

**THE DÉFI CANDEREL  
CHALLENGE**

ONE MAN'S VISION  
SUPPORTED BY  
THOUSANDS OF  
EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE





COVER PAGE: MOLLY LAMB BOBAK, DÉFI CORPORATIF CANDEREL I (DETAIL), 1990.  
THIS PAGE: MOLLY LAMB BOBAK, SECOND RUN (DETAIL), 1991.

# Thank You

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# A Tribute



JONATHAN WENER AND THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL TEAM, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (BOTTOM ROW): JONATHAN WENER, DOMINIQUE TRUDEL, RÉJEAN LAPOINTE, MICHELLE BRISEBOIS, SOPHIE BOULANGER, HÉLÈNE BOISJOLY, GERARDO FERBEYRE, ANNE-MARIE MES-MASSON AND CHRISTIAN BARON. (TOP ROW): DIANE PROVENCHER, BERTRAND ROUTY, THOMAS GERVAIS, MARIE-CLAUDE BOURGEOIS-DAIGNEAULT, PHIL WONG, FRANÇOIS YU AND JEAN-FRANÇOIS CAILHIER.

This document is a tribute to **JONATHAN WENER**, a visionary entrepreneur and philanthropist who touched and shaped communities throughout his life. As an exceptional businessman, he created a company which has since become a national leader in the real estate sector. Mr. Wener has also devoted his life to different charitable causes, with a special commitment to funding cancer research done in Montreal. • We wish to celebrate and pay tribute to the Défi Canderel Challenge, a fundraising initiative which he created in the face of a personal tragedy that touched his family. His vision and leadership forever changed corporate fundraising and academic scientific research as he was able to rally thousands of dedicated donors to the cause. • Mr. Wener, you have been at the front-line of our battle and have played an essential role in the history of our institution.

**THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL WILL REMAIN FOREVER GRATEFUL TO YOU AND ALL DÉFI CANDEREL DONORS.**

When Mr. Jonathan Wener decided to devote himself to the fight against cancer over thirty years ago, he forged an alliance between the business community and the philanthropic sector. This unprecedented joint effort allowed for concrete scientific advancements which have since given patients access to new treatment options, making a real difference in their lives. However, cancer continues to hit hard: one out of every two Canadians will face a diagnosis in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> Efforts must therefore be made daily to preserve the edge that we have acquired and to reinvest our resources in order to beat this scourge which affects each and every one of us.

Mr. Wener, an outstanding businessman and community leader, has mobilised countless individuals and enormous resources for his cause; his ability to create partnerships between our best scientific minds is an inspiration. The bottom line of Mr. Wener's message, be it in science or philanthropy, is clear: unity is strength, and it is only by joining forces that we will win our battle! His ground-breaking vision and ambition to fight cancer on a newer, larger scale, brought together two important entities: the Institut du cancer de Montréal, affiliated to the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM), and the Rosalind & Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre, of McGill University. This defining collaboration allows and encourages the consolidation of the work done by our best researchers and their teams in Quebec, as well as in the world of scientific and medical research at large.

Thanks to Mr. Wener and all the donors he was able to rally through his Canderel Challenge, the researcher-members of the Institut du cancer de Montréal have at their disposal the best equipment to lead their research. They can also count on the support of students who are dedicated to their cause. This collaboration further allows our students to develop an expertise in their chosen field, and to strengthen their knowledge for the research that will be done tomorrow.

**MR. WENER, BY MOBILISING SO MANY DONORS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS, YOUR IMPACT IS A CALL FOR HOPE AND A CELEBRATION OF LIFE THROUGH THE CREATION OF A WORLD WITHOUT CANCER!**



*André Boulanger*

**ANDRÉ BOULANGER**  
CHAIRMAN, INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
FORMER CHAIRMAN, HYDRO-QUÉBEC TRANSÉNERGIE

Inspired and guided by Mr. Wener's vision, the Défi Canderel is an innovative and generous project which aims to support and propel cancer research. This major fundraising activity, held annually in the heart of Montreal, is a mobilising force that gives our researchers the means to reach levels of achievement that would be impossible without it.

The impact of the Défi Canderel, driven by the leadership and know-how of an exceptional businessman and philanthropist, goes beyond financial support. Indeed, this great gathering creates an extraordinary platform and raises society's awareness on the importance of research to defeat cancer through a movement of solidarity and hope.

Mr. Wener, by mobilising dedicated and generous donors through the Défi Canderel, you and your team support all facets of the work lead by the researcher-members of the Institut du cancer de Montréal; you participate actively in their concrete achievements and in the development of promising treatments. Your commitment has made it possible to nurture innovative projects and to achieve them through the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment and the recruitment of qualified students and interns who will shape tomorrow's generation of researchers.

