

CDTRP 7TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

DECEMBER 2-4, 2020

POST-EVENT REPORT



The Canadian **DONATION** and
TRANSPLANTATION Research Program

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



OVERVIEW

The Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Forum was pleased to host its 7th Annual Scientific Meeting on December 2-4, 2020, supported by Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc. The event was a virtual version of the in-person conference originally planned for Kelowna, BC, but had a program just as comprehensive and compelling. The Planning Committee was co-chaired by Samantha Anthony and Frédérick D'Aragon, and included Ian Rogers, Holly Mansell, Elaine Yong, Jed Gross and Daniela Massierer.

To set the stage, as a pre-program event, the CDTRP presented a special screening of the documentary film ***Picture a Scientist***. The film was available for home viewing starting the weekend prior to the meeting, and all registered participants received a link to the screening room as part of the final program.

Day 1 and 2 of the meeting focused on exciting research in progress across the network and presented two evening social events. The meeting kicked off on with Dr. Cara Tannenbaum's (CIHR) keynote presentation where she highlighted some of the challenges of 2020, particularly related to equity, diversity and inclusion. She described how the pandemic has put these challenges in sharp view, and how the Tri-Council funding agencies are responding. The talk emphasized the importance of EDI in research, and highlighted opportunities for the CDTRP to continue to lead and provide support to our community in the EDI space moving forward.

Most of the scientific presentations were from investigators who have utilized the supports offered by the CDTRP over the course of 2020. The CDTRP supported these projects via funding, patient, family and donor project matching, knowledge translation, event organization and external partnerships. We welcomed keynote speaker Dr. Michael Laflamme, who presented his pioneering work on the intersection between stem cell technologies and organ transplant, showing truly innovative research taking place within the network.



02

OVERVIEW

Day 3 focused on CDTRP theme activities and future directions. On this day, we were pleased to open the meeting to include CDTRP's much-valued partners and were thrilled to have Prof. Timothy Caulfield join us for a keynote presentation. Prof. Caulfield spoke about the 'infodemic' of misinformation on social media, which has very real and harmful consequences. He encouraged everyone in the CDTRP community to push back against such misinformation.

We hosted two evening sessions, one co-hosted event with **Women in Transplantation**, which saw Dr. Lara Danziger-Isakov re-present her ASHI presentation on "Finding Your Feet During a Pandemic". This was an inspiring opportunity to bring the community together to discuss some of the personal challenges of the past year. Our **trainee social event** on Thursday evening brought together our trainee members in a lively get-to-know-each-other chat and discussion of the 2021 webinar agenda.

Throughout the meeting, we held a **virtual poster session** for trainees using the online platform Slack. Trainees 'stood by' their posters virtually for live chat and Q&A during the mid-day break on Day 1 and 2.

“

I was very impressed with how the poster sessions were run --- I've never had a better experience presenting a poster anywhere. I would love to see more of this in the future. The platform allows for detailed discussion and makes it easier for attendees with busy schedules to drop in and out when convenient while still having the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. This means that poster presenters can benefit more from their participation at conferences.

-CDTRP Trainee

”



03

POST-EVENT SURVEY RESULTS:

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. **Recordings** of the meeting will be available on the CDTRP website for those who were not able to attend the sessions live.

QUESTION:

Overall, how was your experience at the sessions you attended, on a scale of 1-100?

ANSWER:

Average 94/100





COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

“Great success. Your team knew how to adapt to this virtual reality and reached a great product in both content and medium. Great quality. Congrats to all involved.”

“Keep up the great work!”

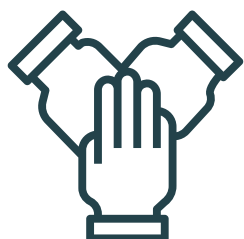
“Great keynote speakers, great variety of actual and pertinent subjects. Nice conversations and collaboration among participants.”

“There was such incredible diversity in the work presented. But with a unifying theme of improving transplantation. The platform worked well!”



05

BY THE NUMBERS

**275** registrants**433** Zoom chat messages exchanged**39** investigators and 2 patient, family or donor partners speaking or moderating**18** posters presented by trainees**4** trainee oral presentations**6** CDTRP management team members behind the scenes