



MARATHON OF HOPE CANCER CENTRES NETWORK

RÉSEAU DES CENTRES D'ONCOLOGIE DU MARATHON DE L'ESPOIR

Marathon of Hope - Atlantic Cancer Consortium

Date: April 10, 2025

Re: Year-end Summary (Year 2)

Dear Marathon of Hope - Atlantic Cancer Consortium members,

The ACC Patient Advisory Committee (ACC PAC) has had a successful and exciting Year 2 (April 2024-March 2025).

The ACC PAC has worked very productively during this time frame. Notable achievements are:

- Identifying patient and family priorities regarding cancer and Precision Medicine in Atlantic Canada
- Organizing and delivering a public conference (*Cancer is Personal: Humanizing Precision Medicine in Atlantic Canada*) on March 15, 2025
- Presenting the ACC PAC in a national conference ([ARCC](#), May 2024) and getting another abstract accepted for presentation at the [CAPO](#) annual conference (April 2025)
- Connecting with and / or reporting back to community via local media articles and radio interviews¹

I am so proud of the hard and impactful work of this team.

I am also very proud to say that the [manuscript](#)² describing formation of the ACC PAC and the priorities identified by the ACC PAC is published in the *Discover Health System* journal. We invite you to read this article to learn more about ACC PAC's work and patient and family perspectives in Atlantic Canada.

The priorities identified also informed the public conference that we delivered. This whole day virtual event has attracted 255 registrants. Speakers included patients, family members, healthcare providers, researchers, and advocates (24 speakers, four of whom also acted as moderators), mostly from the Atlantic region. The organizing committee, conference moderators, and speakers included ACC PAC patient advisors. We were honored that our special guest, Darrell Fox, delivered the closing keynote speech.

Overall, it was an impactful public event with high participant engagement and efficient exchange of beneficial knowledge with members of the general public. It also helped initiate new and strengthen our existing regional collaborations, presented beneficial knowledge in one place for people who may need it, and gave hope, pride, and joy to organizers and participants. The feedback we received about this public conference has also been overwhelmingly positive.

Note that most conference speeches were recorded in real-time and are made publicly accessible here: <https://shorturl.at/ZvxHD>. There is also a summary of the conference talks at the MOHCCN website (<https://shorturl.at/9wIIK>). Please help spread a word about them within your circles.

As we enter our 3rd and final year, we are more excited than before to keep working together, put the patient and family voices at the heart of everything we do, and disseminate our work and learnings in public and scholarly settings.

The ACC PAC currently has 11 patient advisors, one clinician-scientist (Dr. Angela Hyde), one coordinator (Georgia Skardasi), one volunteer coordinator (Aaron Curtis), and myself (cancer scientist / lead).

On behalf of the ACC PAC,

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¹Media articles and interviews (April 2024 – March 2025)

- a) March 2025. Georgia Skardasi. Interview by Paddy Daly – Open Line “*Public Conference – Cancer is Personal: Humanizing Precision Medicine in Atlantic Canada*” <https://omny.fm/shows/open-line-with-paddy-daly/openline-wednesday-march-12th> between 54.25’ – 1.02.45’
- b) March 2025. Sevtap Savas interviewed by Gerry Lynn Mackey for the Tim Powers Show - VOXM. “*Public Conference - Cancer is Personal: Humanizing Precision Medicine in Atlantic Canada*” <https://omny.fm/shows/timpowers/the-tim-powers-show-friday-march-14th> between 40.20" - 46.16"

- c) March 2025. Sevtap Savas. Interviewed by Jen White, CBC Morning – St. John’s. “*A virtual conference in mid-March is focusing on the human side of cancer research and treatment*” <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-56-st-johns-morning-show/clip/16131711-a-virtual-conference-mid-march-focusing-human-side-cancer> (
- d) Feb 2025. Sevtap Savas, Georgia Skardasi. Saltwire LETTER: “*Public virtual conference to focus on cancer in NL set for March 15*”. <https://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador/letter-public-virtual-conference-cancer-nl>
- e) May 2024. Aaron Curtis, Sevtap Savas. “*Knowledge, experience, and perspectives – Public – scientist partnership taking precise aim at cancer in Atlantic Canada*”. Gazette, <https://gazette.mun.ca/public-engagement/knowledge-experience-perspectives/>
- f) April 2024. Aaron Curtis, Sevtap Savas. “*New pan-Atlantic Canada Patient Advisory Committee on precision medicine in cancer*“. Saltwire LETTER <https://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador/opinion/letter-new-pan-atlantic-canada-patient-advisory-committee-on-precision-medicine-in-cancer-100955167/>

²Manuscript describing the formation of ACC PAC and the patient/family priorities that this committee identified

- a) Sevtap Savas, Georgia Skardasi, Aaron Curtis, Beverly Pausche, Jennifer Coish, John King, Cyndi Corbett, Marcelo F. Martinez, Judy Donovan Whitty, Sharon Jennings, Cara MacInnis, Angela Hyde. Cancer, Precision Medicine, and Atlantic Canada: A priority setting exercise by the Atlantic Cancer Consortium Patient Advisory Committee. Discover Health Systems, 4, 27 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44250-025-00201-1>

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