manitoba Foundation  
and Research Manitoba

Eric Bouchard, MSc  
GRADUATE STUDENT  
CLL cluster funded

Five years ago we introduced you to Dr. Versha Banerji, who had just returned home to Winnipeg after four years of research and training at Harvard along with her husband Dr. Shantanu Banerji. The couple, who met in medical school and married, specialized in hematology and medical oncology respectively. Their time at Harvard was sponsored by CancerCare Manitoba and fully supported by donors to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. Their plan post-Harvard – return to help build Manitoba’s cancer research program while providing clinical care to patients.

Dr. Banerji’s research in Acute Myeloid Leukemia held a lot of promise as upon her return she could transfer her discoveries to Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), where CancerCare Manitoba is an acknowledged leader in the field. She was recently granted the Research Manitoba New Investigator Award for her research study *Resetting the Clock: Modifying Circadian Rhythm in CLL*. Dr. Banerji, a clinician scientist at CancerCare Manitoba and senior scientist at CancerCare Manitoba’s Research Institute, competed against scientists from around the province, every university and research program, and is thrilled she was able to receive this prominent award.

“Typically these awards go to scientists with one hundred per cent protected time for research. It’s harder for clinicians with dual

responsibilities as a clinician scientist to prove they’re equally worthy,” she says.

As a doctor balancing her work in the clinic with her research, she would need some way to compete with scientists who could devote all of their resources to research. That’s where the generosity of the Foundation’s donors came in, because without you, none of this would have been possible.

“Thanks to the Foundation’s donors, I had a generous start-up that allowed me to get my feet wet, buy new equipment, hire staff, and recruit a post-doc fellow,” says Dr. Banerji. “This allowed me to generate data so I could apply to additional granting agencies to secure additional funds.”

Your contributions have been essential to this amazing work, as your trust in Dr. Banerji’s research meant she could focus on CLL and the fight against cancer, instead of worrying about finances. And now with this new award, that steady focus can continue as she will receive \$75,000 for each of the next three years.

“I think this award shows how committed the Foundation’s donors are to my success,” she says. “And it demonstrates that CancerCare Manitoba can protect its clinician scientists, so that they can be equally successful in the future. It’s good for all parties involved.”

Dr. Banerji's groundbreaking research is in the connection between the circadian rhythm and CLL. The circadian rhythm is essentially your body's clock; it is the physical, mental and behavioural changes in your body that follow a roughly 24-hour cycle and respond to light during the day/night cycle. Your circadian rhythm can be changed by travelling through different time zones on an airplane, rotating between night shifts and day shifts, mental health problems, and many other factors. She's examining these physiological variables and seeing the effect it has on cancer cells.

"I've been very aware of the epidemiological studies that say people who do shift-work are more likely to get cancer," she says. "It includes people with metabolic disorders, diabetes, or who just have disrupted circadian rhythms."

Since it's shown that an agitated circadian rhythm can have negative health effects, particularly when it comes to cancer, this leaves Dr. Banerji ready to search for answers.

With this new grant, a lot of those answers will come from her experiments with light and dark chambers, using different treatments and seeing their effects. She'll be able to look at the problem in two ways. One will be taking those already affected by a

disrupted circadian rhythm, then altering it and targeting that to help kill cancer cells. The other is modulating the circadian rhythm to prevent cancer from even happening in the first place.

But it won't be so simple and straightforward. "With genes, it's complex. There are genes that control other genes which regulate circadian rhythm, but those genes also regulate tissues in all the different parts of your body so that they don't grow at the wrong time," she says.

This means she won't just be going into the lab and altering cells haphazardly. Instead, she will be carefully looking at these cancer cells and checking for gene abnormalities, and looking for ways to normalize them and prevent the cancer from growing further. If she's able to make a link like that, then perhaps she can prevent cancer from growing at all. What makes this type of research even more special is that it simply hasn't been done by anyone yet.

"There are large clinical epidemiological studies which have correlated that cancer and shift-work are linked but there is no direct study in each cancer type. No one has said 'this is a CLL cell, this is the gene expression pattern at baseline, and how it has changed to become more aggressive is related to changes in circadian rhythm.'

Maybe if we treat them with different drugs or even low doses of drugs, we can modulate the circadian cycle. No one has done that before."

One great thing Dr. Banerji points out about this research is that it ultimately promotes healthy living in ways that aren't as obvious.