The Institut du cancer de Montréal, its researcher-members, as well as all the people who benefit from the care provided through the deployment of research combined with expertise, are grateful to you and all Défi donors for this extraordinary commitment and for the great contribution made possible through your Challenge. This fundraising activity is a powerful symbol of the solidarity shown by its leader, Mr. Jonathan Wener.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE ALL WINNERS IN OUR QUEST FOR THE HOPE OF OVERCOMING THIS ILLNESS!**

*Michelle Brisebois*

**MICHELLE BRISEBOIS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL



<sup>1</sup> Source: Canadian Cancer Society: Canadian cancer statistics, 2019.



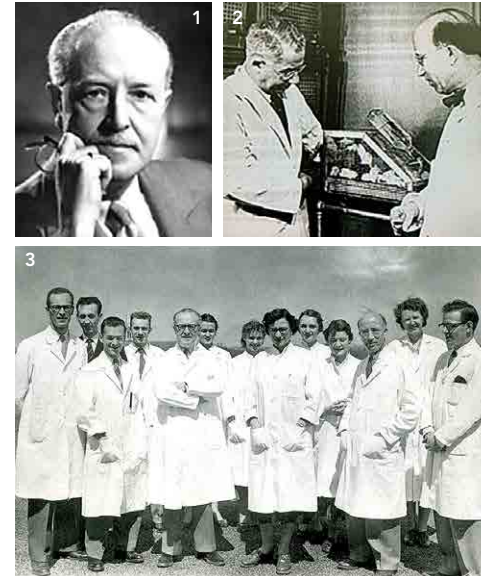
## THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL

The Institut du cancer de Montréal is a foundation whose mission is to promote fundamental and clinical cancer research, while preparing the next generation of researchers through education and training.

**Founded in 1947 by two physicians of the Hôpital Notre-Dame, the pathologist Louis-Charles Simard and the gastroenterologist Antonio Cantero, the Institut is the first francophone cancer research centre in America.**

In order to carry out its dual mission and meet the emerging needs of its research and training programs, the Institut has established over the years key associations with the Hôpital Notre-Dame, as well as the Université de Montréal and, later, with the Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM). Formerly, the institute was housed within Hôpital Notre-Dame. Today, its administrative offices and the laboratories of its researcher-members are located within the CRCHUM, a building adjacent to the new CHUM which is dedicated entirely to research.

The Institut's proximity to the hospital environment has enabled it to collaborate with physicians and clinical researchers, in order to promote both fundamental and clinical research. In fact, its translational research program tracks and studies cancer from the laboratory to the bedside of the patient. In this collaborative and inclusive approach, the patients are supported throughout their experience by a team of doctors, researchers and student-interns, who work together to clearly identify and beat their cancer.



1. DR. LOUIS-CHARLES SIMARD  
2. DRS. J. H. QUASTEL AND ANTONIO CANTERO (ON THE RIGHT)  
3. FIRST TEAM OF RESEARCHERS OF THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL

PHOTOS OF THE CHUM: © LUC LAUZIÈRE







## THE DÉFI CANDEREL CHALLENGE BECAUSE WE ARE ALWAYS STRONGER TOGETHER

The Institut du cancer de Montréal has benefited from the support of its generous donors throughout its history. Among these stands out an individual who, through his remarkable contribution, forged the evolution of the Institut and marked its existence. In 1989 and in reaction to his wife Susan's diagnosis, Montreal businessman Jonathan Wener, founder of Canderel Management Inc., decided to exponentially increase his impact on research by rallying the Montreal business community to the cause of cancer research. In creating the Défi Canderel and challenging his business partners to get involved in his cause, Mr. Wener bet on the strength of numbers, eloquently testifying to the miracles that are made possible through dedication and solidarity.

For the past 30 years, Jonathan Wener and Canderel have led an annual fundraising campaign that culminates in a symbolic run in the streets of downtown Montreal. Since the creation of this exemplary fundraising initiative, more than \$ 20 million has been raised for cancer research. These amounts have been divided equally and with no strings attached between two Montreal cancer research centres, the Rosalind & Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre of McGill University, and the Institut du cancer de Montréal, affiliated with the Université de Montréal. Thanks to this substantial and continuous support, the beneficiaries of the Défi Canderel Challenge have been able to set up innovative research projects and train a new generation of world-class scientists by awarding scholarships. Over the years, the donors of the Défi have stood by this amazing initiative and transformed the face of academic scientific research done in Montreal. Jonathan Wener's legacy will be that of a dedicated businessman and philanthropist who changed the destiny of a city, and the life of thousands.



This race honors the memory of those who have left us  
and shows our support to those who are fighting.

