



March 2012

Training on the EBUS

We recently reported to our donors that thanks to you, the \$232,000 fund raising goal for the Endo-bronchial Ultrasound has been met. This is in part thanks to a very generous \$10,000 donation received from TD Canada Trust. The equipment has been purchased and installation and training for respirologists will take place in early March. EBUS will transform the way lung biopsies are performed in our community.



L-R: Bob Copland, Adrian Lawford, Norma Brockenshire, Claudia den Boer Grima

Zephyr Transporting Patients

The Foundation is extremely grateful to Anne Safranyos, who made a tremendous \$43,500 donation that enabled the purchase of the Zephyr system, which was put into use late last year. Carol Agapito, Manager, Radiation Treatment, reported that the Zephyr had successfully been used for a patient with gynecological cancer, and that "the system was very easy to use, the patient was very comfortable, and we were able to complete 3D planning for the first time on one of these cases. The staff was also impressed with the ease of use and ergonomic features of the system. Thank you for your continued support of the radiation therapy system."

Assisting Patients

As you may already know, the Cancer Centre Foundation supports the Patient Assistance Fund, made possible through generous donations from you and others like you in our community. The Fund provides \$75,000 each year in short-term financial assistance to patients of the Centre experiencing need. Administered by the dedicated Supportive Care staff, patients remain anonymous. Did you also know that each year during the holidays, the Fund also provides additional support to individuals and families that need a little extra help making the holidays brighter for their families? This past holiday season, the Fund provided 26 individuals and families each with \$250 Wal-Mart gift cards. So that you may know the impact your holiday gift made, the following is a quote from one grateful recipient.

"We want to thank you so much for the very generous holiday gift our family received from the Patient Assistance Fund. It was such a pleasant surprise and a huge help to our family this holiday season. We are so grateful and feel truly blessed to be associated with so many caring people in our community."

Seeds4Hope in the News

2011 Seeds4Hope research grant recipient, Dr. James Green, was recently in the news for developing a potentially cancer-killing compound. In collaboration with another S4H grant recipient, Dr. Siyaram Pandey, the two scientists have developed several variations of a compound already known to kill various types of cancer cells. The duo will now conduct rigorous lab tests in order to determine if the compound is safe for pre-clinical testing, and eventually human clinical trials.

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Ontario has among the highest rates of colorectal cancer in the world. It is the second most common cause of cancer deaths. Colorectal cancer is 90% curable when caught early through regular screening! Screening test kits, called Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT), should be completed every 2 years for those aged 50 and over, of average risk. The kits are available through your primary care physician or through a pharmacist by calling TeleHealth Ontario (1-877-797-0000). To learn more about colon cancer prevention and testing, visit www.coloncancercheck.ca.

Robes for Radiation

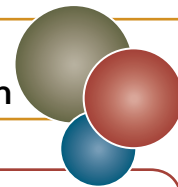
Robes for Radiation is a new program that kicked off mid-February, just in time for the snow and cold! Warmed, waffle knit robes are now available for radiation therapy patients. The program is run on the honour system – patients may take a robe for use during their treatment and are asked to return it to the soiled bin provided in the radiation area. *The program is funded by the Cancer Centre Foundation.*

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Exciting Events!

Our Foundation is privileged to partner with wonderful people in our community for fund raising events. We gratefully acknowledge our event partners from February:



Team Tin Roof

The **16th Annual Cancer Centre Foundation Bowl-a-thon** was held on February 11th. Thanks to everyone that came out to bowl, our donors, our sponsors, and prize donors! Congratulations to Ken LaChance (*Highest Score*), the Meyer Family (*Best Dressed Team*), and Paytyn Meyer (*Most Honest Bowler*). Thanks to all of you, \$10,000 was raised for the Men's Health Campaign!

The "**Show Your Love**" fashion show was held at The Room on February 16th. Thanks to Mat Mathias and Scott D'Amore and to the event sponsors for raising \$1,000 for the Men's Health Campaign.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth at the **RV Guys Show & Sale**, and learned more about our Foundation, donating, volunteering, and putting on an event of your own.

Coming Events

9th – University of Windsor student group presents a **Boston Pizza Fund Raiser** at Boston Pizza from 6-8pm. The evening will include dinner (salad, pasta and garlic toast), and door prizes. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the door.

15th – University of Windsor student group presents a **Chicken & Pasta dinner** at the Serbian Centre. Doors open at 6pm, dinner at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 ea. or \$30/couple and includes dinner, door prizes and entertainment. Purchase at the door.

30th – The Italian Women's Club presents "**An Evening of Fashion**" at the Caboto Club. Tickets are \$35. Door prizes will also be given away. Visit our website to learn more about the fashions being presented. Proceeds will support Seeds4Hope. For tickets, call Maria at 519-948-5035, Anna Maria at 519-945-6762, or the Caboto Club at 519-252-8383.

Would you like to attend an event? Do you want to organize an event? Call, email or visit Renata in the Foundation office!

Cancer Facts & News – Part 7: Dimensions of Cancer

By: Dr. Michael Dufresne, Seeds4Hope Administrator

The formation of new blood vessels, termed angiogenesis, is necessary at very specific times during normal growth and development in humans. New blood vessels are formed by division of vascular endothelial cells making up the wall of all blood vessels in the body. Once the vascular system (i.e., arteries, veins, and capillaries) has been formed, these cells divide rarely – on average, about once every 3 years. However, when the situation requires it, for example, for tissue regeneration or repair during wound healing in adults, angiogenesis can stimulate these cells to divide every 24 hours or less, and to form new blood vessels. Once the situation has been resolved, angiogenesis is blocked and the division of vascular endothelial cells slows to pre-stimulation rates - until the next situation arises. **This information demonstrates a critical property of normal angiogenesis; it is highly controlled (i.e., regulated).** When the situation requires, angiogenesis is activated; when the situation doesn't require, angiogenesis is blocked. **How is angiogenesis controlled? How does angiogenesis "turn on" and "turn off" on demand?** Research provided answers to these questions. Angiogenesis is controlled (i.e., regulated) by naturally occurring proteins and small molecules, some acting as activators (i.e., stimulating angiogenesis), and others acting as inhibitors (i.e., blocking angiogenesis). Normally, the number of angiogenesis inhibitors exceeds the number of activators. Therefore, the division of vascular endothelial cells and ultimately the growth of new blood vessels are blocked. However, when there is a need for new blood vessels the number of angiogenesis activators increases while the number of inhibitors decreases. Therefore vascular endothelial cell division and ultimately the formation of new blood vessels are stimulated. The significance of these remarkable results to understanding the necessary role angiogenesis played in the growth of cancerous tumours cannot be overstated. Quite simply, understanding how normal angiogenesis is regulated is one of the most significant research breakthroughs in our understanding of and fight against cancer. I'll explain why next month.