

March 18, 2016

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Guest Speaker

Dear member,

The 2016 AGM for the Vasculitis Foundation Canada (VFC) will be held on April 16, 2016 at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 126, 334 Westminster Drive, Cambridge, Ontario. The purpose of the meeting will be to:

1. adopt the AGM agenda;
2. approve minutes of the 2015 AGM, April 18, 2015;
3. receive the Directors' report on the current and future business of the foundation
4. receive the Treasurer's report and financial statements for the 2015 calendar year;
5. receive the auditor's report and appoint auditors for the new year;
6. vote to elect officers (President, Treasurer and Secretary) and directors for the new year;
7. transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.
8. Adjournment.

If you have a matter that you think should come before the meeting, please write it out as concisely as possible and we will see that it is presented at the meeting. If you are not able to attend the meeting, you may give your proxy to another member, one of the Directors, or return it by mail using the enclosed return envelope. It is very important that you return your proxy if you are not able to attend.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Katherine Siminovitch, M.D., FRCP(C), Professor of Medicine, Rheumatologist, Geneticist, Senior Investigator at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Siminovitch's work continues to move forward with increasing intensity and new findings to report. Please join us for more encouraging news on her continuing work. As in recent years she will once again have her lab assistants present to collect blood and DNA samples from all vasculitis patients to support her research in the genetic mapping of vasculitis. For those of you who have been donating multiple samples, for example last fall and spring, you are encouraged to repeat your labs again to assist in profiling genetic changes in disease activity over time.

Finally, study controls are always welcome and needed for study inclusion, one time only, husbands and wives are ideal as they are not blood related!

Also, don't forget that VFC still has a special target to collect 100 DNA samples each from Behcet's and Giant Cell Arteritis patients for advanced genetics study.

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. We hope, and suspect, Carol will not fully disappear but rather pursue her VFC interests in other, but less intensive ways! 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.

Of course, “filling Carol’s shoes” will not be an easy task. Fortunately for us, new board member Manreet Grewal CPA, CA and IgAV patient has volunteered to handle the not so small task of managing our finances! Please welcome Manreet “as we pass the torch” to her in her new capacities.

As you all know running VFC takes lots of volunteer time, to be even more successful we need more member involvement and participation in key roles like managing our Excel/Access membership renewal & database, creating web content, CORD liaison, blog monitor, bilingual contact, fundraising/event organizing **and very importantly, we need to recruit a new secretary** as Garth has indicated he would also like to step back after our 2017 AGM. Please contact me, or other board members, if you, or someone you know, could fill some of the above volunteer positions. **Along with Manreet I’m pleased to advise that we have bolstered our volunteer base** in our important Blackbaud and Web HTML efforts, and in video production with **Chris Dunseith**. Please thank our new volunteers for their efforts, and join with me in welcoming them to the VFC volunteer team!

As VFC enters it’s 18th year please take a moment to reflect on our many accomplishments, we believe we initiated the world’s first GPA genetics study, and still a leading global contributor in GPA genetics, top Canadian and world leading doctor lectures for member education, and 200+K in Canadian research investments that **never would have happened without you!** Of course, more needs to be done, and can be done. With your ongoing support we are making a difference, and will continue to do so. Please consider filling a volunteer position and start planning to attend our 2016 events. **Remember, together we are stronger!**

Mark Your Calendars Now and Plan to Attend These 2016 VFC Events

April 16, 2016,	VFC AGM Cambridge Ontario
June 25, 2016,	18 th Annual Picnic and Walk, Riverside Park, Cambridge Ontario
July 3, 2016,	3 rd . Annual BriStrength Picnic and Walk, Orillia Ontario
October 6, 2016	Calgary Vasculitis Symposium, Calgary Alberta
October 22, 2016	Annual Fall Meeting and Lectures, Hamilton, Ontario

Note: check our website for more details as they become available on the above events

We are looking forward to seeing you in Cambridge at the AGM on April 16, 2016. It is a great opportunity to get involved in your organization, learn about your disease, meet new friends and share your experiences with people who understand.

Best personal regards, and keep well!

Jon Stewart, President
Vasculitis Foundation Canada