



Hello Network Members,

Spring has sprung, and with it, we're moved into the season with renewed bounce in our step.

Over March and April, we:

- hosted a successful Policy Forum on Lung Cancer Screening Programs
- held a Night of Gratitude to acknowledge and thank our volunteers
- developed an Asthma Best Practices Implementation Toolkit
- made great strides in the development of our Research Program & Research Team
- partnered on providing a new funding opportunity for lung cancer research

Coming up in May, we will:

- recruit for the Respiratory Health Forum Scientific Planning Committee
- initiate a Research Working Group and begin construction of our new Research Program
- launch a new interactive online platform for sharing and networking
- observe World Asthma Day (May 2), an annual event organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world

Let us know about any events, projects, tools, et cetera that might be relevant to the network. We will be happy to look at ways to promote the other activities you are involved in.

If you have any ideas you would like to include, please reach out to Natalie Bennett at network@lunghealth.ca.

Policy in Action

Policy Forum: Lung Cancer Screening Programs – Global Insights and Challenges

On Wednesday, March 29, the Lung Health Foundation hosted a highly successful virtual webinar on ***Lung Cancer Screening Programs – Global Insights and Challenges***.

The event was moderated by Christian Finley, M.D., FRCS(C), MPH, a national leader in lung cancer management and benchmarking. Christian Finley was joined by Joelle T. Fathi, DNP, RN, ARNP, CTTS, FAAN, an adult acute care nurse practitioner from the **GO2 Foundation**, along with Jesme Fox, MBChB, MBA, the Medical Director at the **Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation**.

The forum was very well attended by policy makers and key stakeholders from across the lung health community and provided an opportunity for global lung cancer advocates and opinion leaders to explore key learnings, best practices, shared challenges & opportunities associated with lung cancer screening programs.

[Watch the Webinar Recording](#)

About LHF Policy Forums

LHF Policy Forums tackle some of the most urgent and pressing issues facing our healthcare system today, setting change in motion by bringing together local and global thought leaders from the public and private sectors to develop creative and actionable policy solutions and key recommendations that will improve the healthcare system for all Canadians.

For more information, please contact Mariam Razi, Director of Public Affairs at mrazi@lunghealth.ca.

Impact

A Night of Gratitude

On March 30, 2023, at 7:00 pm ET, the Lung Health Foundation held our second *Night of Gratitude!* This virtual event is an opportunity for us to acknowledge and thank our volunteers for their time and commitment to improving the lung health of all Canadians.

The “ripple effect” of those who gave their time this past year is hard to measure. Imagine tossing a small stone into the water, this action results in changes that can be felt much farther away than the initial entry point, which is proof that small actions can lead to much bigger changes, even if we can't see how far they reach.

That willingness to speak with someone on the phone who is newly diagnosed and feeling lost and scared, encouraging someone to join in on a support group meeting or an exercise class, offering a personal story to be shared in print or in video so we can reach people who may be isolated and feeling alone and the readiness to join focus groups, complete surveys, attend meetings and lobby government officials are just some of the amazing ways people gave of their time to help others.

The Lung Health Foundation would be unable to deliver on its promise to Canadians to help everyone breathe better without the ongoing energy, time, and commitment from our volunteers and advocates - we cannot do it alone.

We are heartened, continually impressed, and inspired by those who choose to work with the Lung Health Foundation. We feel fortunate to know so many of our advocates, to learn from them and be motivated by their enthusiasm and resilience.

Our Night of Gratitude was an opportunity to acknowledge and sincerely thank all those who have:

- shared their time, talents and knowledge
- supported our programs, services and advocacy efforts and
- inspired us with their stories, compassion and hope

And, we look forward to our continued work together this upcoming year!

Congratulations Winners - Better Breathing Week 2023

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our Better Breathing 2023 Conference evaluation!

Your input and feedback will help us continue to improve the conference format and ensure our areas of focus remain relevant.

Congratulations to the three randomly selected prize winners who are living in Toronto, Toronto, and Woodstock!

Implementation in Action

Asthma Best Practices Implementation Toolkit

Calling all primary and community healthcare providers – are you caring for children or adults with asthma? The Lung Health Foundation has developed the Asthma Best Practices Implementation Toolkit – a one-stop-shop for clinical tools and resources to help healthcare professionals implement practices in alignment with asthma quality standards in the areas of:

- Diagnosis
- Asthma Control
- Asthma Medication
- Self-Management Education and Asthma Action Plan
- Referral to Specialized Asthma Care
- Follow-Up After Discharge

Our Toolkit contains over 45 evidence-based, linked tools and is entirely free to use. Take a look at the Toolkit here, on our **healthcare professional focused website!**

Education Opportunities

Call for Respiratory Health Forum Committee members

We want your input! Join our Scientific Planning Committee to help shape another exciting Respiratory Health Forum (RHF).

We are looking for volunteers across health disciplines and healthcare sectors to help us identify important skills and capacity building opportunities for healthcare professionals. If you are interested in being part of the Scientific Planning Committee, please reach out to galfred@lunghealth.ca.

