



21
22

ANNUAL REPORT

IRCM

Montreal Clinical
Research Institute

Driven by life.



A year
Marked
By Resilience:
Driven by Life!



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The IRCM At a Glance

AFFILIATED WITH CLINIC AFFILIATED WITH ASSOCIATED WITH APPUI BUDGÉTAIRE DE

Université
de Montréal

CHUM

McGill

Économie, Science
et Innovation
Québec

55

YEARS OF BASIC AND CLINICAL
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH
in addition to training high
calibre scientists in an innovative
technological environment in the
heart of downtown Montreal.

425

EMPLOYEES AND
STUDENTS

35

LABORATORIES

4

4 RESEARCH CLINICS SPECIALIZED IN:
• hypertension • lipids • diabetes as
well as a research centre on rare and
genetic diseases in adults and a Post-
COVID-19 Clinic.

Message From the Chairman of the Board

We are turning the page on a year that was not without its challenges. We thought we would get back to normal and leave the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, but we are not there yet. During several additional waves of the pandemic, one after the other, we have transitioned to a new chairman of the Board of Directors, chosen a president and scientific director, and approached the relevant agencies to renew our financial support. All this, in addition to continuing our research work and, of course, applying for the corresponding grants.

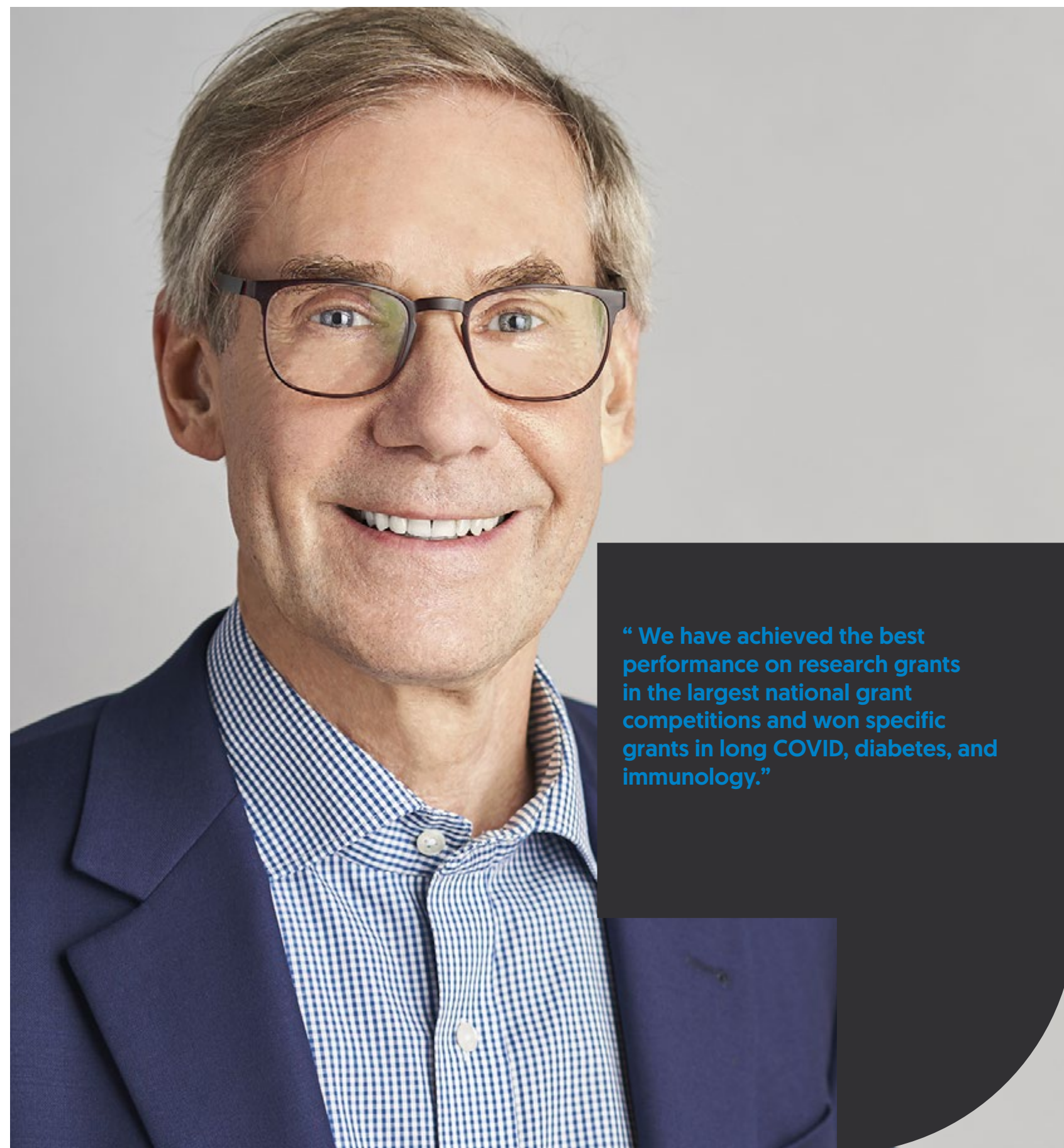
We set out resolutely right from the start and, as you will read in this report, our efforts have been successful. We have achieved the best performance on research grants in the largest national grant competitions and won specific grants in long COVID, diabetes, and immunology. Our research teams have published in the most prestigious scientific journals, contributing to the advancement of knowledge worldwide. We have strengthened our partnerships and intensified our training efforts to prepare the next generation of researchers in Quebec, across Canada, and around the world. Our financial position is healthy, and a new president and scientific director is about to take the helm of the Institute.

In closing, I would like to point out that the signing of this annual report has a special significance for me this year because, after five years as chairman of the Board, I am handing over the reins to my colleague Richard Mayrand. I know Richard, and I firmly believe that he will lead the Institute towards a future worthy of its history and reputation. Yes, five

wonderful and exciting years of working with fellow directors of remarkable expertise and experience; five years of constant and rewarding interactions with the Institute's President and Scientific Director, including Dr. Jean-François Côté most recently, who signs this report with me and whom I salute; five years of helping and encouraging the most talented researchers in Quebec and in North America, many of whom are internationally recognized experts in their field; five years of being supported by highly qualified and dedicated staff, including the management team and the professional staff; five years of close collaboration and trust with our partners, including the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec and the Université de Montréal.

To all of you, my heartfelt thanks, and to the Institute, my best wishes for a successful future.


PIERRE DUPLESSIS



“ We have achieved the best performance on research grants in the largest national grant competitions and won specific grants in long COVID, diabetes, and immunology.”



“ For our institute, as for the rest of society, this year was an ordeal, a test of our individual and collective resilience, which we passed with flying colours.”

Message from the Direction

Message From the Acting President and Scientific Director

Last year, when we published the 2021 Annual Report, most of us were confident that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic that put our lives on hold was behind us. Unfortunately, the test of time has proven us wrong. With the false hopes of an end to the epidemic and the resurgence of new variants undermining all the safeguards put in place to preserve our health, we had to accept the idea of continuing to live, work, and discover, with COVID-19 always in the background.

For our institute, as for the rest of society, this year was an ordeal, a test of our individual and collective resilience, which we passed with flying colours. Through the successes of the laboratories, the researchers, and the students, and through the willingness of the teams to continue working together, the IRCM has been able to stay the course. It continued to brilliantly fulfill its mission of cultivating research that heals, and treating the patients under its care, particularly by demonstrating a spirit of innovation and creativity, the uniquely human capacity to adapt and overcome all obstacles. In each of you, I have seen perseverance and passion, a passion that has translated into a year rich in progress, awards, and distinctions, into the success of promising initiatives such as the Sci-POP competition, all against the gleaming backdrop of a new branding, conceived around the idea that we are, all of us, *Driven by Life*.

Throughout this period, you entrusted me with the interim presidency and scientific direction of the IRCM, an honour that warms my heart and makes me want to do even better so that together, the IRCM goes further, higher, and becomes ever more relevant.

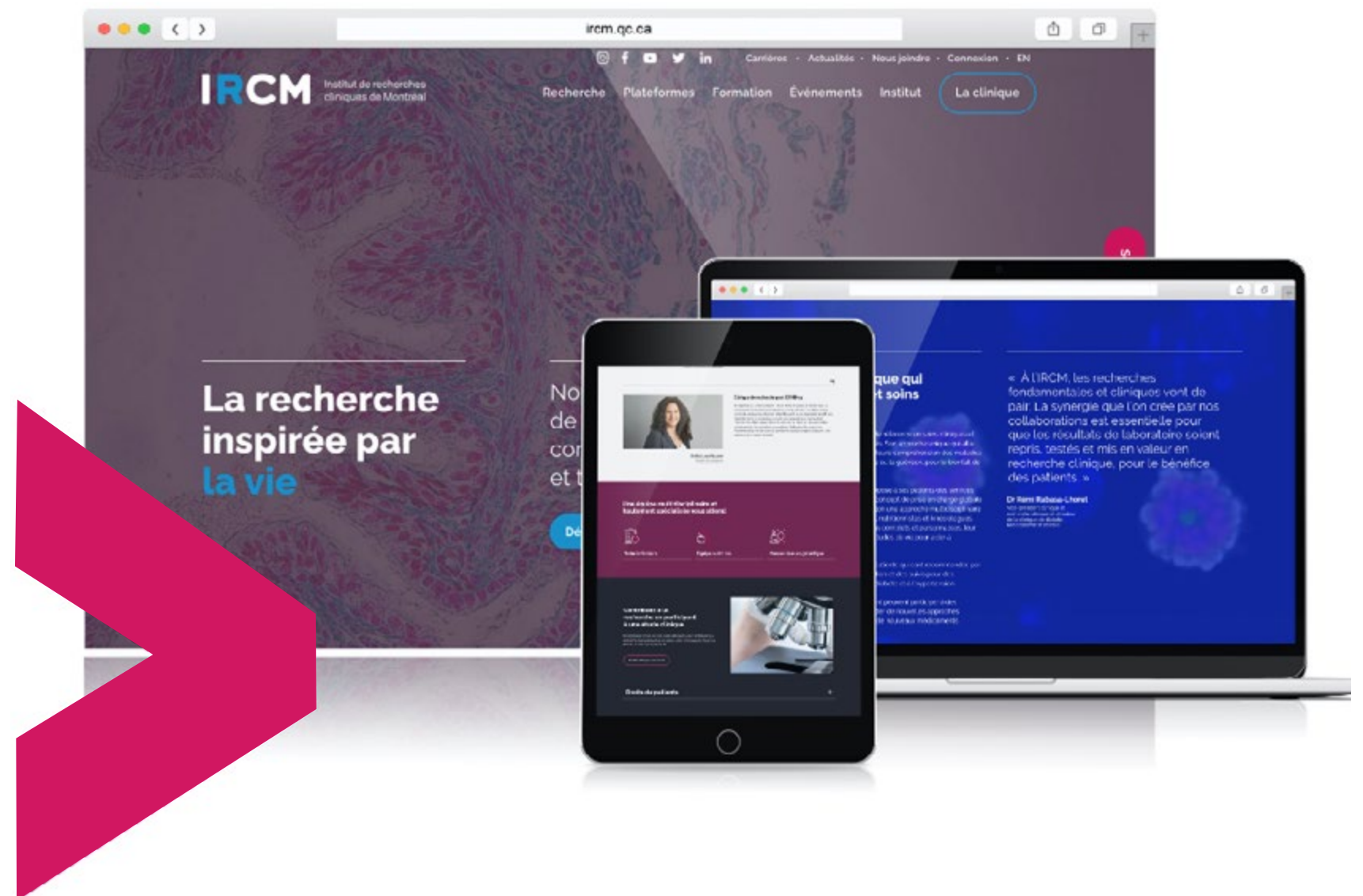
To all of you, colleagues, students, researchers, administrative staff, a warm thank you. Together, we can do anything, no matter what challenges or obstacles we may encounter.


JEAN-FRANÇOIS CÔTÉ

The IRCM In Motion, *Driven by life*

This second year of the pandemic was an opportunity for the Institute to tap into what motivates its community most to push forward. This reflection led to a major brand positioning exercise that resulted in a revamped visual identity under the banner: **Driven by Life.**

This new image, featured on the Institute's tools and web platforms, now reflects the dynamism, the vitality, and the mission of our organization, as well as its role as a standard-bearer for high-level biomedical research in Quebec.



A Tight-Knit Community

The 2021–2022 year has been an eventful 12 months with several major projects for the IT Department. Indeed, while the cyber security project was already in our plans before the pandemic, the urgency to implement it was exacerbated by the circumstances. With COVID-19, the health sector has become the target of several cyberattacks. The IRCM has made every effort to protect itself from a possible attack.

To protect our ecosystem, our scientists' data, and the Institute's operations, we have accelerated the process of securing our systems. To do so, we carried out a major upgrade and trained our internal community to recognize cyberattacks and protect itself against malware threats.

This was not easy. Because of teleworking, it took patience and perseverance to reach all concerned members of the community, synchronize schedules, and access all workstations. In addition, our team was also affected by COVID-19 and had to work with reduced staff levels on several occasions. Fortunately, the members of our community understood the

importance of this initiative for all, and most worked with us to move forward in the first phase of the project.

Our sector has made a permanent shift since a safe and efficient structure was implemented for remote work. The pandemic changed the essence of our work, and we are proud for rising to the challenge to enable our researchers and those who support them to continue their important work. In IT, one must constantly be evolving, and in our case, it has become an essential service.

We thank the community for trusting us, and we look forward to what comes next.

Testimony



Human Resources, listening to the community

“Over the past two and a half years, the pandemic has forced us to adapt to a new reality in the workplace. In Human Resources, we have had to come up with innovative ideas to keep the members of our Institute united. We held a BBQ in October to bring the community together and thank them. This event was a great success with over 200 meals served!

We have also highlighted the years of service and retirements of our employees using a hybrid face-to-face and virtual mode to bring together as many people as possible and accommodate our community. This event created great memories for our employees! We feel that it is important to thank the employees and students for all their efforts.”

