

# MOLLY UPDATE

Nearly 40 years ago, the DMRF Molly Appeal began with a single \$5 donation. Since then, it has been instrumental in fundraising for lifesaving research at Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine every year.

## **MOLLY APPEAL: FALL 2018**

DMRF's annual fall Molly Appeal was also immensely successful this past year, providing important funding toward state-of-the-art research equipment, as well as a new graduate-level training program.

Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine is a leading international center for research innovation in Infection, Immunology, Inflammation and Vaccinology (I3V). Thanks to your generous support, Dalhousie's first high-throughput imaging microscope, the ImageStreamX Mark II, will be up and running this coming fall, to help support this impressive multidisciplinary group. Capturing high-quality images of 5,000 cells per second – 125 times faster than the conventional standard – the ImageStreamX Mark II will enhance world-leading research involving complex conditions such as cancer, autoimmune disease, infection and more.

In addition to outstanding I3V research at Dalhousie, a strong genomics revolution is also taking place, wherein researchers are working to crack the genetic codes that underpin disease. With DNA sequence databases growing faster than the number of personnel capable of processing their information, the fall Molly Appeal also sought out to generate funding for a new Training Program in Genome Informatics.

## MOLLY APPEAL: SPRING 2018

For the first time, DMRF launched a new spring Molly Appeal in response to the need for an essential piece of equipment for Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine researchers. Providing the ability to examine brain tissues with greater precision than its outdated counterparts around the world, the Leica HistoCore PEARL Tissue Processor is an indispensable tool in our researchers' quest to understand, prevent and treat a variety of diseases and conditions.

With a \$53,200 price tag, the purchase of this processor may have seemed unattainable, but thanks to the support of DMRF donors through the spring Molly Appeal, we are pleased to announce that this machine has been obtained and is currently being used by over three-dozen researchers in Dalhousie's Histology lab.

As one of many researchers using this machine, Dr. Sultan Darvesh depends on sophisticated tissue analysis for his groundbreaking work in Alzheimer's disease. For his team, this machine could mean the difference between the ability to diagnose the disease in a living patient's brain at the earliest possible stage, or having to wait too long for detection and treatment.

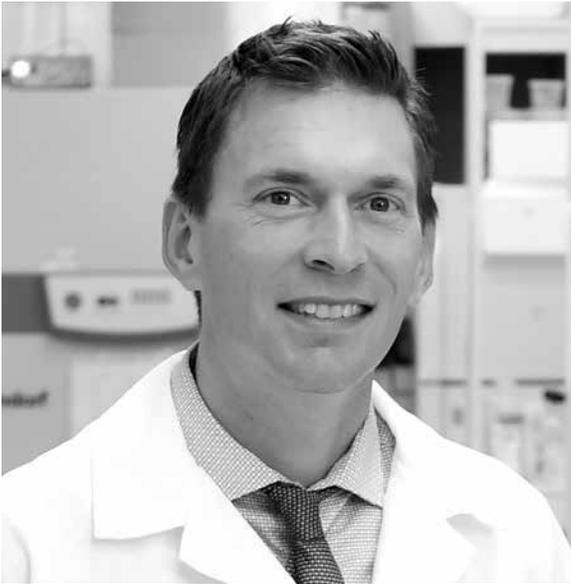
Thanks to funds raised from the spring Molly Appeal, the Leica HistoCore PEARL Tissue Processor is already proving invaluable to researchers at Dalhousie across multiple disciplines, including neuroscience, cardiology, cancer and immunology.



“Properly processed brain tissues are essential to our work, allowing us to see individual brain cells and their axons and to detect changes that may cause degeneration. If we can detect these changes early enough, we can intervene before brain function has been lost.”

– Dr. Sultan Darvesh, DMRF  
Irene MacDonald Sobey Chair in Curative  
Approaches to Alzheimer's Disease,  
Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

Also in photo, Patricia Colp, Chief  
Technologist, Lab Manager Department  
of Pathology, Dalhousie University



“This equipment will truly accelerate our pace of discovery at Dalhousie. It allows us to look at millions of individual cells to identify and focus on the ‘needle in the haystack’—rare but special types of cells, like stem cells. We can learn from these special cells and find ways to provide patients with personalized treatments, cures, and a new lease on life.”

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

Thanks to funds raised from the fall Molly Appeal, a total of 40 trainees at the Masters and PhD level will contribute to cross-cutting I3V-genomics research projects as part of this new training program, on everything from inflammatory bowel disease to cancer.

Helping to acquire new state-of-the-art equipment, and the best minds to process their data, the 2018 Molly Appeals move us that much closer to new breakthroughs. We thank every donor across the Maritimes for their support in this noble endeavor.

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*The DMRF Molly Appeal is a Maritime-wide annual fundraising campaign that supports lifesaving research at Dalhousie’s Faculty of Medicine. Beginning in 1980 after a local woman named Molly Moore donated a \$5 bill to medical research, the campaign is based on Molly’s belief that if we all give what we can, together we can make a big difference. To date, the Molly Appeal has raised over \$6.5 million for critical research initiatives, with contributions from thousands of individual donors in the community.*