



The Canadian **Donation and Transplantation** Research Program

Programme de recherche en
don et transplantation du Canada

Annual Scientific Meeting

10th Edition | **Montréal, QC** | Hybrid

December 5-7, 2023

POST-EVENT REPORT



January 16, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program (CDTRP) was pleased to host its 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting in a hybrid format on December 5-7, 2023, in Montréal, Québec.

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 Patient, Family, and Donor partners).

The **CDTRP Annual Scientific Meeting Planning Committee**, co-chaired by Dr. Siba Haykal (Assistant Professor | Surgeon-Investigator) and Dr. Vanessa Silva e Silva (Assistant Professor | Nursing), developed the program. The other members of the Planning Committee were:

- Dr. Amine Benmassaoud (Assistant Professor | Investigator);
- Dr. Suze Berkhout (Assistant Professor | Clinician-Investigator);
- Mr. Jorge Castillo-Prado (trainee);
- Mr. Charles Cook (patient partner);
- Mr. Sean Delaney (patient partner);
- Dr. Esmé Dijke (Assistant Professor);
- Dr. Francis Migneault (CDTRP Education and Career Development Platform co-lead);
- Dr. Mingyao Liu (Professor);
- Ms. Amy Thachil (trainee).

MEETING OVERVIEW

For in-person attendees, we were pleased to host **three special activities in the Foyer** throughout the meeting. One of these activities was the pop-up art installation, “Curating Critical Futurities in Transplant Medicine: Arts Practices as New Knowledge” hosted by Dr. Suze Berkhout and Chloe Wong-Mersereau from the University of Toronto. Through visual, sonic, and multimedia artistic works, this installation delved into the complexities and experiences of solid organ transplantation, challenging our understanding of this field. Participants also had the chance to admire art pieces by Dominic Quagliozi, made from recycled hospital fabrics.

Additionally, attendees could explore the prototype of the Health Education & Learning Platform (HELP) mobile app, which aims to improve the transplant journey by providing support and gathering user feedback. This activity was hosted by Dr. Holly Mansell and Taylor Raiche from the University of Saskatchewan.

Lastly, Candice Coghlan, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Centre for Living Organ Donation at UHN hosted the “Great Actions Leave a Mark Photobooth & Living Transplant Podcast,” where people had the opportunity to share their stories and be part of a national movement to raise awareness about living organ donation.

PRE-SCIENTIFIC MEETING | Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Virtual participants joined us for an online networking session to get to know and exchange with other members of the CDTRP community while solving an escape room. With the support of Ms. Amy Thachil and Mr. Jorge Castillo-Prado, Ms. Erika Kaethe Croft, CDTRP Program Coordinator, and Mr. Shiyuan Bain, Ph.D. Trainee, hosted this session.



MEETING OVERVIEW

DAY ONE | Tuesday, December 5, 2023

We opened the CDTRP 10th Annual Scientific Meeting with Sylvain Bédard, a long-time CDTRP patient partner. He delivered an emotional speech about his journey as a patient partner and his experiences and challenges as a double heart transplant recipient. The session continued with Dr. Patricia Gongal, Executive Director and Dr. Lori West, CDTRP Scientific Director, who gave an overview of the work of the network: **“CDTRP: 10 Years in 10 Minutes.”**

The afternoon presentations focused on engaging with patient partners and marginalized groups:

- Assistant Professor in health and social services management, Dr. Audrey L’Espérance moderated a panel discussion with patient partners Mr. Manuel Escoto, Ms. Sandra Holdsworth, and Ms. Ke Fan Bei on better developing a framework for evaluating PFD impact within CDTRP: **“Evaluating CDTRP’s Patient, Family, and Donor Impact”**.
- Panel discussion focused on:
 - Indicators to support data collection and building an evaluation dashboard.
 - Engaging participants in a discussion to build consensus so evaluation metrics are relevant to CDTRP’s research community.
 - The importance of patient and public relationships in the health ecosystem and integrating experiential knowledge in policy-making processes.
- Director of Stem Cell Club, Dr. Warren Fingrut, and Founder & Executive Director of Black Donors Save Lives, Ms. Sylvia Okonofua, presented on the need for diverse donors across donation products, underrepresentation of racialized and LGBTQ+ donors across donor pools: **“Advancing a more inclusive blood and transplant system for donors from marginalized groups”**.
- Breakout group discussions focused on:
 - Highlighting the need to prioritize inclusion
 - Recognizing discrimination
 - Understanding barriers to change
 - Highlighting the need to address disparities in collaboration with advocates
 - Creating a culture to support inclusion