Mélissa Gomes et Émélie Aucoin
Human Resources Department



Discovery

“A researcher is at the forefront of science, and on a daily basis, it can be truly fascinating”

Mathieu Ferron, Director of the Molecular Physiology Research Unit at the IRCM



Center for cardiometabolic health

CO-LEADERS
Jennifer Estall and May Faraj



SOPHIE BERNARD
Lipids Clinic and Genetic
Dyslipidemias Clinic



MICHEL CHRÉTIEN
Functional Endoproteolysis



BENOIT COULOMBE
Translational Proteomics



JENNIFER ESTALL
Cellular Interactions
and Development



MAY FARAJ
Nutrition, Lipoproteins and
Cardiometabolic Diseases



MATHIEU FERRON
Integrative and Molecular
Physiology



YVAN GUINDON
Bioorganic Chemistry



MAXIME LAMARRE-CLICHE
Hypertension Clinic



RÉMI RABASA-LHORET
Metabolic Diseases Clinic



ERIC RACINE
Pragmatic Health Ethics



MARTIN SAUVAGEAU
RNA and Noncoding
Mechanisms of Disease



NABIL G. SEIDAH
Biochemical
Neuroendocrinology



FRÉDÉRIC CHARRON
Molecular Biology of Neural
Development



MICHEL CHRÉTIEN
Functional Endoproteolysis



JEAN-FRANÇOIS CÔTÉ
Cytoskeletal Organization
and Cell Migration



JAVIER DI NOIA
Mechanisms of Genetic
Diversity



JENNIFER ESTALL
Cellular Interactions
and Development



MATHIEU FERRON
Integrative and Molecular
Physiology



HUA GU
Molecular Immunology



YVAN GUINDON
Bioorganic Chemistry



DAVID R. HIPFNER
Epithelial Cell Biology



ERIC LÉCUYER
RNA Biology



MOHAN MALLESHAIAH
Stem Cells and Cell
Reprogramming



TARIK MÖRÖY
Hematopoiesis and Cancer



MARLENE OEFFINGER
Ribonucleoprotein Biochemistry



ERIC RACINE
Pragmatic Health Ethics



FRANÇOIS ROBERT
Chromatin and Genomic
Expression



MARTIN SAUVAGEAU
Functional Genomics
and Noncoding RNAs



NABIL G. SEIDAH
Biochemical
Neuroendocrinology



WOONG-KYUNG SUH
Immune Regulation



MARIE TRUDEL
Molecular Genetics
and Development



ANDRÉ VEILLETTE
Molecular Oncology

Cancer Center

CO-LEADERS
Jean-François Côté and Frédéric Charron

Center for Immunity, Inflammation and infectious diseases

CO-LEADERS
Javier Di Noia and Woong-Kyung Suh

Center for genetic and neurological diseases

CO-LEADERS
Marie Kmita and Jacques Drouin



HUGO CHAPDELAINE
Primary Immunodeficiency Clinic



MICHEL CHRÉTIEN
Functional Endoproteolysis



ÉRIC A. COHEN
Human Retrovirology



JAVIER DI NOIA
Mechanisms of Genetic Diversity



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Molecular Genetics and Development



ANDRÉ VEILLETTE
Molecular Oncology



GUILLAUME BOLLÉE
Clinique de maladies rénales rares



MICHEL CAYOUCETTE
Cellular Neurobiology



HUGO CHAPDELAINE
Clinique d'immunologie primaire



FRÉDÉRIC CHARRON
Molecular Biology of Neural Development



JEAN-FRANÇOIS CÔTÉ
Cytoskeletal Organization and Cell Migration



BENOIT COULOMBE
Translational Proteomics



JACQUES DROUIN
Molecular Genetics



NICOLE J. FRANCIS
Biochemistry of Epigenetic Inheritance



DAVID R. HIPFNER
Epithelial Cell Biology



ARTUR KANIA
Neural Circuit Development



MARIE KMITA
Genetic and Development



ERIC LÉCUYER
RNA Biology



MARLENE OEFFINGER
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Functional Genomics and Noncoding RNAs



PETER W. SCHILLER
Chemical Biology and Peptide Research



NABIL G. SEIDAH
Biochemical Neuroendocrinology



HIDETO TAKAHASHI
Synapse Development and Plasticity



MARIE TRUDEL
Molecular Genetics and Development



JEAN VACHER
Cellular Interactions and Development

Promising Research Continues

Advances with high impact potential



Published in the renowned scientific journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, a study conducted by Marie-Anne Goyette, a doctoral student in Jean-François Côté's laboratory, reveals a highly promising new therapeutic target for combating HER2-positive breast cancer, an aggressive form of the disease associated with a high mortality rate.



The renewal for seven more years of the research chair in neurobiology of development will allow to Frederic Charron from carry on his promising work. His team will continue to study the molecular mechanism of Shh signalling in circuit formation of the nervous system as well that the molecular and cellular events leading to medulloblastoma, a brain tumour found mainly in children.



Using two molecules located on the surface of immune cells called macrophages, André Veillette's team has discovered a way to awaken the macrophages' instinct for destroying cancer cells. This work, published in *Cell Reports*, reveals an innovative, potentially more effective, and less toxic therapeutic avenue for precision medicine.



Nabil G. Seidah compiled a review of the in-depth history of the discovery of the proprotein convertase PCSK9 and its involvement in certain cardiovascular diseases related to high LDL-C levels (atherosclerosis, heart disease, and metabolic diseases). Published in the prestigious scientific journal *Endocrine Reviews*, the results of this work offer a fascinating insight into the role of PCSK9, while providing hope for new therapeutic approaches for multiple other diseases.



“The important thing in research is to persevere, and above all, to use our brainpower. It is true that in order to have a career in research, one has to be prepared to work hard and go through long academic studies. But, at the end of the day, for someone who is truly passionate about science, it is well worth it: this person will have the unique chance to discover, observe and understand phenomena that no other has ever described. In a certain way, a researcher is at the forefront of science, and it can be truly fascinating on a daily basis!”

Mathieu Ferron

Director of the Molecular Physiology Research Unit at the IRCM

Innovative Projects

In 2021-2022, in addition to basic research and clinical studies carried out in their laboratory, our researchers contributed to the launch of several highly collaborative and promising synergistic research projects.



Emilia Liana Falcone and Hugo Chapdelaine will co-lead a clinical research project aimed at evaluating the effect of COVID-19 vaccines on people living with an immunodeficiency. Led by Juthaporn Cowan, an infectious disease physician at the Ottawa Hospital and Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa, the study, made possible thanks to \$2.5 million in funding from the Government of Canada, will benefit from the contributions of other partner institutions such as the MUHC and CHU Sainte-Justine.



Although the eminent scientist, Sidney Altman, sadly passed away during the year, the IRCM was fortunate to work with this great man for a time. A co-winner of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Dr. Altman worked on the catalytic properties of RNA, a discovery that led to major advances such as RNA-based vaccines including Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines against COVID-19. As Professor in Residence at the IRCM and Visiting Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at the Université de Montréal, he had begun a fruitful and enriching collaboration with our researchers - although remotely because of the pandemic - to stimulate ongoing work on RNA. He shall be remembered with great emotion and gratitude.

157

PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC
PUBLICATIONS

64

PUBLICATIONS WITH IMPACT
FACTOR OVER 5

447

PARTICIPATION À DES COMITÉS
DE PAIRS OU D'ÉVALUATION DE LA
RECHERCHE



Women in Research: The IRCM Salutes its Female Researchers

Women in science: new lights and old shadows

For the International Women in Science Day, the IRCM women researchers shared thoughts through an article published on the Institute's Platforms. Here is an extract:

"With all its ups and downs, no other career would have brought me such sense of pride and self-accomplishment." Dr. May Faraj, Principal Investigator and lab Director at the IRCM.

February 11 marks the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. One day is not enough to grasp the immeasurable contribution of women in science, nor the challenges that still hinder the way. However, it remains a good pretext to bring this subject back to the foreground and to continue to fight

persistent inequalities. (...)

It has been nearly 40 years since the IRCM welcomed its first female researcher.(...)

Today at the IRCM, we are extremely proud to count among our ranks women researchers of international calibre who contribute to advancing health knowledge and the cause of women in science. We salute the excellent work of our researchers and laboratory directors, Drs. Emilia Liana Falcone, Jennifer Estall, Marie Kmita, Marie Trudel, Marlene Oeffinger, May Faraj, Nicole Francis and Sophie Bernard, many of whom stand out as international leaders in their fields of study. In addition to directing cutting-edge research, these exceptional women also play an important role as mentors, deeply involved in the training of the next generation of

scientists, in the Institute's academic life, as well as its influence far beyond our borders.

Moving in the Right Direction

Over 100 years after Marie-Curie's first Nobel Prize, times have certainly changed, and giant strides were made. Many of the IRCM's women researchers testify to the tremendous support they received from their male supervisors and colleagues, who encouraged them to surpass themselves and believe in their ability to become independent scientists or lab directors, despite the odds. "I was lucky to have exceptional mentors who supported me and helped me to progress without ever treating me differently from my male colleagues," confessed Dr. Marie Kmita, supported by Dr. Marlene Oeffinger who said: "I did

not experience misogyny during my school and university career, where I was also able to participate in mentoring programs encouraging women to pursue a scientific career."

It is true that in research and health training institutions, women are increasingly present. In many universities, they have represented more than 50 percent of graduates in biomedical sciences or medicine, since the 90s (...).

To ensure and accelerate change, these issues must continue to be the subject of open conversations and concrete actions, both at the individual and institutional levels. And in this regard, each institution must act and give itself the means to generate change. At the IRCM, we are determined to redouble efforts (...).

"With all its ups and downs, no other career would have brought me such sense of pride and self-accomplishment."

May Faraj, Director of the Nutrition, Lipoproteins and Cardiometabolic Diseases Research Unit

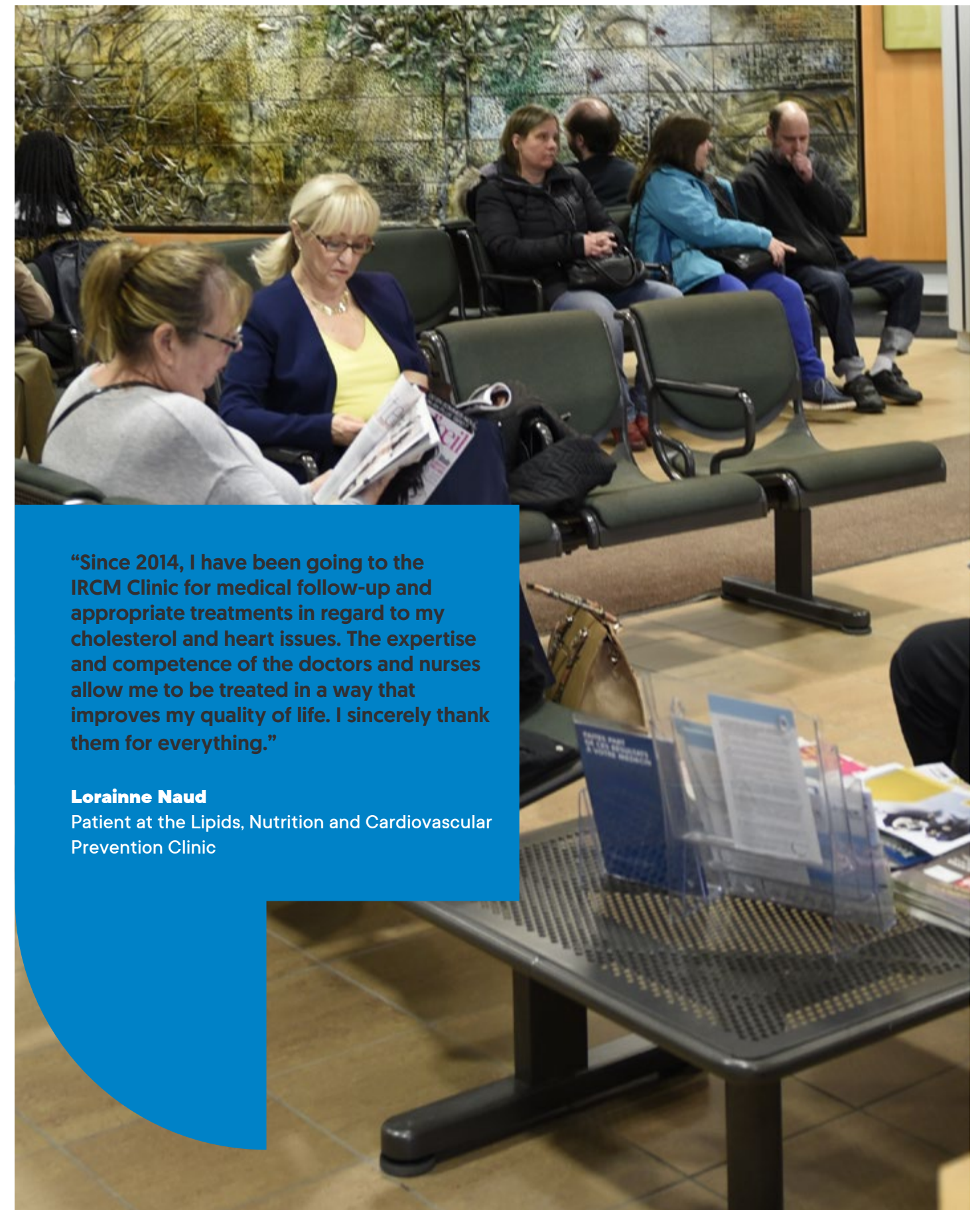


Treatment

“The Clinic is a unique place where patients suffering with rare and complex diseases choose to partner with science, by collaborating with research teams in order to contribute to the development of new therapies. Their trust and selflessness motivate us daily.”

Katherine Desjardins

Operations manager, Clinic and Clinical Research



“Since 2014, I have been going to the IRCM Clinic for medical follow-up and appropriate treatments in regard to my cholesterol and heart issues. The expertise and competence of the doctors and nurses allow me to be treated in a way that improves my quality of life. I sincerely thank them for everything.”

