



Windsor Cancer Research Group

CURES

Lisa Porter, PhD

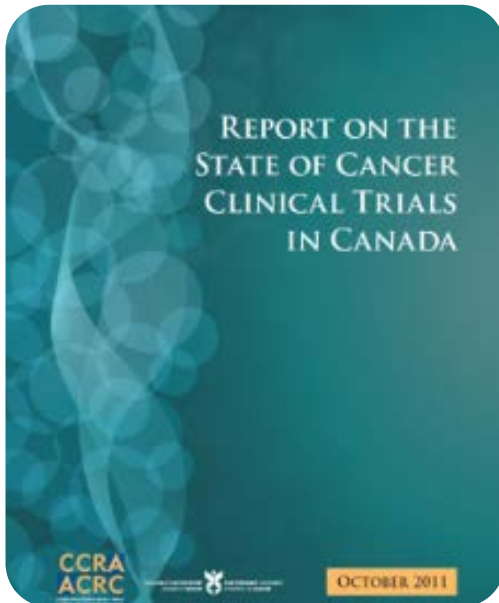
Professor, University of Windsor

Translational Research Director, WCRG



Cutting Edge Healthcare Depends on Research

- Access to cutting edge technologies and infrastructure
- A positive environment that provides hope
- Recruitment and retention of health care professionals
- Novel training opportunities



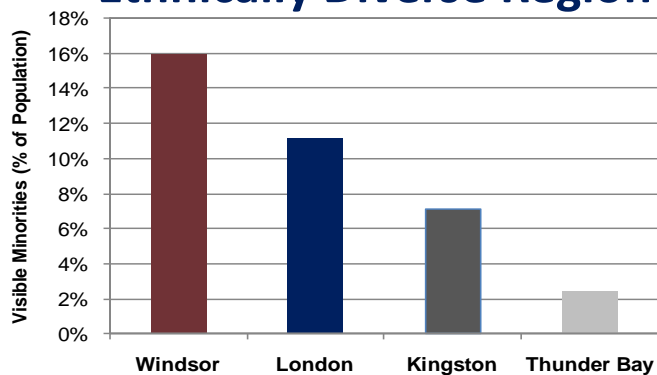
*“Improved outcomes for
patients treated in institutions
with an active clinical
research programs”*



Erie St. Clair LHIN



Ethnically Diverse Region



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006

Consequences of Shift Work:

- › Blood Sugar Imbalance and Diabetes
- › Inhibited Mental Performance
- › Increased Risk of Injury & Accidents
- › Hormone Imbalances
- › Weight Gain
- › Digestive Disorders
- › Depression
- › Anxiety
- › Chronic Fatigue

DRJOCKERS.COM

WORKING FOR HEALTH

Strong Networks Depend on Strong Partners





Healthcare Visioning W-E Region

- 2009 WRH consultation “unequivocal appetite for health research in Windsor-Essex, particularly in the area of cancer”
- Assembly of regional cancer researchers WRH & UofW
- Windsor Cancer Research Group (WCRG)
- Official Launch 2012

Local cancer care group comes together



CHRIS THOMPSON, WINDSOR STAR

[More from Chris Thompson, Windsor Star](http://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/CHRIS-THOMPSON-WINDSOR-STAR) (HTTP://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/CHRIS-THOMPSON-WINDSOR-STAR)

