



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

## **Overview**

The Terry Fox Research Institute is the brainchild of the Terry Fox Foundation, and is responsible for managing the Foundation's portfolio of funded research projects. Since its founding in October 2007, The Institute works closely with partner cancer research institutes, health centres and academic research institutions across Canada on a vast portfolio of projects intended to improve the lives of cancer patients worldwide. A virtual institute, TFRI is headquartered in Vancouver and currently has regional nodes in BC, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. Atlantic and Prairie Nodes will be launched in 2010.

## **Goals**

Unlike many other cancer research institutions, The Terry Fox Research Institute focuses on the field of translational research. Scientists with TFRI are actively developing ways to move findings from the lab and into patient clinics. TFRI-funded projects seek use data gained from conventional basic research and develop practical applications for the immediate benefit of patients everywhere. TFRI is one of the few institutes in Canada to focus on translational research, and aims to be a leader in this emerging field in cancer care.

## **Funding and Mandate**

At TFRI's inception in 2007, The Terry Fox Foundation committed a minimum of \$50 million over five years to the Institute to be used for research grants and project collaboration. Those funds came from donations raised during the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, as well as money raised since 2005. The Terry Fox Research Institute uses funding from the TFF to support team-based, milestone-driven translational research and to seamlessly coordinate scientists from across Canada to work together towards applying basic scientific data into clinical solutions. Support from the TFRI originally focused on lung, prostate, breast, ovarian and colon tumor sites, but has since grown to include other cancer-related projects such as multiple myeloma and selective therapies.

As of January 2009, the Institute is responsible for administering the Terry Fox Foundation's entire research portfolio. The Foundation provides \$20 million annually to cancer research projects through operating grants, post-doctoral fellowship awards and New Investigators Research Grants, as well as Terry Fox New Frontiers Program Project Grants that are co-managed with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

**Mission and Vision statement**

**The Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) seeks to improve significantly the outcomes of cancer research for the patient through a highly collaborative, team-oriented, milestone-based approach to research that will enable discoveries to translate quickly into practical solutions for cancer patients worldwide.**

For more information, please visit the TFRI website: [www.tfri.ca](http://www.tfri.ca)

## **Terry Fox Marathon of Hope – The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### **Background**

When Terry Fox was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma – a type of bone cancer – at age 18, he was profoundly moved by his experiences with other cancer patients at the hospital where he was treated. Cancer took its own toll on Terry as doctors were forced to amputate his right leg six inches above the knee, which was the only method of treatment available at the time. Upset by the relative lack of funding that had been committed to cancer research, Terry decided to run across all of Canada – a feat unheard of at the time – to raise funds and awareness for cancer research. On April 12, 1980, he dipped his foot into the Atlantic Ocean in St. John's, Newfoundland and proceeded to run 42 kilometres a day for 143 days, passing through all four Atlantic Provinces, Quebec and Ontario with the intention of reaching the Pacific Ocean. Terry's cancer later remerged and spread to his lungs to end his run outside of Thunder Bay, Ontario, and would eventually take his life on June 28, 1981 at the age of 22. While Terry never managed to complete his run, his legacy of courage and hope for a cure endures.

### **Present**

Thirty years to the day when Terry first began the Marathon of Hope, the Terry Fox Research Institute and Terry Fox Foundation will return to the very spot where he dipped his foot into the Atlantic. April 12, 2010 will mark the TFRI's launch of its Atlantic research node and complete a collaborative network stretching from coast to coast. To date, the Foundation and its annual Terry Fox Run has raised approximately \$500 million dollars that have proven instrumental in countless new discoveries made by cancer researchers. This has resulted in profound improvements in survival rates, treatment methods and quality of life for patients everywhere. The TFRI's Atlantic Summit commemorates thirty years of progress and reaffirms its continuing mission to improve outcomes for both current and future patients.

### **The Summit**

The April 12<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Summit will be comprised of three events held in St. John's throughout the day. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration will kick off with a morning press conference held at Mile Zero of the Marathon of hope, followed by the official launch of TFRI's Atlantic node. The day's events will then shift to the Inco Innovation Centre at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. A researcher's symposium will be held in the afternoon where TFRI scientists will share their current projects to MUN faculty, lab trainees and graduate students. Capping off the Summit will be a public Dialogue session held at the Centre's lecture hall during the evening. The session will feature keynote speakers from local research institutions, health centres and patient groups in an open discussion about several regional cancer care issues and their significance within the Atlantic context.