"It gives more credence to the exercise physiology and health prevention modes, because we can actually link that to circadian regulation, hopefully, in the future," she says. "Everyone says exercise is good for you, but maybe this is why."

And her eye on the future doesn't stop there. The ambitious doctor already knows what she needs to do next.

"I've tapped into all the local funding I can, and now I'm trying to gain traction so I can get some national funding too."

**The remarkable progress of Dr. Banerji's research has been made possible by your generous support of the Foundation. What she knows today compared to five years ago is like night and day.**



## Meet CancerCare Manitoba Clinician Scientist

# DR. VERSHA BANERJI, M.D. FRCPC

Dr. Versha Banerji was born and raised in Winnipeg. She graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1998 she earned her Pre-Masters in physiology, and she completed her Doctor of Medicine in 2002.

She started her three-year residency in internal medicine at the University of Manitoba in 2002, followed by her fellowship at CancerCare Manitoba from 2005 to 2007 in adult hematology. Finally, she undertook a research fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT from 2007 to 2011.

After her time at Harvard, Dr. Banerji returned to CancerCare Manitoba to work with the Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) Research Program under the guidance of Drs. Spencer Gibson and James Johnston. Once here, she received a start-up

package for her first two years, paid for by generous donations to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. Previously, she was awarded the Co-Investigator CancerCare Manitoba Foundation Grant in 2006, which was also paid for by the generosity of Foundation donors. She has since held two operating grants from CancerCare Manitoba Foundation in 2013 and 2015.

An interesting fact about Dr. Banerji... she is a trained classical dancer. She has a professional dance degree from the India School of Dance, Music and Theatre, where she learned to dance Bharatnatyam, which is a south Indian style of dance. She was a dancer at Folklorama for the Indian Pavilion, where she first met her future husband, Shantanu. Versha and her husband Shantanu have three children, Naina (11), Aakaash (5), and Robin (4). Naina and Robin were born in Winnipeg, while Aakaash was born in Boston, when Versha and Shantanu were working at Harvard.

*Thanks to the generosity of donors to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation, women now have more support than ever before as they navigate their cancer journeys.*

# Centre of Hope



## **Approximately 400 women are diagnosed with gynecological cancer in Manitoba each year.**

Thanks to the generosity of donors to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation, they now have more support than ever before as they navigate their cancer journeys.



Since 1997 the Breast Cancer Centre of Hope has been providing breast cancer resources to patients and their families. In January 2016 CancerCare Manitoba announced the expansion of Hope's services to include women and their families facing gynecological cancers. By expanding services, women with gynecological cancer will have a place to go for information, education, and other programs and resources. With this enhancement of services, the centre has been renamed the Breast and Gyne Cancer Centre of Hope.



"Funding for the centre has been provided by a number of community fundraising events including the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Pink Ribbon Ladies Golf Classic for Hope that has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to support breast cancer services at the Centre for over 20 years," said Annitta Stenning, president and CEO of CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.



# LEARNING FROM CANCERCARE MANITOBA'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST



Donor dollars have significantly contributed to establishing Manitoba as the centre for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) research excellence. Your generous gifts allowed CancerCare Manitoba Foundation to be a sponsor of the 12th Annual Canadian CLL Meeting which took place September 29 and 30. Innovative minds from around the world attended the conference, from places such as the BC Cancer Agency, Ohio State University, as far away as Germany. Contributions have enabled this event to grow and create a global community of scientists and hematologists whose priority it is to improve the outcome of CLL patients through cutting-edge research. CLL is a type of cancer that starts from white blood cells in the bone marrow. It is the most commonly diagnosed leukemia in adults.



The event attracted young, creative minds with its poster session, where trainees, technicians, nurses, clinical data managers and research associates presented their research results. This inclusion provided a forum to create new insights into disease management and quality-of-life studies.



