



The Canadian **DONATION** and  
**TRANSPLANTATION** Research Program

Programme de recherche en **DON**  
et **TRANSPLANTATION** du Canada

**9th edition**

# CDTRP 2022 **ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

December 7-9, 2022 | Hybrid, Kelowna, BC



# **POST-EVENT REPORT**

December 20, 2022

Prepared by the Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program



# CDTRP 2022 **ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program (CDTRP) was pleased to host its **2022 Annual Scientific Meeting on December 7-9, 2022, in a hybrid format in Kelowna, British Columbia.**

The CDTRP was founded in 2013 with the mission of harnessing the power of research and collaboration to fulfill every donation opportunity and turn transplantation into a cure. CDTRP brought together the distinct solid organ, hematopoietic cell, and donation research communities through funded research projects and transitioned in 2018 to become a national network of infrastructures to support research.

With its three platforms, five interrelated research themes, and four cross-cutting priorities—identified through a collaborative process engaging patients, donors, and families—the CDTRP rapidly became the 'go to' platform in Canada for donation and transplantation research. Through the network, CDTRP investigators bring new ideas, find collaborators and partners, and receive resources and infrastructure to strengthen their research and increase their success. The network has grown to include more than 300 member researchers, trainees, and patient, family and donor partners at 37 sites across Canada, with over 70 partner organizations in Canada and around the world. The research community's ability to produce, synthesize, and mobilize evidence, work together flexibly with partners, and connect people and organizations is forging the path to health, social, and economic benefits. Indeed, connectivity is the most valued aspect of the CDTRP: connecting researchers to each other, with the network of partner organizations and stakeholders, and with patient, family and donor partners (PFDs).

Our Annual Scientific Meeting brings together the national research community to present and discuss the future of the donation and transplantation system, celebrate recent achievements, and examine the strategic direction of CDTRP. We achieve this by:

1. Addressing changes to research on a national and global scale (e.g., COVID-19, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Knowledge Translation, the funding climate);
2. Spotlighting important topics for future research in transplantation and donation;
3. Promoting and engaging senior and junior researchers to present their work to the national community;
4. Increasing awareness and collaboration among CDTRP members (including investigators, trainees, and PFDs).

# CDTRP 2022 **ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

The program was developed by the CDTRP Annual Scientific Meeting Planning Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Mamatha Bhat (hepatologist and clinician-scientist) and Dr. Michael Khoury (pediatric cardiologist). The other members of the Planning Committee are:

- Dr. Suze Berkhout (early career clinician-investigator and practicing psychiatrist);
- Sean Delaney (patient partner);
- Dr. Caigan Du (scientist and assistant professor);
- Dr. Marie-Chantal Fortin (transplant nephrologist);
- Dr. Francis Migneault (CDTRP Education and Career Development Platform co-lead);
- Javairia Rahim (CDTRP trainee);
- Dr. Matthew Weiss (pediatric intensivist).

**We thank Paladin Labs Inc., GSK, AstraZeneca, Takeda Canada, and Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc. for sponsoring this event.**



**And thank you to our Supporters!**



## **MEETING OVERVIEW**

Throughout the meeting, social science and arts-based researchers the "Frictions of Futurity and Cure in Transplant Medicine Team" hosted a discussion lounge. The lounge was a space to articulate diverse viewpoints, share knowledge, practices, and ways of knowing, and engage with different forms of understanding the challenges, tensions, promises, and hopes that are attached to transplantation and in particular to the way that transplantation both reveals and troubles concepts such as cure, risk, kin, and care.

## **PRE-SCIENTIFIC MEETING | Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

Virtual participants joined us for an online networking session to get to know and exchange with other members of the CDTRP community. Patricia Gongal, CDTRP Executive Director and Sean Delaney, CDTRP Patient Partner, hosted this session.