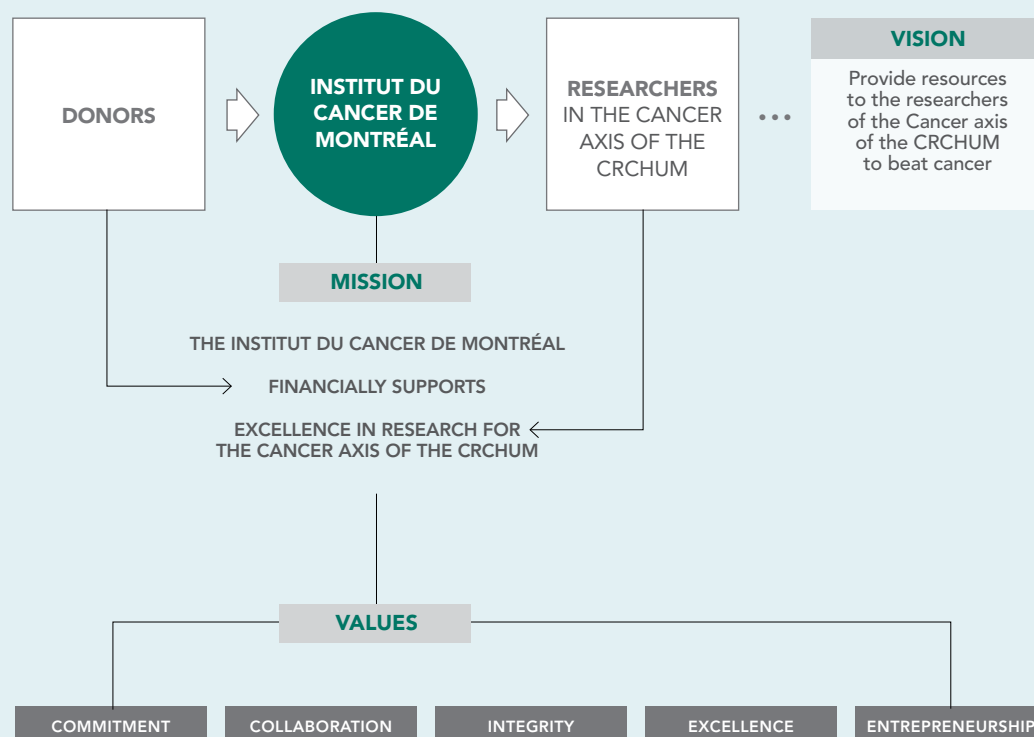


**JONATHAN WENER WITH  
ANNE-MARIE MES-MASSON**  
(INSTITUT DU CANCER DE  
MONTREAL) AND **MORAG PARK**  
(GOODMAN CANCER RESEARCH  
CENTRE) CHECK REMITTANCE, 2019.



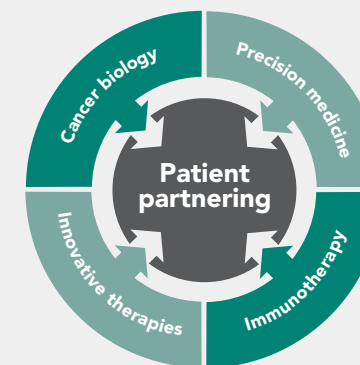
## MISSION, VISION AND VALUES OF THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL

Over the years, the Institut du cancer de Montréal was able to constantly reinvent itself in order to adapt to the ever-growing and changing needs and demands of the healthcare system. Throughout its existence, the Institut has always kept intact the mission that was at the very heart of its creation: the encouragement and support of excellence in research and training in the field of cancer.



## FOUR AREAS OF RESEARCH

The patient is at the heart of the research funded by the Institut du cancer de Montréal.



- Fundamental and advanced discoveries in **cancer biology**  
*Identify new targets in order to provide innovative therapies*
- **Precision medicine**  
*Assign the best treatments to patients according to the specificities of their cancers*
- Cancer **immunotherapy**  
*Awaken the immune system for it to recognise and eliminate tumours*
- **Innovative therapies** and the impact of research on patients  
*Provide state-of-the-art therapies and interventions*



The ongoing impact of the Défi Canderel's annual contribution to the Institut du cancer de Montréal is decisive in supporting the major themes of the CRCHUM's Cancer axis.

IMPACT  
OF THE  
CHALLENGE

LEFT TO RIGHT: **ANDRÉ BOULANGER** CHAIRMAN OF THE INSTITUT, **JONATHAN WENER** CHAIRMAN OF CANDEREL MANAGEMENT INC., **LOUISE ROY** CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL, **MARAL TERSAKIAN** FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUT.

## THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL IS

Nearly **40** researchers, 13 of whom have been repatriated over the past 13 years

More than **100** students and professionals dedicated to cancer research

More than **300** articles published in international scientific journals in 2019



# THE IMMEASURABLE CONTRIBUTION OF THE DÉFI CANDEREL CHALLENGE TO THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL

Since its inception, the Défi Canderel has donated over \$ 10 million to the Institut du cancer de Montréal. Year after year, the contribution of the Défi Canderel represents a significant portion of the Institut’s annual budget.

The Institut du cancer de Montréal finances **the purchase of high-tech equipment** such as a Licor Scanner, a ChemiDoc imaging device, an IncuCyte imaging device.

The Institut acts as a facilitator by **funding an average of 15 scientific conferences annually**. In addition, it supports its researchers and students who wish to attend conferences abroad, in order to promote internationally the research done in Montreal. This approach is an integral part of the Institut’s mission to encourage excellence and training in cancer research.

The Institut contributes, in partnership with the CRCHUM, to the development of **a recognised academic centre** which welcomes and supports an average of 100 students per year, who will go on to become future leaders in oncology research.

