



The Terry Fox Research Institute
L'Institut de recherche Terry Fox

Atlantic Summit Q&A/Backgrounder

What is the Atlantic Summit?

The Atlantic Summit is a one-day series of events to be held in St. John's, Newfoundland on Monday, April 12, 2010. The Summit consists of three major events: an event at the Terry Fox Monument to mark the launch of the Terry Fox Research Institute Atlantic Node, and a research symposium and public dialogue at Memorial University of Newfoundland. The events are being held on the 30th anniversary of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope.

What is the TFRI Atlantic Node?

TFRI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 6 institutions in Atlantic Canada who are partners with the research institute and together they form the node. The MOU sets out how the Institute and the partners will work collaboratively on translational research projects.

Who are the partners to the Atlantic Node?

Memorial University of Newfoundland
Dalhousie University
Atlantic Cancer Research Institute
University of PEI
New Brunswick Cancer Network
University of New Brunswick

Why is it important to have an Atlantic Node?

The creation of an Atlantic node completes TFRI as a truly Pan-Canadian research institute. It links researchers and clinicians in Atlantic Canada with more than 40 partners and 175 scientists and clinicians who are a part of the Terry Fox Research Institute and are working on translational cancer research projects. The node provides an opportunity for Atlantic Canada to participate in national research projects and to benefit from the expertise of cancer experts across the country. It also provides an opportunity to build capacity within the Atlantic Region for translational cancer research and to contribute to improved care for patients within the Atlantic. By raising the profile of TFRI in the Atlantic, the node will encourage the forging of new partnerships and support for cancer care in the region.

How will Atlantic Canadians benefit from this new node?

TFRI is committed to improving research outcomes for cancer patients. Our Atlantic node will contribute to improving cancer outcomes for Atlantic Canadians by building on regional strengths, enhancing regional infrastructure and capacity and providing access to national expertise. We hope our research will make a difference by reducing mortality and improving quality of life for cancer patients in Atlantic Canada and elsewhere.

TFRI also aims to stimulate dialogue from the public on the topics of health care and cancer research, with the goal of changing attitudes towards the current state of cancer care and treatment.

Who funds the TFRI?

The Terry Fox Research Institute was created in October 2007. The Terry Fox Foundation committed a minimum of \$50 million over five years to the institute. Money was drawn from donations raised on the 25th Anniversary of the Marathon of Hope, as well as funds raised since 2005. The Province of British Columbia committed an additional \$30 million to the Institute, with the money going to support the headquarters office and research facilities in Vancouver, B.C. The Institute has leveraged TFF's investment by more than doubling its investment through funding partnerships with the Governments of BC, Alberta and Ontario and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.

What is translational research?

Within the TFRI context, it is research which advances discoveries from the laboratory into the clinical quickly for practical application for cancer patients. It includes research on early detection, diagnosis and treatment and involves scientists and clinicians working together to address a clinical challenge; for example, developing new therapeutics that are less toxic to patients and/or identifying new biomarkers to detect cancer earlier and to treat the disease. For patients, translational research provides an immediate realization of research efforts and a practical solution in the fight against cancer. The Terry Fox Research Institute is one of the few institutions in Canada to focus specifically on this particular area of cancer research, an area which has been underfunded in the past but holds much promise for the future.

What does TFRI do?

A virtual institute TFRI invests in and manages projects in translational cancer research. To date, it has invested \$44,333,445 (including investments by partners (Alberta Cancer Board, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research and Canadian Partnership Against Cancer) in 23 projects across Canada. In addition to working with scientists and clinicians on funded projects, it supports their work by holding scientific conferences, workshops and meetings focused on cancer research. The Institute invests in large, tumor site specific research projects that are translational, milestone-based and engage in team science. The Institute also manages research programs funded by The Terry Fox Foundation.

What are the TFRI Pan-Canadian Dialogues?

The Terry Fox Research Institute is launching a series of dialogues in 2010 to raise awareness of translational research and to inform and educate the Canadian public about innovations in cancer research and the need to move these innovations rapidly from the laboratory into the clinic to benefit cancer patients everywhere. We hope to engage the Canadian public in a discussion from coast to coast about the future of cancer research and care and to contribute to improvements in our health care system that in turn will improve outcomes for patients.

Who are TFRI's partners?

We have more than 42 partners across Canada. A complete list of partners is available on our web site.

For more information about the TFRI, the work we do and the projects we support visit

www.tfri.ca

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