

# Public Interest Group on Cancer Research

## Newsletter

January 2024

Newfoundland and  
Labrador



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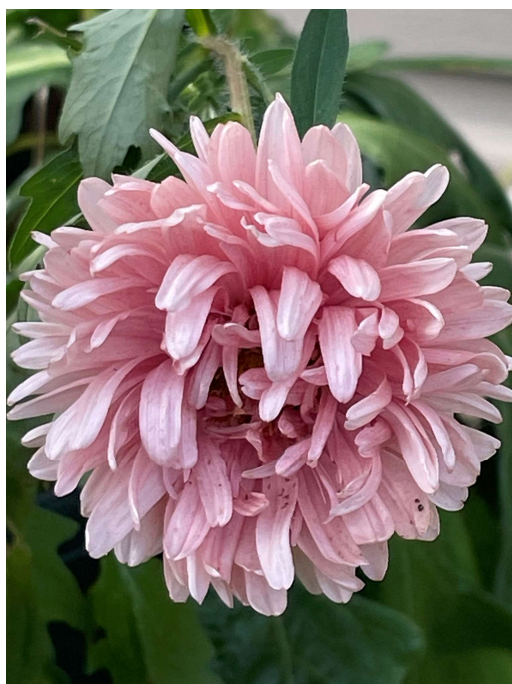
## ***What is The Public Interest Group on Cancer Research?***

*Public Interest Group on Cancer Research* was created in 2021.

It currently consists of:

- 11 cancer patient and family member reps from NL
- three scientists from Memorial University (Drs. Sevtap Savas, Holly Etchegary) and NL Health Services (Dr. Cindy Whitten).

It is a very successful public – scientist partnership.



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*“The Public Interest Group of Cancer Research focuses on:*

*creating and disseminating public and scholarly knowledge globally;*

*identifying patient priorities;*

*providing consultations;*

*organizing public events;*

*acting as advisory board and patient partners in research projects;*

*helping training next generation scientists;*

*and*

*advocacy on behalf of cancer-affected individuals and families.”*

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## ***Why did we create The Public Interest Group on Cancer Research?***

Our primary motivation is to make a positive difference in the lives of cancer patients and families from Newfoundland and Labrador.

We formed this group in 2021, in order to establish partnerships with cancer patients and families & to work together on public engagement and research projects on cancer. In 2022, we extended our work to advocacy.

We strive to make cancer a public knowledge and conversation topic.

For this purpose, we constantly increase our community involvement and knowledge exchange activities.

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*“Increasing personal knowledge is great, increasing our collective knowledge is even better”*

Mike Warren, Newfoundland and Labrador

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*“We constantly diversify and disseminate our work. In 2023, we published one scholarly manuscript and made two conference presentations. We also made two presentations to help train next generation cancer scientists from Atlantic Canada and beyond. We received funding for two new public engagement projects as well. Our group members were significant players in all of these. Many of our members are also actively involved in research projects on cancer as patient partners/investigators. Last but not least, we created a Facebook page and our lead Dr. Savas started to post short video sessions on cancer on her Youtube channel.”*

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### ***What did our Group achieve in 2023?***

2023 was another exciting year for us!

We have grown so much and will continue to do so.

We have an impressive list of scholarly, community outreach, and advocacy activities.

If you are interested in our group’s work, please do not hesitate to contact us!

### ***Contact us***

We are dedicated to work with you on cancer-related matters.

Please contact Sevtap Savas, PhD., [savas@mun.ca](mailto:savas@mun.ca); 709-864 6507.

Twitter: [@savaslab](https://twitter.com/savaslab)

Blue Sky: [@savaslab.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/savaslab.bsky.social)

Mastodon: [mstdn.ca/@savaslab](https://mstdn.ca/@savaslab)

Youtube: [@svtsvs3500](https://www.youtube.com/@svtsvs3500)

Website: [www.strength-in-community.ca](http://www.strength-in-community.ca)

Facebook (Public Interest Group): <https://t.ly/hXv5v>

**Check our manuscript published in 2023 about  
the Public Conference on Cancer:**



Original Article

OPEN

**Designing and delivering public engagement activities together with patient partners: The experience of Public Conference on Cancer**

