

# Impact Report



**ORGAN DONATION AND  
TRANSPLANT RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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🏡 Organ Donation and Transplant  
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c/o BC Transplant  
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## Innovative & Collaborative

Discover the groundbreaking progress made in organ donation and transplant research in British Columbia over the past year.

# The Year in Review

## A message from our Co-Chair

### A Year of Progress and Partnership

It is my privilege to share the Organ Donation and Transplant Research Foundation's 2024-2025 Impact Report. This year has been defined by both progress and partnership-achievements that bring us closer to a future where transplantation is a cure.

**This year, we proudly surpassed \$1 million in grants awarded**, a landmark achievement that underscores our commitment to fueling innovation and research. These funds have supported a wide range of groundbreaking projects from bench to bedside in areas such as immunology, organ donation, and patient-centered care.

Our success rests on collaboration. We deepened partnerships with The Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, Providence Research, and others, ensuring discoveries move quickly from research to real-world impact. Just as importantly, the generosity of our donors and supporters continues to fuel innovation and hope for the transplant community.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on accelerating research, while amplifying patient and donor voices, to ensure every person waiting for a transplant has access to the best possible care and outcomes.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey. Together, we are turning today's progress into tomorrow's cure.

With gratitude,  
Rachael Durie  
Co-Chair





## Fueling Breakthroughs

### ODTRF Evolution

**2025**

#### Investing in Innovation

ODTRF surpasses \$1 million in funding support for organ donation and transplant research in B.C.

**2018**

#### Patient-Centered Focus

ODTRF embeds patient, family, and donor partners into its work, adopting a truly patient-oriented research model

**2015**

#### A New Path Forward

ODTRF joins forces with VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation to offset administrative burden

**2009**

#### Re-envisioned Identity

ODTRF becomes a standalone nonprofit entity



**2024**

#### Renew and Refresh

Organization adopts organ donation into name to better reflect scope of research and community needs

**2016**

#### Strength in Partnership

The start of a sustained collaboration with PHC and VCHRI to support practice-based research

**2013**

#### Prioritizing Pediatrics

The Addison Fund is created with a focus on supporting pediatric focused transplant research

**1992**

**The Value of Research**  
Organization begins as a division of BC Transplant



# Driving Progress Through Discovery

## 2024 Grants

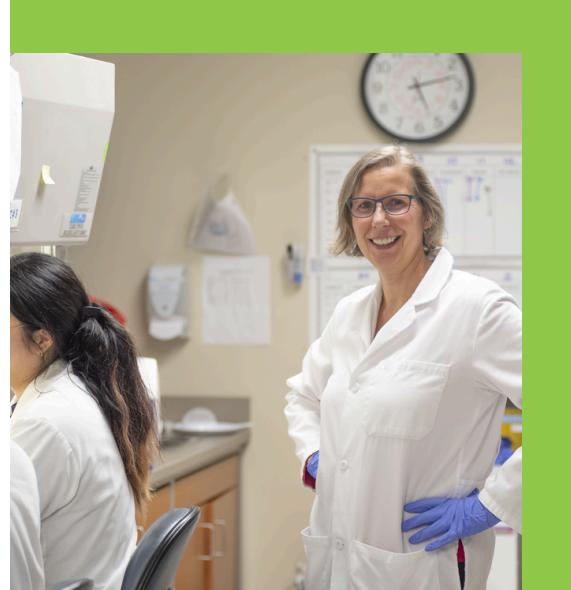
### Venture Grants

Dr. Kathryn Armstrong

A Family-Centered Initiative to Encourage Physical Activity in Pediatric Transplant Patients

Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen

Cytokine and metabolomic urinary diagnostics to predict and monitor treatment responsiveness of rejection in kidney transplantation



### Team Grants

Dr. Daljeet Chahal

Characterizing the cerebrovascular physiology of circulatory death during medical assistance in dying to optimize organ donation opportunities

Wynne Chiu

Improving the journey of care of people with advanced heart failure and transplant: Implementation of a peer mentorship program in practice

### Research Challenge

Anja Webster

Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use in Post Kidney Transplant Patients followed by SPH post-kidney transplant clinic

Deb Fairhurst

Patient and healthcare providers experience with the Pre-Transplant Coordinator role at Providence Healthcare