2023 GOLD International COPD Conference

November 13-14, 2023 | Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing

Mark your calendar for the 2023 GOLD International COPD Conference. Don't miss out on the most recent strategies on COPD.

Day 1 will cover the clinical application of new GOLD guidelines communicated through case studies and didactic lectures.

Day 2 will be presented in a hybrid format with in-person sessions virtually simulcast to a global audience of healthcare providers involved in the care and management of patients with COPD.

More information [here](#).

[Register Now](#)

Collaboration Opportunities

Asthma Best Practices Implementation Toolkit

This spring, we will be engaging in a number of knowledge mobilization activities for the **Asthma Best Practices Implementation Toolkit**.

Do you have an idea for how this Toolkit can be widely shared?

Would you like to learn more about upcoming opportunities for involvement?

Support us with our dissemination efforts, and reach out to Kristiann Man at **kman@lunghealth.ca** for more information.

Research

Introducing our new Senior Manager of Research

The Lung Health Foundation is pleased to welcome Rachel Fernandes to our Research & Impact team as our new Senior Manager of Research. Rachel has doctoral level training in Cognitive Psychology and over 6 years of experience leading interdisciplinary research projects. She is passionate about lung health and recently conducted a research project that contributed to the implementation of a province wide lung cancer screening program.

Rachel will play a key role in designing and implementing Lung Health Foundation's research funding program set to launch later this fiscal year. She will also use her knowledge of data analytics to drive performance measurement.

Update - Research Program Re-Development

Thank you for your continued patience as we build the internal infrastructure needed to redevelop the Lung Health Foundation's research program. Over the last six months, we have staffed the Research & Impact Department and have worked closely with our new CEO (Jessica Buckley) and LHF Board to align the program with our organizational goals.

We have also formally engaged in the following activities to gather important information to develop a new program:

- Retrospective analysis of historical funding data
- Environmental scan of research funders and select health charities
- Stakeholder consultations with lung health researchers, funders, health charities and other system stakeholders

These important inputs have provided foundational information to ensure a future program contributes to filling gaps in lung health research, supports LHF goals, is bolstered by a sustainable funding model, and is aligned with a national lung health agenda. We are currently collating data from the above activities and will use the information to help develop the new program.

As we embark on a new fiscal year, we are preparing to develop the program infrastructure and processes necessary to launch grants this fiscal. To this end, the following activities will support the development of a new program over the next several months:

- Initiate the Research Working Group to support program conceptualization and development
- Conduct Phase 2 of stakeholder consultations to include feedback from donors, patients and government (on-going)
- Seek feedback from the LHF Board for a sustainable funding model to support the program (June)
- Collaborate with the Research Working Group to develop grants and program processes (summer and fall)

We see this as an incredible opportunity to challenge our thinking on what a national research program for lung health could be and seek your continued support as we move this initiative forward. We hope many of you will consider being a part of this process as your support is essential to ensure the success of the new program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us by writing to network@lunghealth.ca.

In Research News

For those providing care in the realm of severe asthma, you may be interested to read the findings from the study, "**Recommendations from a Canadian Delphi consensus study on best practice for optimal referral and appropriate management of severe asthma**" recently published in the journal *Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology*.

Organized as part of the **PRECISION programme**, the objective of this modified Delphi consensus project was to define standards of care for severe asthma in Canada, in areas where the evidence is lacking (as determined through patient and healthcare professional consensus), to complement forthcoming guidelines.

[Read the paper](#)

Current Research Funding Opportunities

Pfizer, Lung Health Foundation (LHF), Lung Cancer Canada (LCC), and the Quebec Lung Association (QLA) are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals for **quality improvement initiatives** focused on improving the care of outcomes of Canadians living with **metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)** with special focus on improving health equity in this setting.

Application Due Date: May 30, 2023

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Our Network

New online platform coming soon!

The Lung Health Foundation is poised to launch a new interactive online space hosted on **TimedRight**, where members of our Network for Healthcare Professionals and Researchers can share information, network with peers, access resources and learn about upcoming events hosted by the Lung Health Foundation and other experts in the lung health space. Look for more details in our next newsletter.

Help us Grow our Network

The wisdom and expertise of healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the lung health of Canadians have long guided the mission of the Lung Health Foundation. Help us grow our **Lung Health Network for Healthcare Professionals and Researchers** by inviting your friends and colleagues to join.

Powered by the Lung Health Foundation, this network offers meaningful opportunity for healthcare professionals to collaborate and directly contribute to the design, delivery, and evaluation of strategies and policies to improve lung health in Canada.

The Network and its members are guided by the **strategic plan of the Lung Health Foundation** and are engaged throughout the Lung Health Foundation's work to ensure healthcare professionals' perspectives and insight contribute to impact and sustainable change.

We are building a community of passionate and dedicated healthcare professionals who believe lung health can and should be better for all Canadians.

Opportunities within the Network include:

- Leadership Roles
- Education Hub
- Research Hub
- Implementation Hub
- Health Policy Hub
- Speaker's Bureau

For more information and to join the Network, we invite you to visit **lungnetwork.org**

[Join the Network](#)

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