

Highlights from the 2021 Annual Supporters' Meeting

Year in Review

The Glaucoma Research Society of Canada (GRSC) held its Annual Supporters' Meeting online as a live webinar on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. President James Parks welcomed attendees, thanking everyone who contributed to a successful year for the Society.

Noting that several new members - Alf Kwinter, Dr. Cindy Hutnik, and Scott Leslie - had recently joined the Board, he introduced the Board of Directors with a slide show emphasizing how each contributes to the overall running of the Society. James also shared the news of Dr. Blair Fearon's retirement from the Board in May, and the passing of Mel Mitzel in February.

As a tribute to Board member Mel Mitzel, the Society introduced the **Mel Mitzel Research Excellence Award**. This annual award is to be presented to the research project with the highest ratings after peer reviews. James then presented the **Annual Recognition Awards**, starting with the inaugural **Mel Mitzel Research Excellence Award**.

Board Treasurer Tom Gottlieb reported on the revenue and expenses for the fiscal year that ended on May 31, 2021. He thanked supporters and donors for their generosity which allowed the GRSC to award nine grants totalling \$251,419 in Spring 2021.

Tom reminded attendees about the upcoming Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, urging supporters to join in the fundraising efforts by participating or donating. Efforts from 2020 had raised over \$53,000 and helped fund a number of glaucoma research projects in 2021.

Tom concluded his presentation with shout-outs emphasizing the variety of ways individuals impact the Society. He started with the reviewers who review the grant applications submitted each year to ensure they are medically sound. This community is too large to name individuals, but he noted how essential their work is to the Society.

Other shout-outs went to: Dr. Jason Kwok for his contribution to the website's Q&A page; Jordan Stevens for becoming a generous monthly online donor; Aequis Pharmaceuticals and Patti & Kevin Birch for participating in the 2021 Marathon; Dr. Jason Armstrong for assisting with distribution of promotional materials; and corporate sponsors Santen Inc. and Allergan, an AbbVie company.

Dr. Graham Trope introduced Dr. Enitan Sogbesan from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario to present the **11th Albert Waxer Lecture**. Following the presentation, Dr. Rajiv Bindlish hosted a twenty-minute Question and Answer session with Dr. Sogbesan, and GRSC Board members and glaucoma specialists Dr. Cindy Hutnik and Dr. Catherine Birt.

James then presented a **Recognition Award** to Dr. Sogbesan and thanked everyone who attended, along with Santen Canada Inc. for sponsoring the event.

You can find a link to the recording by visiting www.glaucomaresearch.ca or by emailing us at info@glaucomaresearch.ca

GRSC's 2021 ASM was sponsored by Santen Canada Inc.



Team Breaks Fundraising Goal at 2021 5

THANK YOU MARATHON SUP

A fundraising team consisting of GRSC Board members helped us surpass our \$60K goal at the 2021

Virtual Rules Lead To Success

Virtual rules introduced in 2020 allowed participants to join from anywhere in Canada and to complete their walk at any time in October. In the end, the GRSC fundraising team spanned from Port Rexton, Newfoundland to Vancouver, British Columbia!

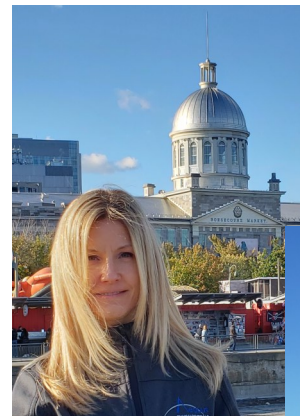


Toronto participants left to right: Dr. Catherine Birt, Alex Odunlami, Janet Lacasse, Kevin Birch, Patti Birch, Ranjini Menon, Munira Quintyn, Barry McDonnell, James Parks, Tom Gottlieb, Suzanne Marshall

Participants not pictured: Dr. Graham Trope, Martin Chasson, Stuart Murray, Alf Kwinter, Dr. Cindy Hutnik, Jean Edmond,

The group located in the Greater Toronto Area (above) took advantage of a brief spot of sunshine and a short ease in Covid restrictions to get together on October 24 for the 5km walk. Teams in Quebec (top right) and Alberta (bottom right) also got a chance to dust off their walking shoes. As you can see, a great time was had by all and we can't wait to get moving in 2022!