Published on: November 19, 2012 | Last Updated: November 19, 2012 4:30 PM EST



WCRG Vision

A united community bridging
cutting edge research with world-
class cancer care





Strategic Priorities



- Enhance the quantity and quality of regional cancer research



- Increase the acquisition and utilization of infrastructure



- Support training and professional development



- Empower our community through education and engagement

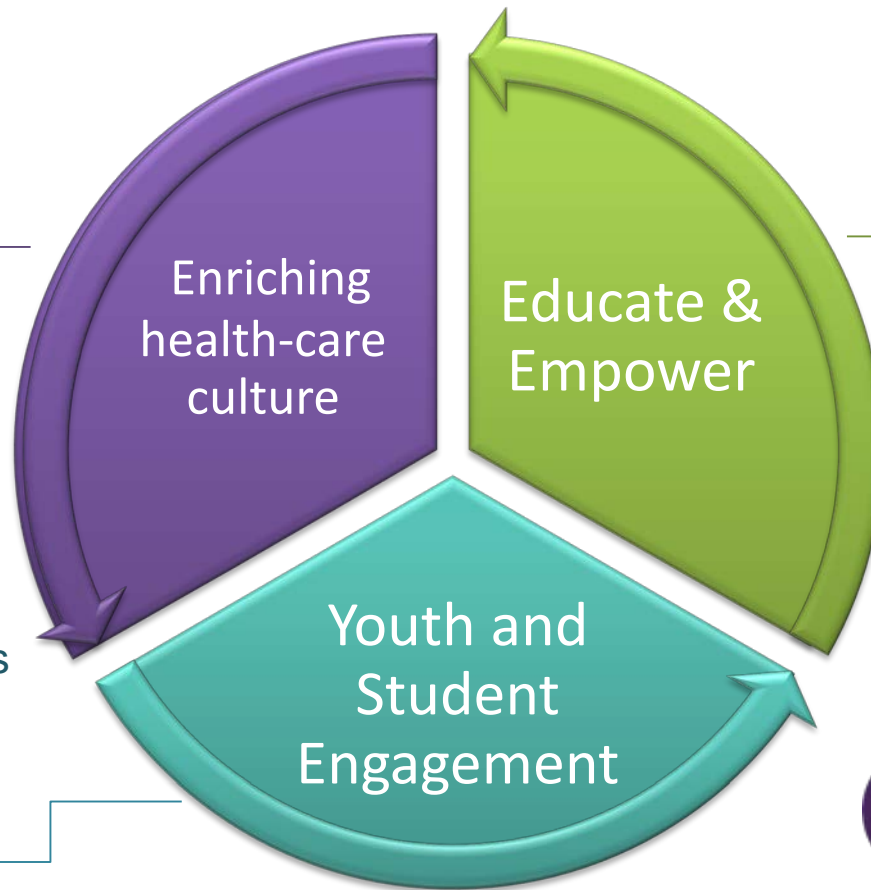


Cancer Smart Community

Translating and connecting cancer research to empower the Windsor-Essex community.

- Bringing together research teams
- Professional development

- Novel training programs with a focus on cancer research
- Getting youth/adolescence engaged



- Supporting patients through their journey
- Empowering Windsor Essex community through education



Professional Development

Biennial Cancer Research Conference: 2012, 2014, 2016

- **480** Participants
- **24** institutions represented
- **181** speakers and presenters





2018 Cancer Research Conference

November 17, 2018

Registration Open!

Windsor
Cancer
Research
Group

4th International Cancer Research Conference

November 17, 2018

*A forum to showcase, connect and strengthen cancer
research excellence.*



**Caesars Windsor Convention Centre
Windsor – Ontario – Canada**

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Jacqueline Sara Jeruss
University of Michigan

Invited Speakers

Dr. Juliet Daniel, McMaster University
Dr. Trevor Shepherd, Western University
Dr. Sophia Lunt, Michigan State University
Dr. Paula Foster, Western University
Dr. Meredith Irwin, Hospital for Sick Children

Call for abstracts and registration www.windsorcancerresearch.ca



Enhance Collaboration

Think Tanks: Moving Ideas Forward



Updates about grant & research opportunities



Think Tanks

Moving Ideas Forward



3 – 5 minute 'pitches' for a research idea



Think Tanks

Moving Ideas Forward



Small Group Discussion – Goal oriented



Think Tank Outcomes

Moving Ideas Forward

- **11** Think Tanks; **33** presentations
- **151** different individuals: representing **5** hospitals, **8** universities/colleges, **6** industrial partners
- Cancer grants submitted - more than **TRIPLED!**
- **75** active research collaborations



Engaging Youth & Trainees

- Graduate students
- SWORP
- Fellows
- RIOT (Graduate student outreach)
- CURES (Cancer Undergraduate Research Education Students)





Unique Training Opportunities

CURES (Cancer Undergraduate Research Education Students)

October 2017



- **48** students
- Training workshop, introductory package & website
- Ran **14** outreach events
- Created **15** educational tools

cures
Cancer Undergraduate Research & Education Students

CURE 03-03-375

(Cancer Undergraduate Research Education)