**A dynamic example of the impact of your donations is the winner of the poster session, and the George H. Smith Award, was Lexi Ciapala, a recipient of a CancerCare Manitoba Foundation/Research Manitoba studentship award. This bright graduate student continues to maximize the support she has received. She presented her impressive findings, the discovery that a signal in leukemia cells that might allow aggressive cells to survive better, and her hope that we can find a way to kill these aggressive leukemia cells more effectively. In third place was Dr. Nabanita Chatterjee, another recipient of a CancerCare Manitoba Foundation/Research Manitoba Fellowship award. These two sharp minds are really paying it forward.**

Your donations also allowed CancerCare Manitoba Foundation to co-sponsor the Community Cancer Care 2016 Educational Conference held in Brandon in late September. The conference enabled oncology health care professionals from around Manitoba to assemble and participate in educational and networking opportunities to enhance patient care in their communities – a great way to give back to our rural donors. Highlights of the conference included an interactive workshop on end-of-life care, sessions on lymphoma and treatment, and a keynote address by Dennis Maione entitled, “What I Learned from Cancer.”

Sponsorship of national and provincial conferences such as these demonstrate how every dollar provided to the Foundation contributes to CancerCare Manitoba enhancing its position as a leader in cancer care.

# 5 QUICKFACTS

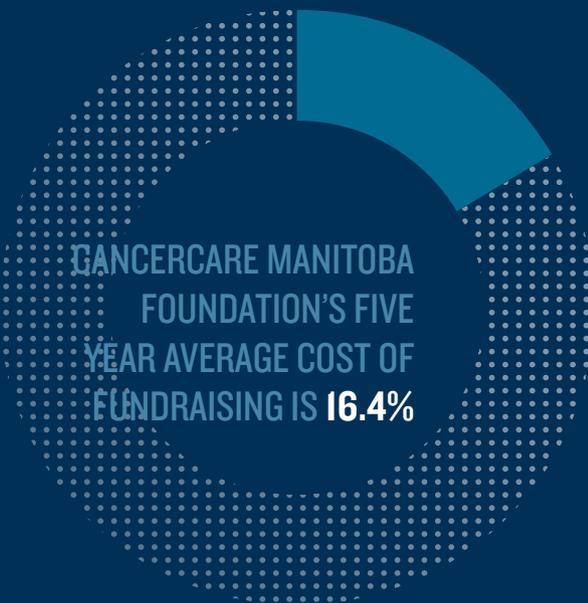
ABOUT CANCERCARE MANITOBA FOUNDATION



CANCERCARE MANITOBA FOUNDATION HAS GRANTED OVER

**\$104 MILLION**

TO CANCERCARE MANITOBA SINCE 2000



To learn more about CancerCare Manitoba Foundation visit us at [cancercarefdn.mb.ca](http://cancercarefdn.mb.ca)



All funds raised stay in Manitoba.

# Monthly Donor *Spotlight*



Madeline Haskett is a proud member of CancerCare Manitoba Foundation's monthly donor club. After she was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2011 she was introduced to the people at CancerCare Manitoba as she underwent surgery and multiple rounds of chemotherapy to eliminate her tumour.

## MADELINE, WHY DO YOU DONATE TO CANCERCARE MANITOBA FOUNDATION?

"I was so impressed! And my friends wanted to make a donation, and I said they had to make it to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. I have friends all over Manitoba, in Souris and Dauphin, where they have CancerCare Manitoba services. I just keep telling them - they saved my life and I'm indebted to them. And now I feel like I just have to give back."

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT MONTHLY DONATIONS?

"I really like that it automatically comes out and I don't have to do anything. It's just like a phone bill - it's so easy and simple. And I'm helping someone else. They do such strong work. I know there are so many causes, but if it is something you feel strongly about, like I do, then it's great."

## WHY DO YOU THINK OTHER DONORS COULD START MONTHLY DONATIONS?

"To me, this is the most important cause you can donate to, and if it's monthly, it's looked after. Instead of once a year, where you have to start again every year, mine is automatic. It isn't that much but I'm telling anybody and everybody to do it too, because it all stays right here in our home province."

**Thank you Madeline for your selfless contribution – it goes a long way to helping other cancer patients live longer, fuller lives.**

You can join Madeline in the monthly donor club and be confident your investment is helping to advance the science and outcomes of patient care, right here in Manitoba.

## The Rewards of Monthly Giving

**We hope the following will assure you that making a monthly donation has many benefits and can feel easy:**

- Regular communications from the Foundation ensuring you are aware of how you are making an impact.
- Your monthly gifts come straight from your chosen bank account or credit card.
- One consolidated tax receipt for monthly gifts from the previous calendar year.
- You can change or cancel your gift at any time.
- Donations are processed at the end of each month, or at a time of your choosing if you registered online.
- Reduced costs for postage, paper and printing mean that more of your dollars go directly to life saving research.

