



Canadian  
Cancer Clinical  
Trials Network



**Increasing access, Improving recruitment,  
Supporting patients**

**2018-2021 Impact Report**

# 3CTN: The Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network

The Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network (3CTN) is a pan-Canadian initiative established in 2014 to improve recruitment and the efficiency and quality of academic cancer clinical trials in Canada. 3CTN represents a network of cancer centres united with a common goal of increasing trial recruitment and access, resulting in better outcomes for cancer patients.

## Why is 3CTN needed?

Clinical trials provide opportunities for innovative cancer screening and treatments for patients that can improve outcomes, advance understanding of disease and translate research discoveries into clinical practice. However, prior to 3CTN's formation, recruitment to academic cancer clinical trials in Canada faced a period of decline while the amount of time to open new trials increased. 3CTN was established to address these challenges and make improvements to the clinical trials environment.

## Our Impact (2018-2021)

Building on the success of its first four years, 3CTN has continued to help improve the academic cancer clinical trials ecosystem with the support of trialists, clinical research professionals and patient partners within cancer centres across Canada.



### Improved patient recruitment and access to clinical trials

- **15,000+** patients recruited to 3CTN Portfolio trials
- **100%** increase in patient recruitment above pre-3CTN baseline<sup>1</sup>



### Improved trial quality and site performance

- **85%** of 3CTN member centres completed registration with CTRNet for biospecimen and biobanking management
- **87%** of pediatric high priority Portfolio trial site activations were completed within 90 days<sup>1</sup>
- **11** additional 3CTN member centres implemented a clinical trials management system; a further 48% increase since 2018



### Enhanced patient and public involvement in research

- **81%** of 3CTN member centres have implemented a patient and public involvement strategy
- **31** Patient Representatives involved in supporting 3CTN member centre research across Canada



### Maintained the evolving 3CTN trial Portfolio

- **113** trials added to the Portfolio
- The Portfolio contained **297** active trials, including:
  - » Randomized Phase III trials (30% of Portfolio trials)
  - » Immunotherapy (18%)
  - » Rare cancer settings (31%)
  - » Novel therapies (17%)

<sup>1</sup> (data from 2020-2021)



# Our Accomplishments

## Overcoming barriers for cancer patients in rural and remote communities

Access to trials present significant challenges for many Canadians who reside in rural and remote communities. 3CTN led the development of the Canadian Remote Access Framework for Clinical Trials (CRAFT), a hub-and-spoke, 'trial cluster' model proposed for decentralized clinical trial delivery wherein a cancer centre uses a risk-based approach to delegate activities to local satellite healthcare sites.



**"Where a person lives in Canada should not make a difference to accessing cutting edge treatment."**  
- Gretta Hutton, Patient Representative

The framework recommendations account for expected regulatory, ethical, legal and practical challenges to trial cluster organization and remote patient management. Proof-of-concept trials implemented in three locations will aim to demonstrate CRAFT's effectiveness and identify changes that would benefit adoption as a standard in Canada.

## Mapping Canada's cancer clinical trials landscape

3CTN has developed interactive Canadian Cancer Clinical Trial Maps that provide a clear, searchable representation of trial activity for a specific cancer. The maps aim to simplify the identification of trial opportunities and research gaps for sponsors, investigators, clinicians and patients beyond what is available from trial registries. Trials are categorized based on attributes such as treatment line, tumor status, biomarkers, tumor targets of specific interest and measures of research impact.



**"For many of us, a clinical trial is the difference between life and death. The more we can do to shine a light on clinical trials, the better for people affected by cancer."**  
- Jill Hamer-Wilson, Patient Representative

## Including the patient and public voice: Nothing about us, without us

Patient partner involvement helps ensure research activities consider priorities and answers questions that are important to patients and the public. Supported by a dedicated Advisory Council, Patient Representatives at 3CTN member centres have participated in activities to such as trial advocacy, review of patient materials, participation on advisory committees and project working groups and presenting at national and international conferences.

**"We need to see patient representatives as stakeholders. Great opportunities for patient partner involvement exist within 3CTN for supporting clinical trials conduct, contributing to trial site decisions, awareness campaigns and engagement with advocacy groups."**  
- 3CTN Patient Representative Advisory Council

## Matching patients to trials

Patients and their caregivers often face challenges in sourcing and linking with available trial options. In partnership with Windsor Regional Hospital, a Clinical Trials Navigator pilot program aids in reviewing a patient's case, finding matching trial options and reporting back to patients and their oncologist.

**"Finding clinical trials is time consuming and confusing for most people... patients and their caregivers often need support for sourcing trial options in a systematic way by a professional who knows where to look."**  
- Shannon, cancer patient

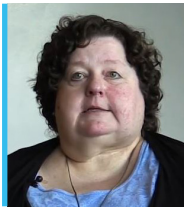
Since its launch in 2019, the Navigator has helped more than 160 patients and caregivers across Canada. Future directions include using technology to automate and expedite the search process.

# Canadian Impact: Our Achievements in 2020-2021

"3CTN is successful and firmly on course to deliver significant contribution to the conduct and impact of clinical cancer research across Canada"

– External Scientific Advisory Board review

Province	# of sites	# of Portfolio Trials	# of Patients Recruited	# of Highly Qualified Personnel Supported	# of Patient Partners
British Columbia	6	58	275	14	2
Alberta	4	57	489	22	3
Saskatchewan	1	7	7	2	
Manitoba	3	38	56	10	1
Ontario	28	153	2307	137	18
Quebec	10	88	2253	33	5
Nova Scotia	2	31	6		1
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	20	10	4	1



"My surgical oncologist let me know there was a clinical trial available. After three years, they cancelled the clinical trial as the results were so overwhelmingly positive that they decided to make that standard treatment. It has led me to live beyond that diagnosis and it has given me my life. This is why clinical trials are so important."

- Alison Stoneman, Patient Representative

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**3CTN would like to thank and acknowledge the support and contribution of its Funders, partners and member centres.**

## Funding Partners



## Collaborators

