

Helping Canadian Cancer Research & Innovation

BeiGene Canada's Pioneering Fund



CANCER IS A FORMIDABLE ADVERSARY THAT TOUCHES COUNTLESS LIVES.

The disease continues to challenge the global healthcare community where cures or effective treatments are often elusive. This ongoing battle requires relentless dedication, collaboration, and innovation. It also requires enormous resources. In Canada, while we strive for excellence in medical research and are certainly capable of it thanks to the ingenuity and quality of our investigators, a clear obstacle is the ability to pursue and prove hypotheses. BeiGene Canada, a relatively new player in the Canadian oncology space, has recently taken a significant step forward in launching the BeiGene Canada Fund for Research and Innovation – an initiative to help give life to ideas on how to improve cancer care that may be lying dormant in a lab somewhere in our expansive country.

A VISION OF PROGRESS

BeiGene Canada, is the Canadian affiliate of global biotechnology company BeiGene Inc., specialized in the discovery and development of novel, affordable, and accessible oncology medications. With a diverse portfolio primarily targeting blood cancers and solid tumours, BeiGene is at the forefront of global efforts to combat cancer. Since entering Canada in 2021, BeiGene's Brukinsa has received Health Canada authorization as a treatment for adult patients with Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia (WM), Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL), relapsed or refractory Marginal Zone Lymphoma (MZL), and most recently for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL).



From left to right: BeiGene Canada GM, Peter Brenders, N.B. Health Minister Bruce Fitch, Atlantic Cancer Research Institute, Acting CEO, Brigitte Sonier-Ferguson, Research NB, CEO, Damon Goodwin



Peter Brenders, General Manager, BeiGene Canada

The announcement of BeiGene Canada's inaugural partnership fund, aimed at catalyzing non-clinical cancer research and innovation across Canada, was made in August 2023 by Peter Brenders, General Manager of BeiGene Canada in collaboration with N.B. Health Minister Bruce Fitch, ResearchNB and the Atlantic Cancer Research Institute. This was the first step in the national outreach to ensure that Canadian researchers are aware of the program and to encourage them to apply. The initial half-million-dollar fund signifies a resounding commitment to enhancing cancer care across Canada.

EMPOWERING RESEARCHERS

BeiGene Canada's GM, Peter Brenders, is candid in explaining that the BeiGene Canada Fund for Research and Innovation goes beyond being a straightforward financial commitment; it is about fostering a vision of collaboration that seeks to empower researchers and institutions across Canada. This initiative is thoughtfully designed to leverage contributions from various sources, including public funding agencies, health charities, and other private sector granting entities. This approach amplifies the dollars and engages a broader group of stakeholders who share a common purpose. The expression that it "takes a village" accurately sums it up.

He also emphasizes that central to the company's mission to discover, develop, and deliver treatments that are better, safer, less expensive and, ultimately, more accessible is the company's founding principle that, *Cancer has no borders, and neither do we.* "The BeiGene

Canada Fund for Research and Innovation illustrates our deep commitment to the Canadian oncology community in overcoming this challenge and highlights the power of partnerships," he said.

Speaking at the Moncton, N.B. news conference to announce the fund, Peter Brenders noted that, "a cancer diagnosis is a life-altering event that affects countless individuals and their loved ones. Researchers across Canada work tirelessly every day to advance cancer care, and initiatives like the BeiGene Canada Fund offer hope for groundbreaking discoveries that can transform the way we approach cancer treatment."

SUPPORTING CANCER RESEARCH

The fund will support projects related to human health research, specifically cancer care, excluding clinical trials. Proposals can fall under the umbrella of any of four themes: biomedical research, clinical research, health systems and services including health policy, and population health. Eligible applicants must be affiliated with a university, college, medical training program, regional health authority, or healthcare or research institution in Canada. The grants will be awarded to the participating institution and not an individual.

The BeiGene Canada Fund is designed to support innovative research projects for up to two years and provide a maximum of \$50,000 per project (\$25,000 per year for 2 years). The fund is not intended to be the sole source of funding for research projects and here is where the partnership concept is realized. The leverage ratio for each research project necessitates matching funding of at least 1 to 4 in each year (25% of the BeiGene funding). For example, if the Fund provides \$40,000 other funding source(s) must provide \$10,000. Applications for funding will be accepted on a rolling basis, with no set deadlines, so that researchers and institutions have the flexibility to align their projects with the evolving landscape of their cancer research.

The BeiGene Canada Fund for Research and Innovation is a testament to the power of partnership and commitment in the field of cancer research. With so many in our country impacted by cancer in one form or another, patients, caregivers, clinicians, and investigators are the ones who will stand to benefit from the advancements driven by this initiative, offering new hope for the future of cancer care in Canada.

For additional information on the BeiGene Canada Fund for Research and Innovation and to apply, please visit www.beigene.ca/en-ca/fund/.

