



PRESS RELEASE

April 28, 2016

Once Again Physician-Led Cycling Event Supports The Moncton Hospital Oncology Clinic

Moncton – For the second year, a physician-led group of cyclists will embark on a 500 kilometer route in five days to raise cancer awareness and funds for The Moncton Hospital's Oncology Clinic. The '*N.B. Doctors Cycling Against Cancer*' will leave The Moncton Hospital (TMH) on Monday, June 13 to cycle an average of 100 kilometers each day travelling through Miramichi, Fredericton, Saint John and Sussex before returning to Moncton on Friday, June 17.

Funds raised through the 2015 ride were used to improve the Oncology Clinical Trials Program at TMH through the purchase of much-needed medical and telecommunications technology. "Surpassing our goal of \$25,000 to reach \$42,000 last year was incredible," offered Dr. Mohammed Harb, Division Head of Oncology and Hematology at the Oncology Clinic. "The support of those who donated and those that came out to cheer us on has inspired us to do it again."

Donations to the 2016 ride have already begun and will benefit patients and their families. Loved ones will be more comfortable during the long stays that are a reality when treating cancer through the purchase of sleeper chairs. Specifically designed for healthcare environments, these sturdy chairs easily convert to cots enabling the Oncology Inpatient Ward to offer families sleep furniture without the difficulty of storing cots. The Ward will also address its current need for more vital signs monitors so patients requiring close monitoring may remain in the Ward instead of receiving care temporarily on another TMH Intensive Care Unit.

The ride continues to be a family commitment for the Harb family as Dr. Harb's wife, Rita, will participate again this year. Colleagues joining Dr. Harb are oncologist Dr. Nizar Abdel-Samad, general surgeons Dr. Paul Goobie and Dr. Tooraj Shakerinia, James Currie and Andre Robin from Janssen Inc., a pharmaceutical company under Johnson & Johnson. Committing to the ride for the first time are Bill Goobie, a Systems Engineer at TMH, Verity Williams and Adam Johnstone, representing the pharmaceutical company Amgen, as well as Suzanne Townsend, from Astellas. Andrew and Kerry Buzzell, supporters of the Oncology Clinic, are also participating.

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"We are committed to providing exceptional care to our patients and their families," says John McGarry, President and CEO of Horizon Health Network. "And we're extremely pleased that donations from this event will go towards improving the patient experience at The Moncton Hospital. We thank the physicians and the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation who have made this event possible."

Visit www.nbdocscac.com for more information including route, itinerary and how to donate. Donations are also gratefully accepted at the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation lobby desk, or at the Oncology Clinic at The Moncton Hospital.

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