By joining the monthly donor club, you will be making a commitment to help create more tomorrows for cancer patients all over Manitoba. Monthly giving is an important vehicle in the revolution of cancer care. With monthly giving, the Foundation can count on a consistent and ongoing source of funding. This enables us to more specifically plan for the funds that we direct to the highest quality research and the very best patient care at CancerCare Manitoba.



Have a positive experience with CancerCare Manitoba that you would like to share?  
Please contact us at [share@cancercare.mb.ca](mailto:share@cancercare.mb.ca)



## YOUR DONATIONS ARE PUTTING SMILES ON CAMPER'S' FACES

Camp Indigo is a place where kids who are receiving treatment for cancer, or who are recently off therapy, and their siblings get to engage in all the fun camp activities that children deserve to take part in, while under the supervision and support of trained staff.

Your thoughtful donations means the Pediatric Oncology Interdisciplinary Team has the resources to let these kids participate in archery, horseback riding, swimming, and zip lining, as well as sharing personal stories with other children who are going through similar experiences. The 32nd Annual Camp Indigo took place at the Camp Arnes site in June.

**Through your generosity, you've allowed children with cancer to experience new challenges - from climbing a wall with a prosthetic, to their first time in a pool with no hair, to simply discussing the effects of their medications with their peers.**

The Pollard Family Foundation contributed a generous donation to support the kids at Camp Indigo this year. "Our family had the privilege of being able to go to summer camp when we were young and we know what a rewarding experience it can be," said John Pollard. "We are very pleased to be able to help provide that same opportunity to these most deserving children."

Donors have provided an extraordinary gift to Manitoba kids. You have enabled them to create cherished summer camp memories and most of all to just be kids!



## HALLOWEEN HERO

The pediatric oncology clinic at CancerCare Manitoba is transformed during Halloween, and it's all thanks to one dedicated decorator, Mike van Reede. Not content with merely dressing up his own home with haunted enhancements, for years Mike has made sure the children's unit gets completely converted into a Halloween haven. Children and their families who attend the clinic always appreciate the incredible effort he puts into making their Halloweens extra special. The decorations are also a highlight of CancerCare Manitoba's annual "trick-or-treating" event.



## MLCC PINK RIBBON LADIES GOLF CLASSIC FOR HOPE

#Golf  
#KickCancer

The 20th annual Pink Ribbon Ladies Golf Classic for Hope raised \$60K for CCMF!



## BALLIN' FOR A CURE

#donation  
@basketballmb

Ballin' for a Cure's Donovan, Shaneil and Adam stopped by CCMF w/ a \$5,859 #donation from the third-annual event! Thank you, @basketballmb.



## CAMERON WARD

#philanthropist  
#donates

Young #philanthropist Cameron #donates \$138.50 to CCMF. Thank you for sharing your kind heart with us, Cameron!



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## RIDE

@mbpledgeride

Congratulations to @mbpledgeride for raising \$99K for CancerCare Manitoba Foundation... so far!



## TECHPALOOZA

Techpalooza rocked the Fort Garry Hotel on Friday, February 26, raising an impressive \$60K for CancerCare Manitoba Foundation!



## Get social with us!

- @CancerCareMBFdN
- CancerCare Manitoba Foundation
- CancerCare Manitoba Foundation
- @ccmbfoundation

## GOOD, MILES FOR MARNIE!

#MilesForMarnie  
#ManitobaMarathon

The Miles for Marnie cheering squad, with CCMF board member, Mark Evans, showing their support on the sidelines and encouraging those running the Manitoba Marathon in memory of Marnie Foreman.



## CARBERRY FAIR POTATO TRUCK PULL

Six-year-old Dawson Smart is cancer-free! In his honour, and in celebration, the Smart family held the second-annual Carberry Fair Potato Truck Pull on Sunday, July 3 raising an incredible \$68K for CCMF!



Each year hundreds of community events register to raise money for the Foundation. Over \$1.7 million was raised last year alone! Whenever possible we promote these events on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Have a great idea for an event and need some help? Email [special.events@cancercare.mb.ca](mailto:special.events@cancercare.mb.ca) or call us at 204-784-2777.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CancerCare Manitoba Foundation hosts four Signature Events each year. Supporting these events as sponsors, volunteers, participants or donors is a great way to help the Foundation raise funds to support the vital work at CancerCare Manitoba.