Lorraine Naud

Patient at the Lipids, Nutrition and Cardiovascular Prevention Clinic

Our Research Clinics

Diabetes



REMI RABASA-LHORET
Director

The IRCM Diabetes Clinic treats patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes. It offers specialized care, conducts teaching tasks for patients and health professionals, and carries out research projects. **During the past year, the Diabetes Clinic thus carried out 35 clinical research projects, including 13 new projects.**

Hypertension



MAXIME LAMARRE-CLICHE
Director

The IRCM Hypertension Clinic assesses and treats patients who have rare disorders of blood pressure regulation. A pioneer in Canada in this field of expertise, the clinic teaches and conducts research efforts focused on new methods of diagnosis, monitoring and treatment, aiming to improve hypertensive patient care. **This year, one clinical research project was conducted at the hypertension clinic.**

Lipids, Nutrition and Cardiovascular Prevention Clinic



SOPHIE BERNARD
Director

The Lipids, Nutrition and Cardiovascular Prevention Clinic assesses and treats patients with high cholesterol and/or triglyceride levels, and who are at risk of developing cardiovascular or metabolic diseases. To better understand the origin of these lipid disorders and their complications, the team is studying nutritional, biochemical, genetic, molecular and pharmacological aspects of these issues to offer more effective treatments and to reduce complications. **Ten clinical research projects projects and four treatments trials have thus taken place in 2021-2022.**

Our Clinics Specialized in Rare Diseases

Primary Immunodeficiency



HUGO CHAPDELAIN
Director

The Primary Immunodeficiency Clinic assesses and treats patients who, due to a dysfunctional immune system, are at risk of frequent, long-term, severe or atypical autoimmune manifestations and infections. There are an estimated 13,000 such patients in Canada. The clinic's staff also collaborates with researchers of the IRCM's Immunity and Viral Infections Research Division to better understand the evolution of primary immunodeficiency in order to identify appropriate treatments. **Seven research projects have thus been deployed in 2021-2022.**

Rare Kidney Diseases



GUILLAUME BOLLÉE
Director

The Rare Kidney Diseases Clinic assesses and treats patients with various kidney diseases such as polycystic kidney disease, thrombotic microangiopathies, tubulopathies, tubulointerstitial kidney diseases and hereditary glomerulopathies. The research protocols that are carried out mainly focus on new methods of diagnosis, monitoring and treatment in order to define a better approach for patient management. **Three research projects have taken place over the past year.**

Genetic Dyslipidemias



SOPHIE BERNARD
Director

The Genetic Dyslipidemias Clinic assesses and treats individuals with rare and severe cases that lead to a significant increase in blood cholesterol and/or triglyceride levels, which can cause cardiovascular or pancreatic complications. In addition, the team carries out research projects to improve screening, diagnosis and treatments of genetic dyslipidemias to provide personalized care and to reduce complications. **Nine research projects were carried out during the last year.**

One Year of Clinical Research on Long COVID

Valuable Knowledge to Understand a Complex Disease

In February 2022, the IRCM highlighted the first anniversary of its post-COVID-19 Research Clinic (IPCO), which work aims to identify the causes, the symptoms, and above all, the life-threatening sequelae faced by part of the disease survivors. With her multidisciplinary team, Dr. Emilia Liana Falcone is also looking to better support people suffering from long COVID in order to restore their well-being.

An Undeniable Impact

During this first year, the IRCM post-COVID-19 Research Clinic has welcomed several hundred patients, thus paving the way for many research projects and various provincial, federal and international collaborations. IPCO received funding from the Fonds de recherches du Québec en santé, the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation, the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux, the Canada Institutes of Health Research, and the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force, in addition to being designated as a provincial network's site for long COVID. Moreover, Dr. Falcone contributed to the development of many clinical

management tools for health professionals, in collaboration with INESSS.

Dr. Falcone has become a reference in long COVID. She sits on several committees as well as provincial and federal roundtables, including the BQC19 steering committee. She gave a number of lectures and appeared twice at the Canada's House of Commons, thus putting the spotlight on the IRCM.

Facing the Future

IPCO's work has greatly advanced the state of knowledge on long COVID, including a study that assesses the impact of vaccination on long COVID related symptoms. The causes of long COVID remain at the heart of researchers' quest and are subject to many assumptions. In addition to studying the effects on patients, the IPCO Clinic is establishing a biological bank to foster collaboration and accelerate responses to many questions surrounding the virus. An extensive study conducted by Dr. Falcone - and subsidized by the Canada Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and by the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force of Canada (GTIC) - is currently considering

the role of microbiota and immunity dysregulation in long COVID, among other things.

Lyrical Workshops to Learn How to Breathe Again

Difficulty breathing is one of the most common sequels associated with long COVID. This is why the IPCO Clinic collaborated with the Opéra de Montreal on the BREATHE program, a series of 12 free singing and virtual yoga workshops. Supervised by Charlotte Gagnon, a mezzo-soprano and singing teacher at the Opéra de Montréal's Atelier Lyrique, several patients from the clinic benefited from this opportunity to regain control of this vital mechanism, and to improve their well-being.

"We have learned a lot in one year. We now have a definition for long COVID, we understand better the nature as well as the impact of symptoms and complications, and we are exploring very interesting mechanistic avenues."

Emilia Liana Falcone

Director of the post-COVID-19 Research Clinic



100-year anniversary of insulin discovery: Taking the baton to cross the finish line

Le Devoir - November 13, 2021 – Extract

Not so long ago in human history, diabetes was a terrible killer. It is to the discovery of insulin that we owe the most significant medical advance that is nowadays allowing thousands of people to lead relatively normal lives.

Discovered in 1921 by a group of researchers, including many Canadians (Banting, Best, Macleod and Collip), insulin was used for the first time a few months later. This major breakthrough, which was the object of a Nobel Prize in medicine in 1923, marked the beginning of a new era in the medical management of diabetes, transforming the previously fatal type 1 into a chronic disease. Since then, numerous advances have made it possible to develop several other therapeutic options.

What a great success story for medical research!

Although its progress is often perceived as too slow moving to our liking, it remains the foundation of modern medicine, guaranteeing the continuous improvement of our quality of life and the preservation of human health. A century later, this spectacular breakthrough saves millions of lives every day.

Even the discoverers of insulin could not have predicted its monumental impact on mankind, with certainty. But they hoped and they persevered... for tomorrow.

High impact research is like running a relay race. A race, because every day equals saved lives. A relay one, because it is a long-term process requiring each researcher to take on a daily responsibility of doing their part with rigour and perseverance, in order to find solutions and hand over the knowledge they thus acquire to the next

generation ... giving them a head start. Research also means firmly believing that the next generation will continue the race and foster hope...(...)

Hence, the long-term effort of research finds its driving force in the commitment of many and in the promise of tomorrow. As we are handed the baton of knowledge by the previous generations, we have a collective duty to hold on to it and carry it further and father. The finish line of this transgenerational relay is crossed when we succeed in preventing a disease and destroying its crippling or killing power. When it comes to research, everyone has a vital role to play; it is also the case with diabetes.

At the IRCM, fundamental and clinical research teams are dedicating their lives to fighting diabetes. Independent

and passionate scientists such as Jennifer Estall, May Faraj, Mathieu Ferron and Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret are studying multiple aspects of the disease in order to unveil innovative prevention and treatment avenues. Whether it is by examining the role of hormones such as osteocalcin, by studying the nutritional factors involved, by offering cutting-edge technologies like the artificial pancreas, or by revealing unknown factors at the origin of the disease, our researchers are contributing to the knowledge that will move current treatments forward. (...)

On November 14, 2021, let's celebrate the 100th anniversary of insulin's discovery with hope that in 2121, future generations will also celebrate our contribution. Who knows? We may well be the generation that crosses the finish line...



Training

“If I am a researcher today, it is thanks to the extraordinary mentors I have had. It has now become a duty to devote myself to training the next generation of scientists, as it is only through passing along knowledge that we can ensure the constant improvement of health sciences.”

Javier Di Noia, Vice president of Academic Affairs and Director of the B cell Molecular Biology Unit



A New Generation Full of Promises



Myriam Beaudry

Recipient of an FRQ-S scholarship
Master's student under the supervision of May Faraj

FRQS Scholarships for 13 Recipients

For another consecutive year, the IRCM community stood out in the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé scholarship competition. Following a rigorous selection process based on excellence, 13 IRCM students and postdoctoral fellows were awarded financial support to pursue their research, totalling more than \$700,000.

L'IRCM, An Incubator of Scientific Talents

In the summer of 2021, as part of its annual IRCM scholarship competition for young researchers, the Institute welcomed six undergraduate students, who are interested in pursuing a biomedical research career. This 12 to 16-week internship is a rare opportunity to immerse in a multidisciplinary research environment that is both enriching and conducive to learning. Based on excellence, IRCM scholarships for young researchers are part of the Institute's mission to support and promote the emergence of tomorrow's scientists.

169

STUDENTS AND INTERNS

In Master, PhD And Postdoctoral Levels

31

COMPLETED TRAININGS

In Master, PhD and Postdoctoral levels.

123

SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN

880

TEACHING HOURS

At Université de Montréal and McGill University



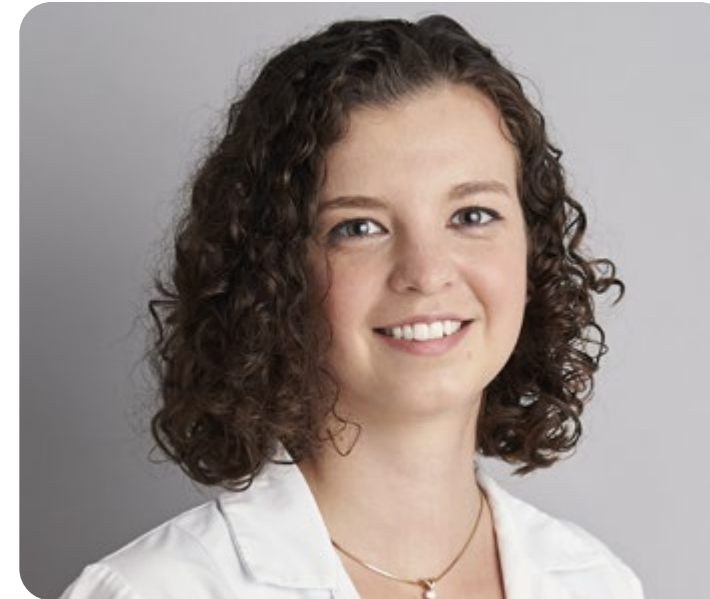
“In François Robert’s lab, I contributed to a project aimed at studying an enzyme called RNA polymerase. This work is crucial because this enzyme is essential for gene expression, and therefore for life, hence the importance of better understanding how it works. Curiosity and the desire to contribute to molecular biology and scientific knowledge are what motivates me the most. I find this fundamental research exciting because it gives us access to the heart of what defines life. I’m still discovering various aspects of this field of study, but what is certain is that I am passionate about it. For me, having access to this, as an undergraduate student, is absolutely awesome!”

Émile L'Heureux-Hubert

Summer Intern

Face of the New Generation

The IRCM welcomes hundreds of students for whom science is a real passion. Their perseverance and enthusiasm are at the heart of the excellent research carried out within our walls.



“I really like to help share and facilitate dialogue between scientists and the general public.” Céline Schott, doctoral student at the IRCM.”

Céline Schott

Ph.D. student at Mathieu Ferron's Lab



“I was immediately fascinated by the impactful clinical research conducted by Dr. Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret's team. It was exactly what I wanted to do and the IRCM felt like the perfect match for me.”

Zekai Wu

MD doing a postdoctoral fellowship with Remi Rabasa-Lhoret at the Diabete Clinic



“Thanks to those who surround me at the IRCM, I was able to immerse myself in a field that I did not know and be guided to develop a highly promising research project.”

Sophie Ehresmann

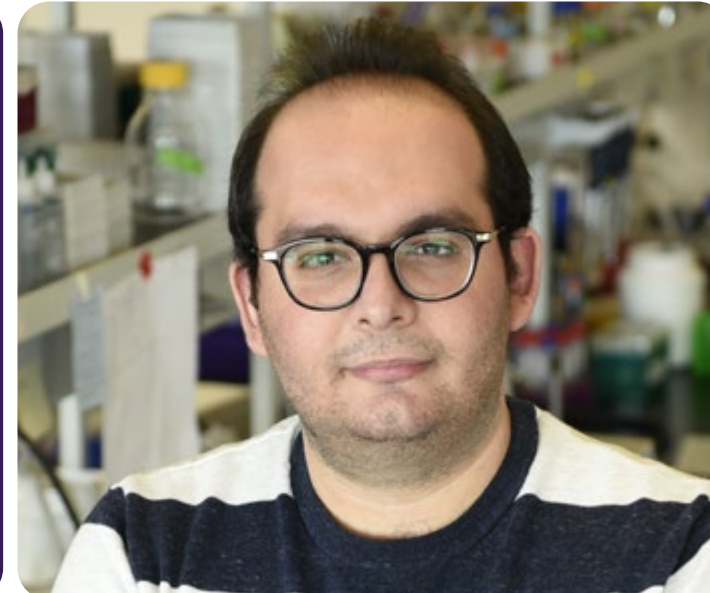
Ph.D. student at Martin Sauvageau's Lab



“I am very optimistic that we will have a better understanding of the disease we are studying and that my research work will have a direct impact on patients' lives.”

Sepideh Mikaeeli

Ph.D. student at Nabil Seidah's Lab



“I explored different areas in cancer research until I found the most interesting and intriguing enigma for me, the metastatic relapses.”

Islam Elkholi

MD, Ph.D student at Jean-François Côté's lab

Academic Affairs, At the Heart of the IRCM

Whether it is to recruit students, support them in their journey, help our scientists' daily lives, or organize academic and scientific activities, our department is always at the heart of the action.

This year, we have developed a new science popularization event called SciPOP, to rally our entire community around the research work carried out by our students and trainees. Thanks to the immense success of this edition organized at the IRCM, we have obtained the precious financial support of the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ-S) in order to deploy, in the coming year, an adapted inter institution edition called Science Pop, which will culminate in a grand provincial finale in 2023. In addition, a new Series of Seminars of Scientists in training was inaugurated by our team. It invites talented young researchers from outside the IRCM, who are launching of their careers, to visit and present their work at the Institute.

