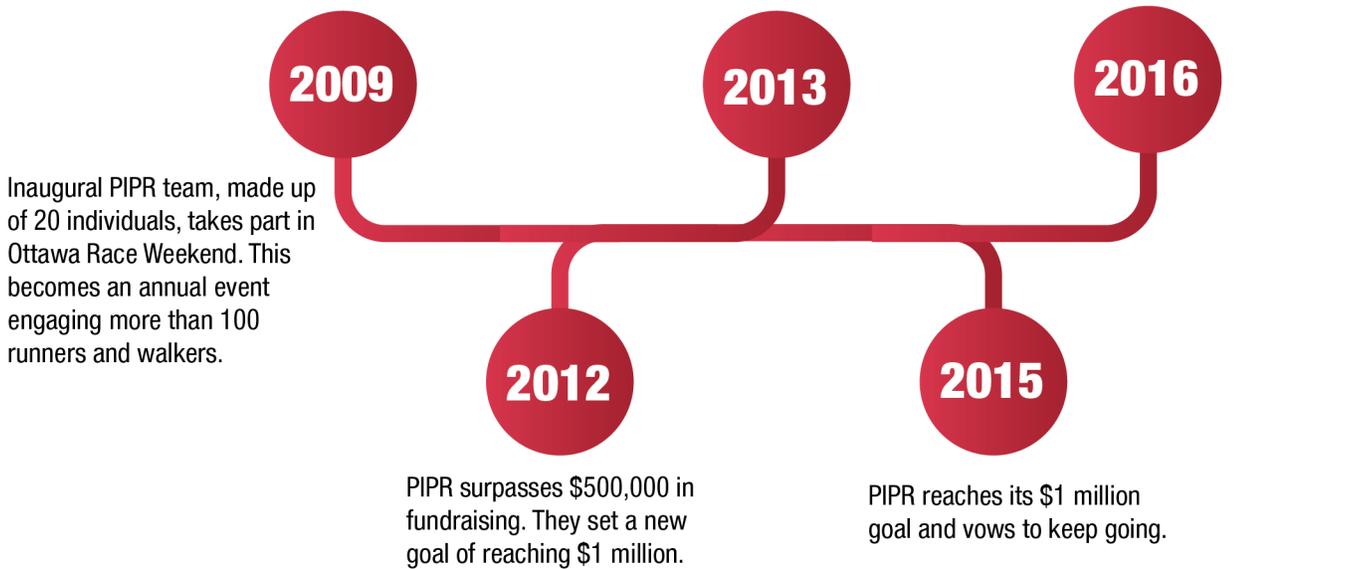




In 2009, Richard Shantz and Andrew Frank of Ottawa RBC Dominion Securities discovered a common link to Parkinson's Disease among their colleagues. Determined to make a difference, Partners Investing in Parkinson's Research (PIPR) was established. They set a goal of raising \$500,000 for the cause.

Roberta Driscoll and Kim Teron take over the PIPR leadership.

Jacinthe Bergeron and Karin Fuller take on the co-captain role for the PIPR team during Ottawa Race Weekend.



Running and walking in support of Parkinson's research

The PIPR team at Ottawa Race Weekend is an inspiring assembly of young and old; some are fit, some are in wheelchairs. There are determined individuals who struggle every step of the way to complete the 2k walk, which for someone living with Parkinson's disease, is comparable to a marathon. And there are marathon runners whose personal best is finishing the race in honour of a loved one suffering from Parkinson's. Also on the team are researchers, doctors, nurses, PhD students, and physiotherapists who walk, run and fundraise with them.

PIPR's ongoing legacy

Funds raised by PIPR have been directed to The Ottawa Hospital to support the Parkinson Research Consortium, a group of scientists and clinicians with expertise in genetics, molecular biology, neuroscience and patient care.

As a direct result of PIPR's investment, scientists developed pilot projects and higher risk research initiatives that would not have otherwise been possible including: an experimental spinal fluid test to improve diagnosis, uncovering a new genetic mutation that makes some people more susceptible to Parkinson's, and developing a new mouse model that mimics the typical progression of Parkinson's disease.

This community-funded research has enhanced the clinicians' research environment, elevated the reputation of The Ottawa Hospital, and helped attract leading researchers to join the research team, specifically Dr. Adam Sachs, a neurosurgeon trained at Stanford University, CA. Dr. Sachs is performing Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery to improve the lives of Parkinson's patients in eastern Ontario.

The multiplier effect

By providing important base-funding, PIPR has given our researchers opportunity to leverage funding from other sources including: the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Its investment has also been a catalyst in securing other significant gifts for The Ottawa Hospital, including a \$1 million donation to establish the Bhargava Research Chair in Neurodegeneration.

PIPR is also helping fund the next generation of scientists by supporting the creation of scholarships for young researchers. These awards have been matched by uOttawa.

Within the community, PIPR has raised the profile of this disease, and highlighted the promising research being done in Ottawa. This spotlight on our research has increased public awareness and funding. For every individual in our community living with Parkinson's who learns about PIPR, it offers an opportunity to join, support, or simply become more knowledgeable about the research.



Inspired by research.
Driven by compassion.

Inspiré par la recherche.
Guidé par la compassion.

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