



Together, let's **redefine the future**
for Albertans facing cancer.



Alberta Cancer
FOUNDATION

Head and Neck Cancer

Head and neck cancer can be ruthless, with a survival rate of **barely 50 per cent**.

While surviving this type of cancer can clearly be defined as success, it is often just the beginning of a long and painful journey for these patients.

The social impacts of surviving head and neck cancer can be devastating.

Treatment for this type of cancer leaves patients with severe long-term issues.

Often, they can't eat or speak. They become isolated, lose their jobs.

Families can break apart.

Linda Neill knows that impact of head and neck cancer all too well.

In 2007, she lost 75 per cent of her tongue after finding a lump in her jaw. Six years later, another lump, this time on the left side.

Doctors had to remove the rest of her tongue.

Slowly, they rebuilt her mouth, using skin from her wrist and thigh. Linda is now mostly tube fed because she would choke on food. If she wants a small sip of water, the routine is always the same.

She tells herself, "swallow...swallow...swallow. Hold your breath. Clear your throat."

She must repeat that same act for every sip she takes.

If there are too many people around, she could lose focus and choke. So she often chooses not to go out.

Not surprisingly, Linda has much difficulty speaking, causing her immense stress every single day.





What needs to be done?

For years, success for head and neck cancer meant being alive. But Dr. Jana Rieger saw many patients who had far from normal speech, sometimes barely understandable. They had difficulty swallowing or chewing. As she said, “why should that result be considered good enough?”

Until now, says Rieger, we’ve been naïve in our treatment of these patients. We need to do more to help them restore their lives.

Rieger, the director of research at the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM), started collecting patient data and worked with surgeons to test creative new

techniques, constantly revising, adjusting and getting better. The surgery goes much faster and gives better outcomes.

But there is still work to be done after surgery.

Let’s help improve Albertans’ lives.

Dr. Jana Rieger
Director of Research,
iRSM





Like Linda Neill, Wilson Raposo knows the pain of isolation after cancer.

At 30 years old, doctors found a tumour in his jaw. Radiation and surgery followed. He lost nine teeth, part of his left upper jaw and faced major facial reconstruction. For nearly a month, he couldn't move or talk.

He could no longer speak properly since he was missing most of his teeth, so he retreated from his social circle. He didn't want to smile anymore. He had no desire to eat, since his taste buds were affected and chewing wasn't easy. He lost the confidence to meet clients in his sales and marketing job.

He took odd jobs, shovelling snow, raking leaves. He hit an all-time low the day he went to the food bank. He felt so alone. At one point, he considered taking his own life.

Once the physical pain of cancer is gone, he says, the emotional pain starts. Not even the strongest of medications can help with isolation you feel as a result of treatment.

Whatever we can do to help people get their lives back on track is crucial.

How can you help change Albertans' lives?

The current therapy required is time and labour intensive for both patient and therapist.

Daily sessions are required over several months, under supervision of a speech therapist.

Many patients abandon their therapy as a result of the time commitment and travel needed for improvement.

We know there is a better way.

The Alberta Cancer Foundation has committed an investment of **\$2 million over the next five years** and with your support, we will redefine the future of Albertans facing cancer.

Like Dr. Rieger, we know we have to do more.

We are impatient for progress. We know there is a need for new and effective options to help patients return to their lives.

All we need is you.

**Together, we can
change Albertans' lives.**

Making an impact

We don't just hope something good comes out of your investment. We make sure it does. We will ensure your return on investment is the most powerful one we can imagine: healthy Albertans, returning to their lives, their families, their communities.

Your investment will immediately

- produce a prototype to be designed and manufactured
- allow for the first in-patient testing

Between two and six years, your investment will

- allow for clinical trials to test Mobili-T against the current gold standard in treatment
- allow Alberta researchers to roll out the technology to a larger population across Canada
- mean an improved quality of life for head and neck cancer patients across the province by allowing therapy to occur more effectively at a lower overall burden to the patient
- reduce the burden of costs on patients as well as on the Alberta health-care system by allowing clinicians to monitor more patients at one time

We know we can do something about cancer.
Improving patients' lives is at the centre of everything we do.

**Together, we can provide Albertans
the best possible treatment and care
available, anywhere.**

Thank you for making investments that matter.



Foundation Offices

Edmonton

710-10123 99 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3H1
P: 1.866.412.4222

Calgary

Suite 300 1620-29 Street NW
Calgary, Alberta T2N 4L7
P: 1.866.412.4222

Cross Cancer Institute

11560 University Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 1Z2
P: 780.432.8500

Tom Baker Cancer Centre

1331 - 29 Street NW
Calgary, Alberta T2N 4N2
P: 403.521.3433

Jack Ady Cancer Centre

960 19 Street
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 1W5
P: 403.388.6867

Cancer Centres

Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton
Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Calgary

Associate Cancer Centres

Central Alberta (Red Deer), Grande
Prairie, Jack Ady Cancer Centre
(Lethbridge), Margery E. Yuill Cancer
Centre, (Medicine Hat)

Community Cancer Centres

Barrhead, Bonnyville, Bow Valley,
Camrose, Drayton Valley, Drumheller,
High River, Hinton, Lloydminster,
Fort McMurray, Peace River

Thank you for
redefining the future
for Albertans' facing cancer.

albertacancer.ca

Charitable registration number – 11878 0477 RR0001