Moreover, in collaboration with our researchers, the Academic Affairs coordinated the application for a major grant from the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation (MEI) to launch a new research initiative at the IRCM. This project will integrate artificial intelligence approaches to a series of cutting-edge projects aimed at better understanding the mechanisms behind various serious diseases including cancer, neurological and metabolic diseases, immunodeficiencies and long COVID.

Finally, the research units were able to resume their full activities after a restrictive period of sanitary measures which proved to be highly challenging. We are happy to relive the excitement, enthusiasm and fruitful interactions.

Testimony

“Research units were able to resume their full activities after a restrictive period of sanitary measures which proved to be highly challenging”

Sébastien Sabbagh
Director of Academic Affairs

SciPOP: A New Tradition Is Born

SciPop is a series of science competitions open to the public. It first launched on November 11 and 12, 2021, as an initiative of the IRCM and its Department of Academic Affairs.

SciPOP was created with two goals in mind: to train the next generation of scientists in science communication and to provide an opportunity for members of the non-scientific community to learn more about the work we do at the IRCM. Participants chose among four challenges categories: 100% Popularized, My Thesis in 180 Seconds, TED Talks, and Dragon's Den.

SciPop was a runaway success. Christine Matte, Academic Affairs Coordinator, gives us the inside scoop on the event she spearheaded.

Where did you get the idea to create an internal IRCM competition in science popularization?

We were in the middle of the pandemic and months into a ban on gatherings. We were all feeling the need for broader and more effective science communication, and that's how the SciPOP project came about. It became the perfect rallying point, galvanizing the IRCM and educating the next generation of scientists on the importance of communicating their research to non-scientists in a clear, concise manner.

What were your main challenges?

Time—we had to develop the SciPOP project, organize and promote the event, and recruit participants, all on a very tight schedule. Aside from that, it wasn't difficult to predict the challenge the competition itself

would pose. Science popularization is neither simple nor straightforward. But with a little coaching from our team and some preparatory workshops, our students brilliantly took up the challenge.

What was the community's reaction to the project? Were you pleasantly surprised?

Our biggest fear was that the event we were launching wouldn't draw enough interest from IRCM's non-scientific staff. That would have been a huge disappointment. Training students in science communication is meaningless if you don't have a non-expert audience, and we wouldn't have been able to rally the departments behind IRCM's mission without it. But to our immense joy and relief, both administrative and technical support staff jumped at our invitation to attend the presentations and sit on the jury. The turnout was bigger than

we expected. We had plumbers, locksmiths, financial controllers, board members, human resources officers, and legal affairs assistants all wanting to participate. It was immensely rewarding to see how enthusiastically our non-scientific members greeted this rare opportunity to understand the research they support indirectly in the course of their duties. But the icing on the cake was seeing how brilliantly our students and postdoctoral fellows took up the challenge to engage their audience and tailor their message to the public.

What's next for SciPop?

The first edition of SciPOP resonated with people even outside the IRCM. Dr. Carole Jabet, Scientific Director of the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS), was thrilled about our initiative, which aligns perfectly with the FRQS's future strategic plans. Thanks to her

support, in 2022–2023, the IRCM will be holding a province-wide competition and hosting the grand finals, with several other research institutions participating. It's an outstanding achievement that has positioned the IRCM as a leader in popularizing Quebec-led biomedical research.

Christine Matte
Academic Affairs
Coordinator

Q&R



Winners of the SciPOP first edition



100 % popularised:

1st place: **Maria Galipeau** (Jennifer Estall's laboratory); Un diabète instable :PGC le coupable?

2nd place: **Laure Monteillet** (Jennifer Estall's laboratory); Comment sauver le pancréas de la mort et guérir le diabète?

TED Talks:

1st place: **Thomas Brown** (Michel Cayouette's Laboratory); Mapping the mind: an introduction to connectomics

2nd place: **Michael Bruccoleri** (Jean Vacher's Laboratory); What are bones and can they help us lose body fat?

Dragon's Den:

Céline Schott (Mathieu Ferron's laboratory); GAS6 : la nouvelle cible du diabète à abattre.

My Thesis in 180 Seconds :

1st place : **Chloé Apcher** (Jean-François Côté's laboratory); Éclaircir l'itinéraire d'AXL pour combattre le cancer du sein.

2nd place : **Rebecca Cusseddu** (Jean-François Côté's laboratory); Tête épaules genoux pieds.

3rd place: **Zekai Wu** (Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret's diabetes clinic); Proposing a reliable and cost-saving way to collect essential information for research on Type 1 Diabetes.



SciPOP: Testimonies



“I had the pleasure of participating to SciPOP as a judge for the TED Talks session. Determining a winner turned out to be a challenge because the presentations were all of excellent quality.”

Marianna Correro
Administrative Assistant



“After the presentation on mirror movements, I contacted Dr. Frédéric Charron because my son appeared to present features of the syndrome. He put touch with the specialist to Montreal and consequently, my boy will be part of a clinical study.”

Valerie Lavastre
Coordinator, Réseau de recherche en santé de la vision (RRSV)



“As a Board member, I don’t often have the opportunity to immerse myself in the internal dynamics of the Institute and I loved to immerse myself in the work of our future scientists.”

Richard Mayrand
Board Member



“This event revealed very interesting work, and especially, unsuspected science popularization talents in inside our walls. It is a real gold mine for our social platforms.”

Thomas Chevet
Web Advisor

2021-2022 Committees

President: Sophie Ehresmann

Vice President: Thomas Brown

Secretary: Maria Galipeau

Treasurer: Lucia Gabrielli

Communications: Antoine Bouchard, Elie Lambert, Pandimadevi Djamouna Sihou

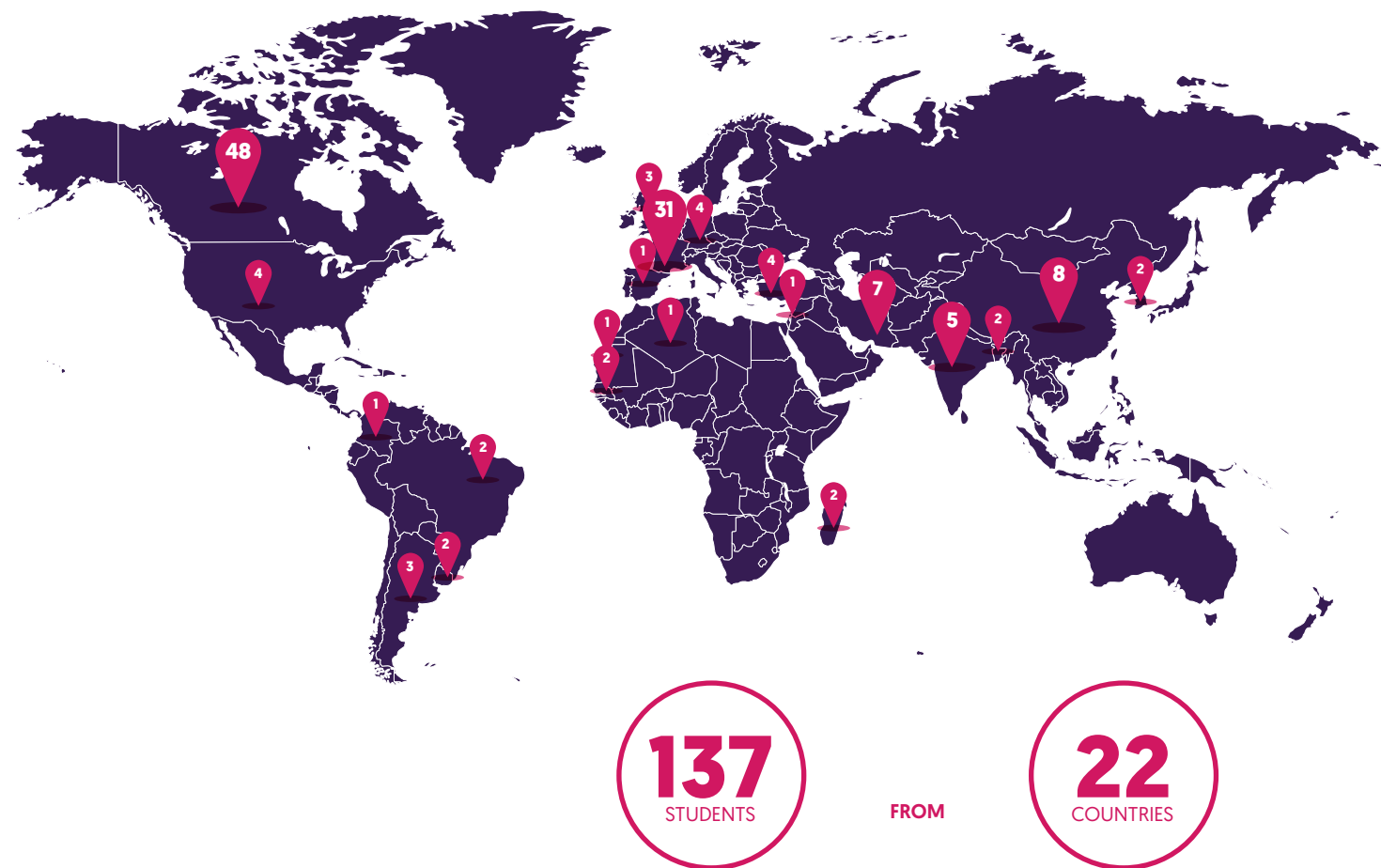
Foundation Liaison: Céline Schott

COVID-19 Advisor Committee Representant: Thulaj Meharwade

Scientific Committee: Antoine Bouchard, Alehandra Desjardins, Laura Quirion, Emma Darbinian, Thulaj Meharwade, Vivian Huynh, Victoria Veas Roy, Lok San Wong

Student Well-being Committee: Thomas Brown, Priyanka Prabhala

Social Life Committee: Elie Lambert, Jean-François Laurendeau, Rodrigue Peraldi, Clémence Schmitt



“In 2021-2022, the Student Association redoubled its efforts to bring together students and postdocs despite the context of the pandemic. More than twenty of them volunteered to represent our interests and revitalize our community. The various committees kept adapting, getting involved inorganizing both virtual and face-to-face gatherings. In person events successfully resumed, with a record participation rate among students and the rest of the internal community.

This second year of the pandemic was nevertheless accompanied by multiple obstacles, because many were affected both at academic and financial levels. Therefore, student representatives were even more motivated to help to maintain a semblance of normalcy for the student community”

Sophie Ehresmann

President of the ASSO



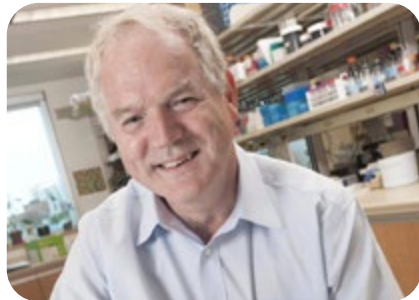
Outreach

“For an institute like ours, shining by disseminating our research work and having our scientists communicate on a range of public health issues help to strengthen the trust of the general public and their scientific literacy. It is essential.”

André Veillette, Molecular Oncology Research Unit



Gathering Around the Science



Speakers:

Dr. Michael Houghton, Nobel Prize of Medicine (2020)

Dr. Peter Doherty, Nobel Prize of Medicine (1996)

The IRCM welcomed two distinguished guests as part of the Marie and Willie Chretien Conferences Series. During the summer of 2021, Dr. Michael Houghton, a Nobel Prize in Medicine (2020), told participants about the impact of vaccination during the Hepatitis C pandemic. Later the fall, Dr. Peter Doherty, also a Nobel Prize winner of Medicine (1996) offered an update on the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid evolution of the scientific knowledge on the subject.

The kick-off of the very first edition of the **IRCM Early-Career Scientist Seminar (ECS3)** took place in winter 2022. This new prestigious program offers PhDs and future directors from around the world, the opportunity to present their work at the IRCM in front of a multidisciplinary audience.

This year, nine speakers from world known prestigious research institutions discussed the latest scientific advances on various topics affecting cutting-edge research, as part of **IRCM Conference Series**.

Under the theme *L'information en santé: Toujours le nerf de la guerre?*, the **Série de conférences en éthique pragmatique de la santé** launched in 2022 its new high level lectures featuring range of seasoned experts from all over the world.

On October 14 and 15 2021, the IRCM hosted the **7th annual meeting of the Canadian HIV Cure Enterprise (CanCURE)**.

In a hybrid format, in person and virtual, the event allowed 82 researchers, students and postdoctoral fellows, to meet with representatives of the community living with HIV, and to reflect together on the research priorities. CanCURE is led by Dr. Éric A. Cohen, professor-researcher at the IRCM and Director of the Human Retrovirology Research Unit.

