The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation is making Personalized Cancer Medicine for leukemia possible

THE PRINCESS MARGARET IS ONE OF THE WORLD’S TOP 5 CANCER RESEARCH CENTRES, and thanks to philanthropic support, our scientists and clinicians are conducting research that is making cancer diagnosis and treatment more personalized for each patient, and therefore more effective.

With support from the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation and generous donors, the leukemia team has been able to develop a program called AGILE where blood specimens from leukemia patients are genetically sequenced to determine very specifically what type of leukemia they have—what genetic mutations have given rise to their disease. It is this very specific detail that enables physicians to determine what therapy is likely to be the most successful.

Support from donors has also allowed our leukemia team to identify a genetic signature that can determine the aggressiveness of their leukemia and the chance of response to standard treatments. This information can be used to guide treatment decisions and personalize therapy.

Much of the important research taking place within the leukemia program would not be possible without the efforts of our clinical fellows. Each year, donor support allows us to recruit the brightest young clinicians from around the world who come to work alongside our world-leading doctors and scientists. While they are here, they assist with both clinical and laboratory research—analyzing disease specimens, gathering and analyzing data required for the running of clinical trials, and helping to prepare scientific papers that our leading investigators submit to high-impact cancer journals. The fellows are helping create the next generation of personalized therapies for leukemia patients.

The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation works together with health care professionals and research scientists, patients, and the community to support breakthrough research, patient care, and education programs at The Princess Margaret. Donors can support The Princess Margaret in many different ways—buying lottery tickets, walking or riding in our major events, supporting our campaigns or making donations in honour of loved ones. If you want to be part of making personalized cancer care medicine possible, check out more patient stories on http://www.thepmcf.ca/Our-Stories.
Amanda Jacques and Nathalia Tanuseputro are registered staff pharmacists who work with you as you undergo your treatment journey as an outpatient or inpatient at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

Amanda, after receiving her pharmacy degree from Dalhousie University, completed specialized training in various clinical areas while at The Ottawa Hospital during a pharmacy residency program. "It was there that my passion in caring for patients with hematological malignancies grew," she says. Inspired in making a difference in leukemia patients as they receive and recover from cancer treatments, she joined Princess Margaret two years ago. She is stationed at one of the inpatient acute leukemia units on the 14th and 15th floors.

Nathalia obtained her pharmacy and honours in computer science degrees from the University of Toronto and joined Princess Margaret five years ago. "My role in the Transfusion Centre allows me to be involved in the patient's cancer journey," says Nathalia, who also donated 13 inches of her hair to the Pantene Beautiful lengths for the making of wigs last year.

Our pharmacists work with you in several ways such as reviewing your medications, counseling you about any changes to your medications or any new chemotherapy treatments, ensuring you comply with your medication regimen, helping you manage the symptoms of chemotherapy treatment-related adverse effects, and identifying any drug interactions among the medications you are taking including antibiotics, or natural health supplements your physician might not have prescribed.

"My role is to meticulously review the patient's medications to assess for safe and effective care. Our pharmacy team works together with the other health care providers to ensure that our patients are receiving optimal chemotherapy treatment," says Nathalia. "In a typical day I work with physicians, nurses, other pharmacists, and allied health care professionals to care for leukemia patients admitted to the inpatient units to receive intensive chemotherapy with medication safety and effectiveness as my main priority," adds Amanda. Their goal is to empower you to learn and understand the medications you are taking so you are aware of the side effects of chemotherapy and related treatments and how to manage possible side effects.

If you have questions or concerns about your treatments or medications, Nathalia and Amanda encourage you to reach out to your healthcare team members, including your pharmacists. They are medication experts who aim to provide the best care possible and want to improve your experience as you undergo your treatment at Princess Margaret.
The time of your diagnosis with leukemia is a period when you have many unknowns, and adjusting to major life changes requires support to accompany your treatment journey at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. During this period, many patients experience a roller coaster of emotions, where at times you may feel discouraged while at other times you feel more hopeful. We are here to help.

Social Workers in the hospital are here to assist you and your family with the practical aspects of coping with your diagnosis and treatment plan. Dealing with the many procedures, medications’ side effects, and the recovery process can be challenging to you, your family and your friends. They are also here to support you with the emotional and psychological issues that arise during your care. As cancer affects everyone around you, we recognize that your family members are also experiencing many of these feelings and may need support.

We have a team of full time social workers who work in the hematology site covering both inpatients (14th and 15th floors) and outpatients (2nd floor hematology clinic, transfusion centre, chemotherapy daycare). Three of these social workers have a primary focus working with leukemia patients.

Social Workers are here to help you, as well as your family and caregiver from the time of your diagnosis through every stage of your treatment and recovery. They are able to help you with your practical concerns such as:

- Prescription drug coverage
- Accessing income support programs which you may be eligible for
- Transportation Resources
- Accommodation
- Advanced care planning
- Supporting parents and families with children
- Accessing resources & support programs in your community
- Communication with your team & navigating the health system

If you want more information, ask your treatment team for a social work referral or contact Psychosocial Oncology at 416-946-4525.

Meet our social workers from left to right: Margo Kennedy, Rhonda Kibrick-Lazear, Nicole Furey, Jenny Shaheed, Sarah Wood.
Join thousands of cyclists of all abilities on June 11 & 12, 2016 in the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer benefiting Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. This epic two day 200+KM cycling journey will take you throughout Ontario’s countryside between Toronto and Niagara Falls and has multiple routes to choose from.

The Ride is fully supported before, during and after the event. This is truly an experience you will never forget and one that will see you raising funds for Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, one of the top 5 research centres in the world. So why not grab a friend and join Canada’s largest cycling fundraiser!

The 4th Annual JOURNEY TO CONQUER CANCER—RUN/WALK 5K on Sunday June 19th, 2016

Run or walk in support of Leukemia Research at the Princess Margaret! With no fundraising minimums, participants are encouraged to raise as much as they can with all the funds raised going to the amazing work in Leukemia Cancer Research.

The family friendly route passes by the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre with 5km, 3km and 1km options, with food and entertainment at the after party and along the route.

For further information, please contact:

Keith Clarke, Manager, Special Events
416.946.4617
e-mail: keith.clarke@thepmcf.ca
www.runorwalk.ca

The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation

The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation raises and stewards funds to support the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, one of the top 5 cancer research centres in the world. The Princess Margaret is a comprehensive cancer centre that offers full suite of services at the community, regional, provincial and international levels, and is a key resource for complex cancer care spanning the continuum from diagnosis to palliation and survivorship across disease sites. Philanthropy is critical to making this possible.

For more information on how you can help support our leukemia program at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, please contact:

Anthony Keating, Campaign Director
Tel: 416-946-2138.
e-mail: anthony.keating@thepmcf.ca
www.thepmcf.ca

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