



Réseau de  
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Cancer  
Network

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# Funding Quality Initiatives: The RCN Cancer Quality & Innovation Program

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**The RCN Research Fund**

# Goals:

- Position **McGill as a leader** in the field of cancer care quality research.
- Allow health professionals **at the point of care** to define and validate innovations in cancer care quality.
- Develop **networks of collaborative research and care** within the McGill oncology community, as the academic complement of the Disease Site Program.
- Strengthen the culture of **evidence-based planning and objective assessment** based on validated metrics.
- Does it work?
  - 1 FRQS
  - 2 CIHR
  - 10 Oral Presentations
  - 15 Poster Presentations
  - 20 Abstracts
  - 5 Published Manuscripts



# Highlights:

- Amount: **\$100,000 / project**
- Cancer care quality defined broadly:
  - More accurate diagnostics and prognostication
  - Better, safer (and often lesser) care
  - Best outcomes
  - Least adverse events
  - Most effective support strategies
- Networks of **collaboration**. across hospitals, specialties, professions
- **External peer review** by recognized oncology health services research experts

**NEXT LAUNCH  
SPRING 2019**



# Common Mistakes:



**Budget Not Appropriate**  
(e.g. exceeds \$100K)



**Quality of Proposal:**

- Unclear Objectives
- Incoherent
- Exceeding # pages



**Weak Methodology or Design**  
(e.g. inadequate sample size, feasibility, measurable outcomes)



**RCN Strategic Priorities**

- Research question/area demonstrates no link



**Research Team:**

- Low collaborative effort between RCN-partner institutions
- Does not include relevant clinical/scientific expertise



**Not Seeking Feedback**

- If you are turned down, please reach out to us!

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# RCN Research Fund 2018: Recipients

Principal Investigator*	Project Title	Partner Sites**
Dr. C. Loiselle	Implementation and testing of a sustainable support program as a complement to an ongoing RCN patient reported outcomes (PROs) initiative	JGH, MUHC, SMHC
Dr. M. Boutros	Impact of patient-centered program for low anterior resection syndrome: a multicenter randomized controlled trial	JGH, MUHC, SMHC
Dr. L. Hendren	Developing & evaluating a mobile application for caregivers	MUHC, SMHC
Dr. R. Forghani	Radiogenomic models with artificial intelligence for detection of nodal micrometastases to reduce unnecessary neck dissections in head and neck cancer patients	JGH, MUHC

\* *The Principal Investigator's affiliation does not necessarily correspond to institution where funds will be spent*

\*\* *Institutions are presented in alphabetical order*



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## The RCN Quality Improvement Initiatives Fund (QI2)

# Quality Improvement Initiatives Fund (QI<sup>2</sup>)

## Goal:

- Support quality improvement projects with a **focus on operational aspect of quality improvement**.
- Key words: Operational, direct impact on patients
- Achieve optimal care and service organization, at the highest quality and safety levels, in a manner that is seamless from the patients' perspective.

## Funding available:

- Up to \$30,000 + support for project management expertise

**NEXT LAUNCH  
WINTER 2018**

## Selection process:

- All applications are reviewed by an internal committee
- Review Committee: Oncology Lead & Nursing Lead, RCN Clinical Lead, RCN Director of Operations and CQI lead



# Common Mistakes:



**Budget Not Appropriate**  
(e.g. exceeds \$30K)



Submitting an  
**Unsustainable Project**



Submitting a Research project **vs** a Quality improvement initiative proposal



Not respecting the  
**12-Month Timeframe**



## Quality of Proposal

- Not highlighting the need for improvement
- Intervention description not clear
- Not having a meaningful impact on patients



## Lacking support from:

- Department Heads
- Key stakeholders



# Completed QI<sup>2</sup> projects

Projects	Lead
Urgent Care Clinics in Oncology: Feasibility Study	E. Cook
Fertility Preservation for Male Cancer Patients	B. Herrero
Comprehensive Adolescent & Young Adult Service Line	Dr P. Kavan
“Start The Talk” Supporting Cancer Patients’ Families	A. Laizner
Improving the quality of bladder cancer patients care across the RCN partner institutions: implementation ERAS protocol for radical cystectomy	Dr. F. Bladou
Integrating medical cannabis into treatment options of supportive care programs	Dr A. Vigano



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## The RCN Kuok Scholarship Fund

# Kuok Scholarship

- **Goal:** Endowment to support graduate scholarships as part of the objectives of the Rossy Cancer Network.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Open to Graduate students engaged in a formal training program at McGill University
  - Open to Masters' and PhD program trainees
  - Field of study must be related to oncology
- **Available funding (2-year period):**
  - \$25,000 /year (PhD)
  - \$17,000 /year (MSc)
- **Selection committee:** Chair of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology, CQI Lead, members of McGill Oncology Community



# Kuok Scholarship

## Current Recipients:

Recipient Name	Training Program	Research Title
S. Kurteva (MUHC)	PhD in Epidemiology	Opioids use after discharge in cancer patients
A. Santerre-Theil (JGH)	MSc in Counseling Psychology	Psycho-oncology: patient-caregiver dynamics in cancer patients.

**NEXT LAUNCH**  
**Summer 2019**





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## The RCN Skills Enhancement Fund

# Skills Enhancement Fund:

- **Goal:** Strategic investments in increasing know-how and specific skills that translate to quality within the RCN oncology workforce.
- **2018 Edition focus:** Oncology Nursing
- RCN recognizes how uniquely positioned **nurses at the frontlines of cancer care** are in enhancing care quality.
  - Direct association:







**Enhancing Oncology  
Nursing Skills**



# Skills Enhancement Fund:

- **Grant Value:** \$1,500 / Recipient
- **Mode of Learning :** combination of self-paced e-learning modules, readings, occasional webcast or in-person workshop and examinations.
- **Next steps:** insuring maximum impact by supporting knowledge transfer within the nursing teams through “Lunch and Learn”.
- **Number of awardees for 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: 130** nurses

	Canadian Vascular Access Association Certification	6
	Foundations in Oncology Nursing Practice	12
	Sexual Health in Cancer	10
	Patient Teaching for Oral Chemotherapy & Biotherapy	10
	Provincial Standardized Biotherapy & Chemotherapy	1
	Certification in Oncology Nursing	23
	Certification in Hospice Palliative Care Nursing	7
	Fundamentals in Blood & Marrow Transplant	61
	<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>

**NEXT LAUNCH  
SPRING 2019**





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**Thank you**