For the 2018-2019 period, 38 students received the Canderel scholarship award, of which 25 received a regular scholarship and 26 received an excellence award. For the 2019-2020 period, a new postdoctoral fellowship was created and added to this already significant contribution.

DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS (NEARLY \$ 1.9M IN 2018, INCLUDING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE DÉFI CANDEREL CHALLENGE)

Category	Percentage
LABORATORY EQUIPMENT	50
RESEARCH AND TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS	29
RESEARCH FUNDING	21



# MARILYN WENER AWARD

In 2012, the Marilyn Wener Award of Excellence was created to honour the memory of Mr. Jonathan Wener’s mother who died of multiple myeloma. Every year, this prestigious scholarship recognises the community involvement of a student from the Cancer axis of the CRCHUM, who stands out for their participation and philanthropic contribution as a volunteer during the events and activities of the Institut du cancer de Montréal.

The 2019 Marilyn Wener Award of Excellence was presented to Marc-Alexandre Olivier, a doctoral student in molecular biology at the Institut du cancer de Montréal.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: **FRANCE GRENIER** MANAGER, MAJOR GIFTS AND PLANNED GIVING, INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL, **ANNE-MARIE MES-MASSON** FORMER SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR, INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL, **MARC-ALEXANDRE OLIVIER** WINNER OF THE 2019 MARILYN WENER AWARD AND PHD STUDENT IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL, **LOUISE LAFLEUR** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DÉFI CANDEREL CHALLENGE.



## FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE HEART

It would be impossible to measure the impact that the Défi Canderel Challenge has on the Institut du cancer de Montréal, or to put into words the extent of the gratitude that the institute's board of directors, management, students, researchers and patients feel towards Jonathan Wener and all Défi Canderel donors.

Mr. Wener, you are the driving force behind a crucial and inspiring social project that has been able to rally thousands of individuals for cancer research. We commend Canderel's noble commitment to academic scientific research, and we thank you and all donors for the trust that you put in our work.

“Mr. Wener, you are the driving force behind a crucial and inspiring social project.”



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: **DR. RÉJEAN LAPOINTE**, INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL, **DR. MORAG PARK**, GOODMAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE, **SUSAN WENER**, DÉFI CANDEREL CHALLENGE AND **JONATHAN WENER**, DÉFI CANDEREL CHALLENGE.

# Gratitude





In 1989, Jonathan Wener, founder and chairman of Canderel Management Inc., decided to get involved in the fight against cancer. This visionary businessman and philanthropist challenged Montreal's business community to join him in his commitment to this cause, and thus created an exceptional fundraising campaign. His vision, one of unity and collaboration, was translated eloquently in his choice of beneficiaries. In fact, the amounts raised through this initiative were to be divided equally between two of Montreal's largest university cancer research centres: the Rosalind & Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre and the Institut du cancer de Montréal. Over the past thirty years, the Défi Canderel and its donors have contributed over \$ 20 million to fund cancer research done in Montreal.

The Défi Canderel is, by virtue of its exceptional commitment, our institution's largest donor entity. With a contribution of over \$ 10 million since 1989, the Institut's Canderel Fund represents a considerable portion of our annual budget, and renders many of our research activities possible. Indeed, **Mr. Wener donates these unallocated amounts with no strings attached.** This gives our institution the freedom to attribute the funds to our most urgent needs and priority research projects. It is a real proof of trust and an invaluable support to have such financial resources at our disposal, as well as a network of dedicated individuals who support us in our mission.

Over the years, the amounts raised by the Défi have allowed us to fund scholarships for our students, to purchase state-of-the-art equipment, and to ensure that our laboratories remain competitive internationally. All these investments translate into concrete scientific breakthroughs that improve the quality of life and life expectancy of people living with cancer.

Beyond the incredible impact that Mr. Wener has had on cancer research, it should be mentioned that **the Défi Canderel is also a social project which contributes to making Montreal a dynamic city equipped to attract the best researchers from around the world.** Indeed, this initiative has enabled its two beneficiaries to come together and develop innovative projects in collaboration; we have thus been able to create privileged links between the anglophone and francophone communities of oncology research in Montreal. It also allowed us to develop Canada-wide projects by working hand in hand with our colleagues from other provinces. **The impact of Mr. Wener's initiative will have further been to shape the influence of our city internationally:** a large number of students who have benefited from Canderel scholarships over the past three decades have since become leaders in their field, professors in prestigious academic institutions, world-renowned researchers.

On my own behalf, on behalf of the entire Institut du cancer de Montréal, of our researchers, students, scholars and interns of yesterday, today and tomorrow,

**THANK YOU, MR. WENER AND ALL DÉFI CANDEREL DONORS.**

**RÉJEAN LAPOINTE, PH. D.**  
RESEARCHER, CANCER AXIS OF THE CRCHUM AND INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
HEAD OF THE CANCER RESEARCH DEPARTMENT AT CRCHUM  
SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
FULL PROFESSOR, MEDICINE DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

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I was privileged to witness the extraordinary evolution of the Défi Canderel, from a modest project in 1989 to the unmissable annual charity event that it has become.