# Driving Progress Through Discovery

## \$1 MILLION B.C. INVESTMENT

**38**

PILOT PROJECTS  
SUPPORTED

**12+**

PATIENT, FAMILY AND DONOR  
PARTNERS INVOLVED

**20**

ALLIED HEALTH CARE  
CLINICIANS FUNDED

As research funders, we are privileged to support work that sparks new ideas and drives innovation in organ donation and transplantation. Over the years, we have seen remarkable achievements that have advanced knowledge in organ donation and transplant medicine, ultimately improving the health and well-being of patients and families. As we celebrate the milestone of investing \$1 million into B.C. investigators, we reflect on some of the extraordinary successes we have supported.

Dr. Jan Lan is leading pioneering work in precision medicine. ODTRF has been proud to support Dr. Lan throughout his career, most notably in its early stages, when our funding played a key role in advancing his research on how immunosuppression affects donor-specific antibody development—a critical factor linked to poor outcomes for kidney transplant recipients. The insights gained from this work help lay the foundation for Dr. Lan and his colleagues to develop a first-of-its-kind approach to matching donor organs with recipients. His achievements exemplify how ODTRF seed funding helps innovative ideas take root and grow, transforming transplant medicine while improving patient care and outcomes.

Most recently, ODTRF-funded intensivist Dr. Mypinder Sekhon has achieved remarkable progress in understanding donation after cardiocirculatory death. His research focuses on determining the precise moment when brain function ceases—a breakthrough that could transform clinical practice and significantly increase the number of organs available for transplantation.

Dr. Sekhon's groundbreaking contributions are being recognized nationally. He was recently awarded nearly half a million dollars from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to further this vital work. His ODTRF-funded study is also set to be published in *Nature Medicine*, one of the world's leading scientific journals, in the upcoming November 2025 edition.



## A Path Forward with Research

Our community is at the heart of everything we do. Through their support, stories, and invaluable perspectives, patients, families, and donors provide the momentum that drives improvements in organ donation and transplant science.



"Our family's hope is that our support can help fuel research that improves patient outcomes, offers improved methods for organ preservation and better matching techniques for donors and recipients"

- Dann Konkin



### Vital Support

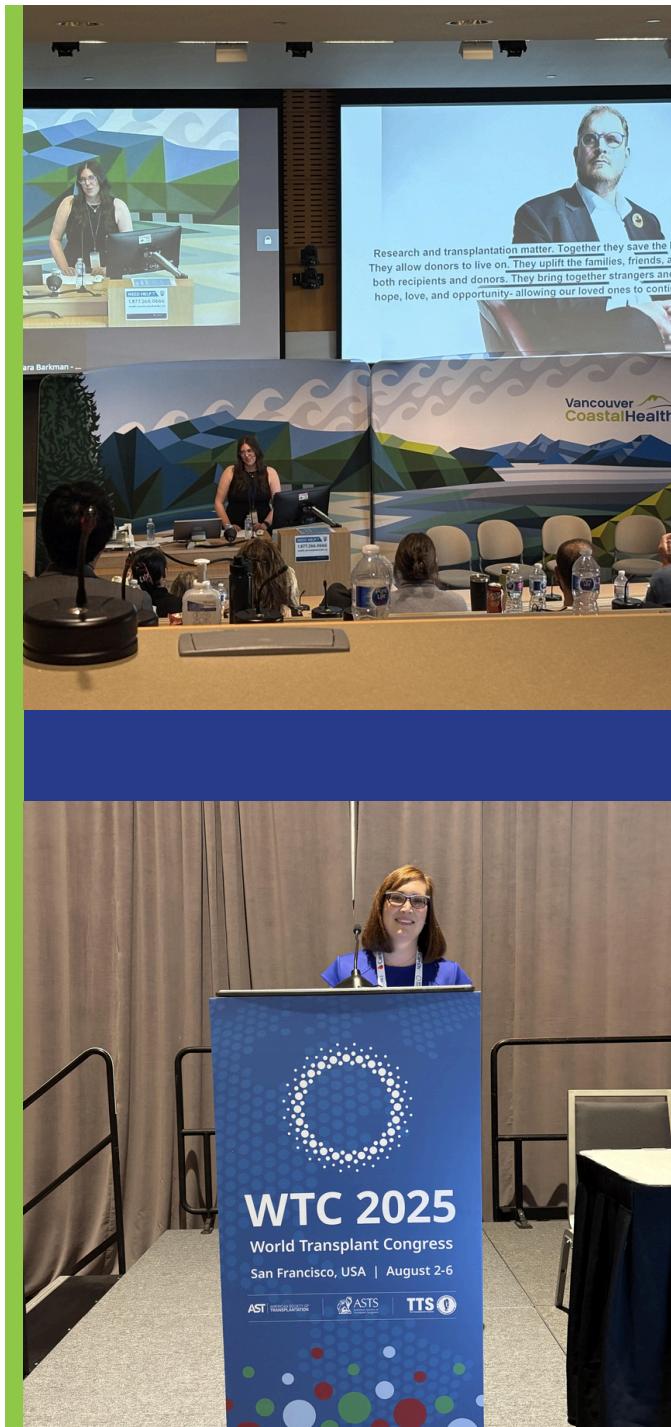
This year, we were deeply honored to be named the beneficiary of a memorial gift in honor of Ben Konkin, a lung transplant recipient. Ben's father, Dann, together with the Foundation Board of the Founder's Cup Charity Classic—a golf tournament where Dann has volunteered for more than 25 years—chose ODTRF to receive this gift. Their generosity ensures that Ben's legacy endures, offering hope to patients and families while helping drive continued advancements in donation and transplant medicine.