MEETING OVERVIEW

DAY TWO | Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Morning session:

- Patient partners Mr. Rienk de Vries and Ms. Sherrie Logan, along with Dr. Dima Kabbani presented a workshop on COVID-19 in Transplantation: **"A National Approach to Prioritizing Emerging Issues in Covid-19 in Transplantation"**.
- Breakout rooms focused on:
 - Motivators and barriers for participants to enroll in the TREAT-COVID study
 - Methods to reach recipients and families across the country
 - Ways to better communicate with the participants

Afternoon sessions:

- Pediatric nephrologist Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen presented on the pediatric urinary CXCL10 monitoring implementation pilot RCT: **"Patient Engagement Considerations for the Pediatric CXCL10 Implementation Trial"**.
- The second half of the session was a panel discussion with patient partners Ms. Ke Fan Bei, Ms. Sherrie Logan, Mr. Manuel Escoto, and clinician-researchers Drs. Héloïse Cardinal and Marie-Chantal Fortin on how best to engage patient participants and partners within the trial.
- Liver nutrition specialist Dr. Chantal Bémeur, kinesiologist, and mental health expert Dr. Isabelle Doré, and patient partner Ms. Sandra Holdsworth, engage in a dialogue to help understand patients' experience and to appreciate their needs better to optimize health status and wellness in the context of liver transplantation: **"Working together to optimize long-term health status and wellness in the context of liver transplantation: a holistic view."**
- The panel discussion focused on:
 - Understanding what a holistic view would be able to provide regarding aspects of health status that are relevant to quality of life and physical and mental health.
 - Getting a meaningful portrait of the situation and guiding future research on patient needs.

MEETING OVERVIEW

- **Trainee Oral Presentations:**

- Five trainees presented the most innovative work across CDTRP's research themes in 10-minute sessions. Presentations during this session are related to CDTRP's Theme 2 (Inform Universal Practices for Donation), Theme 3 (Engineer and allocate better grafts), Theme 4 (Tailor an optimal individual immune system), and Theme 5 (Restoring Long-Term Health).

DAY THREE | Thursday, December 7, 2023

Morning session:

- Media and communication specialists Ms. Heather Badenoch, Ms. Elaine Yong, and CDTRP Media Committee Chair, Mrs. Linda Powell presented media tips and tricks to making your research more understandable to the lay audience: **"Working with the media: tips for researchers, patients, families, and living donors"**.
- Topics included
 - Where media relations fit in your knowledge translation plan.
 - What makes a story idea newsworthy?
 - Why are key messages important, and how do you prepare key messages about your research or transplant story?
 - Top tips for doing interviews, including pre-negotiating and responding to questions.

Afternoon session:

- Respiratory specialist Dr. Golnaz Karoubi, with her trainee Ms. Aisha Adil, presented their work on the future application of designer cells and bioengineered tissues: **"Feasibility and Challenges Associated with the Application of Bioengineered Cells and Tissues in the Clinic"**.
- The second half of the session was a panel discussion with other experts: Drs. Siba Haykal, Braulio Marfil-Garza, Ian Rogers and patient partner, Mr. Sean Delaney.
- Executive Directors of the CDTRP Drs. Lori West, Sonny Dhanani, and Patricia Gongal concluded the conference with a look into the future of CDTRP: **"CDTRP: The Next 10 Years"**; sharing organizational and sustainability updates with our community,
- The conference ended with an inspiring note from our scientific director, Lori West.

MEETING OVERVIEW

CDTRP 10th Anniversary Celebration Banquet & Networking

To celebrate a decade of success and achievements in donation and transplantation research this year we hosted a 10th Anniversary Celebration Banquet on Thursday, December 7. In conjunction with a sit-down dinner, we hosted two inspiring presentations - Simon Keith (CM), a heart transplant survivor who played professional sports after undergoing a heart transplant, and Mai Duong, who was diagnosed with leukemia and co-founded Swab the World.

We thank the following institutions for sponsoring this event!



