

Newsletter

Public Interest Group on Cancer Research

**NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR**

Issue 3 – January 2025



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WHAT IS THE PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP ON CANCER RESEARCH?

Public Interest Group on Cancer Research is a very successful public – scientist partnership focusing on cancer in Newfoundland and Labrador.

It currently consists of:

- ten cancer patient and family member reps from NL

- three scientists from Memorial University (Dr. Sevtap Savas, Dr. Holly Etchegary) and NL Health Services (Dr. Cindy Whitten)



Our key goals are:

- creating and disseminating public and scholarly knowledge globally
- advocacy on behalf of cancer-affected individuals and families
- identifying patient priorities
- providing consultations
- organizing public events
- reaching out to wider public and exchanging knowledge
- acting as advisory board and patient partners in research projects
- helping to train next generation scientists
- connecting different stakeholders
- creating space for exchange of ideas and solutions



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

WHAT DID OUR GROUP ACHIEVE IN 2024?

- We published two scholarly manuscripts and made one conference presentation
- We launched our own podcast currently with 16 episodes
- We received funding for the 5th year to keep doing what we are doing!
- We organized a public event on transgender individuals and their lived cancer experience and cancer care
- We wrote media articles and radio interviews to disseminate knowledge about our activities and to advocate
- Many of our members are actively involved in all of this work, in addition to research projects on cancer as patient partners or investigators

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST!

THE PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP ON CANCER RESEARCH PODCAST

JOIN US!



OUR HOSTS

This podcast is hosted by community members (Jason Wiseman, Janine Taylor-Cutting), project coordinator (Kayla Crichton), and cancer scientist (Sevtap Savas, PhD) in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

OUR THEMES

In this podcast series, we talk with our guests about cancer, cancer care, cancer lived experiences, cancer research and advocacy



OUR GUESTS

In Season 1, we spoke with 18 guests mostly from Newfoundland and Labrador. They included people with lived experience, leaders and advocates, researchers and healthcare providers

FIND US ON SPOTIFY

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0dty5nEXGPNOcpp6l3t11I>



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP ON CANCER RESEARCH

[HTTPS://STRENGTH-IN-COMMUNITY.CA/PUBLIC-INTEREST-GROUP-ON-CANCER/](https://strength-in-community.ca/public-interest-group-on-cancer/)

<https://open.spotify.com/show/odty5nEXGPNOcpp6l3t11I>

DID YOU KNOW?

Since our inception in 2021:

- We published four **scholarly manuscripts**
 1. <https://shorturl.at/fGFno>
 2. <https://shorturl.at/AjHjS>
 3. <https://shorturl.at/kNqUX>
 4. <https://shorturl.at/fHR2L>
- We presented at local, national and international **academic conferences and events** every year
- We **presented our work** and **advocate** on behalf of patients and families through media
See them here: <https://strength-in-community.ca/in-the-news/>
- We established 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 members have been **acting as project leads** and **patient partners/investigators**
- We **organized** two public events and two public townhalls
- We launched **our own podcast**

OUR COMMITMENT

In everything we do, we keep patients, families, and communities affected by cancer in our heart and mind



If you would like to join our group, or have comments or questions, please contact:

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

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

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