



MARATHON OF HOPE CANCER CENTRES NETWORK
RÉSEAU DES CENTRES D'ONCOLOGIE DU MARATHON DE L'ESPOIR

Marathon of Hope - Atlantic Cancer Consortium

Date: March 31, 2024

Re: Year-end Summary (Year 1)

Dear Marathon of Hope - Atlantic Cancer Consortium members,

Late 2023 has been an exciting time for us, the Atlantic Cancer Consortium Patient Advisory Committee (ACC PAC). We officially started the project, hired a talented coordinator, and started recruiting public members for the ACC PAC in November 2023.

I am happy to say that in January 2024 we formed an initial committee with eight public members from NB, NL, and NS. We were able to recruit four more members later, increasing diversity, inclusion and geographic representation (including P.E.I representation). The current committee is comprised of 15 members, including the project coordinator (Aaron Curtis), Angela Hyde (MD, PhD, an oncologist), and myself (a cancer scientist).

The ACC PAC started to meet virtually in January 2024. So far, the committee has finalized its Terms of Reference, had three virtual meetings, and started identifying patient and family priorities in the Atlantic region with a focus on cancer and precision medicine. The committee has also started to work on the ***Public Conference on Cancer*** that we plan to organize for Atlantic Canadians by March 2025.

The ACC PAC is an enthusiastic team. This is evident not only from the fast progress in operations of this committee, but also from two conference abstracts we have created in 2024 – one for the [ARCC](#) conference and one for the [CANO](#) conference. Pleased to say that our ARCC abstract is accepted for oral presentation. One of our advisors is interested in co-presenting the CANO abstract - should our abstract be accepted - which is another exciting news.

Last but not least, we have also connected with the lead of the Patient Working Group of the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network. We exchanged our aims and offered collaborations and support for future activities.

Moving forward, the ACC PAC aims to sustain its diversity and inclusiveness; continue to represent Atlantic Canadians; and be a productive public-scientist partnership organizing public events and supporting ACC investigators and trainees in their research projects, all for the goal of benefiting the population at-large, particularly the cancer-affected individuals, families, and communities in Atlantic Canada.

On behalf of the ACC PAC,

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The ACC PAC project is funded as part of The Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network led by the Terry Fox Research Institute and the Terry Fox Foundation and made possible with support from the Government of Canada and over 30 member institutions across the country. Specific funders can be found at www.marathonofhopecancercentres.ca under the Atlantic Cancer Consortium. We gratefully acknowledge the valuable assistance by NLSUPPORT and Maritime SPOR Support Unit during the ACC PAC member recruitment process.