The Café Scientifique events held in conjunction with the Annual Scientific meeting and the session "A National Approach to Prioritizing Emerging Issues in COVID-19 in Transplantation" were supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).



"Fantastic sessions, the sense of community and friendliness, the COVID rules that meant I could participate safely"

- Researcher

"Seeing how PFD have a role that is welcomed and a true guiding source of the CDTRP was my favorite part."

- Patient Partner

POST-EVENT

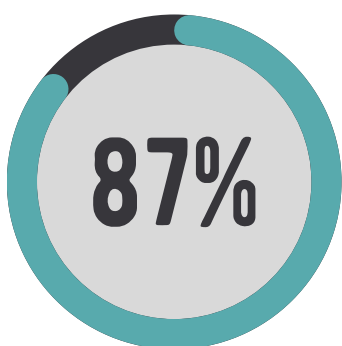
The CDTRP prepared a post-event survey and sent it out to all participants throughout the event, along with a thank you email to all participants and a publication on social media platforms. A newsletter post from the highlights of the 10th Annual Scientific Meeting was also done and can be [accessed here](#). Recordings of the meeting are available on the CDTRP YouTube channel for those unable to attend the sessions live.

[Check out the recordings](#)

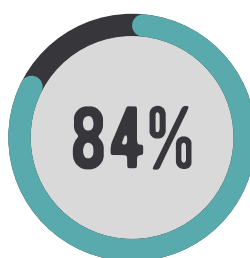
POST-EVENT SURVEY RESULTS

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:

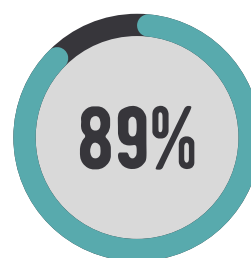
OVERALL RATING



Virtual participants Rating



In-Person participants Rating



POST-EVENT

BY THE NUMBERS:



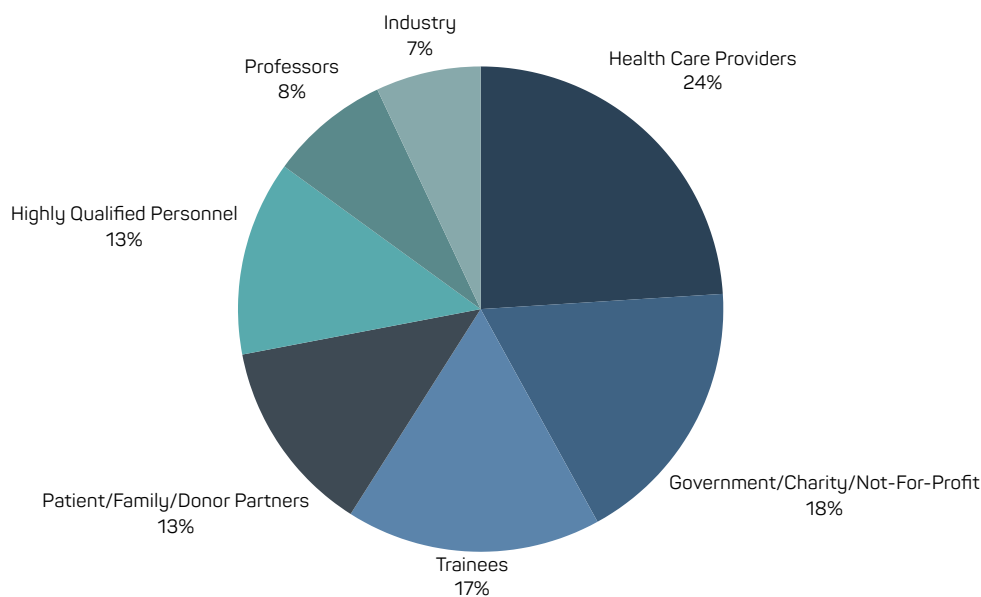
**IN PERSON
REGISTRANTS**

100



**VIRTUAL
REGISTRANTS**

101



SOCIAL MEDIA



#CDTRP10TH

32 mentions
196 interactions
111K social media reach

@CNTRP

14,300 impressions

Nov 24 - Dec 10, 2023



CANADIANTRANSPLANTRESEARCH/

1,641 reach
80 likes and reactions
5 publication shares

Dec 5-14, 2022