- **42** students
- Learn cancer biology and cancer research
- Conduct ethical fundraising and outreach
- Develop communication skills
- Learn about non-profit; marketing science/research
- Move forward community outreach and translation of research #wcrgCURES



CURE Projects

CURUS

- WCRG radio program & music video
- Textbook on cancer education and outreach
- Resource to outline available support programs and research into better supporting cancer patients
- Research project on how to use social media effectively to reach different age groups
- Childrens book about cancer research



**The youth is the hope of
our future.**

Jose Rizal



**Logic will get you from A to
B. Imagination will take you
everywhere.**

Albert Einstein



Cancer Education Day

currs

Cancer Undergraduate Research & Education Students

December 18th





Outreach: Newsletters

WCRG Matters & The Bridge

December 2017



WCRG Matters

A newsletter to keep members and partners informed.

Summer 2017

Vol. 11



The Bridge

connecting research and hope

As we enjoy the summer months and prepare for a busy Fall, we would like to thank all our supporters for their continued commitment to the Windsor Cancer Research Group's vision: A united community bridging cutting edge research with world-class cancer care.

- Biannual community newsletter distributed to **556**
- Bimonthly members newsletter distributed to **339**
- Want on our mailing list? Contact Karen!
- Send events you want posted!
- All newsletters are on our website



Social Media Campaign

Facebook and Twitter - Instagram in progress!



@WindsorCRG



WCRG

@WindsorCRG

Following

It was our pleasure to host **#survivor** Dereck and his sister Morgyn today as part of **@WindsorCCF** Researcher for a Day. Research is **#hope**. **@ScienceUWindsor** **@ScienceMin** **@JustinTrudeau**



Brain Tumour Fdn @BrainTumourFdn

Windsor Cancer Research Group hosting Jr. Researcher for the Day with **#BrainTumour** **#Survivor** Dereck and his sister Morgyn **@WindsorCRG**



WCRG Researcher SNAPDShot

SNAPD Magazine

MARCH

Dr. Ken Schneider



WCRG RESEARCHER SNAPSHOT

Dr. Ken Schneider
B.Sc., MD., FRCPC
Chief, Department of Oncology,
Windsor Regional Hospital
What is your research focus?

As a practicing radiation oncologist treating a broad spectrum of cancers for 25 years, the importance of integrating research into clinical practice cannot be understated. My main focus has been as a clinical investigator in clinical trials for breast, gynecologic, head and neck cancer as well as tumors of the brain. Optimizing radiation treatment dosing

schedules in breast cancer, treating with lesser intensive treatment for lower aggressiveness head and neck cancers, and radiation boost trials for highly aggressive brain cancers are examples. Most of these trials are randomized Phase III studies that compare current standard treatment to new treatment approaches and evaluate for improved outcomes. Results in clinical cancer research can take several years, but the benefits can change practice and lead to significant improvements for patients. I am a member of the NCI and RTOG Clinical Trials Institutes who oversee large scale clinical trials within cancer treatment programs across Canada.

What do you do in your spare time?

The scope of professional life as a physician leaves the word 'spare time' out of your vocabulary. However, one must make time for the things that are just as important... family, friends, personal well-being and maybe even a hobby. Music and being a life long musician has enriched my life in ways not meant to be captured in words. It's more a feeling that remains part of one's essence.

What do you hope the impact of your work will be?

Cancer prevention will remain crucial, understanding the biology of cancer will lead us forward and refining treatment through translational and clinical research will shape our futures. To be a small part of that would rock!



wrcg@uwindsor.ca
519-996-6105
windsorcancerresearch.ca

MAY

Dr. John Trant



WCRG RESEARCHER SNAPSHOT

John F. Trant
Ph.D.

What is your research focus?

My research focuses on making new, very stable, versions of natural molecules like sugars and amino acids for developing new therapies for cancer and autoimmune diseases. Our work combines molecular architecture with cancer biology and advanced computing methods, and could help us develop whole new ways of treating prostate cancer and multiple sclerosis.

Tell us something about you that might surprise us?

I have my Sommelier certification, and am very happy to be here in the heart of the Erie North Shore wine region; chemistry and wine make a wonderful combination.