As a researcher, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of this immense contribution throughout my career. At the time when Mr. Wener first challenged the Montreal business community, our governments were dealing with fiscal deficits: and grant amounts, as well as success rates, had dropped dramatically. The support of the Défi Canderel very concretely enabled us to secure the research activities of several laboratories. In fact, our scientific committee invested these new funds in the next generation through the creation of merit scholarships for students in training.

**Although the main researcher plays a pivotal role, the real engine of a laboratory remains the team of graduate and post-graduate students.** With their advisor, they develop research projects and work to advance them, often with the help of laboratory professionals. Thanks to the amounts raised by the Défi Canderel, the Institut du cancer de Montréal was well equipped to support these young students who, today, work in industry, academia and healthcare. All these people who, over the past thirty years, have benefited from Canderel scholarships continue to work and contribute to the cause while maintaining relationships with our institute.

Thirty years later, the way we do research has also changed enormously. In the beginning, our research was very fundamental, based on model systems that have evolved over time to allow a better representation of human disease. Today, we are closer to the patient's bedside with a more personalised medicine and new techniques such as high genomic approaches. **In addition to gaining a better understanding of cancer, researchers today can explore the best ways to use our advances to aid patient management.** Indeed, several discoveries by the Institut's researchers are now being further studied for new clinical and therapeutic applications. These will allow us to see how their findings can help improve the quality of life and life expectancy of cancer patients. This is a real development that has been possible thanks, in particular, to the dedication of Mr. Wener and all Défi Canderel donors!

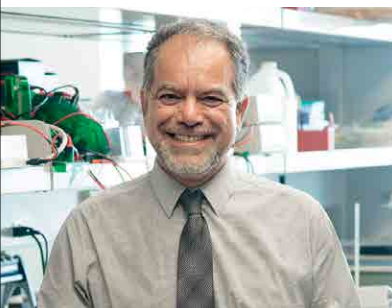
Thank you to everyone who contributes to this admirable initiative.

**REST ASSURED THAT YOU HAVE A VERY STRONG AND VERY CONCRETE IMPACT ON RESEARCH AND ON THE HEALTH OF OUR SOCIETY AT LARGE.**

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**ANNE-MARIE MES-MASSON, PH. D., FCAHS, FRSC**  
RESEARCHER, CANCER AXIS OF THE CRCHUM AND INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH, CRCHUM  
FULL PROFESSOR, FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL  
DIRECTOR, FRQ-S CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK  
QUEBEC NODE LEADER, TERRY FOX RESEARCH INSTITUTE





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I joined the Institut du cancer de Montréal in 1992, at a time when there was very little research done on prostate cancer and, because global research was in its infancy, there was no cure for this type of cancer. In this sense, the evolution of our laboratory and of our research efforts reflects the history of this cancer almost in real-time.

In 1941, Dr. Charles B. Huggins made important discoveries regarding hormonal treatments, which earned him the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1966. Between the 1940s and 2000s, there were no real breakthroughs in terms of treatment; our only option remained hormone therapy which involves chemical castrations, thus depriving the patient of his male hormones. However, we were able to develop new screening methods and we therefore could detect more and more cases of cancer, the majority of which were already metastatic, widespread, and incurable when they were identified. All we could do at that point was alleviate the pain to give the patient a semblance of quality of life.

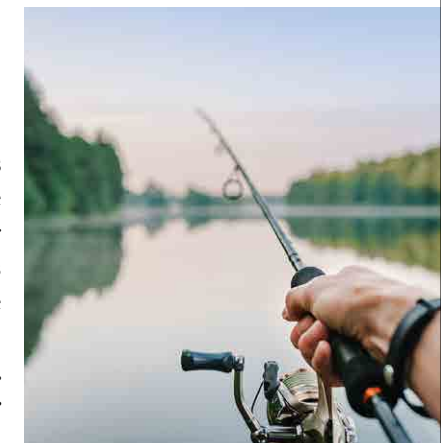
In 2002, I lead a first global study and developed with my laboratory a first drug that helps slow down metastases in bones in order to prevent or delay the suffering due to prostate cancer, and thus allow men to maintain a better quality of life with fewer complications. A few years later, we were in the process of developing the first chemotherapy that could prolong the life of patients with castrate-resistant cancers. **Thanks to these efforts at the CHUM, which remains one of the main centres working on prostate cancer in the world, we now have several other treatment options to prolong and preserve the quality of life of our patients.** This cancer remains incurable, but today one can live with this chronic disease better and longer.

For as long as I can remember, the Défi Canderel has been part of the vocabulary of the Institut du cancer de Montréal; to me they are inseparable from one another. **There are very few guarantees in our field of work, but we are privileged to know that the Défi Canderel is always there for us,** that we can rely on this initiative to create new projects and find new avenues for a better understanding of the disease. We can now predict its course and personalise the treatments that we offer to the patient. I am convinced that the Institut could not have produced such excellence, both in research and in training, without the unwavering support of Mr. Jonathan Wener and his donors.