Sevtap Savas<sup>a,b,c,d,\*</sup>, Alicia Follett<sup>a</sup>, Derrick Bishop<sup>d,e</sup>, John King<sup>d,e</sup>, Janine Taylor-Cutting<sup>d,e</sup>, Tristan Bilash<sup>f</sup>, Holly Etchegary<sup>c,d</sup>, Cindy Whitten<sup>d,g</sup>, Teri Stuckless<sup>b,h</sup>



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*“We not only engage with the community at-large and stakeholders in the province, but we also widely disseminate every new knowledge that we gain by working together. Not only locally, but also globally. Not only as public knowledge, but also as scholarly knowledge.”*

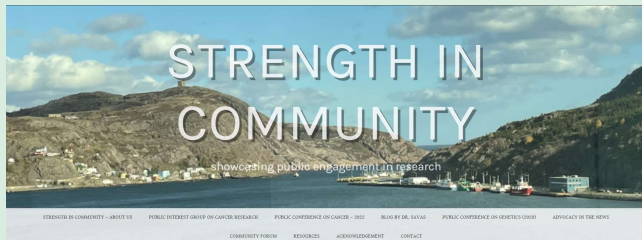
*Sevtap Savas & John King.*

*[Telegram](#) 2023*

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Visit our website for further info about our activities

<https://strength-in-community.ca/public-interest-group-on-cancer/>



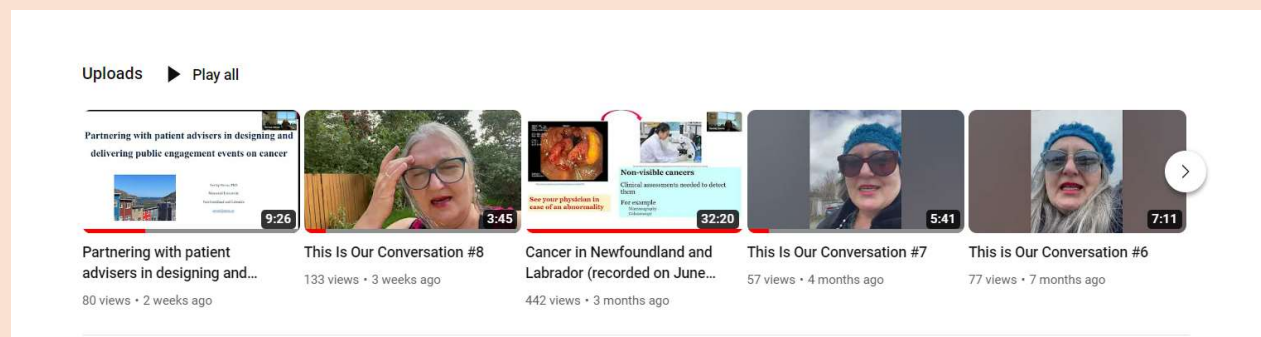
Follow our Group's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091512880404>



Visit our lead's YouTube channel for brief videos on cancer

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXbxJgA17fSKj9HSofbmTsg>





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*“In 2023, our group successfully worked on a robust and **comprehensive public outreach strategy on cancer** and organized two town halls. This project was co-led by John King – a public member - and Sevtap Savas – our lead.”*

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## **Acknowledgments**

Our group is funded by the Office of Public Engagement, Memorial University & supported by NLSUPPORT for the 4<sup>th</sup> year! 😊

## ***Did you know?***

So far, we published two scholarly manuscripts together with our patient partners

*Read them here:*

1. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-022-00380-8>
2. [https://journals.lww.com/jporp/fulltext/2023/07000/designing\\_and\\_delivering\\_public\\_engagement.6.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jporp/fulltext/2023/07000/designing_and_delivering_public_engagement.6.aspx)

We presented our work at Memorial, and national and international **academic conferences** in 2022 and 2023

We regularly **present our work** and **advocate** on behalf of patients and families through radio interviews and media articles

*See them here:* <https://strength-in-community.ca/in-the-news/>

We have a **website** that posts information about our activities and guest blog posts

*Visit our website:* <https://strength-in-community.ca/public-interest-group-on-cancer/>

Our group were and can be **consulted** about research studies and patient education topics

Our members **act as project leads** and **patient partners/investigators**