When do you get your best research ideas?

Normally at a conference. I have a short attention span, but during the less engaging talks my mind starts to wander in odd directions and makes new connections I had never previously considered. I can't seem to reproduce the effects anywhere else, maybe it is just something about the environment with all the 'sciencey' talk flowing around.

What motivates you to do what you do?

A combination of curiosity and rage. Both cancer and autoimmune diseases happen mostly because our own cells misbehave rather than because we are being invaded by a virus or bacterium. How this happens, and how we can design and make the molecules we need, is very complicated. It's fascinating and inspires creativity. But I also am really angry at these diseases, and anger is an excellent fuel to get you up in the morning and to motivate you to push through the research challenges.



wrcg@uwindsor.ca
519-996-6105
windsorcancerresearch.ca

AUGUST

Ms. Krista Naccarato



WCRG RESEARCHER SNAPSHOT

Krista Naccarato
B.Sc., B.Ed., CCRP

Coordinator, Cancer Program Clinical Trials
Windsor Regional Hospital

What is your role in research in our community?

All of my work takes place at the Windsor Regional Hospital Cancer Program. I am currently the Business Program Coordinator for the Clinical Trials Department. The main part of my job is focused on ensuring that our

department is successful in offering patients access to clinical trials as treatment options. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes regulatory work that is involved as well as ensuring all of our staff are compliant with regulations set out by Health Canada and Good Clinical Practice. I started in this field as a student in the Clinical Research office, then I became a study coordinator which I really enjoyed; I did that for 13 years before moving into my current role in July of 2015.

What advice would you give to students who are interested in cancer research?

For students specifically interested in Clinical Research, I would suggest that they investigate what part of the spectrum of this field they are interested in most – it covers a wide range of possibilities. They may have an idea of what Clinical Research means but will discover that it encompasses everything from bench science, to drug development, to creating study protocols and managing them, to applying the clinical trial protocol at the patient level while ensuring safety and good data collection (that is what we do here).

What do you do in your spare time?

I love to travel and spend time with family and my two dogs. I like to challenge myself. I've been sky diving, scuba diving, and ran two Marathons.



wrcg@uwindsor.ca
519-996-6105
windsorcancerresearch.ca

NOVEMBER

Dr. Josée Jarry



WCRG RESEARCHER SNAPSHOT

Josée L. Jarry
Ph.D., C.Psych.

Associate Professor, Department of
Psychology, University of Windsor

What is your research focus?

I study the psychological benefits of Ashanga yoga which is an integrated spiritual and physical practice. Its spirituality is cultivated through its physical practice on the mat. It also is an ethical system that guides our conduct in the world. It has profoundly transformed my life, how I relate to myself and to others. I study how Ashanga yoga can help others.

When do you get your best research ideas?

On the mat, when my practice is especially beneficial, I reflect on what might have made it so, and then I want to find the answers!

What do you hope the impact of your work will be?

I find myself surprisingly ambitious with this new line of research, something I never truly experienced before. I am passionate about it. I hope to bring the simple, non-chemical and completely accessible practice to as many people as possible to improve their wellbeing, both psychological and physical. I want to study the benefits of Ashanga yoga in as many populations as possible: people with different forms of cancer, with depression and anxiety, with chronic pain, with addiction, etc. We know very little about the power of 'brain management' practices. We have forgotten them in favour of synthetic chemistry. But our behaviour has the power to modify our chemistry.

What motivates you to do what you do?

My wish to 'do good'. We all are part of a community, living together. We either can be an asset to each other or a hindrance. We can do so much more when we help each other. I hope that my work can be experienced by others as an asset, that it can contribute to their happiness and can help give life meaning.