3

CANADA
RESEARCH CHAIRS

19

RESEARCHERS
RECEIVED A
SCIENTIFIC
AWARD

12

NEW CIHR GRANTS

160

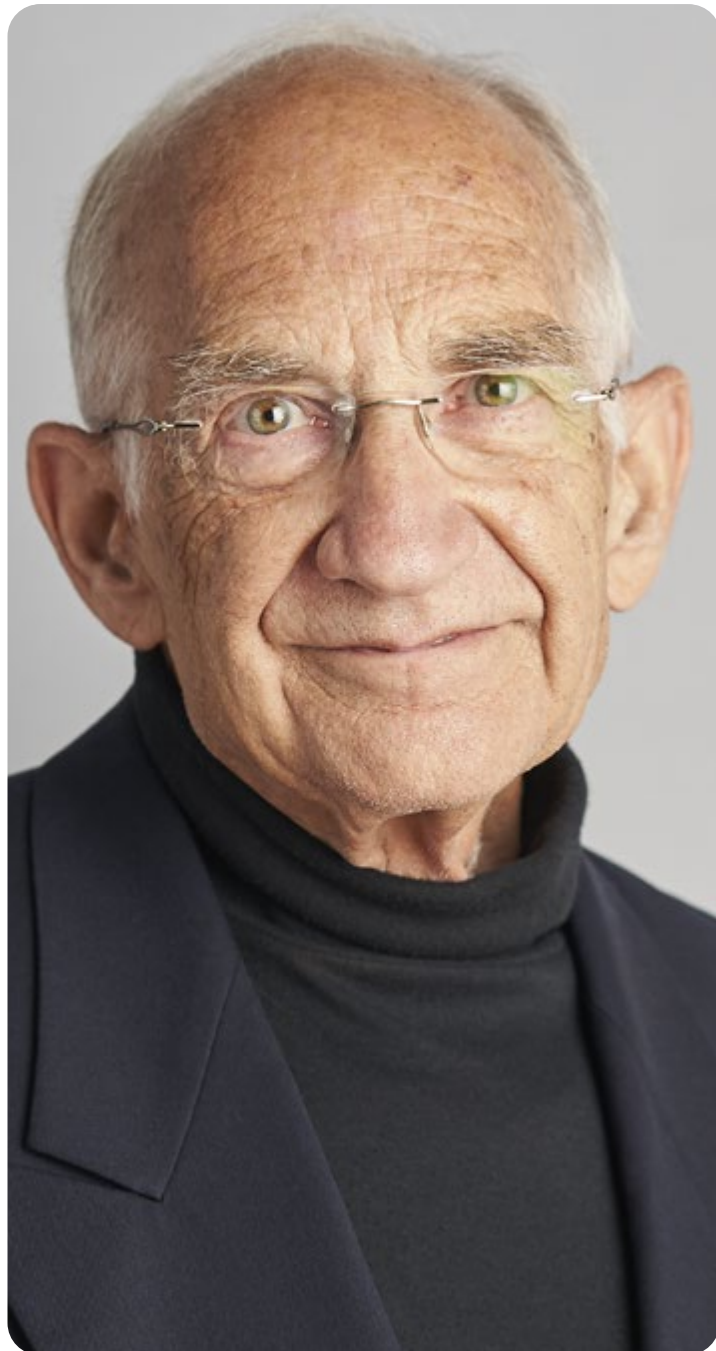
SCIENTIFIC
COMMUNICATIONS

Our scientists continued to make the Institute shine outside its walls by receiving several awards and honors in recognition of their exceptional work.



Launched by the PhD student Islam Elkholi with Jean Francois Côté's support, the **Basic and Clinical Oncology Seminar Series** is a joint initiative of the IRCM and the Lady Davis Institute, which brings together oncology clinicians and basic researchers to promote dialogue and successful collaborations.

Our Scientists In the Spotlight



Paul Jolicoeur was head of the ICRM Molecular Biology Research Unit for over 45 years. He was recently named *Emeritus Research Professor* in recognition of his exceptional career and mentorship that has helped put ICRM on the map.

Jennifer Estall is the first-ever recipient of the UdeM Department of Medicine Young Researcher Award, given for her outstanding research, her excellence in teaching, and her role in increasing the university's visibility.

Jean-François Côté, Artur Kania, Hua Gu, and André Veillette are the recipients of CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) Spring 2021 Project Grants. The grants, totalling over \$4.5 million, will go toward funding five promising research projects.

In the spring of 2022, **André Veillette, Éric Lecuyer, Frédéric Charron, and Nicole Francis** also received major grants totalling more than \$5.6 million, ranking our Institute over 40% of the CIHR national average.

In October 2022, **Emilia Liana Falcone, Michel Chrétien, Yvan Guindon, and André Veillette** were honoured at a special edition of UdeM's *Bravo Recherche* award ceremony for their research initiatives in the fight against COVID-19 and in documenting the impacts of the health crisis.

In 2021, **Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret** and **Nabil G. Seidah** were elected Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) in recognition of their excellence as leaders in academic health

science. Election to the CAHS is one of the highest honours for individuals in the Canadian health sciences community.

In late 2021, the UdeM Department of Medicine honoured **Jean-François Côté** with the Prix Reconnaissance – Recherche for his contributions to the department's academic life and **André Veillette** with the Prix Reconnaissance – Rayonnement for his outstanding work, both provincially and nationally, as a member of the Canadian Government's COVID-19 Working Group, and for his role as a science communicator using mainstream media.

Jacques Drouin was awarded the prestigious European NeuroEndocrine Association Rolf Gaillard Prize, an international award for outstanding contributions to basic or clinical research in neuroendocrinology.

In 2021, the Cancer Research Society awarded **David Hipfner, Javier Di Noia, Jean-François Côté, and Mohan Malleshaiah** with \$120,000 two-year grants for their promising cancer research projects.

In 2021, **Mathieu Ferron** received the Fuller Albright Award from the American Society for Bone and Mineral

Research (ASBMR). This prestigious award is given in recognition of meritorious scientific achievements in skeletal and bone research to an ASBMR member who has not yet reached the age of 45.

Furthermore, **Mathieu Ferron** and **Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret** both received research grants from Diabetes Canada.

The 2021 Marcel Piché Prize was awarded to **Marie Kmita** for her outstanding contributions to our understanding of the mechanisms controlling Hox gene expression, as well as the role of Hox genes in embryonic development and the evolution of vertebrae morphology.

In February 2022, **André Veillette** was appointed Executive Director of the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network. The mission of the network, a Terry Fox Research Institute initiative, is to support world-class collaboration and partnerships in cancer research.

David Hipfner was appointed Head of Molecular Biology at Université de Montréal. This major nomination is a testimony to the quality of Dr. Hipfner's contributions to the field and the important role the ICRM plays at UdeM.

Tarik Möröy and **Javier Marcelo Di Noia** received Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grants for research infrastructure to support their work in immunology, leukemia, and lymphoma.

Marlene Oeffinger was awarded a grant from ALS Canada, in partnership with Brain Canada, for her research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

The ICRM Foundation presented **Emilia Liana Falcone** with the Pierre Bois Award in recognition of her efforts in establishing the ICRM Post-COVID-19 Research Clinic (IPCO).

In the Medias

It's been a record year for the institution in terms of the quantity and the quality of media coverage we've received.

The IRCM has been increasingly featured in top tier local and national media outlets as a trusted source of scientific expertise on topics such as the pandemic and the importance of research or to highlight our scientists' breakthroughs.

The Institute was mentioned in *Le Devoir*, *La Presse*, and *Le Journal de Montréal* and on TVA, Radio-Canada, and CBC. It was also featured in several reports and interviews in newscasts and scientific programs, including *Découvertes* and *Les années lumière*.

Never before have our researchers been so present in Quebec and Canadian households, as well as around decision-making tables, sharing information, engaging in dialogue, and providing guidance

and reassurance. The IRCM has established itself as a stronghold of excellence in Quebec.

In the thick of the fight against COVID-19

In 2021–2022, the Institute was propelled into the spotlight for its contributions to COVID-19 research, especially through multiple promising initiatives at the Post-COVID-19 Research Clinic, and also thanks to André Veillette, who became a reference on COVID-19.

Throughout the turmoil of the pandemic, media coverage featured IRCM and its scientists no fewer than 222 times—that's more than 50% of the total coverage listed for the year.

Putting our research on the map

IRCM is regularly asked to lend its world-class expertise on topics such as cancer, rare diseases, RNA, and diabetes, and to

untangle the promising research for the people affected by various diseases.

Our scientists have also received major grants and developed partnerships, propelling their groundbreaking research forward.

IRCM's leadership plays an increasing role in public debate on the issues regarding the science of tomorrow.

Besides the hundreds of media appearances on COVID-19, 15 award mentions, and widespread recognition have contributed to putting the IRCM on the map!

Results we can be proud of

Every year, our researchers publish their scientific breakthroughs in some of the most prestigious journals in the world.

This outstanding achievement is a source of pride for the Quebec public and media, who have featured us in over 60 discovery stories in the past year alone.

“Good science requires a village. And it is by increasing its notoriety that the IRCM can attract scientists, collaborators, donors and partners around the cutting-edge research carried out within its walls. This is why we have chosen to make media our ally.”

Florence Meney

Director of Communications and Public Affairs

+ 400

TOTAL COVERAGE

278%

PROGRESSION OF THE COVERAGE QUANTITY COMPARING TO THE PRECEDENT YEAR.

+ 75%

IN TOP TIER MEDIA

Technology Transfer

“Technology transfer is broader than commercialization because it aims to disseminate research results to improve the health of the population. It is by creating a crucial bridge between laboratories and practical applications in health that it gives full meaning to the biomedical research”

4

INVENTION
DECLARATIONS

5

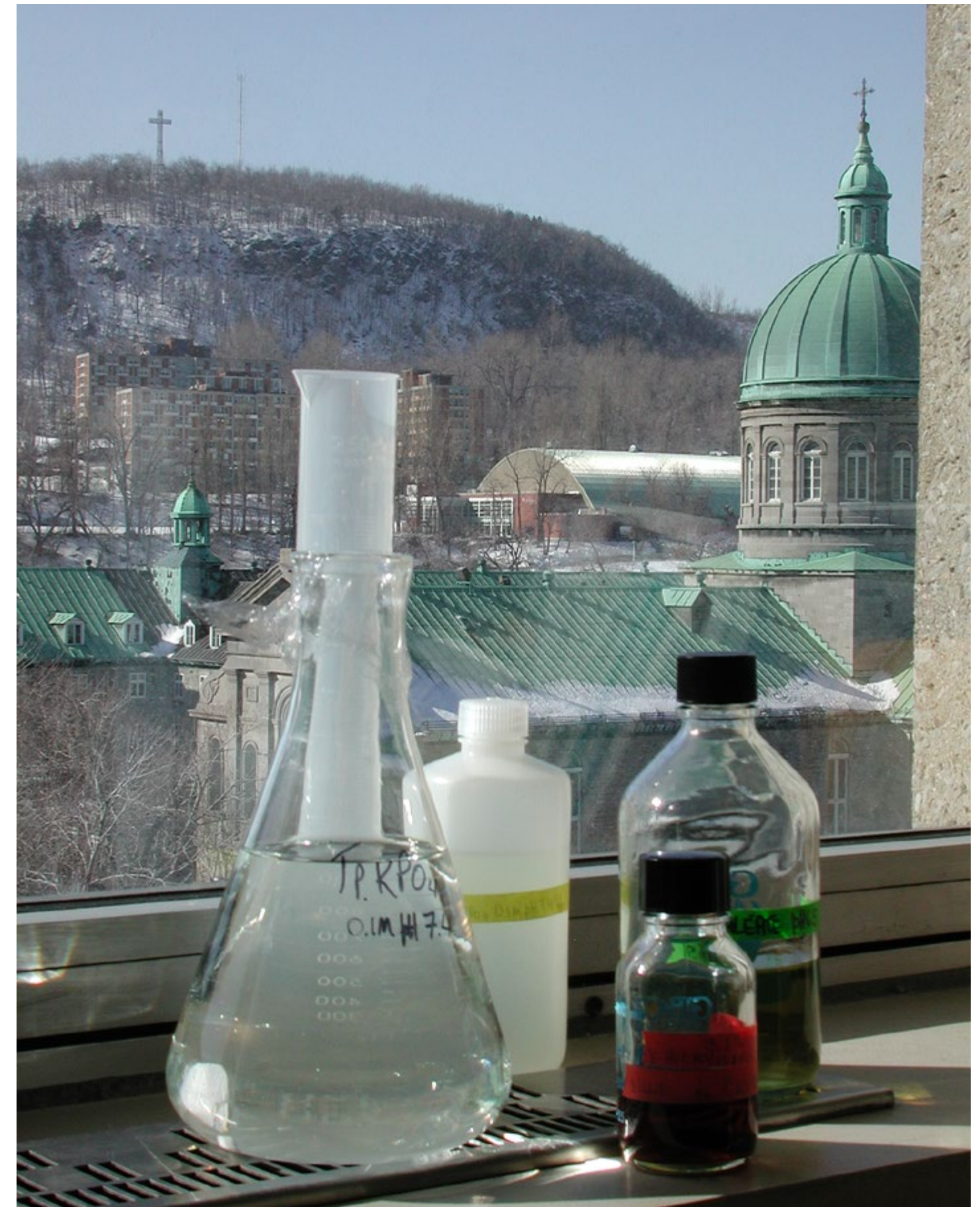
ACTIVE OPTION
AGREEMENTS

2

NEW LICENSE AGREEMENTS
CONCLUDED

14

ACTIVE LICENSES



Core Facilities

“Cutting-edge research requires high-tech equipment and professional expertise to use them to their maximum. Our role is to provide this essential support to the Institute’s research teams.”

Judith Cotton-Montpetit

Director of Core Facilities and Research Infrastructure

984

USERS
INCLUDING 895 INTERNAL USERS
AS WELL AS 89 EXTERNAL AND
INDUSTRIAL USERS

57

CUTTING EDGE TOOLS IN A TOTAL
STOCK OF MORE THAN
3 000 TOOLS

+\$3M

IN INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL REVENUS



The core facilities are a great asset for the IRCM scientific community. They allow our internal community to pool its resources and equipment to give everyone access to a greater variety of tools and technologies. These facilities cover the area of two National Hockey League rinks and represent an undeniable learning platform for the next generation.

Core facilities



ANIMAL HEALTH

Promote and ensure the application of animal care and protection principles in accordance with the Canadian Council on Animal Care's standards and guidelines and provides technical assistance to researchers for experimental research programs.



BIOINFORMATICS

Supports researchers in the analysis of biological data, particularly high-throughput genomic data.



MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS

Provides a range of services combining advice and access to state-of-the-art technology to meet the needs of genetic analysis and gene expression, with new high-throughput sequencing technique, which is now a standard technique in biomedical and enables a large amount of data acquisition in one experiment.



FLOW CYTOMETRY

Provides characterization services of a large number of cells simultaneously as well as cell sorting using flow cytometry as a multiparametric analysis tool.



MICROINJECTION AND TRANSGENESIS

Allows the production of experimental models of human diseases to accelerate the understanding of their causes and progression.



MICROSCOPY AND IMAGING

Provides state-of-the-art fluorescence microscopes for observation of cells and tissues at different magnification and accuracy, as well as equipment for high-throughput microscopy and videomicroscopy.



MASS SPECTROMETRY AND PROTEOMICS

Offers state-of-the-art mass spectrometry services for the identification, characterization and quantification of proteins and small molecules.



