



Tender
Loving
Research



“My family has been stricken with the familial form of ALS. I have lost 14 members of my family to this devastating disease, including my father. Watching ALS render my father helpless while keeping his mind intact was a cruel reminder that ‘today’ there is no fighting this disease. But research offers hope for better treatments and cures tomorrow.”

Karen Lawrence, Clinical Manager, Oncology,
The Ottawa Hospital

Leading the way in innovative cures

Research breakthroughs at The Ottawa Hospital mean better care and life-saving medicine. Every day we look beyond the laboratory and see the results of what we do – better care, lives saved, suffering stopped. We relentlessly pursue answers to the world’s most challenging health-care problems and we do so with knowledge, experience and care. Our research is fuelled by a passion to create made-in-Ottawa solutions for a healthier world.

Join our campaign and let’s give the world a little Tender Loving Research.

In 2014, Karen received the results of genetic testing that revealed that she carries the gene for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS. She worries that she may develop the disease but also that she has passed on the gene to her three sons.

Ottawa excels in neuromuscular research

Neuromuscular disease is a medical condition that impairs the functioning of the muscles, causing them to weaken and waste away. Patients suffer from cramps, aches, joint, and movement problems. Neuromuscular disease can also affect the patient’s heart muscle’s ability to function and their ability to breathe.

More than 10,000 people in our region are affected by neuromuscular disease. There are over 180 different neuromuscular diseases – and there are very few cures.

Neuromuscular diseases, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and muscular dystrophies, are complex and often life-long degenerative conditions. Treating people with neuromuscular disease requires diagnostic expertise, therapeutic management, and state-of-the-art rehabilitation facilities. Improving symptoms, increasing mobility and extending life are the goals of today’s treatment, though researchers are working on a cure.

There are over 50 researchers and clinicians in Ottawa who excel at neuromuscular lab-based and clinical research, giving us the strongest research division of this kind in the world. We are not only at the forefront of understanding the underlying cause of neuromuscular diseases, but are also coming up with new ways to treat these devastating conditions.

However, without the capacity to offer clinical trials, our groundbreaking neuromuscular disease research can’t move to the next stage of treatment for patients. With many patients unable to travel outside of the Ottawa area, offering clinical trials and improved treatment options in Ottawa will enhance our patient care.

“When I did my fellowship in Montreal, I’d take the train from Ottawa and meet the same patients with ALS that I’d see in the clinic. They were travelling to Montreal to take part in clinical trials that weren’t available in Ottawa. It’s shameful that our most disabled patients had to go elsewhere to participate in clinical trials. I said, ‘We are going to change this.’ So that is what we’re doing.”

Dr. Jodi Warman Chardon,
clinician and associate
scientist, Neuroscience
Program, The Ottawa Hospital



MADE -IN-OTTAWA RESEARCH FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD

THE OTTAWA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
737 PARKDALE AVENUE – 1ST FLOOR, BOX 610, OTTAWA ON. K1Y 1J8
TEL: 613-761-4295 FAX: 613-761-5014
WWW.OHFOUNDATION.CA
CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NO.: 86904 2747 RR0001

Extraordinary research to find the cures of tomorrow

The Ottawa Hospital has a strong history of neuromuscular research and compassionate clinical care. Dr. Ronald Worton, the first CEO and Scientific Director of the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, led many vital projects surrounding the genes of the Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophies. As a consequence, Dr. Worton's work attracted like-minded researchers, and a strong team of neuromuscular scientists was established at the hospital. In 2001, he founded the Stem Cell Network, recruiting top stem cell scientists, such as Dr. Michael Rudnicki, who focus on the stem cell connection to neuromuscular diseases.

With the new Neuromuscular Research Centre at The Ottawa Hospital, we could conduct our own clinical trials in neuromuscular disease, as well as participate in trials already underway in other centres and other countries. Clinical trials would mean 'bench to bedside and back' where the ground-breaking research conducted by our scientists could more easily move from the laboratory to patients. Then, the benefit of therapies developed would inform research in the lab and further improve treatments in Canada and around the world.

We will change the practice of medicine

Our goal is to establish the Neuromuscular Research Centre at The Ottawa Hospital, so that we can offer patients the latest treatments and therapies, driven by research.

Currently, health-care services and specialists for neuromuscular diseases are spread across the Civic and General campuses. By establishing this Centre, we will focus on the relationship between all neuromuscular specific health-care services, neurologists, specialists, clinics, rehabilitation, and treatments.

The Neuromuscular Research Centre at The Ottawa Hospital would solidify our hospital as a national leader in neuromuscular disease research in Canada, and will greatly benefit patients both locally and globally.

You can be a Philanthropic leader in our community

We are raising **\$150,000** to support the innovative Neuromuscular Research Centre at The Ottawa Hospital, in order to facilitate better research that will lead to improved treatment options for patients with neuromuscular diseases.

For more information, please contact Sharon Martin, Senior Director, Philanthropy, The Ottawa Hospital Foundation, 613-798-5555 x 19084, shmartin@toh.ca

Or Heather McLean, Vice-President, Development and Corporate Philanthropy, The Ottawa Hospital Foundation, 613-798-5555, x 13034, hmclean@toh.ca

www.tenderlovingresearch.ca



"We have been focused on work in the lab with animal models of this disease. The new Neuromuscular Research Centre will allow us to take it one step further where we can get samples from patients to apply to our experiments in the lab. This will really help us move potential disease therapies forward to the stage where we can offer them to patients."

Dr. Robin Parks, senior research scientist, The Ottawa Hospital



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