# CDTRP 2022 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

## DAY ONE | Wednesday, December 7, 2022

We opened with the CDTRP Year in Review and provided an overview of the CDTRP highlights of the year 2022 given by Dr. Lori West, Scientific Director and Dr. Patricia Gongal, Executive Director. Dr. Marie-Josée Hébert also took part in the discussions as the past Scientific Co-Director and newly appointed Chair of the Governing Council of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). [More info here](#).

The morning presentations focused on Donation and included:

- A panel discussion highlighting the recent implementation of recommendations of the 2021 International forum into practice in Alberta through [Bill 205, Human Tissue and Organ Donation \(Mandatory Referral\) Amendment Act, 2022](#);
- A presentation on the importance of rethinking policies of mandated anonymity in deceased organ donation;
- Presentations on the need for pragmatic and adaptive trials in organ donation.

Following a **lunch sponsored by Astra Zeneca**, the afternoon presentations focused on Organ Perfusion and included presentations on:

- Facilitators and barriers of ex situ heart perfusion in pediatric donation;
- Ex situ lung perfusion with a porcine transplantation model;
- Hepatic ischemia-reperfusion injury;
- Normothermic ex vivo kidney perfusion.

### **After the presentations, we were pleased to offer additional activities:**

- *Indigenous Book Club: Growing reconciliation in ODT through Indigenous literature:*
  - Participants read the novel *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good and attended a discussion gathering hosted by Dr. Caroline Tait. This Book Club drew upon Indigenous fiction and created a safe and productive space to discuss complex health issues impacting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.
- *Trainee Three-Minute Thesis Presentations Part 1:*
  - The next generation of donation and transplantation researchers presented their research as a Three Minute Thesis (3MT). Presentations during this session are related to CDTRP's Theme 3 (Engineer and Allocate Better Grafts) and Theme 4 (Tailor an Optimal Immune System for Each Patient).



# CDTRP 2022 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

## DAY TWO | Thursday, December 8, 2022

### Morning sessions:

- Focus on Exercise in Transplantation;
- Bringing Narrative and Visual Research Methods to Transplant: An Experiential Workshop;
- Focus on Equity, Utility and Access:
  - Exploring the information needs of African, Caribbean, and Black Community Members Regarding Living Donor Kidney Transplantation in Toronto, Ontario;
  - Examining questions of equity and utility for Indigenous patients living with end-stage organ failure.

### Afternoon sessions:

- **Keynote Speaker, Dr. Robin Pierson**, Xenotransplantation: The Path to Clinical Application;
- Immunology presentations:
  - Glycocalyx engineering of vascularized grafts to achieve localized immunomodulation;
  - ABO antibody production in mice: The role of sex and T cells in natural versus induced anti-A antibodies;
  - Preliminary results of the first clinical trial to prevent graft rejection in heart transplant children employing a cellular therapy with autologous Treg obtained from thymic tissue (thyTreg).

### After the presentations, we were pleased to offer additional activities:

- Dr. Audrey L'Espérance presented a *Workshop on Developing a Framework for Evaluating Patient, Family, and Donor Impact within CDTRP*:
  - Participants were divided into three working groups tasked with discussing the elements that sustain meaningful patient engagement and generating ideas of what patient engagement means to CDTRP's diverse membership of PFDs, researchers, and trainees. This workshop is the first step in evaluating PFD impact within CDTRP's Network.
- *Trainee Three-Minute Thesis Presentations Part 2*:
  - The next generation of donation and transplantation researchers presented their research as a Three Minute Thesis (3MT). Presentations during this session are related to CDTRP's Theme 1 (Improve a Culture of Donation), Theme 2 (Inform Universal Practices for Donation), and Theme 5 (Restoring Long-Term Health).