wrcg@uwindsor.ca
519-996-6105
windsorcancerresearch.ca



14 Annual Outreach Events

Researcher Showcase



Lets Talk Cancer



Cancer Education Days



**Fac. of Sci
PASS**



**Science
Rendezvous**



**Halloween
Open House**



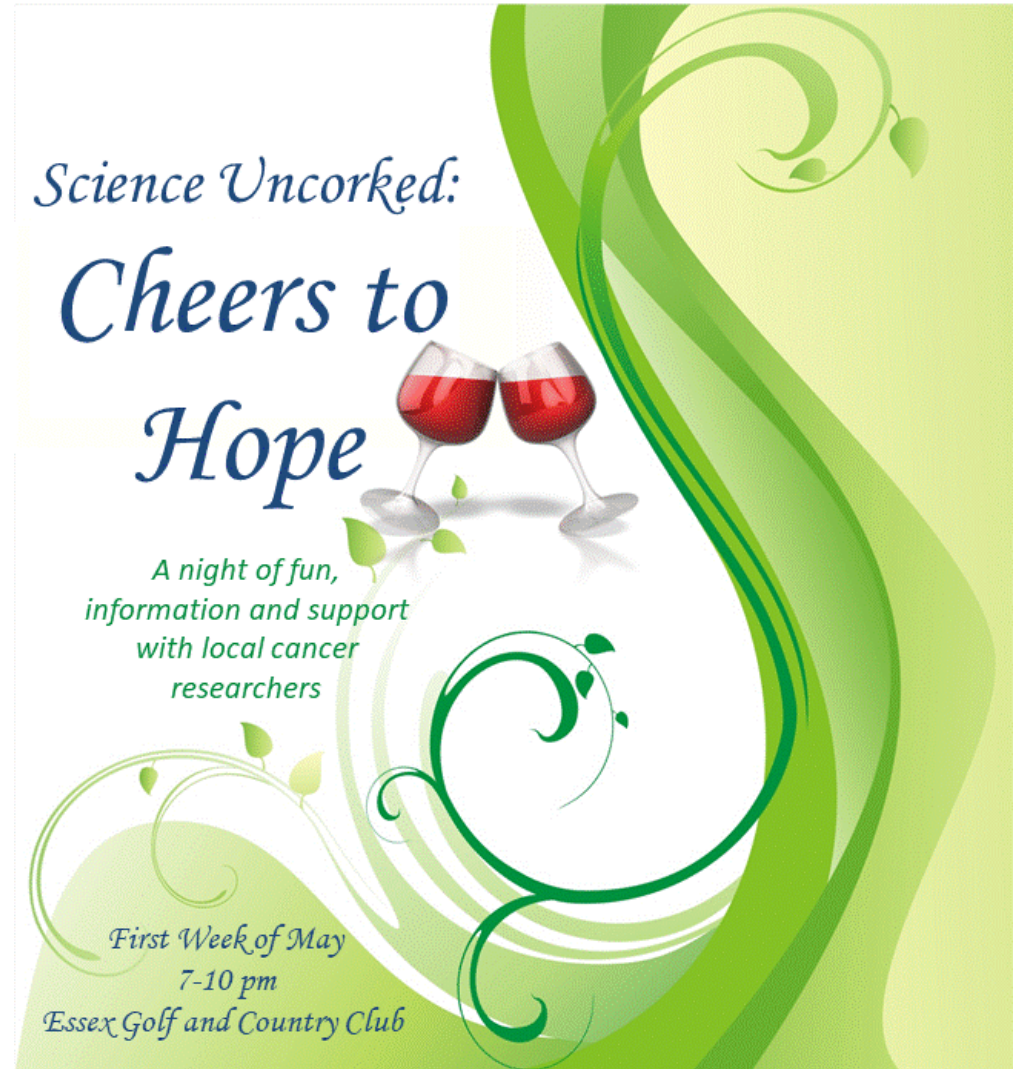


Cheers to Hope



University
of Windsor
Faculty of Science

- 140 attendees
- 12 CURES volunteers
- Recognized 2 'Ambassadors of Hope'





Researcher for a Day

Pilot in November 2017 (Lead: Youshaa El-Abed)



- Empower children/youth and their families through their cancer journey and encourage them to be research ambassadors
- Covered by AM800, CBC, CTV, UWindsor Daily News, WRH and Windsor Parent Magazine
- International distribution



Community Input WCRG



Youshaa El-Abed

*Undergraduate Student,
Biological Sciences*

CURES Lead Volunteer

“I owe the WCRG a huge thank you for an invaluable experience and the opportunity to work with local physicians and researchers. Being part of this group has been incredibly rewarding and has undoubtedly enhanced my pursuit for a career in medicine.”



