

Alberta

Cares

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NEW CLINICAL TRIALS

Rammy Khadour
helps pave the way.



LIVING WITH CANCER:
MEET BRADLEY DRADER

THE ARTHUR J.E. CHILD
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER
CENTRE

LEAVING A LEGACY
OF HOPE



Rammy Khadour

Rammy Khadour helps pave the way for new clinical trials

Clinical trials are an essential step in finding new ways to prevent, detect and treat cancer. But equally as important is the hope they provide for patients and families by discovering new outcomes and new ways to save lives.

In fact, the chance to help improve patient lives is what drew Rammy Khadour, a lead project manager at the Cross Cancer Institute, to a career supporting researchers and investigators by providing them with the tools and training they need to run clinical trials successfully.

“This role lets me use problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to drive progress on a clinical trial and, on top of that, improve the lives of our patients here and around the world,” says Khadour. “One good discovery can save millions of lives.”

Your support helps fund these critical clinical trials, and it’s helping Alberta lead the way in clinical trial activity in Canada.

While Khadour doesn’t see patients on a day-to-day basis, he helps the researchers and clinicians who do.

Despite having years of clinical experience and knowledge, they aren’t always sure how to apply their skills to a trial—and that’s where Khadour steps in.

“Part of my work is giving people the confidence to utilize the experience they already have and channel that into a clinical trial,” explains Khadour.

The in-house trials are a culmination of everybody’s best efforts and dedication to improving cancer treatment.

Your support in action!

The Cross Cancer Institute places more than 600 Albertans facing cancer on new drug trials each year. This is the highest per capita in Canada.

“I’m very fortunate and privileged that the progress I’m making here is giving patients new avenues of care and giving them hope,” says Khadour.

Thanks to your generous support, that progress can continue.

Original article authored by Michaela Ream

Meet Bradley Drader

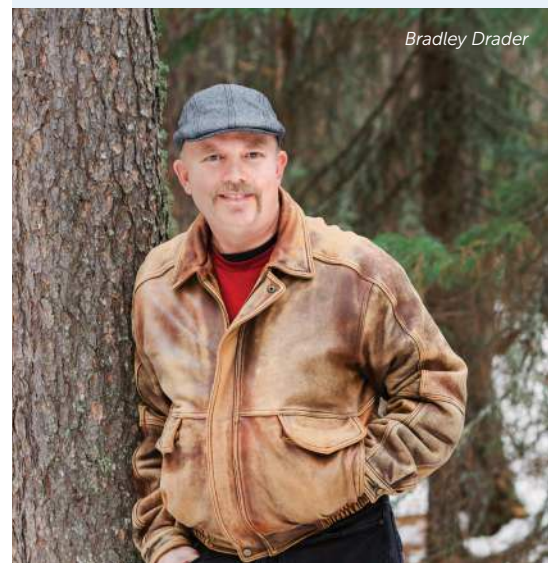
Bradley Drader’s cancer journey began when he was just a toddler in 1969. After being diagnosed with a rare form of adrenal cancer, he was admitted to the Cross Cancer Institute for surgery and treatment. While he was too young to understand the disease and his prognosis, Drader still remembers the kindness and support of the staff and volunteers who cared for him.

“In those days, there wasn’t a Ronald McDonald House or any accommodations for parents,” Drader explains. “That was tough with my family on a farm in central Alberta. But I wasn’t alone—staff and volunteers kept me company.”

Just a few years after his first diagnosis, Drader had surgery and radiation for a growth on his skull. All was well for years—until cancer caught up with him again as an adult. Twice. Drader recently finished follow-up treatment for prostate cancer, and still remains as grateful as ever for the support and care he’s received at the Cross.

“I’ve been able to weather the most difficult times because of my amazing family and the encouraging and supportive staff and volunteers at the Cross Cancer Institute.”

Original article authored by Fabian Mayer



Bradley Drader

OPENING FALL 2024

Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre



Your support in action!

160 private inpatient rooms, each with its own washroom.

1.3 million square-feet of research, care and education space.

The most **advanced technology and infrastructure**, both in the public spaces and behind the scenes.

Original article authored by Amanda Debenham and Breanne Kraus

What started with a sketch and the idea of a building that could feel like a hug has turned into a beacon of hope for every Albertan who hears the words, “You have cancer.” When the 1.3 million square-foot “hug” opens its doors later this year, Calgary’s new Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre (the Arthur Child) will be home to world-leading cancer researchers and medical teams.

A welcoming experience

The Arthur Child fosters a warm, inclusive and welcoming experience for patients, family and staff. Thoughtfully designed spaces, including 160 private inpatient rooms each with their own bathroom, make it feel like a home away from home. The Indigenous family room is beautifully decorated with local art that has been specially curated by Indigenous community partners, creating an inclusive and safe healing environment for Indigenous patients and their loved ones.



World-class treatment and research

With more than 10,000 square-feet of state-of-the-art research space, the new cancer centre will accelerate the development of precision medicine, diagnostic tools and more made-in-Alberta solutions to cancer. It will also bring researchers and patients together under one roof, and is poised to become a global leader in innovative cancer research and treatments.

