

YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE

THANK YOU
London Run for
Ovarian Cancer



London Health
Sciences Foundation



Thanks to you, we're a step ahead

Among the many ways we began to return to our pre-pandemic normal this year was a renewed desire for the community to safely come together, reinvigorated to raise funds for ovarian cancer research through the annual London Run for Ovarian Cancer (RFOC). Your ongoing support not only carried this event through a challenging period to this milestone, but it also has laid the foundation for an even more prosperous future.

The 2022 event, which brought in-person and virtual supporters together for the first time, demonstrated the community's unwavering commitment to this important cause. Indeed, over \$150,000 was raised for critical advancements in ovarian cancer research and care at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC). With every dollar raised, whether as a participant, donor or both, you are giving new hope to patients by pushing our efforts beyond what's currently possible and creating opportunities for translational research to improve patient care outcomes.

The RFOC event, as well as your generous and much-needed support, can persevere through even the toughest of times, keeping the fight against ovarian cancer front and centre. You chose to care, and because you did, nothing will stop us from pushing even further in the years to come.

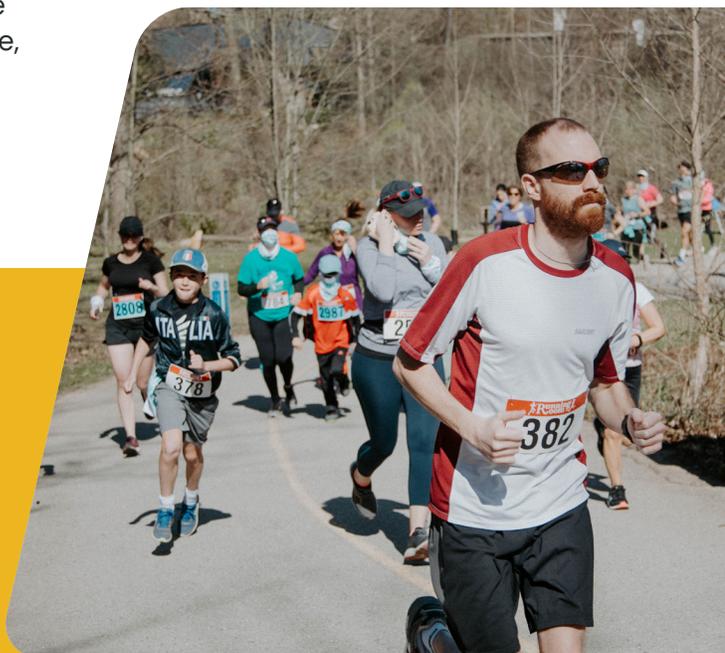
Thank you.

A lasting legacy with a growing impact

Approximately 2,300 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year in Canada, with more than half expected to die as a result. It is one of the deadliest cancers to affect women, but due to a lack of early detection methods and poor management of recurring disease, ovarian cancer has continued to claim lives at an alarming rate.

Since 2003, the London Run for Ovarian Cancer has raised more than \$2.5 million to combat these statistics by funding ovarian cancer research at LHSC. Started by Ann Crowley following her own diagnosis of ovarian cancer, the first RFOC event raised over \$85,000, and has since grown in size, scale and impact with each passing year, upholding Ann's incredible vision.

With a return to our traditional in-person event, alongside a virtual component, RFOC 2022 saw over 369 participants and raised over \$150,000, showing steady recovery and growth.





Continuing our journey forward

An update from Dr. Trevor Shepherd

The Mary & John Knight Translational Ovarian Cancer Research Unit (TOCRU) has long delved into the causes and complexities of ovarian cancer. Your support through the annual RFOC event is paving the way for this work to not only maintain course, but for new research discoveries to flourish into tangible patient outcomes.

As you will see in the updates below, our team has taken significant strides this past year. We are proud to share our immense gratitude with all those who have helped us move toward breakthroughs in understanding and treating this devastating disease.

Dr. Shepherd, scientist, Translational Ovarian Cancer Research Unit, LHSC

Changes to the TOCRU team

As our research efforts continue to evolve, we saw several changes to our team's line-up this past year. We welcomed several new members to our exceptional group while also bidding farewell to a colleague who has made an undeniable difference.

Dr. Adrian Buensuceso left the team to pursue other academic training at Western after more than five years of dedicated ovarian cancer research. He was instrumental in developing new tools and technologies to study how ovarian cancer responds to stress and what molecular changes are important. Dr. Buensuceso is finishing up his remaining experiments for publication, and his findings will help shape our studies for years to come.

Dr. Charles Trelford joined the team in Dr. Buensuceso's footsteps as a new postdoctoral researcher. He recently obtained his PhD from Western, studying the cell biology of non-small cell lung cancer and using many techniques that will be very useful to his new studies in our group. Dr. Trelford has hit the ground running, quickly moving several projects forward and we are excited to see what this next year will bring from his work.

Tiffany Johnston started with the team in September 2022 as a new master's student but has, in fact, been working in our lab on various projects for an entire year. Her thesis studies focus on testing how a new specialized chemical compound called MRT may work to kill ovarian tumour cells when combined with the standard treatments used for ovarian cancer: carboplatin and paclitaxel.

Understanding ovarian cancer through PDOs

With a goal of studying ovarian cancer more closely and directly testing different responses to therapy, our team is working with the Princess Margaret Living Biobank in Toronto to engage in a new method of growing ovarian tumours in our TOCRU lab. Referred to as “patient-derived organoids,” or PDOs, these will help us understand how ovarian cancer changes or adapts to become therapy-resistant, moving us closer to being a step ahead of the disease. With the potential for significant advances in ovarian cancer and beyond, I helped organize the first Western Organoid Workshop in November and am working to develop a local network of scientists and labs with a unified interest in PDOs.



Thank you, London Run for Ovarian Cancer!

You are making life-changing research possible. Thanks to your philanthropic spirit and dedication to supporting ovarian cancer research, physicians and scientists at LHSC can more effectively pursue better detection and treatment methods for ovarian cancer. For patients, this can mean more confidence when facing a diagnosis; more time with loved ones; and more hope for a healthier future.

