

## **\$105,000 Awarded in Support of Life-Saving Clinical Trials in Manitoba**

For immediate release – December 17, 2021, Winnipeg, MB – Thanks to community support, \$105,000 has been awarded to support Sickle Cell research in Manitoba. As one of four winners in the annual iA Financial Group philanthropic contest, CancerCare Manitoba Foundation will receive a donation of \$105,000 to directly support innovative and life-saving pediatric clinical trials happening in this province.

Winners in the philanthropic contest are charities that received the most votes from the Canadian public from among the twelve contest finalists. The donation will allow CancerCare Manitoba to participate in a clinical study of a new treatment for Sickle Cell anemia, a blood disorder that affects children. Participation in the trial is facilitated by the Sickle Cell Transplant Advocacy and Research Alliance (STAR), an international collaborative organization that works to cure Sickle Cell disease, of which CCMB is a member.

“We are tremendously thankful to everyone who engaged with us and voted for this project,” said Dr. Ashley Chopek, Pediatric Oncologist at CancerCare Manitoba. “Without this funding, we simply would not be able to conduct this type of research in Manitoba - research that is making a difference for pediatric patients with Sickle Cell disease.”

“It’s thanks to Manitobans that we’re receiving this important funding today. We called on our community to support us through voting and sharing with their networks and they really went above and beyond,” said Patti Smith, President & CEO of CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. “It is my hope that our supporters are as proud as we are grateful that their actions will lead to advancements in cancer research and treatments right here in our province.”

### **About the iA Financial Philanthropic Contest**

Over 200 charities that work to improve the health and well-being of children (0-18 years of age) answered iA Financial Group's call last September. A jury analyzed all the projects received from across the country, and selected twelve finalists, which were submitted to the public vote. Participating charities were grouped into four major regions (Western Canada, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada/the North) in order to guarantee a fairer distribution of donations across the country.

**For more information or interview requests:**

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