

British Columbia Cancer Agency

Centre for Lymphoid Cancer *Newsletter*

Lymphoma ♦ Leukemia ♦ Myeloma

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dedicated to curing the lymphoid cancers

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BC Cancer Foundation (BCCF) Updates: 2018 Inspiration Gala

The BCCF's 2018 *Inspiration Gala* is raising funds for blood cancer research at BC Cancer on November 3, 2018 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. In the past thirteen years, the *Inspiration Gala* has invested over \$27 million into breakthrough research and enhancements to care. There is an unprecedented opportunity to develop more effective treatments for blood cancers that will improve the standard of care. Philanthropic support through the *Gala* will be the catalyst for change. For more information, please visit:

<https://bccancerfoundation.com/signature-event/inspiration-gala>

Telephone Town Hall: Dr. David Scott- a panel speaker

BCCF is hosting a live and interactive telephone Town Hall on September 6, 2018 at 7pm to share about advancements BC Cancer has made in cancer research and care. Dr. David Scott, co-director of the Centre for Lymphoid Cancer, is one of the expert speakers on the panel. Please contact reply@bccancer.bc.ca for more details.

Share Your Stories with BCCF

BCCF is looking to share stories of hope from patients, survivors and caregivers in our community. Sharing your story can help motivate others to support cancer research and care, helping create a better tomorrow for families facing this disease. For more information, please contact bccfinfo@bccancer.bc.ca.

2nd Annual Patient Conference on Lymphoma: 15 Sept 2018

Lymphoma Canada is hosting an annual patient education forum at Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront (1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC) on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Dr. Laurie Sehn, the Chair of Lymphoma Tumor Group at BC Cancer Centre, will be chairing the conference. Presentations by a panel of leading lymphoma specialists at this event include: the basic biology of lymphoma, current & new treatments, clinical trials, personalized treatment, immunotherapies including CAR-T cell therapy, exercise & lymphoma, and myths & realities of medical marijuana. Disease-specific breakout sessions are planned for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)/small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL), Hodgkin & aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and indolent lymphomas. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and participate in an informal open discussion.

Details about the 2nd Annual Lymphoma Patient Conference can be found:

<https://www.lymphoma.ca/post/vancouver-patient-conference-lymphoma>.

Please register online (by visiting their website above) or phone by dialing 1866-659-5556.

If you have questions regarding this event, please send emails to info@lymphoma.ca.

The Ride to Conquer Cancer: Lymphoma Research Team Fund-Raising

Four members of the Lymphoid Cancer Research Department at BC Cancer Research Centre, Drs. Christian Steidl, David Scott, Stacy Hung and Gerben Duns, have joined forces with members from last year's team, "Gascoyne's Gang", to create a team, "**Blood, Sweat and Cures**" and to raise funds for cancer research by participating in the Ride to Conquer Cancer 2018 event, supported by BCCF. The team is committed to raise in excess of \$25,000 and ride over 200km to Hope, British Columbia on August 25th and 26th, 2018. Raised funds to our team or team members will go directly to support world-class lymphoma research at BC Cancer. If you would like to support our lymphoma research or help our Team, "Blood, Sweat and Cures", achieve the fund raising goal, please visit the link below:

<https://ride.conquercancer.ca/vancouver/>

Team Introduction: "Blood, Sweat and Cures"

Dr. Christian Steidl:

The Research Director of the Centre for Lymphoid Cancer (CLC) at BC Cancer, and Department Head of Lymphoid Cancer Research, is excited to take part in the Ride to Conquer Cancer for the third time. During his Rides in 2016 and 2017 he felt humbled and impressed by the numerous cancer patients and survivors who participated in the event to express commitment to society, gratitude and hope, just to name a few feelings that were shared among most riders. Dr Steidl currently supervises a translational research laboratory focusing on the biology and novel treatments of various lymphoma types. His research explores new avenues how to use sequencing of cancer genomes for more accurate diagnosis of lymphomas and develops tests to guide treatment decisions for patients. Together with Dr David Scott, his close collaborator in the CLC, and Dr Marco Marra, Director of the Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, he is co-leading a large scale applied genome project (LSARP) that aims at delivering genomics-driven health care to patients. Moreover, Dr Steidl is investigating cancers at single cell resolution, using single cell genomics, to study the

'ecosystem' of cancer cells and host immune cells. His team hopes to discover new treatment options that disrupt this ecosystem for the benefit of patients. Through the Ride to Conquer Cancer he hopes to raise awareness for Blood Cancers that represent the 5th most common cancer in Canada and to support flexible cutting edge research in the CLC.

Dr. David Scott:

The Clinical Director of the Centre for Lymphoid Cancer (CLC) at BC Cancer, and Deputy Head of the Department of Lymphoid Cancer Research, will do the Ride for the first time this year. Having not ridden a bike or done any really strenuous exercise for over 20 years, a ride of over 200km was seen as a real challenge. Dr Scott's research group looks at the reasons why patient's lymphomas do not respond to treatment and then translates these findings into tests that identify patients at high risk of relapse and potential avenues to overcome treatment resistance. This research is motivated by his interactions with patients and their families, along with his brother's journey with lymphoma. He views the Ride as an opportunity to be directly involved with fundraising and participate in a journey symbolic of what patients and their families go through with cancer.

Dr. Stacy Hung:

A Senior Bioinformatics Scientist in the Department of Lymphoid Cancer Research where she helps drive the Bioinformatics team. She obtained her PhD in Bioinformatics and Molecular Biology from the University of Toronto, after which she pursued her interests in translational research on the West coast. Now part of the Steidl Lab, Dr Hung is actively involved in multiple projects requiring the analysis of versatile -omics datasets to understand the biology of lymphoid cancers and accelerate the discovery of molecular biomarkers and personalized therapies. She recently played a key role in developing a "groundbreaking targeted sequencing pipeline" for lymphoid cancers that may allow screening for actionable gene mutations by clinical laboratories in routine diagnostic workflows. She is currently investigating the mutational landscape of primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma, a subtype of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma that shares features

between multiple lymphomas thus posing a major hurdle to understanding the genetic basis of the disease and response to therapy. Besides her love for road biking in beautiful BC, Dr Hung's motivation for joining the Ride stems from her constant desire to make a positive difference in the world and wish to end cancers in her lifetime.

Dr. Gerben Duns:

A research associate in the Department of Lymphoid Cancer Research and a member of the bioinformatics team. He obtained his PhD in Cancer Genomics from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. After his graduation, he moved to Vancouver to work on the genomics of Acute Myeloid Leukemia at BC Cancer. Now part of the Steidl and Scott Labs, Dr Duns is involved in several projects that investigate the genomic changes and cellular mechanisms that drive the development of several types of lymphoma. He is currently focused on identifying long-noncoding RNAs (a specific type of genes that do not encode proteins) that are involved in the development of Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL). They can potentially be used as biomarkers for DLBCL. Being Dutch, Dr Duns was pretty much born on a bike. He has not ridden long distances for a few years, so this two-day bike ride through beautiful BC will definitely be a challenge.

He sees the Ride to Conquer Cancer as an opportunity to raise awareness for blood cancers and to be directly involved with fundraising for the battle against this type of cancers.

Editorial Board: Laurie Sehn, MD; Kerry Savage, MD; David Scott, MBChB PhD; Christian Steidl, MD PhD

Editorial Assistant: Hisae Nakamura, PhD

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Photo: practice ride of some team members: Drs Christian Steidl, Stacy Hung and Fred Levinsky



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