



March 18, 2016

Dear Members,

Your board had another busy year in 2015 with many successful activities that we hope will support our goals to improve patient care and disease control, while continuing to push research towards the cause and cure of all forms of vasculitis. With your continued help we are making a difference in the lives of vasculitis patients.

Our 2015 AGM included first class lectures by two of Canada's, and the worlds, leading vasculitis researchers, namely Dr.'s Michael Walsh and Katherine Siminovitch. Both presentations were video recorded and will be posted on our website in the future. Unfortunately, the set-up of the VFC video library has taken longer than expected, we look forward to adding this valuable resource sooner rather than later!

During the year we did another update, and print run, on our VFC brochure which is also now available for download on our website. Our website saw many improvements with the addition of: a VFC calendar of events, news, and "hot" buttons for quick access to what vasculitis is and what is VFC. Of course, there is always more to do on our website, social media, and other VFC activities throughout 2016.

As in the past, we hosted or participated in a number of successful events like our 17th annual picnic and walk in Cambridge and the 2nd BriStrength walk in Orillia Ontario. Both events were well attended, raised important funds for research, and a fun time was had by all. Our combined 2015 donations equaled \$27,711.00. VFC organized another successful study in GPA/MPA genetic research with Dr. Siminovitch's "fresh blood cell" collections. Thanks to all who participated in this new study, look forward to a study update at our 2016 AGM.

The fall 2015 lectures at Toronto Western Hospital were informative and well attended with excellent presentations by Dr.'s Pagnoux, and Barra, these lectures were followed by an extensive Q&A panel including Dr. Famorca. Dr. Siminovitch presented another genetics update and continued collecting study samples. There were also successful patient meetings in Vancouver and Calgary with top speakers. The Calgary symposium, with about 80 in attendance, hosted a Q&A panel with world leading experts, too many to name, in vasculitis and I had the pleasure of attending. This event is scheduled again in 2016 and is certainly a worthwhile event for those who can attend. And, I am pleased to report that Canada's third vasculitis clinic in Vancouver, with select VCRC trials, took shape in 2015 and opened this past January under the direction of Dr. Natasha Dehghan.

In 2015 we made one 5K research grant to Dr. Siminovitch to assist with the enabling of electronic medical records for vasculitis patients. We also considered a 20K grant for a comparative study with RA using "administrative data", a final decision is pending for 2016.

Finally, on a sad note and after many, many years of dedicated VFC service Carol Moller will be stepping down after this AGM. Her VFC service in such a wide range of capacities has been remarkable, steadfast and an inspiration to all of us. Thank you Carol from all of us. If you have a "story" you'd like share of Carol's VFC's years, feel free to share it with me at jonstewart@rogers.com or at the AGM.

I look forward to seeing all of you throughout 2016 and wish you and yours the best of health.

Warm regards,

Jon Stewart
President, Vasculitis Foundation Canada

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