# CDTRP 2022 **ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

## DAY THREE | Friday, December 9, 2022

### Morning sessions:

- *A Vision for the Future of the Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Ecosystem and the role of CDTRP*, where panelists from key organizations gave their views on how the community could better collaborate to move towards a consensus vision;
- *CDTRP Media Workshop Series on ODT & Health Literacy*, where panelists from different ODT organizations discussed the missions and roles of key or in the donation and transplantation community, programs they have in place for the dissemination of information to the public and media, strengths and limitations as organizations, and how we could all work hand in hand in a more collaborative fashion.
- *Addressing critical emerging issues in COVID-19 in transplant recipients*, where the panel presented a developing project to respond to emerging and patient and family-oriented research questions more quickly through national collaboration;
- Artificial Intelligence and Transplantation.

“

“It was nice to see everyone and get to catch up on their research. I also enjoyed having the patient partners there and hearing their perspective; helps keep our research grounded.”

**- In Person Meeting Attendee**

”

## POST-EVENT

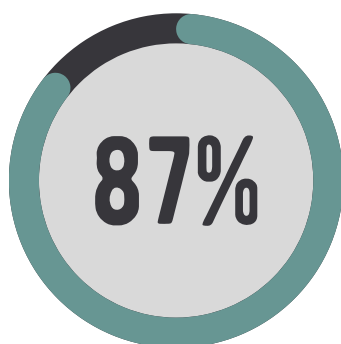
The CDTRP prepared a post-event survey and sent it out to all participants throughout the event, along with a Thank You post to the weekly newsletter and on social media platforms. Recordings of the meeting are available on the [CDTRP website](#) and [YouTube channel](#) for those unable to attend the sessions live.

# CDTRP 2022 **ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

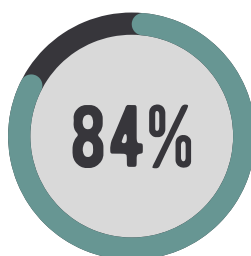
## Post-Event Survey Results

Meeting participants were asked to fill in a post-event survey to learn more about their general appreciation of the event. On a scale from 0 to 100, participants were asked this question: ***What was your overall experience of the meeting?*** Results are summarized below.

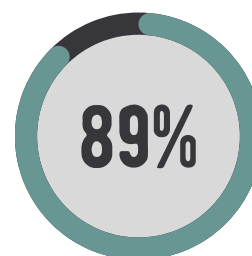
### OVERALL RATING



### Virtual participants Rating



### In-Person participants Rating



## BY THE NUMBERS



### IN PERSON ATTENDEES

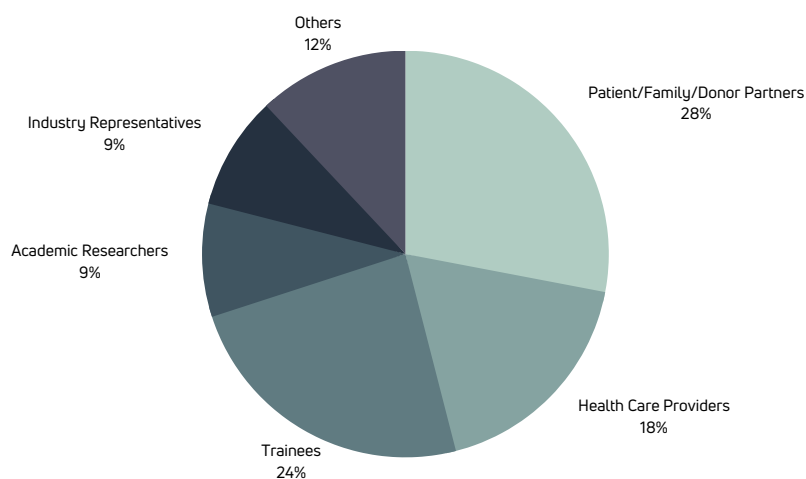
**84**



### VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS

**50**

(average per day)



## Social Media

### #CDTRPASM

64 tweets  
19 contributors  
134,721 impressions

### @CNTRP

56,740 impressions



Dec 7-14, 2022

### CANADIANTRANSPLANTRESEARCH/

1,641 reach  
80 likes and reactions  
5 publication shares



Dec 5-14, 2022