**MR. WENER, ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE WHO HAS PASSED THROUGH MY LABORATORY OR MY OPERATING ROOM, I CONGRATULATE YOU AND YOUR DONORS FOR ALL OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND I THANK YOU.**

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**FRED SAAD, MD, FRCS**  
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, AND HEAD OF THE UROLOGY UNIT AT THE CHUM  
RESEARCHER, CANCER AXIS OF THE CRCHUM AND INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
DIRECTOR OF PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH AT THE CRCHUM AND INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
FULL PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL  
HOLDER OF THE RAYMOND GARNEAU RESEARCH CHAIR IN PROSTATE CANCER (UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL)



I was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer in 2015, when I was 65 years old, and the biopsy results already indicated that the cancer would be virulent. The prostate removal in November 2015 went well. Then, in April 2016, the presence of metastases was detected in my bones: the probability of my making it to the year 2020 was of less than 30%. At the time, one of my sons said: **“This statistic is based on the drugs that were used yesterday. Today and tomorrow, there will be new treatments, other discoveries.”**

I was on hormone therapy for life while my Cancer was stunned. It reappeared in July 2017 and progressed until April 2018. It was decided, at that time, to give me a Denosumab (XGEVA) solution every month, which helps my bones to better resist metastases, and to take Enzalutamide (XTANDI), a form of hormone therapy that aims to restrict the circulation of Cancer, every day. These two drugs, which were subject to clinical trials before their release and which are still subject of clinical follow-ups by Dr. Saad and his team, have effectively slowed the progression of the Cancer in my system.

In 2018, I participated in a research project called PSMA, which focused on the early detection of metastases. In February 2019, as the Cancer remained active, I was given radiotherapy treatments on a palliative basis. It was the combination of XGEVA, XTANDI and RADIOTHERAPY that knocked out the Cancer once more.

My Cancer progresses slowly today. I have a great quality of life. I am able to take on my role as a spouse, a father and a grandfather. I bring comfort to my mother who was admitted to a CHSLD. Since 2015, I never stopped traveling, riding my bicycle, doing chores for myself and my children, playing the trombone, riding my motorcycle or fishing on the lake. In short, the great adventure of life continues for me.

I remain confident. Dr. Saad and other professionals who practice oncology participate in a prostate cancer support group on a monthly basis. We are informed of the progress of many clinical projects that are underway, which can only be positive for me and for all those in the same situation as myself. All of this research and all these clinical studies can only be done through the contribution of organisations such as the Institut du cancer de Montréal. We are very aware of what it takes to fund this work, and we are especially grateful to philanthropists like Mr. Wener, as they become ambassadors for our cause when approaching other businesspeople who are so busy and otherwise solicited.

**FOR A PERSON LIVING WITH CANCER AS WELL AS FOR THEIR RELATIVES, RESEARCH IS HOPE.**

And we are very many who benefit from these astronomical efforts. Many congratulations and thanks.

**SERGE GARON, BOUCHERVILLE**  
A PATIENT OF DR. SAAD



I joined the Institut du cancer de Montréal team in January 2018, thanks to its *Rapatriement des cerveaux* program. This initiative aims to bring back to the country researchers who have completed their university studies in Canada and are pursuing their careers abroad, in order to encourage them to return to the country and continue their research at the CRCHUM. **Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to open my laboratory in Montreal and remain competitive in my field.**



My work focuses on the role of the intestinal microbiome in the response to immunotherapy of cancer. Although immunotherapy has changed the way we treat cancer by increasing the effectiveness of the treatment, various factors cause cancers to continue their progression. For example, the patient's intestinal flora, i.e. the bacteria present in their digestive tract, may affect their response to treatment. Today we are able to develop biomarkers and clinical studies in order to analyse the response to treatment in mice that have received the bacteria from patients. This would help us identify possible solutions to influence the flora of the intestines of patients who have ongoing immunotherapy treatments.

The support of the Institut du cancer de Montréal extends to all facets of our work. Thanks to them and to the CRCHUM, **we were able to develop a unique platform in Canada** dedicated to the analysis of the microbiome. We thus have a germ-free animal facility, rooms for cultivating bacteria, biobanks, and the necessary infrastructures to carry out our work, including a MALDI-TOF machine which helps to develop and cultivate bacteria. **Thanks to this exceptional support, we are now positioning ourselves as a world-leading centre in the study of the microbiome in oncology.**

Finally, the Canderel scholarships allow us to attract and recruit qualified students from all over the world. **Philanthropy is essential to scientific research as this requires concrete and tangible resources: machines, high-tech equipment, personnel.**

I therefore thank Mr. Wener and all Défi Canderel donors on my behalf, as well as on behalf of my team;

### YOUR EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE FOR RESEARCHERS AND PATIENTS ALIKE.

**BERTRAND ROUTY, PH. D., MD**  
RESEARCHER, CANCER AXIS OF THE CRCHUM AND INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
DIRECTOR OF THE IMMUNOTHERAPY AND ONCOMICROBIOME LABORATORY OF THE CRCHUM AND  
INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

We are very aware of the enormous work that is undertaken by the donors to make these extremely rare infrastructures and cutting-edge technologies available to us. **It was very impressive for me to participate in the Défi Canderel which I had heard a lot about, and very touching to see gathered hundreds of people who believe in our projects and in our mission, including the donors, the board members of our foundation, researchers, students and volunteers.** Many thanks to Mr. Wener for spearheading this great unifying project that allows us to work for the advancement of the cause.

