



MEDIA RELEASE

Cancer breakthrough gives scientists new hope

OTTAWA, ON (October 8, 2009) – Canadian scientists have successfully decoded the entire genome of a patient's metastatic breast cancer. The findings were released by the B.C. Cancer Agency – and this new information brings scientists one step closer to understanding how cancer develops and new information on ways to fight it.

“This is exciting news, but, it also points the way that there is a lot more work to be done,” said Dr. Ian Lorimer, Senior Researcher at the Ottawa Health Research Institute. “Here locally we are working on projects that are complementary to this exciting piece of work - more specifically on how tumors change once they start to grow in different sites in the body. We’ll be really interested to see how our data compares to the findings in B.C.”

In our region the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation has financed a new molecular laboratory which offers personalized cancer treatments. At the lab scientists are able to fingerprint an individual’s tumour and record details specific to its growth. This lab was funded through the Cancer Foundation’s Weekend to End Breast Cancer fundraiser.

“With one in nine Canadian women diagnosed with breast cancer, investing in new facilities and regional services across Eastern Ontario is urgent and critical,” said Linda Eagen, Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation President and CEO. “We are proud to support the fight against cancer in our community with important projects like the ones being led by Dr. Lorimer.”

About the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation

The Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation is dedicated to increasing cancer survivorship in Eastern Ontario. The Cancer Foundation is working to fill the gaps in services for cancer patients and their families and have partnered with local organizations and hospitals to ensure residents have shorter wait times, access to the latest therapies and research, the best possible care close to their homes and overall improved quality of life – which will include the new ‘Wellspring Ottawa’ Project.

Wellspring Ottawa will provide programming and workshops unique to Eastern Ontario in order to meet the needs of local cancer patients and their caregivers. The programs will cover a wide range of topics including assistance navigating your cancer journey, post treatment, prevention information, individual and group counseling, nutrition, health and fitness, financial planning and assistance, as well as coping mechanisms for dealing with a cancer diagnosis, the disease itself and its effects on patients and family members.

For more information about the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation please visit www.ottawacancer.ca or contact 613.247.3527.

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