HISTOLOGY

Provides expertise in tissue sections and staining for optical microscopy and analysis.

Research Platform



RESEARCH PLATFORM ON OBESITY, METABOLISM AND DIABETES

Specialized Services



ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY



SPECIALIZED EQUIPEMENTS



MAGNETIC RESONANCE

“My project aims to understand how photoreceptors, a group of cells responsible for vision, are arranged in the mammalian retina. Using the confocal microscopes made available to us by the IRCM’s core facilities, we were able to reconstruct the mouse retina in three dimensions and analyze this data using tools developed by Dominic Fillion, the head of IRCM microscopy. We were thus able to highlight a hitherto unknown aspect of the retina. Thanks to visual tests that will soon be available at the IRCM, we hope to further explore this avenue in the months to come.”

Michael Housset

PhD student in Michel Cayouette’s laboratory



“The IRCM core facilities are essential to our work in the lab. Their proximity and the fact that they are run by highly qualified expert staff allow our research to be done efficiently, to a high caliber, and remain cutting-edge. We regularly rely on their knowledge and assistance in training our students on the equipment, helping with experimental design, and understanding the data that is generated. Our interactions with the core facilities of the IRCM are a collaboration between scientists, not simply a delivery of services, and I see them as an integral and essential part of our research team. In that regard, the core facilities are an added value to the IRCM and make it a place of choice for young scientists who are starting their labs.”

Jennifer Estall

Director of the Molecular Mechanisms of Diabetes Research Unit



Governance

“The commitment of dedicated men and women within the governance bodies of the IRCM is essential for the proper functioning, the reputation and the future of our institution. We are privileged to count them among us.”

Jean-François Côté
President and Scientific Director

Board of Directors and Management as of March 31 2022

Pierre Duplessis
Chair
Management and Public Health
Consultant

Michel Décary
Vice Chair
Consulting partner, BCF law firm

MEMBERS

Véronique Boileau
Vice President, Communications
and Branding, Pomerleau

Hélène Boisjoly
Full Professor, Dean, Faculty
of Medicine, Université de
Montréal

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Interim President and Scientific
Director

André Couillard
President, IRCM Foundation
Corporate Director

Michel Décary
President of the IRCM
Governance, and Executive
Committees, Consulting partner,
BCF law firm

Marinella Ermacora
Corporate Director

Brian Z. Gelfand
Financial Market Professional

Lolita Guerrero
Associate Vice President of
the Knowledge Based Industry,
Province of Quebec, RBC

Daniel Jutras
Rector, Université de Montréal

Christine Le Jeune
Senior Vice President, Branch
Manager, CIBC Wood Gundy

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Richard Mayrand
Corporate Director

Ghislain Parent
Executive Vice President -
International and member of the
Office of the President, National
Bank

Richard Payette
Corporate Director

Martin P. Rosenthal
Managing Partner, Transaction
Advisory Services - Québec, EY

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Caroline Vendette
General Counsel, Legal Affairs and
Secretary General

Céline Chéneau
parajuriste, Assistant to the
General Counsel / Scientific
Committee of the Board

Brigitte Mary
Administrative Assistant

OBSERVER

Denise Moranville
Ministère de l'Économie et de
l'Innovation

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pierre Duplessis (Chair), Michel
Décary (Vice Chair), Michel
Lespérance, Marinella Ermacora

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Martin P. Rosenthal (Chair),
Richard Payette

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (WITH FOUNDATION)

Véronique Boileau,
Florence Meney, Ginette Paquin,
Guy Saint-Jacques

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Michel Décary (Chair), Brian
Gelfand, Michel Lespérance,
Richard Mayrand

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Marinella Ermacora (Chair),
André Couillard, Michel
Lespérance

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE BAORD

Richard Mayrand

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Interim President and Scientific
Director

Michel Cayouette
Vice President by interim,
Research and Academic Affairs

Louis-Gilles Durand
Interim Director of Human
Ressources

Florence Meney
Director, Communications and
Public Relations

Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret
Vice President, Clinic and Clinical
Research

Caroline Vendette
General Counsel & Secretary
General

SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jean-François Côté
Interim President and Scientific
Director

Director, Cytoskeletal
Organization and Cell Migration
Research Unit

Michel Cayouette
Vice President, Research and
Academic Affairs
Director, Cellular Neurobiology
Research Unit

Jennifer Estall
Associate Vice President,
Scientific Life
Director, Molecular Mechanisms
of Diabetes Research Unit

Javier Di Noia
Associate Vice President,
Students Affairs
Director, Molecular Mechanisms of
Diabetes Research Unit

Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret
Vice President, Clinic and Clinical
Research
Director, Metabolic Diseases
Research Unit

Frédéric Charron
Director, Molecular Biology of
Neural Development Research
Unit

Eric Racine
Director, Pragmatic Health Ethics
Research Unit

Marie Kmita
Director, Genetics and
Development Research Unit

Summarized Statement of Operations

	Operating Fund		Research Fund		Restricted Funds	
					Capital Asset Fund	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenues:						
Research grants from peer review organizations	—	—	16,561,048	18,994,127	—	—
Grants – Research infrastructure	—	—	—	—	999,255	799,999
Grants – Interest portion	—	—	—	—	135,955	232,228
Other research grants	—	—	1,039,291	1,805,756	—	—
Restricted donations	—	—	394,242	261,990	—	—
MEI grant – First agreement	15,842,313	15,842,313	—	600,000	—	—
MEI grant – Second agreement	2,090,000	2,000,000	—	—	—	—
Federal grant from the Research Support Fund	1,351,760	1,405,279	—	—	—	—
Supplementary project grant arising from Research Support Fund	—	—	360,218	284,711	—	—
Grant from peer committee organizations for indirect costs	199,057	220,779	—	—	—	—
Donation from the Fondation de l'IRCM	—	—	2,532,663	2,204,139	—	—
Contribution from Université de Montréal	1,036,621	858,232	—	—	—	—
Management fee revenues from the Fondation de l'IRCM	323,069	332,000	—	—	—	—
Investment income	110,090	512,487	91,700	19,710	—	—
Change in unrealized fair value of investments	65,965	173,209	—	—	—	—
	21,018,875	21,344,299	20,979,162	24,170,433	1,135,210	1,032,227
Expenses:						
Research Fund expenses for the year	—	—	19,867,336	25,582,869	—	—
Operating Fund expenses for the year	21,182,958	20,869,060	—	—	—	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	4,580,504	5,304,565
Interest on notes payable	—	—	—	—	135,955	232,228
Loss on sale of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	88
Share in the loss of the subsidiary	—	—	371,543	220,157	—	—
	21,182,958	20,869,060	20,238,879	25,803,026	4,716,459	5,536,881
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	(164,083)	475,239	740,283	(1,632,593)	(3,581,249)	(4,504,654)

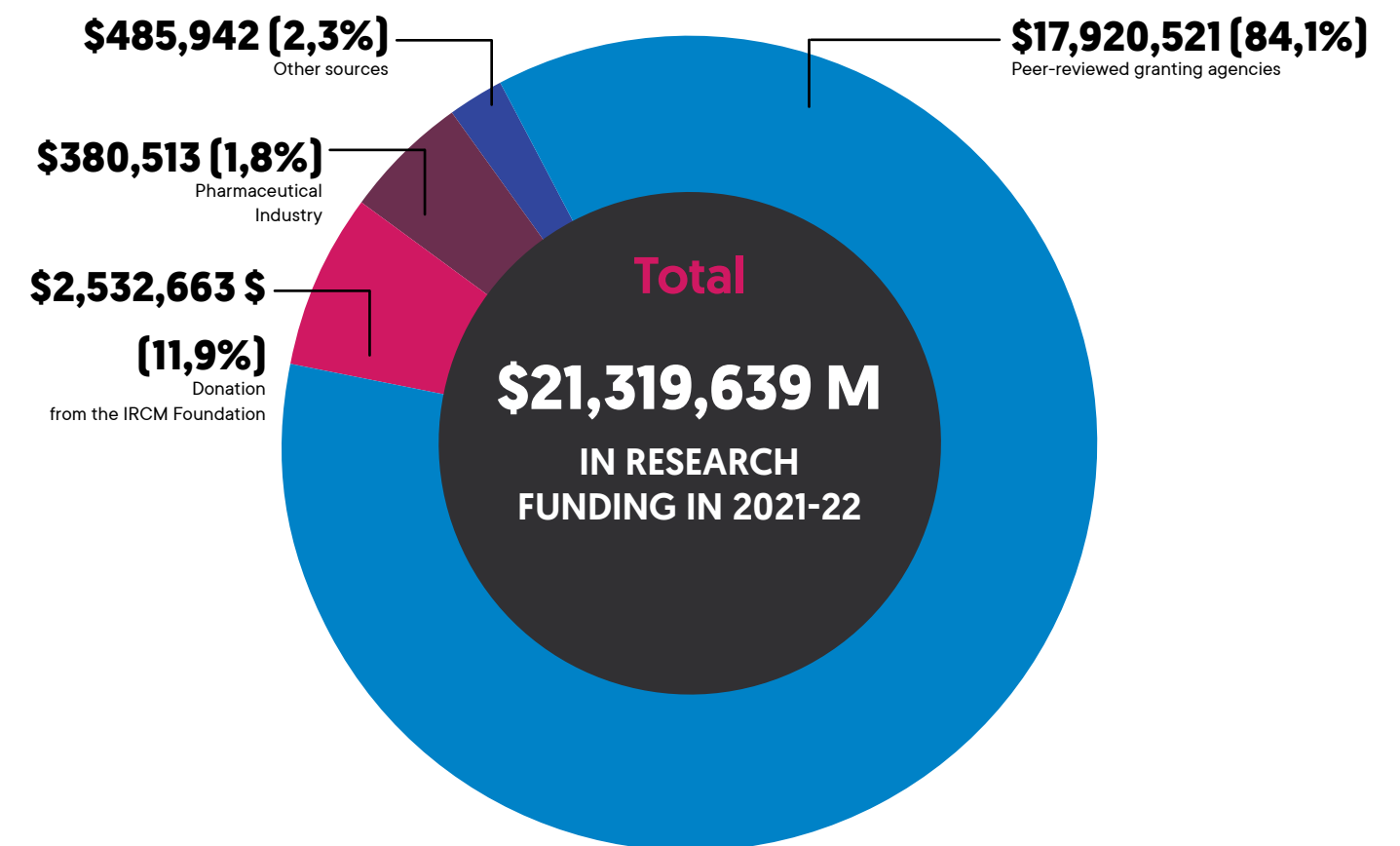
Summarized Statement of changes in funds balance

	Operating Fund		Research Fund		Restricted Funds	
					Capital Asset Fund	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Fund balances, beginning of year	—	—	21,407,385	23,143,822	29,233,138	33,225,092
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	(164,083)	475,239	740,283	(1,632,593)	(3,581,249)	(4,504,654)
Change in remeasurments and other recognized items	192,694	(66,383)	—	—	—	—
Interfund transfers	(28,611)	(408,856)	(360,456)	(103,844)	389,067	512,700
Fund balances, end of year	—	—	21,787,212	21,407,385	26,040,956	29,233,138

Summarized Statement of financial position

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	32,759,087	20,106,525
Investments	—	30,081,626
Grants receivable and other receivables	3,172,544	3,864,249
Donation receivable from the Fondation de l'IRCM	277,049	113,061
Advances receivable from the Fondation de l'IRCM, non-interest-bearing	19,551	288,273
Current portion of grants receivable	2,210,259	3,821,192
Prepaid expenses	191,839	242,218
	38,630,329	58,517,144
Investments	1,065,271	977,304
Investment in a subsidiary	—	270,823
Grants receivable	—	2,191,588
Capital assets	25,103,701	29,233,138
	64,799,301	91,189,997
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,888,054	6,990,789
Accrued interest payable	18,671	44,821
Salaries and wages payable	3,749,787	3,756,433
Notes payable	2,191,588	3,776,371
	7,848,100	14,568,414
Notes payable	—	2,191,588
Defined benefit obligation of the supplemental pension plan	880,000	999,000
Deferred grants	8,142,313	22,790,472
Negative interest in a subsidiary	100,720	—
	16,971,133	40,549,474
Fund balances		
Invested in capital assets	25,103,701	29,233,138
Externally imposed restrictions	24,209,119	22,862,841
Internally imposed restrictions (deficit)	(1,350,763)	(1,128,873)
Remeasurments and other recognized items related to the supplemental pension plan	(133,889)	(326,583)
	47,828,168	50,640,523

Research Funding



PEER-REVIEWED GRANTING AGENCIES
CANADA INSTITUTE OF HEALTH RESEARCH
NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS
CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION
RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND
GENOME CANADA
CANADA FIRST

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FUND
FONDS DE RECHERCHE EN SANTÉ DU QUÉBEC
MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE ET DE L'INNOVATION
MINISTÈRE DE LA SANTÉ ET DES SERVICES SOCIAUX
GÉNOME QUÉBEC
BETH ISRAEL DEACON MEDICAL CENTER
BRAIN CANADA
DIABETES CANADA

FONDATION ACLON LEUKODYSTROPHY FOUNDATION
FIGHTING BLINDNESS CANADA
CHU SAINTE-JUSTINE JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
RÉSEAU QUÉBÉCOIS DE RECHERCHE SUR LA DOULEUR
ALS SOCIETY OF CANADA

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY
CANCER RESEARCH SOCIETY
TERRY FOX FOUNDATION
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY
ABBOTT
ADMARE
AMGEN
AMORCHEM
BOEHRINGER
ELI LILLY
GENZYME
GLAXO
ISIS PHARMACEUTICAL
JSS MEDICAL RESEARCH
ORION
MEDICINE COMPANY
MTA

NOVO NORDISK
RTI
SANOFI AVENTIS
UT SOUTHWESTERN
THERATECH

Fondation

“The IRCM Foundation has a role of trust to play in ensuring that the generosity of the public reaches the researchers who are conducting lifesaving work.”