**MERIEM MESSAOUDENE, PH. D.**  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW (UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL) AT THE IMMUNOTHERAPY AND ONCOMICROBIOME  
LABORATORY OF DR BERTRAND ROUTY, CANCER AXIS OF THE CRCHUM AND INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL

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Following my studies at the Institut du cancer de Montréal and my post-doctoral fellowship at Berkeley University, I returned to Montreal to join the Institut's team of researchers and carry out work in the department of radiology, radio-oncology and nuclear medicine of the Université de Montréal.



**My trajectory makes it so that I have had the opportunity to participate in the Défi Canderel as a student and, later, as a researcher, and I was able to see firsthand how this annual event has evolved to become one of the most important charitable initiatives benefiting cancer research.**

The Défi Canderel is the culmination of a dynamic and inspiring campaign which makes a true difference for research on so many levels. As far as we are concerned, financial support allows us to have all the resources we need to make tangible scientific discoveries, particularly with regard to the availability of student research scholarships. Since my early years, I have been studying the links between aging and cancer in an attempt to approach treatment in the most effective way, and I have contributed with my team of students to several major discoveries that have reshaped our understanding of the disease. In 2019, I was awarded the CRCHUM excellence award in the scientific contribution of the year category for our study *Exploiting interconnected synthetic lethal interactions between PARP inhibition and cancer cell reversible senescence*, published in the open-access journal Nature Communications. This study, conducted in collaboration with the ovarian cancer research group lead by Drs. Anne-Marie Mes-Masson and Diane Provencher, addresses the treatment of cancer through a two-step therapeutic combination which is based on the manipulation of the state of cellular aging. Several students who participated in this study were supported by Canderel scholarships. To illustrate the real impact of this discovery, Dr. Provencher's team is now initiating a multi-centre clinical trial across Canada that will test this strategy for treating ovarian cancer.

**In addition to contributing financially to the work of scientists, the Défi allows students and fellows to familiarise themselves with philanthropy and to grasp the extent of the efforts that are put in place to support our projects.** It is really motivating and pleasant for us to take part in this event, and to have the opportunity to become aware of the very concrete support provided to us by the business world and by our society as a whole.

**THANK YOU MR. WENER, THANK YOU TO HIS TEAM, AND THANK YOU TO ALL THE DONORS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GREAT INITIATIVE TO GIVE US THE NECESSARY TOOLS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND BEAT CANCER.**

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**FRANCIS RODIER, PH. D.**  
RESEARCHER, CANCER AXIS OF THE CRCHUM AND INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR UNDER GRANT, DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY, RADIATION ONCOLOGY AND NUCLEAR  
MEDICINE, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL





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I was thrilled to be recruited by Dr. Réjean Lapointe in 2003, because I was fascinated by immunology; at the time, immunotherapy was very little known or studied, and Dr. Lapointe was a pioneer of the field in Montreal. I worked in his laboratory from 2003 to 2011, and it was really thanks to the Canderel scholarships that I was able to complete my doctoral studies at the Institut du cancer de Montréal. **I received the support I needed to continue my research and publish the papers that made me a strong contender for a postdoctoral fellowship abroad, in one of the world's leading cancer centres.**

I will always be grateful to Mr. Wener and to the Défi Canderel donors. This initiative makes all the difference for researchers by allowing us to make concrete scientific advancements. I participated in all the editions of the Défi while I was a student at the Institut, and it was always so much fun and motivating to witness the mobilisation of the business community for our cause. For my part, I know that I might not be where I am right now without this support. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone involved in this wonderful campaign. To Mr. Wener, everyone at Canderel and all the donors, thank you from the bottom of my heart!



**I RECEIVED THE SUPPORT I NEEDED  
TO CONTINUE MY RESEARCH.**

”

**MARIE-ANDRÉE FORGET, PH. D.**  
SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST DIRECTOR, CLINICAL TIL PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF MELANOMA MEDICAL  
ONCOLOGY M.D. ANDERSON CANCER CENTER IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

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I can attest to the many scientific advancements that have been made since my beginnings in the laboratory: while, previously, treatments targeted tumours in an attempt to eliminate them, today we can use methods that attack tumours indirectly by stimulating the patient's immune system. It is thanks to scientific research that we have been able to develop these new treatment methods, which are often less toxic and more successful in the long run. Today, we can not only delay the disease temporarily - in some cases we can even cure it.