Further information about these events can be found on our website: [cancercafedn.mb.ca/signature-events/](http://cancercafedn.mb.ca/signature-events/)

## SIGNATURE EVENTS



THE 25TH ANNUAL  
GUARDIAN ANGEL  
BENEFIT FOR  
WOMEN'S CANCER

### A HISTORICAL MANITOBA EVENING! THE 25TH BENEFIT FOR WOMEN'S CANCER!

*Tuesday, October 25, 2016 | RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg, York Ballroom*

The Guardian Angel Benefit for Women's Cancer has been a tradition in Manitoba for more than two decades. On October 25, CancerCare Manitoba Foundation hosted its silver anniversary.

The evening was historic. New on-trend Manitoba fashions feathered the room on cancer survivors and professional models as they walked the runway. Nearly 1,000 women and men were captivated by special guest speaker, The Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M., and built everlasting memories

as they helped change the lives of Manitoba women facing a cancer diagnosis.

The Guardian Angel Benefit has raised over \$6 million since its 1991 inaugural event. All of the funds raised stay in Manitoba and have enabled the establishment and operation of the Guardian Angel Caring Room, the offering of vital programs at CancerCare Manitoba through the Patient and Family Resource Centre, personalized patient support at the Breast and Gynae Centre of Hope, the mobile mammography program and so much more.



### BOTTOMS UP! EVENING FOR COLORECTAL CANCER

*April 2017 | Fort Garry Hotel*

The bi-annual Bottoms Up! Evening for Colorectal Cancer will take place in April 2017 at the Fort Garry Hotel. This elegant and entertaining night of cocktails and conversation is a fabulous way to connect with Manitoba's leading professionals.

Guests will revel in LIVE music, hand-crafted hors d'oeuvres and a wide array of mocktails and martinis. It will be an evening to remember!

Details coming soon! Watch the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation website for special Bottoms Up! announcements.



### CHALLENGE FOR LIFE WENT BIG!

*Saturday, June 11, 2016 | Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg*

On a beautiful, blue-sky June day, the Challenge for Life event went BIG. It went 2.0 BIG.

Nearly 760 Manitobans "walked it" for 20 kilometres or "worked it" for 200 minutes of fitness in the first-ever Challenge for Life 2.0 raising over \$975,000!

A sea of walkers hit the streets, putting foot-to-pavement through some of Winnipeg's most historic neighbourhoods. A colourful kaleidoscope of workers

sweated-it-out for the first time led by guest trainers for 200 non-continuous minutes of fitness in Assiniboine Park. All participants raised funds to support Manitobans and their families living with ALL cancers.

Please join us for the 10th anniversary of Challenge for Life and Walk It for 20K or Work It for 200 minutes of fitness on Saturday, June 10, 2017! Raise awareness and funds while reducing your personal risk of cancer by staying active.



### MANITOBA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

*September 9, 10 and 11, 2016 | The Forks, Winnipeg*

Sixty-six teams and over 1,300 participants populated The Forks for a powerful and emotional competition at the fifth-annual Manitoba Dragon Boat Festival in honour of Manitoba kids living with cancer.

Since 2012, the Manitoba Dragon Boat Festival has raised over \$1.5 million in support of in-hospital care,

research and pediatric clinical trials that help improve outcomes for our most vulnerable Manitoba patients at CancerCare Manitoba and the Children's Hospital of Manitoba.

Email [fmg@facilitymarketing.com](mailto:fmg@facilitymarketing.com) or visit [www.facilitymarketing.com](http://www.facilitymarketing.com) to register today for 2017!

# MORE *courage* TOGETHER

“My five-year-old was diagnosed with leukemia in January of this year. When you hear your child’s name attached to the word ‘leukemia,’ your world crashes. We’ve learned to be so thankful for the smallest things.”

JAIME FALK, GRETNA, MANITOBA



 CancerCare Manitoba  
FOUNDATION

*All funds raised stay in Manitoba.*

 **DONATE ONLINE** Visit [MoreTomorrowsTogether.ca](https://www.moretomorrows.together.ca) to make a gift online and keep up with the latest news from CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.

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*All funds raised stay in Manitoba.*

ON 1160-675 McDermot Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 0V9  
Telephone: 204-787-4143 or 1-877-407-2223  
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