André Couillard

Chair of the Board of Directors, IRCM Foundation

Board of Directors and Management as of March 31, 2022

André Couillard
President
Corporate Director

MEMBERS

Serge A. Boileau
President, Commission des
services électriques de Montréal

Isabelle Cantin
Private Banker, RBC Wealth
Management, Royal Bank of
Canada

Jean-François Côté
Interim President and Scientific
Director, IRCM

Étienne Crevier
Health and Biotechnology
Entrepreneur

Pierre Duplessis
Chair of the Board of Directors,
IRCM
Management and Public Health
Consultant

Robert Dupont
Partner, Fasken

Renée Lefebvre
Senior Director – Financial
Planning & Analysis, Pratt &
Whitney Canada Corp.

Louise Ann Maziak
Corporate Director

Ginette Paquin
Marketing & Communications
Consultant and Corporate
Director

Maya Raic
Executive Director, Ordre des
orthophonistes et audiologistes
du Québec

Étienne Rivard
President and CEO, Infrastructel

Luc Rodier
President and CEO, Guillevin
International

Marie-Ève Roy
Vice President, déploiement
global du système ERP, WSP

Guy Saint-Jacques
Consultant and administrator

Marie-Claude Soucy
Vice President, Administrative
Services, Autorité des marchés
financiers

SECRETARY

Caroline Vendette
General Counsel, Legal Affaires
and Secretary General

INTERIM TREASURER

Louise Ann Maziak
Corporate Director

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Louise Ann Maziak (Chair), Serge
Boileau, Renée Lefebvre,
Étienne Rivard

GOVERNANCE AND RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

Robert Dupont (Chair), André
Couillard, Louise Ann Maziak,
Maya Raic

AD HOC MAJOR AND EXCEPTIONAL DONATIONS COMMITTEE

Maya Raic (Chair), André
Couillard, Louise Ann Maziak,
Guy Saint-Jacques

AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE

IRCM Challenge

Isabelle Cantin (Chair),
Marc-André Dignard,
Thierry Drouin-Paquette,
Mélanie Fontaine,
Djamouna Sihou, Corinne Suppère

Annual Dinner

Ginette Paquin (Chair),
Robert Dupont, Brian Gelfand,
Hélène Lambin,
Michel Lespérance,
Florence Meney
Valérie Morquette, Luc Rodier,
Marie-Ève Roy, Michel Roy,
Céline Schott, Pierre Séguin

Golf Tournament – Parcours santé

Éric Léveillé (Honorary Chair),
Serge Boileau (Committee Chair),
Wilfredo Banegas, Steve Bastien,
Bradley Boulton, Yves Carlos,
Nadine Laplante, Katrine Lavigne,
Martin Piette, Étienne Rivard

A Word from the Chair of the Board of Directors And the Executive Director

A lot has happened in the past year. Let us first mention our new major campaign that promises much for the future, under the theme *Driven by life*. Our passionate, dedicated ambassadors have set the bar high for the next four years of campaigning. In the first year alone, they've already reached 50% of our fundraising goal of \$25 million.

There has also been a changing of the guard within the Foundation, alongside some significant challenges in human resources brought on by the pandemic. Our passion and drive to succeed have allowed us to turn these impediments into opportunities. We decided to rethink our way of doing things and have improved our ability to deliver on our objectives. The 2021–2022 year has been a resounding success. We've even exceeded our expectations, carrying off a number of special events and the launch of our major campaign.

None of this would have been possible without the loyalty and devotion of our board members, our

Foundation committee members, our IRCM colleagues and dedicated volunteers, as well as our generous donors. As the pandemic winds down, our Foundation is in an excellent position to continue supporting cutting-edge research at the IRCM.

That's something we can all be proud of!



André Couillard



Marie-Bénédicte Pretty



Gone, but never forgotten

The Alain Fontaine Research Chair

In 2021, the Foundation lost one of its most loyal allies, Alain Fontaine, following his long fight against cancer.

Alain had been a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors since 2016 and was involved in several committees. He is fondly remembered for his exceptional efforts to increase the visibility of our organization.

In October 2021, an official ceremony was held, inaugurating the Alain Fontaine Research Chair to honour his memory and pursue his commitment to cutting-edge research. Guillevin International, of which Alain had been Chief Financial Officer, donated \$500,000 to the IRCM Foundation for the creation of the Alain Fontaine Cancer Research Chair. The Yvan Morin Foundation donated a further \$150,000 to the initiative.

The Alain Fontaine Research Chair will help further the work carried out in the laboratory of Jean-François Côté, Director of the Cytoskeletal Organization and Cell Migration Research Unit at the IRCM.



A Kaleidoscope of Events

The IRCM Challenge: All hearts united for the cause

The 12th annual IRCM Challenge took place on October 9–24, 2021.

More than 320 participants came together in minds and spirits to take up a sporting challenge in support of health research. Alone or in teams, they created their itineraries, and together they raised more than \$180,000 to fund research scholarships for IRCM’s students.

The second year of pandemic restrictions meant the event would be held virtually again. Undeterred, IRCM staff and clinic patients, health and research professionals, and members of the general public all rallied around the cause.

Another great round

On Monday, August 30, 2021, the IRCM Foundation teed off its 19th Parours Santé Golf Tournament at the Summerlea Golf Club in Vaudreuil-Dorion, under the honorary presidency of Éric Léveillé, General Manager of Nedco Québec.

140 golfers competed in the tournament, raising \$150,000 to support the acquisition of new state-of-the-art research equipment for IRCM researchers.

Spirits were high as the players walked the fairways of the magnificent golf course. Yvon Lambert rounded out the day with an expertly conducted silent auction featuring over 50 tantalizing lots.

The 2021 Annual Dinner: a double win

On November 17, 2021, the Foundation hosted its 21st Annual Dinner. Though online for the second year in a row, the event was attended by nearly 450 people and brought in an impressive total of \$500,000 to support research.

The event was a double success since it was also the occasion to inaugurate our Foundation’s new major fundraising campaign under the theme *Driven by life*.

TOTAL OF DONATION OF THE YEAR:

\$ 2,374,906

3

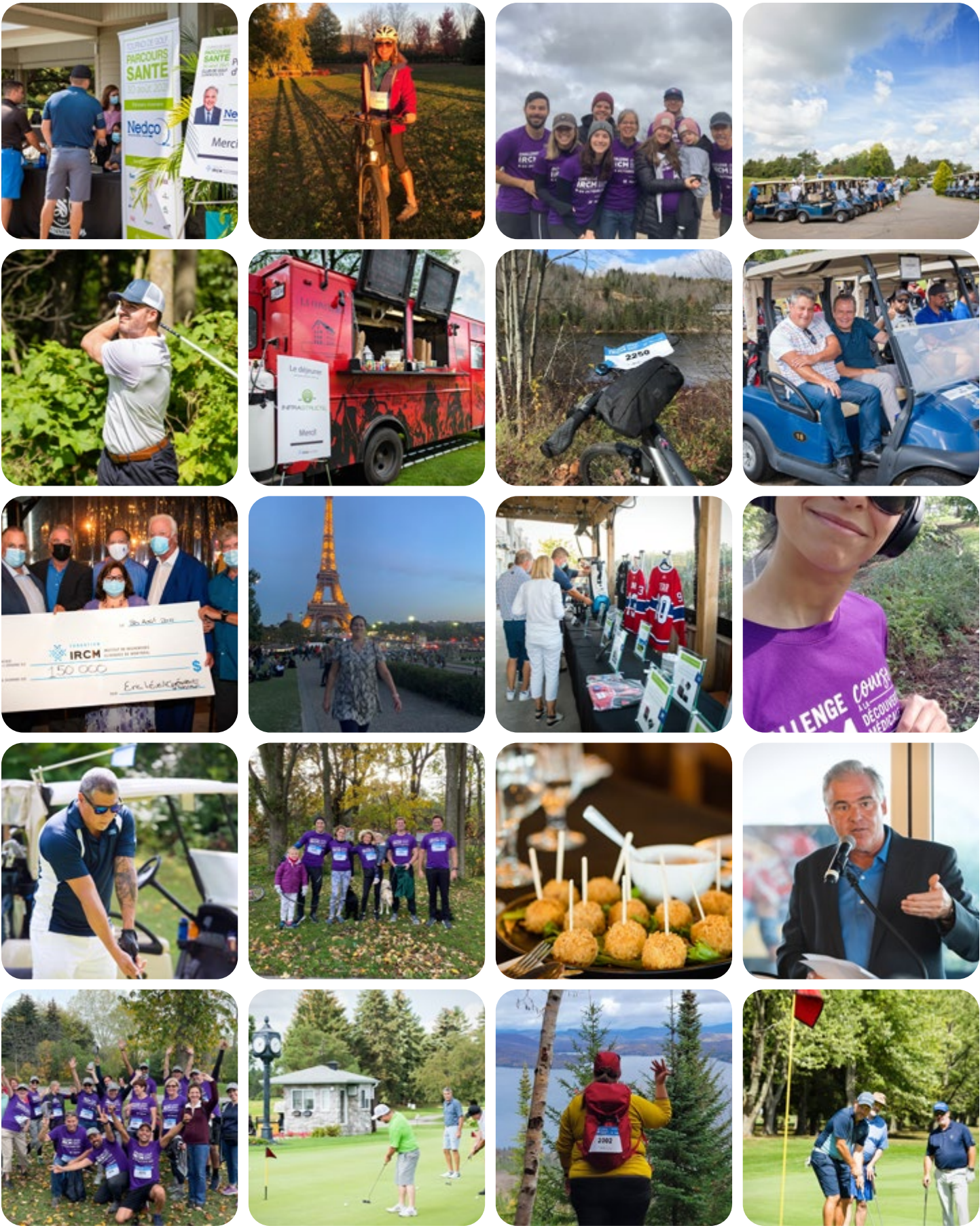
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

1,689

DONORS

50

VOLUNTEERS



The Foundation Kicks Off Its Major Campaign

The Foundation officially launched its ambitious new fundraising campaign, *Driven by life*, during its traditional Annual Dinner. The goal is to raise \$25 million over five years.

At the time of launch, \$12 million had already been raised, thanks to the dedication and motivation of our different committee members.

This monumental accomplishment augurs well for the campaign's future success!

Research projects that will change lives

The Foundation's major campaign will fund more than 20 priority, high-impact research projects on cancer, metabolic disorders, genetic and neurological diseases, immunodeficiency disorders, and infectious diseases.

These promising projects will also pave the way for new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, cutting-edge equipment

acquisitions, and training for the next generation of scientists.

Innovative research projects:

01 Expansion of the BETTER project, an educational platform and online support for hypoglycemia

02 Expansion of IPCO, the IRCM Post-COVID-19 Research Clinic

03 NeuroBasis, a Quebec knowledge hub in neurodevelopment

04 Clinical trials for a new breast cancer treatment

05 A technological platform dedicated to clinical research

06 "37 trillion cells", a multidisciplinary research and multi-site research consortium

07 New non-surgical treatments against chronic pain and depression.

08 Development of new treatments for Alzheimer's disease

09 Establishment of a molecule library targeting emerging viruses (including

SARSCoV-2) that threaten humanity

10 Study of proteases to prevent or cure COVID-19, viral infections and cardiovascular diseases

11 Study of mechanisms responsible for hormonal resistance in Cushing's disease

12 Study of proteins' role in cancer neurodegeneration and psychiatric disorders

13 Creation an RNA postal code to act as a therapeutic targeting mechanism at the intracellular scale

14 Offer of more excellence scholarships for the cellular and molecular master's program (MCM)

15 Understanding the therapeutic potential of Vitamin K

16 Development a cutting-edge technology to speed up the understanding of limb malformations development of in embryo

17 Support for the Citizen Dialogue in Health Ethics Center

18 Development of innovative

methods to improve the control of stem cells' behavior

19 Establishment a platform for the diagnosis and treatment of genetic diseases

20 Acquisition of cutting-edge research equipment to remain at the forefront of technology



"This major campaign comes at a crucial time for the IRCM, while our community of researchers, students and professionals dedicate their daily activities to improve knowledge that will help to prevent, diagnose and treat life threatening diseases."

Jean-François Côté

President and Scientific Director, IRCM

"The pandemic has raised public awareness about the importance of investing upstream in impactful research. More than ever, the IRCM Foundation has a trusted role to play to ensure that the public's generosity goes to the researchers who conduct life-changing work."