To join us in 2022, or to support the team in other ways, please see details on the next page.



*Kat Mack (top left) and M. from Team Aequis Quebec
Jean Emond (below) from*

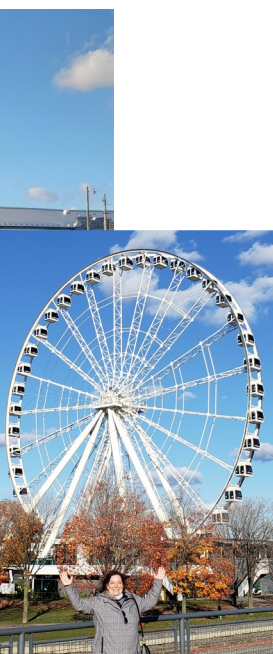


5KM Marathon with over \$85,000 Raised!

SUPPORTERS & PARTICIPANTS!

s, supporters and a group from Aequus Pharmaceuticals
21 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon

Aequus
PHARMACEUTICALS



*Alyssa Bergan (top right)
c; Grant Larson &
Team Aequus Alberta*



Walk 5km for the Cure in 2022

Glaucoma Research Society of Canada's largest annual fundraiser is now open for Registrations and you can help by signing up to participate as a fundraiser!

In 2021, the team raised over \$85,000. We'd love to top that in 2022! The larger the team, the more funds we can raise to put towards research. The more research, the closer we all get to a cure for this disease that is one of the most common causes of irreversible blindness worldwide.



The TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon (formerly Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon) will have the option to participate at a live event in Toronto on October 16, but you can participate virtually from anywhere in Canada, anytime in October!

For details, see our website:

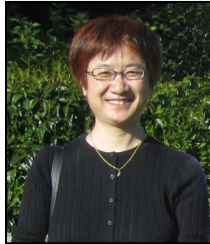
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2021 Annual Supporters' Meeting Highlights

2021 Recognition Awards



Dr. Yaping Jin, recipient of the inaugural **Mel Mitzel Research Excellence Award** for the highest rated 2021 research project

Don K. Johnson, OC
in recognition of
generous financial
contributions to
the Society



Jeremy Smith
in recognition of
generous financial
contributions to
the Society

Isobel Beaton
in recognition of
generous financial
contributions to
the Society



Thomas Gottlieb
in recognition of his dedicated
service as Treasurer and
Operations Director for
the Society

Dr. Enitan Sogbesan
in honour of his delivery
of the **11th Albert Waxer
Lecture** at the Society's
2021 Annual Meeting
of Supporters



Dr. Sogbesan Delivers 11th Albert Waxer Lecture

Creating a Virtual Reality App for Patient Education, Treatment Adherence & Quality of Life

At GRSC's Annual Supporters' Meeting Dr. Enitan Sogbesan presented findings from his latest project, which was the recipient of a 2021 GRSC grant.

Dr. Sogbesan explained that deteriorating vision can have a negative effect on the Quality of Life (QoL) for many glaucoma patients. With no cure for glaucoma, it is imperative that patients stick to their treatment regime as prescribed by their physicians to ensure the best QoL overall. Another factor that can negatively affect a patient's QoL is that their families, caregivers, and even their healthcare providers find it difficult to understand the experience of losing vision, leaving the glaucoma patient feeling misunderstood and isolated.

To better understand the vision loss experienced by many glaucoma patients, Dr. Sogbesan is using the ophthalmic visual field images of glaucoma patients to develop a Virtual Reality (VR) simulation that mimics the vision loss of the typical glaucoma patient.

Dr. Sogbesan expects the VR simulator will enhance patients' compliance to their prescribed treatments, particularly in newly diagnosed patients who may work harder at trying to prevent the vision loss presented in the VR simulator. He also expects it to improve empathy and understanding among family members and caregivers along with being a useful educational tool for medical professionals.

A link to the recording can be found by visiting www.glaucomaresearch.ca or by email request: info@glaucomaresearch.ca