Community Input WCRG



*Owner, snapd Windsor
Cancer Survivor*

Jeff Casey

“The WCRG is a leader in our community. What sets them apart is their strong dedication to cancer research combined with a desire and willingness to collaborate with anyone interested in moving forward. So many organizations work in silos, not WCRG. They have built a strong base within our community and beyond. As a member of this community, a business owner and a cancer survivor I am proud of what they have accomplished thus far and can’t wait to see what they are able to do in the future.”



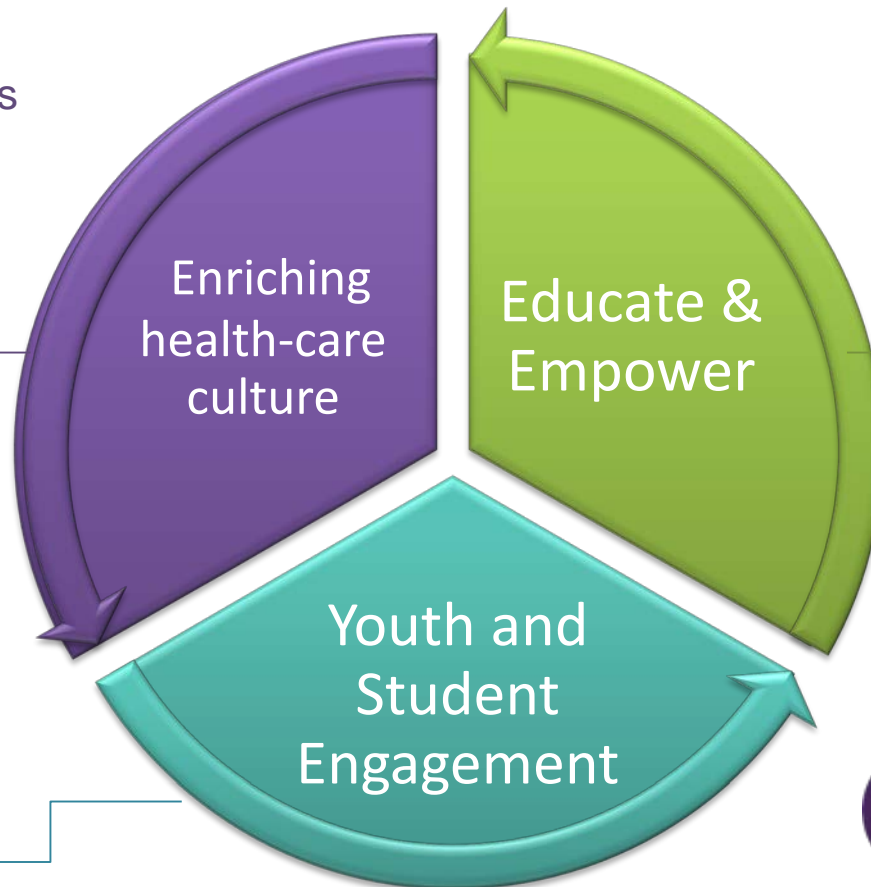
Cancer Smart OUTCOMES

Translating and connecting cancer research to empower the Windsor-Essex community.

2017 metrics

- **360** members
- **75** active collaborations
- **34** research grants
- **13** clinical trials
- **152** publications
- **\$3,200,000** funding

- **155** student trainees
- **CURES/RIOT** teams mobilized
- **1** undergraduate course launched
- **90** CURE trainees



- **14** Annual Events
- **15** Educational Activities
- Community newsletters
- Social media



Cancer Smart Community

- Invigorated health research environment
- Trustworthy and valued research and innovation
- Engaged research community motivated to tell their stories
- Community that is informed and educated about the value of cancer research





Elevating Partnership Potential

- Establishing Erie St. Clair LHIN as a strong health research partner
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Working together to tackle regional healthcare challenges





Thank-you for your attention

Acknowledgement

Caroline Hamm, Clinical Director WCRG
Karen Metcalfe, Assistant Director WCRG
Dora Cavallo-Medved, Outreach WCRG
WCRG executive
CURE & RIOT students

Special Thanks

Faculty of Science
Caesars Windsor
WCRG Donors



University
of Windsor