André Couillard

Chairman of the Board of Directors, IRCM Foundation

Inspiring Ambassadors



Stéphane Achard
Senior Executive Vice-President,
Corporate and Insurance National Bank
of Canada



Françoise Bertrand
Chair of the Board of Directors of Via Rail
and Corporate Director



Martin Coiteux
Head of Economic Analysis and Global
Strategy, Caisse de dépôt et placement du
Québec (CDPQ)



Sylvain Corbeil
Senior Vice President, National Accounts
and Business Banking, Scotiabank



Jean-François Côté
Interim President and Scientific Director,
IRCM



André Couillard
President of the IRCM Foundation



René Douville
Senior Vice-President and Head Corporate
Finance, Québec, of BMO Financial Group



Marinella Ermacora
Corporate Director



Paul C. Genest
Senior Vice-President, Power Corporation
of Canada



Alain Masse
President, UAP



Richard Mayrand
Corporate Director



Brian Mulroney
Former Prime Minister of Canada
Senior Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright
Canada



Anne No Delaide
Director, Eastern Canada, RBCx



Richard Payette
Businessman and Corporate Director,
former President and Chief Executive
Officer of Manulife Quebec



Maya Raic
Executive Director, Ordre des
orthophonistes et audiologistes du
Québec



Luc Rodier
President and CEO, Guillevin
International



Guy Saint-Jacques
Consultant and Administrator

Major Campaign Donors

Transformers Category
\$ 1 M and more
National Bank of Canada
Mirella and Lino Saputo
Foundation
Lazaridis Family Foundation

Propellers Category
\$ 500 000 and more
Francine and Louis-Gilles Durand
Claude Garcia
Guillevin International
Power Corporation of Canada

Accelerators Category
\$ 100 000 and more
Maryse and Jean-Claude Arpin
BMO Financial Group
Caisse de dépôt et placement du
Québec
CIBC
Fondation Famille Gosselin
Fondation J.-Louis Lévesque
Fondation Yvan Morin
Richard and Edith Strauss
Foundation

Ignitors Category
\$ 25 000 and more
Brivia management
Leucodystrophy Foundation
WSP Global Group
Infrastructel
Ghislain Parent
Robert Rivard
Luc Rodier
Ruth and David Steinberg

Allies Category
5 000 \$ et plus
Hélène Boisjoly
André Couillard
Jean-François Côté
Michel Décary
Pierre Duplessis
Robert Dupont
Marinella Ermaroca
Fondation Famille A. Pizzagalli
Sibylla Hesse Foundation
Fondation Richard Verreault
Richard Mayrand
Richard Payette
Pomerleau
Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret
Maya Raic
Guy Saint-Jacques
Marie-Claude Soucy

Scholarships, Funds And Chairs

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

IRCM Challenge Scholarships

Noémie Bélanger
Mathilde Cassou
Maya DeCruz
Emmanuelle Del Guidice
Émilie L'Heureux-Hubert
Shreya Mahasenan

MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIPS

Michel-Bélanger Scholarship

Vivian Hyunh

IRCM Challenge Scholarships

Samantha Boudreau
Paul Donnelly

Molecular and Cellular Medecine Scholarships

Yasmin Awad
Johanna Kaufmann
Klara Metzner

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

IRCM Challenge Scholarships

Fanny Guérard-Millet
Shayesteh Kiani

IRCM Challenge Scholarships - Guépards et Gazelles Gourmands

Nicolas Chofflet

IRCM Challenge Scholarships - Manuvie

Luke David

IRCM Challenge Scholarships - RBC

Dominion valeurs immobilières
Mathieu Joseph

Emmanuel-Triassi Scholarship

Thulaj Meharwade

Jean-Coutu Scholarships

Pudchalaluck Panichnanta
Rodrigue Peraldi

Francine & Louis-Gilles Durand Scholarships

Sung Soon Park

Jacques-Gauthier Scholarship

Fatima Kassem

IRCM Foundation Scholarships

Pedro Franca

Sarah Hales

Rachelle Sauvé

Megan Sholomiski

XinYing Zhang

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Jean-Coutu Scholarships

Zeinab Dalloul
Hugo Ducuing
Racheal Paul
Marcelo Maximiliano Rodriguez

Angelo-Pizzagalli Scholarship

Sharmin Begum

2020 IN-HOUSE FUND FOR EXCELLENCE AWARDEES

Pierre-Bois Excellence Award

Émilie Liana Falcone

André-Barbeau Excellence Awards

Ashley Chin
Marion Lacroix

Vincent-Castellucci Excellence Award

Judith Cotton-Montpetit

IRCM FOUNDATION'S ACTIVE RESEARCH FUNDS

Internal Community Excellence Fund *
Angelo-Pizzagalli Postdoctoral Scholarship Fund*
Emmanuel-Triassi Fund for cancer research*
Fondation J.-Louis Lévesque Fund**
IRCM In-House Fund for Excellence*
J.A. DeSève Fund for diabetes research and the artificial pancreas
J. Armand Bombardier Foundation and Molson Foundation Fund for molecular and cellular medicine
Jacques-Genest Scholarship Fund*
Jean-Coutu Postdoctoral Scholarship Fund*
Jean-Davignon and Pierre-Larochelle Fund
Jean-Guy-Desjardins Fund for priority research*
Marcel and Béatrice Piché Fund*
Marie and Willie Chrétien Fund*

32

SCHOLARSHIPS

12

CHAIRS

Michel-Saucier Fund for priority research
National Bank Fund for cancer research
Rosario and Annette Genest Fund*
Sainte-Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus Fund in memory of Mable and Lucien Toupin*
TD Fund for excellence in the medical field
UAP-NAPA Fund
Francine and Louis-Gilles Durand Fund
Aisenstadt Fund
Mirella et Lino Saputo Foundation Fund
CIBC Fund
CDPQ Fund
Richard and Edith Strauss Foundation Fund

IRCM FOUNDATION'S ACTIVE RESEARCH CHAIRS

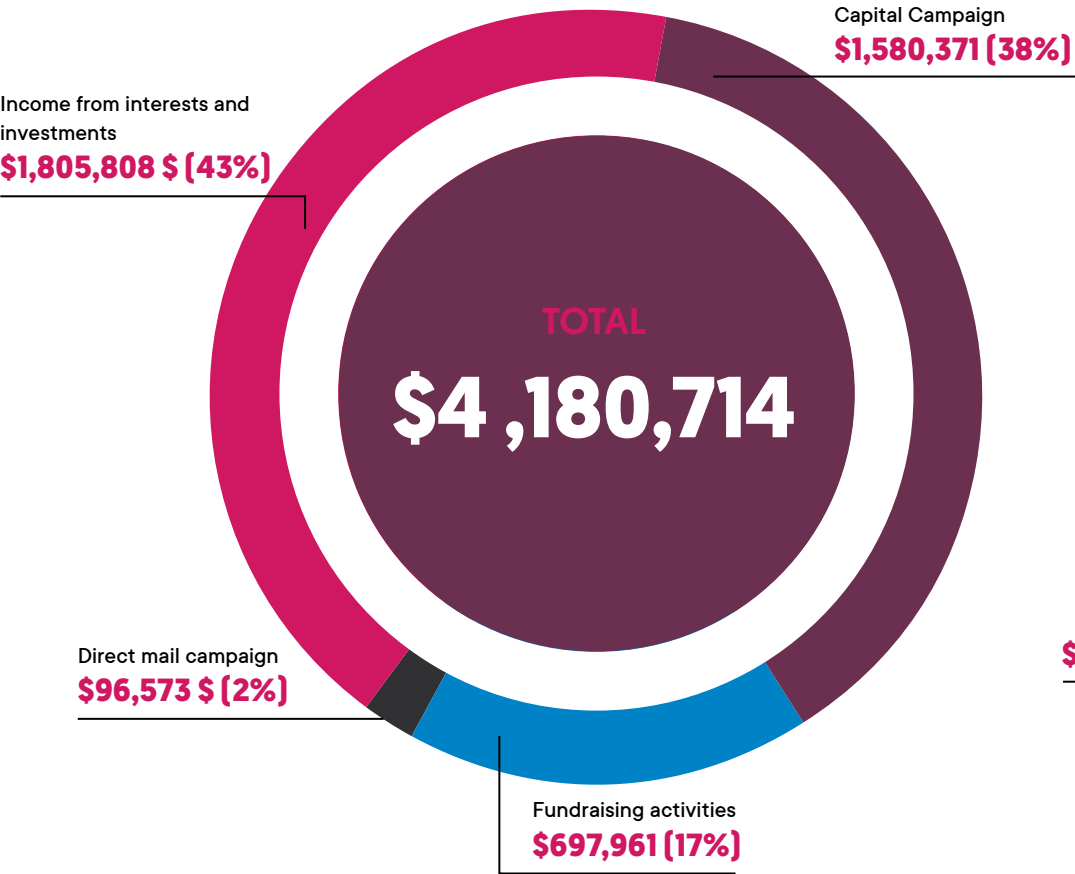
Bell-Bombardier Chair in Cardiovascular Disease: Benoit Coulombe
Gosselin-Lamarre Chair of Excellence in Clinical Research: Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret
Gaëtane and Roland Pillenière Research Chair in Retina: Michel Cayouette
Michel F. Belanger Research Chair in Cancer: Tarik Moroy
Dr. Roch Despatis Chair in Rare Diseases: Martin Sauvageau
J-Louis Lévesque Foundation Chair in Rare Diseases: Emilia Liana Falcone
J.A. DeSève Chair in Clinical Research: Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret
Jacques Genest Chair - Royal Bank
John Low Beer Chair: Marie Kmita
Transat Chair in Breast Cancer Research: Jean-François Côté
Alain Fontaine Research Chair in Cancer: Jean-François Côté
Canadian Pacific Chair in Pain: Artur Kania

* Capitalized funds

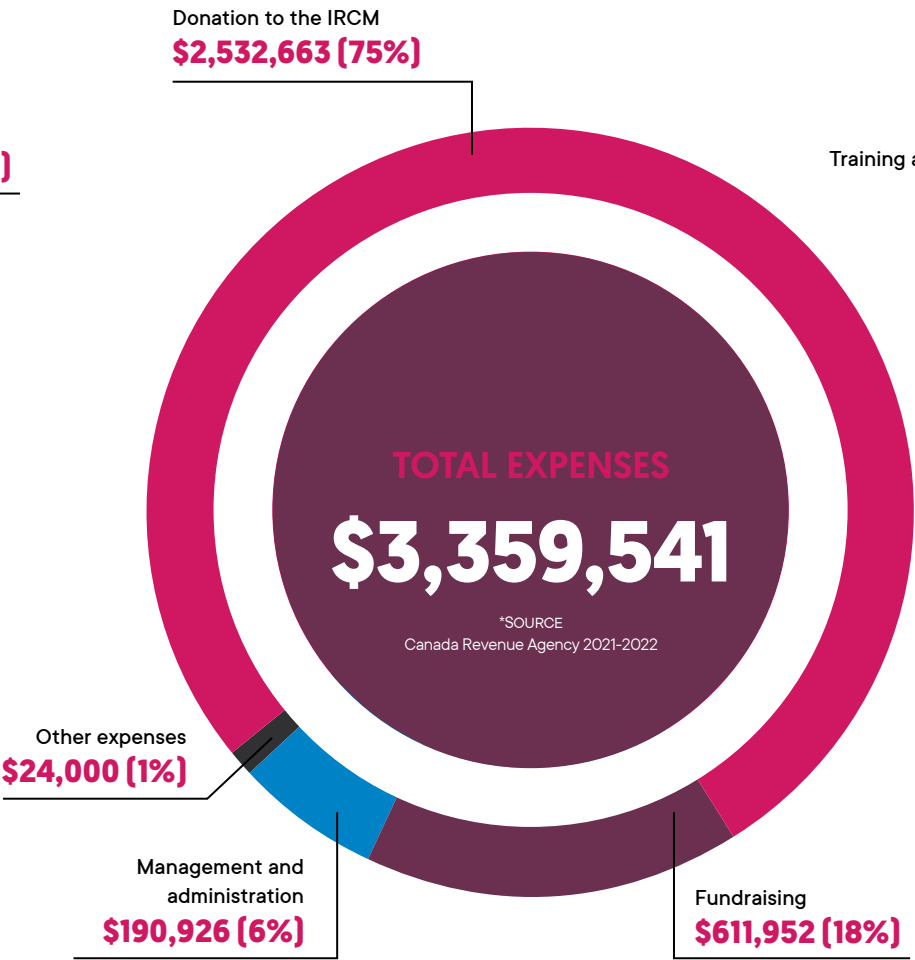


Financial Data

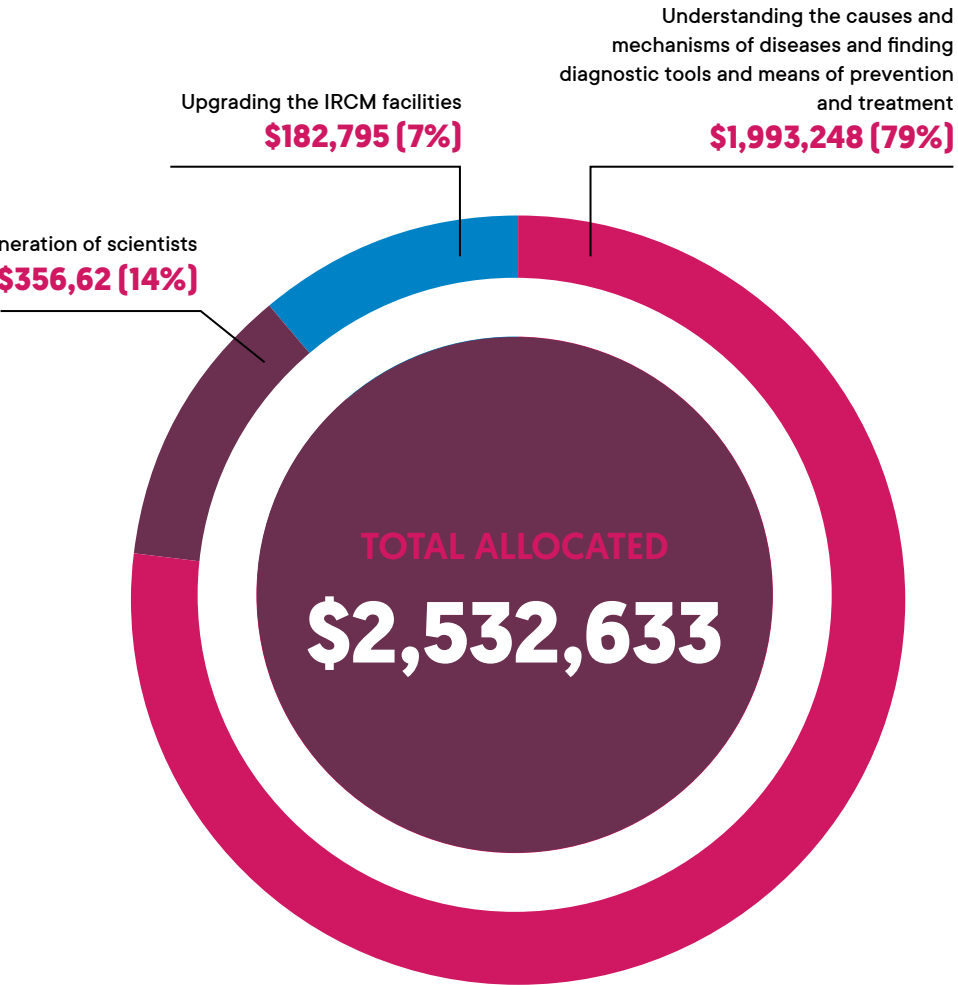
ALLOCATION OF DONATION



EXPENSES



ALLOCATION OF DONATION TO THE IRCM





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Valérie Morquette

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Services linguistiques Annie Talbot

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Montreal (Quebec) Canada H2W 1R7
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The IRCM 2021-2022 annual report
summarizes the highlights and financial
data for the period beginning on April 1,
2021, and ending on March 31, 2022.



IRCM.QC.CA