



Letter from the President and Scientific Director

This was an exceptionally difficult year for cancer patients and their families, with the pandemic upending regular screenings, surgeries and care. It also reminded us of the critical importance of cancer research and care and the central role OICR has played in Ontario, across Canada and across the world. OICR researchers are working in fields like genomics, informatics, imaging, diagnostics and drug development to continue developing new tools to diagnose and treat cancer in a more precision-oriented way. The tools OICR is developing with our partners will help patients live longer healthier lives, while also bringing economic benefits such as jobs and investment to the province.



This year we introduced a new vision statement for the Institute to help guide our research: Cancer Solved Together. This statement is central to our new Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 and confirms OICR's strong commitment to collaborative research respecting equity, diversity and inclusion, while also looking forward to a better future where cancer is detected earlier and treated more proactively and precisely with fewer side effects.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff for all they have done this year to keep our research going - from those who came into the labs during the darkest days of the pandemic to those who stayed home to help ensure their colleagues on site were safe. I'd like to thank the Government of Ontario without whom our research would not be possible and who provided continued support for our work throughout this time.

Thank you to everyone across the Ontario cancer research community who contributed to OICR's new Strategic Plan 2021-2026, providing feedback and input throughout its development. The Plan was the result of a great deal of collaboration and hard work, and I thank the staff at OICR, especially Rebecca Tamarchak, who led the development of this exciting and important new document that will guide OICR's research for the next five years.

I would also like to deeply thank Tom Closson, whose term as Chair of our Board of Directors ended in September 2021. I thank him for his leadership and support of the Institute over the last five years, as well as his guidance and mentorship of myself and our leadership team through a time of great change. His dedication to cancer research and to improving the lives of patients is truly unmatched and his years of leadership experience in healthcare in Ontario was a huge asset to OICR. From myself, our leadership, and all the staff at OICR, we wish Tom the very best of health and success in his future endeavours. I would also like to recognize the contributions of Vivek Goel, who stepped down from the Board this year to take

on the exciting role as President of the University of Waterloo. We also welcomed Jonathan Irish and Malcolm Campbell to our Board this year. It is also my distinct pleasure to welcome Susan Fitzpatrick, who is our new OICR Board Chair starting in September 2021. Susan brings with her a wealth of experience in the healthcare sector through past high-level roles in Ontario at the Ministry of Health and as founding Interim CEO of the new Ontario Health agency. Her extensive experience in the healthcare sector will be instrumental in helping OICR translate its innovations into better cancer care.

Another important milestone for OICR this year was the appointment of Dr. Steve Gallinger as the new Head of OICR's Clinical Translation program and member of our executive team. Steve has been a leading clinician-scientist in Ontario and world leader in pancreatic cancer research and his blend of clinical insights and research experience will be instrumental as we move this program into its next phase of evolution.

This year also marked another milestone for OICR in our commitment to engaging and partnering with the cancer patient community. OICR initiated its inaugural Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC) made up of a group of highly talented present and past cancer patients as well as caregivers who will work with us to optimize our research programs ensuring that the patient voice is heard and that our programs have tangible patient benefits.

And finally, thank you to the members of the OICR community across the province and around the world who have continued working with us in the fight against cancer. Working together we are making a real impact in translating research results to patients. We look forward to deepening these ties over the coming years, taking on bigger challenges, constantly breaching the envelope of cancer research, and delivering more impactful results for patients around the world.

Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi

President and Scientific Director, OICR