I am so grateful to Mr. Wener and to the Défi Canderel since it was through this initiative that I was able to benefit from annual scholarships. Without these, my laboratory position could not have been sustained. **I also received travel scholarships that allowed me to attend conferences abroad and to meet my future postdoctoral director; this allowed me to be recruited by the best oncology centre in the world, and to propel my career as an independent researcher.**

For us, whether we are students or researchers, research is always important, it is our passion; what struck me at each edition of the Défi was to see all the people from various backgrounds who were as mobilised as us by this campaign, and to realise just how involved they were in the fight against cancer. Thank you to Mr. Wener and to the Défi participants for donating to the Institut du cancer de Montréal, and enabling it to support and promote the work of its students and researchers.



**TODAY, WE CAN NOT ONLY DELAY THE DISEASE TEMPORARILY – IN SOME  
CASES WE CAN EVEN CURE IT.**

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**ALEXANDRE REUBEN, PH. D.**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF THORACIC/HEAD AND NECK MEDICAL ONCOLOGY, DIVISION OF  
CANCER MEDICINE ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY, UTHEALTH GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER IN HOUSTON, TEXAS



MR. JONATHAN WENER

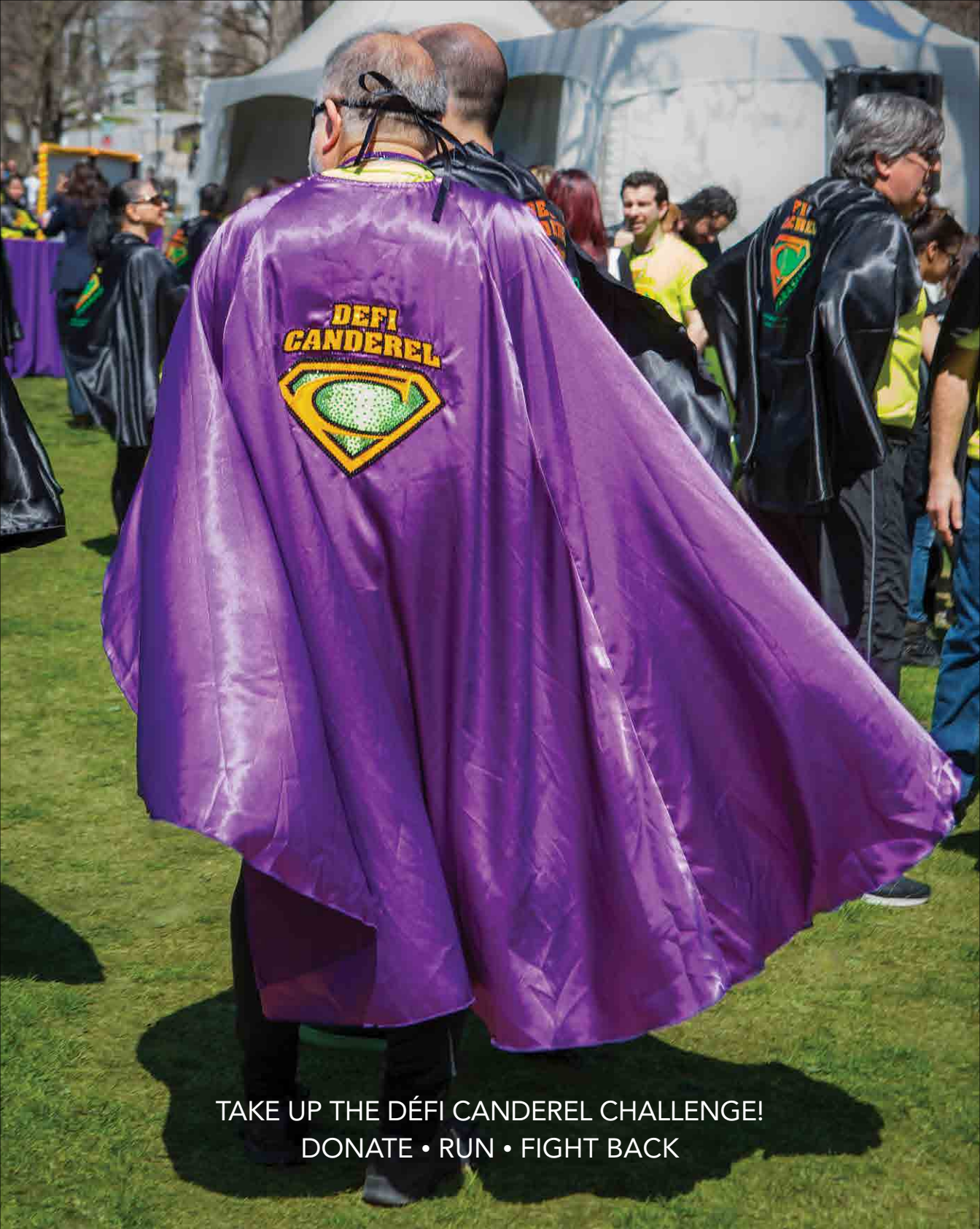
WE THANK YOU FOR YESTERDAY,  
FOR TODAY AND FOR TOMORROW



FROM THE INSTITUT DU CANCER DE MONTRÉAL







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