

STUDENT TALENT IN IMMUNOTHERAPY & CANCER RESEARCH

As an internationally acclaimed centre for research in Infection, Immunity, Inflammation and Vaccinology (I3V), Dalhousie is a world leader in the discovery and development of new vaccines, antiviral drugs and life-saving immunotherapies.

Referred to as the “I3V team,” over 40 principle investigators, 100 trainees and 80 long-term staff make up this research group that is working on a vast range of conditions including cancer, influenza, chronic heart disease and more. Having achieved many groundbreaking discoveries to date — including the development of novel “oncolytic” viruses that can be used to fight cancer — Dalhousie’s momentum and global leadership in this area is fast and furious.

Over the past year, Dalhousie’s I3V team has been working to establish an I3V Training Program to provide exceptional learning opportunities for trainees in this area, while increasing the group’s research capacity as a whole. Over a five-year period, this training program will add new Post-Doctoral Fellows, Graduate Students and Research Associates to the I3V team. Beyond supporting innovative work in the lab, the I3V Training Program will also include unique career development opportunities for trainees, such as a study-abroad skills-acquisition program and a seminar program featuring leading experts from around the world. These opportunities will expose trainees to top global talent early on in their careers, while fostering new collaborations between Dalhousie and other international powerhouses in I3V research.

“Post-Doctoral Fellows and Graduate Student trainees are really the engines of research. As the ones that do the hands on experimentation, they are particularly valuable to accelerate our progress toward the clinic.”

- Dr. Craig McCormick, Research Team Leader & Professor Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Dalhousie University



“I have always been impressed with how Dalhousie Medicine can bring together teams of excellent people, who together, get exceptional results.”

- Rod MacLennan, DMRF supporter & former DMRF Board Member

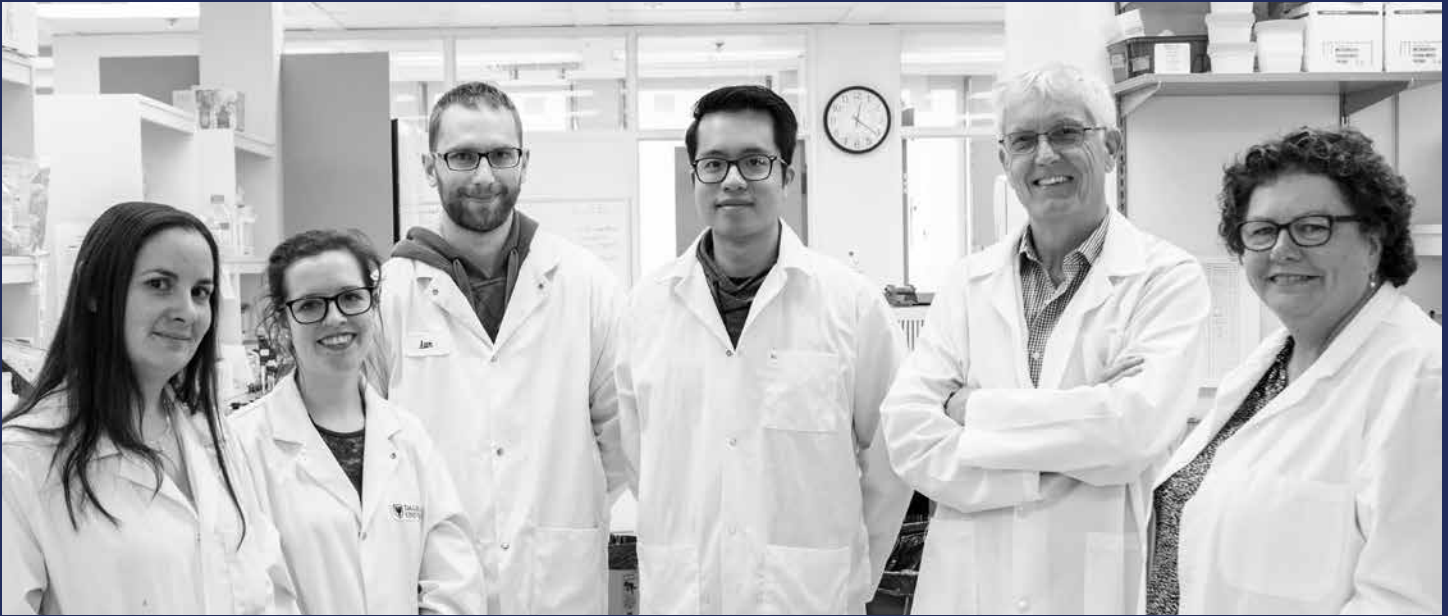
“DMRF dollars can multiply very quickly. For example, this year’s Molly Appeal raised funds toward the purchase of a new piece of microscopic imaging equipment called the ImageStreamX Mark II – a machine that costs roughly \$350,000. By demonstrating this progress toward our goal in a recent NSERC grant application, we have subsequently been awarded an additional \$150,000 in grant funding, and will soon have one of the best imaging facilities in the country with the addition of this machine.”

– Dr. Roy Duncan, Research Team Leader & Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Dalhousie University



“Our relationship with DMRF has been instrumental in our success to date. We are extremely grateful for this support, and look forward to building out this world-class Training Program over the next-five years.”

– Dr. Craig McCormick, Research Team Leader & Professor Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Dalhousie University



With an estimated budget of \$3 million over the next 5 years, Dalhousie's I3V team is actively working to raise funds for this new training program. Already, DMRF has contributed \$640,000 toward this goal, including a donation from long-time DMRF supporter and former Board Member Rod MacLennan, and an estate gift graciously left by the late Clarence Anderson. This funding has provided enough seed money to launch the I3V Training Program this fall, and to support eight Post-Doctoral Fellowships over the next five-years. These Fellowships are named for the esteemed Dr. David H. Hubel, who was a Nobel Prize winning Canadian American neurophysicist. Although Dr. Hubel worked predominantly at John Hopkins School of Medicine and Harvard University, he established a strong connection to Dalhousie University by participating in visiting lectureships and teaching visits

which eventually led to him receiving an honorary Doctorate of Laws in 1998.

Notably, gifts like these from DMRF donors go far beyond their face value, often opening doors to additional sources of funding support. By allowing the I3V team to get the Training Program off the ground and build its capacity, these donations will increase the likelihood of securing highly competitive grant funding to keep the Training Program running for years to come, and in capturing interest from potential partners like biotech labs or pharmaceutical companies.

Over the next few months, the I3V team will begin the first round of Post-Doctorate competitions to select the first candidates. The seminar program will also launch in September, as part of the overall Training Program.