Innovative technology

To help the centre run as efficiently as possible, the Arthur Child is equipped with the most advanced technology and infrastructure—both in the public spaces and behind the scenes. It’s also home to the eSIM lab, an advanced educational program that re-creates clinical events for cancer centre personnel. By replicating real-world experiences, it helps promote best practices and enhances care quality.

A sustainable focus

The Arthur Child is LEED Gold-certified with high-efficiency electricity, low water waste, energy-efficient HVAC systems and an enhanced air-filtration system. Thanks to these sustainable measures, energy consumption will be reduced by more than 26 per cent and the centre will save more than 34 million litres of water each year.



Philip Croteau

Leaving a legacy of hope

Philip Croteau is no stranger to cancer. Out of his immediate family members, just two people remain untouched by the disease. Philip, his Dad, his brother and one sister have all faced cancer. Only Philip and his brother have survived.

It’s a difficult history, but one that has inspired Croteau to make a generous gift in support of other Albertans facing cancer.

When Croteau retired, he assumed he’d have 25 or 30 years to look forward to. But the reality of a cancer diagnosis of his own made him rethink what his future might look like instead—and the legacy he wanted to leave behind.

“What moved me to make the choice I did was trying to think about how I could make the biggest influence. As soon as I heard that cancer in Alberta can touch one in two people—and I thought about it touching so many of my family members—I knew what I had to do.”

In addition to donating regularly, Croteau decided to become a legacy donor, and is leaving a gift to the Alberta Cancer Foundation in his will.

“Donating while you’re alive influences your estate planning, and leaving a contribution in your will helps manage taxes after. Doing both provides significant benefit, and when you consider the impact your gifts will make for a better future, gosh—it just makes sense.”



Screening and testing for colorectal cancer

Q&A with Dr. Darren Brenner, a cancer epidemiologist



Q: What are the potential signs of colorectal cancer to look out for?

“Large amounts of rectal bleeding. A change in your bowel habits that would be continual over time, such as narrow or ribbon-like stools, which could mean that there’s a potential blockage. Also, frequent diarrhea or constipation, consistent pain in your abdomen and losing weight. If you experience any of those, you should follow up with your health-care professional right away.”

Q: How does more screening lead to a reduction of diagnoses?

“Screening for colorectal cancer is interesting because you catch the cancers early, offering better treatments and better outcomes. These tests can also detect polyps (small growths which can sometimes become cancerous). These can be removed at the time of colonoscopy and that removal basically stops that pathway to cancer, as those polyps may have eventually become cancerous.”

Q: Can you discuss the importance of population-based screening for colorectal cancer?

“This year, an estimated 24,100 people in Canada will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer. But this is a massive improvement from where we used to be. Since the 80s, when the first rudimentary endoscopy-based screening became available, we’ve seen a 25 per cent reduction in the rates of people being diagnosed with colorectal cancer and about a 35 per cent reduction in the rates of people dying from colorectal cancer in Canada. These dramatic reductions are the direct result of population-based cancer screening like we have here in Alberta.”

Original article authored by Sean P. Young

Message from Wendy

CEO, Alberta Cancer Foundation

Everywhere I look, I see hope in Alberta. It holds immeasurable power and propels us forward—*just like your generous support*. Of course hope is unique to everyone who faces cancer. But it manifests itself in the tireless efforts of people like Rammy Khadour whose behind-the-scenes work creates new pathways of care through clinical trials. It’s present in Bradley Drader’s 55-year cancer journey, and it drives donors like Philip Croteau to leave legacy gifts to the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

Hope for the best treatments close to home, hope for more moments and hope that we can change the course of cancer across our province. That’s what we are working towards.

And it’s the reason your donations make such an incredible impact—and why we are so grateful that you believe in the power of hope too.

Care to do more?



The Cash and Cars Lottery

You can win 1,385 incredible prizes valued at \$3.5 million including a grand prize choice between a dream home, cash or both.

Purchase tickets before July 24, 2024 for a chance to win the \$50,000 loyalty prize!

Learn more at cashandcarslottery.ca or call **1-877-783-7403**.



Tour Alberta

Join Alberta’s biggest cycling fundraiser supporting life-changing cancer research and care. Cycle up to 200 kilometres around southern Alberta’s beautiful countryside. Last year, over 1,200 cyclists joined us and raised over \$5.6 million for Albertans facing cancer.

Learn more at touralbertaforcancer.ca

Make a big impact with gifts of publicly-traded securities.

Donate publicly-traded securities to the Alberta Cancer Foundation for a tax-efficient way of giving and helping Albertans facing cancer. You’ll eliminate capital gains tax and receive a charitable receipt. Find out more at albertacancer.ca/donate-securities

The one-minute legacy

RRSPs and RRIAs can help plan for the future and support change. Designating the Alberta Cancer Foundation as a beneficiary can alleviate some of the tax burden and help you make a big impact as part of your legacy. Speak with your financial advisor or email christy.soholt@albertacancer.ca to learn more.



The complete articles can be found in our latest Leap Magazine.



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