



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

INFORMED NEWSLETTER





April News

Thank you for checking out the April edition of INFORMED Magazine, your monthly digest of medical research stories from the Faculty of Medicine. This month, we're thrilled to highlight inspiring tales of impact and community building that exemplify the spirit of Dal.

We'll introduce you to Dalhousie's ambitious fundraising campaign, which aims to propel our medical research and education initiatives to new heights. With your support, we're not only investing in cutting-edge research but also nurturing the next generation of healthcare leaders who will shape the future of medicine.

We feature a passionate Dal Med alum who shares her journey of building community through volunteerism. Dr. Angela Ridi's dedication serves as a shining example of how individuals can make a profound difference in the lives of others, embodying the values of compassion and service that are central to our mission.

Join us as we celebrate these and other stories of impact and inspiration, and as always, thank you for your continued support in advancing healthcare excellence.



Breakthrough Breakfast showcases I3V research

Dalhousie's expertise in infectious diseases, inflammation, immunology, and vaccinology (I3V) was the centrepiece of the Breakthrough Breakfast, which featured Dal researchers, Drs. Scott Halperin, Lisa Barrett, and Craig McCormick.



Dalhousie launches \$750-million Bringing Worlds Together campaign for transformational change

Hundreds of alumni, friends, and benefactors came together at Dalhousie's Student Union Building in Halifax Tuesday (April 2) to celebrate the launch of **Bringing Worlds Together**, the university's new \$750-million fundraising campaign.



Dal Parkinson's expert now suffering from the disorder spurs next gen research

Dr. Harold Robertson has spent much of his career at Dalhousie working to improve the awareness, prevention, and treatment of Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders.



News & Updates

More exciting updates from Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine are below. To learn more or donate, visit our [website](#).



Get your ride on with Give to Live's 2024 The BIG RIDE.

On June 21 - 23, 2024, riders will cycle along the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail ending in beautiful Inverness.

Funds raised from The BIG RIDE go directly to advance cancer research through the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute at Dalhousie University.

Dal alum shares passion for building community through volunteerism

Dr. Angela Ridi (MD'03) is a practicing anesthesiologist in St. John's, NL. She also makes time to volunteer, whether it's with Dalhousie's Alumni Association, the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society or her children's school.



Meet Dalhousie's notable alumni

Dal's notable alumni have achieved significant accomplishments and are well-known in their respective professional and personal lives. These esteemed individuals have distinguished themselves through their achievements, leadership and contributions to society. They are widely recognized and respected in their professions or through their endeavours.



In case you missed it...



Cardiovascular and COVID-19: New research confirms the benefits of vaccination

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease. Yet, from the earliest days of the pandemic, the cardiovascular risks associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection were clear: individuals with severe cases of COVID-19 often died from cardiovascular complications, and those with pre-existing cardiovascular disease were more likely to have severe illness or die.



Saluting Dal's top student leaders: Introducing the 2024 Board of Governors' Award winners

This year's four recipients — nominated by their peers in the Dal community, and chosen by a committee consisting of the president, Board members and the vice-provost student affairs — were honoured at this year's Impact Awards in late March.



Introducing Dal's honorary degree recipients for Spring Convocation

Science, architecture, economic development, medicine, technology — each of these fields has become richer due to the contributions of the six individuals being presented with honorary degrees at this year's Spring Convocation ceremonies.



REMEDY Magazine – In mailboxes and online now!

Check your mailbox and your inbox for your issue of REMEDY – the Faculty of Medicine’s bi-annual donor magazine! Filled with exciting news stories and impactful profiles, you’ll be in-the-know as a reader!

Here’s a sneak peek of our cover story...

Born Strong: The 2024 Molly Appeal

About eight percent of all live births in Canada are premature, which translates to about 28,000 babies born prematurely in the last year or so. Another 15-25 percent of all pregnancies end in miscarriages – a number that could be as high as 60,000 to 120,000 miscarriages per year in Canada. While there are approximately 3,100 stillbirths in a year, about 30 women die in childbirth or complications due to childbirth.

At Dalhousie University, Dr. Tobias Kollmann, a pediatric infectious disease specialist, is spearheading an initiative to improve the well-being of expectant mothers and their babies.

Together with a dedicated team of researchers, Kollmann is developing a revolutionary at-home monitoring system, like a smart watch, designed to evaluate a woman’s risk of delivering early or having other negative outcomes during pregnancy.

These portable devices, intended to be worn comfortably, will assess how the body utilizes nutrients and energy. By measuring the balance of carbon dioxide exhaled and oxygen inhaled, the system aims to detect subtle changes that may indicate potential risks or complications throughout pregnancy.

Dr. Kollmann and the team at Dalhousie need your help to conduct a pilot study involving pregnant women in Nova Scotia. This initial phase will provide invaluable data, paving the way for larger clinical trials and further exploration of innovative pregnancy monitoring technologies.

[Learn how you can help us transform prenatal care, ensuring a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.](#)



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Sophie’s Story

Sophie weighed just 1 pound, 9 ounces when she was born in August 2021, nearly four months premature. Her whole body fit into her father’s palm. Her tiny hand curled around the tip of his finger.

The fragile newborn spent her first eight weeks in an incubator in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, connected to breathing tubes and monitors. Even after she could leave the incubator, Sophie had to stay in the NICU as she fought to gain every ounce of weight, connected to oxygen for 99 days.

[Read more...](#)

