Cancer Research Centre (CRC)

The strength of CRC lies in the wide-ranging expertise and diverse backgrounds of its researchers. The result is a multidisciplinary team able to tackle complex scientific issues pertaining to all aspects of cancer, from basic research in cellular and molecular biology to psychosocial interventions and palliative care. This diversity is what allows CRC to offer students a world-class training environment.

CENTRE DESCRIPTION

The role of CRC is to realize the full potential for cancer research and training at Université Laval. CRC was created to reflect the new regional mission of the former Cancerology Research Centre at Université Laval – a multi-department, multi-faculty research centre founded in 1984.

CRC fosters research across the Université Laval network and is active in basic, technological, clinical, psychosocial, and socioeconomic research, for the benefit of patients and society.

MISSION

As a specialized health research centre affiliated with Université Laval, CRC strives to

- strengthen Université Laval’s position as a leader in cancer research
- offer a scientific program that meets the most stringent quality standards
- bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines, departments, faculties, and hospitals in order to spur new research initiatives
- provide an exceptional multidisciplinary training environment for students and staff

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CRC researchers lead world-class research programs and publish in the top scientific journals in their respective fields. Seven CRC researchers are Canada Research Chair holders and nine are Research Scholars from Fonds de recherche du Québec-Santé. CRC researchers received over $24 million in research grants and contracts from 2010 to 2012. In the past two years, CRC research and training activities have supported more than 37 master’s students (eight of whom were fast-tracked to the Ph.D. program) and 25 Ph.D. students earn their degrees. Researchers and students are also productive in generating intellectual properties and inventions, having filed nine patent applications in the past two years.

CRC has sponsored many important projects at Université Laval and in the Québec City region over the years. For example, the Centre for Clinical and Evaluative Oncology Research (CRCEDO) helped provide critical support for several new projects, including the Consortium of Clinical Oncology Research of Québec (Q-ROC), the product of a partnership with the Segal Cancer Centre. Q-ROC is now a key partner in a broad-based initiative called the Personalized Medicine Partnership for Cancer (pmpc-org.com/en), which promotes an integrated approach to the development, testing, and implementation of clinical biomarkers in order to improve services and reduce costs in cancer care.

Basic research conducted at CRC is vital to understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of cancer and helps lead to the discovery of new therapies. CRC scientists also conduct clinical research that takes discoveries made in the laboratory and applies them to patient care in a clinical setting. Epidemiological research allows scientists to examine and measure the impact of medical practices. Translational research involves the practical application of research findings to enhance treatment and improve patient wellness. These four major research pillars, which have developed over the last 30 years in various Université Laval research centres, all now fall under the Cancer Research Centre umbrella.