Okanagan resident Kelly Wolfe hosted a memorial barbecue in honor of her late husband, who was unable to donate his organs but wished to inspire greater awareness of the importance of organ donation and the vital role of research. Nearly 300 community members came together for the event, raising funds to advance organ donation and transplant research and registering as organ donors in his memory.

We are deeply grateful to our generous supporters—patients, families, and community members. They know firsthand the life-saving impact of organ donation and the urgent need for research.



## ODTRF Leading Conversations Locally and Globally



### BC Resuscitation Sciences Series: Organ Donation and Transplant Symposium

This spring, ODTRF Co-Chair Rachael Durie delivered the closing keynote at the BC Resuscitation Sciences Symposium, a national event that convened leaders from across the critical care community to discuss the latest practices in organ donation.

Rachael offered a deeply moving account of her experience as a living kidney donor to her late husband, Niilo, and their devastating journey through his post-transplant cancer diagnosis. She spoke to their courageous decision to participate in a pioneering study on medical assistance in dying and its connection to organ donation. Her story left the audience speechless, culminating in a standing ovation.

### World Transplant Congress

Our Senior Advisor, Kristi Coldwell, was invited to speak at the World Transplant Congress in San Francisco, where 5,000 delegates from 70 countries gathered. She presented on the vital role of patient partners in research, sharing practical strategies to advance meaningful engagement in clinical trials.

The international forum also highlighted the work of several ODTRF-funded researchers, who presented innovative and impactful findings made possible in part through our foundation's support.



## Financials

For the full year ending March 31, 2025, with comparative information from 2023 and 2024.

	2025	2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>	\$232,831	\$241,607	\$179,862
Philanthropy	\$145,216	\$166,452	\$113,062
Investment Income	\$ 87,615	\$ 75,155	\$ 66,800
<b>Expenses</b>	\$23,227	\$23,977	\$17,125
Foundation Operations	\$22,425	\$23,783	\$16,775
Fundraising	\$ 802	\$ 194	\$ 350
<b>Program disbursements and Grants</b>	\$164,008	\$202,821	\$124,365
Community Outreach and			
Program Delivery	\$ 36,508	\$ 32,821	\$30,865
Research Grants	\$127,500	\$170,00	\$93,500
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses, distributions, and grants</b>	\$45,596	\$14,809	\$38,372
Fund balances, beginning	\$1,573,166	\$1,393,163	\$1,365,077
Excess of Revenue	\$45,596	\$14,809	\$38,372
Changed value of investments	\$ 77,658	\$ 165,195	\$ (10,286)
Fund balances, end of year	<b>\$1,696,420</b>	<b>\$1,573,166</b>	<b>\$1,393,163</b>