

Stem Cell Therapies—“From the Lab to the Bedside”

Panelists chosen by Patient Associations



Panelist,
Calgary

Jackie Bodie is a former engineering technologist who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at the age of 33. Since her diagnosis, Jackie has become actively involved in organizing retreats and conferences intended to provide support for people living with Parkinson's. She believes knowledge is the key to coping successfully with chronic illness, and her main interest focuses on educating herself and others affected by Parkinson's disease. In the 6 years since her diagnosis, Jackie has seen remarkable advancements in the area of stem cell research and despite the complexities of today's chronic illnesses, she believes that stem cell science will inevitably reshape the future of mainstream medicine. Jackie currently lives in Calgary with her husband and 2 boys.



Panelist,
Calgary and
Edmonton

Bill Gaudette is currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Alzheimer Society of Alberta & Northwest Territories in Edmonton. He has over two decades of involvement in community, not-for-profit organizations in a variety of staff and volunteer positions. Bill holds Bachelor of Laws and Master of Education degrees from the University of Calgary and a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia University (Montreal). He is also a Registered Psychologist in Alberta and lives in Edmonton with his wife, Kerry, and their twin boys.



Panelist,
Edmonton

Joyce Pinckney has played several roles in her life's drama: A little farm girl in Wiseton Saskatchewan, a student at UoF in Saskatoon, then a Registered Nurse at Royal University Hospital. The wife of a lawyer, the mother of two girls and a boy, music teacher and batik artist. Continuing on to fun and fame in Edmonton as a belly dancing performer/teacher, jazz teacher, poet, author and composer. Finally, a reluctant player in the cast of Parkinson Disease. Until the last one, the roles were her choice; but by far the most challenging is this one chosen for her. The skills and qualities she has developed: ability to study, do research, be a "forever learner", draw on enthusiasm, creativity and sense of humor, are valuable tools. To have a passion; whether for sport, art, music, people or life's joys, is what keeps us going.



Panelist,
Edmonton

Audrey Smith is a breast cancer survivor who attributes her cure 32 years ago, against significant odds and a year of grueling chemo to acceptance, optimism, determination, and faith. Audrey, now a senior, has had hip replacement surgery and is currently challenged with macular degeneration and other age related health conditions. Audrey, is still active in her volunteer work with organizations such as the Cancer Society, Kidney Foundation, Jelniek House as a former Board member and in voluntary administrative roles with the United Church of Canada where she now focuses her time dealing with social injustice and poverty issues in collaboration with the Bissell Centre. She is proud that her survival is a beacon of hope to those newly diagnosed with Cancer.

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Panelist,
Edmonton

Kuen Tang In August of 2001 Kuen became a C6/7 quadriplegic after her vehicle went off of the Coquihalla highway in BC. With the support from her family and husband, Robert, she set out on an interesting journey to complete her University degree and fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher. She became the first quadriplegic female to earn a Bachelor of Education and the first quadriplegic female to earn an Education degree with specialization in Elementary School. She also became the first quadriplegic to do Functional Electrical Stimulation (F.E.S) partnership rowing in North America; to become an Ambassador to the Rick Hansen Foundation and to receive an appointment to the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. She is also the first quadriplegic to letter comic books for DC Comics. Currently, she works as a Client Service Coordinator for the Canadian Paraplegic Association.



Panelist,
Calgary

Lorell Thoms, BSW/RSW was introduced to Osteoporosis Canada in 1993 when she traveled with the 'Boney Express' across western Canada. She was road manager for four incredible women who walked across Canada to raise awareness for Osteoporosis and witnessed first hand the disabilities and quality of life issues these women encountered. She has since gone back to school, completed her Bachelor of Social Work and worked in the areas of health promotion with AIDS Calgary, AADAC, Corrections Canada and Mount Royal College. As chapter educator, she speaks to community and patient groups about Osteoporosis and represents the national organization throughout the province.



Panelist,
Edmonton

Sharlene Wyness has been a Caregiver for more than 50 years. As a child she cared for her brother who, after a childhood illness, was left with a physical and mental disability. She became head of the household at the age of 16 when her father passed away. Newly married, Sharlene and her husband adopted a baby girl who, at the age of ten months, was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (Spastic Quadriplegia). Her daughter is now a very bright 32 year old who is still living in the family home. Sharlene cared for her mother who passed away aged 95 and currently shares in the care of her 90 year old mother-in-law, who has Alzheimer's.



Panelist,
Calgary

Linda Welch All Saints Eve" 1992, 33 year old Linda Welch was happily married, the mother of three small children, and a busy reporter for a newspaper in rural Alberta when she was paralysed in a MVA. Seventeen days later she recalls being a less than gracious patient at The Glenrose Rehabilitation Centre in Edmonton. Welch was introduced to Guy Columbe and the Canadian Paraplegic Association, (CPA) and her road to recovery began in earnest. Through her peer association with Guy, she gained a certain respect for the value of her peers and now participates in the peer program in Calgary where she explores the multi levels of accessibility a city has to offer. She has since returned to University to complete a degree in English. Seventeen years post injury, a regular contributor to The Alberta CPA Publication, "Spinal Columns", Welch is participating in the Forum with concerns toward quality of life, time expectations, and cost recovery.

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Panelists chosen by Patient Associations Continued



Panelist,
Edmonton

Roger Breault is a successful entrepreneur. In spite of his muscular dystrophy, he owns and operates two businesses: The Speakers' Bureau of Alberta® and Fund Raising Consultants of Alberta®. There are over 100 forms of muscular dystrophy; all are genetic and characterized by a steady weakening of muscles. MD is considered incurable, however Roger points to recent studies in Italy that show that stem cells can stop and even reverse the disease. As a volunteer, Roger is a Trustee of the Edmonton Public Library, Secretary of Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future and Past- President of the Edmonton Chapter, Muscular Dystrophy Canada. Roger is bilingual and has a Masters degree. Two of his three children have MD.

A Public Forum for Demystifying Stem Cell Therapies

- Engage —Public Awareness
- Identify Issues and Opportunities
- Clarify the Process of Technology to Market
- Visualize the Promise and the Problems
- Determine How to go Forward
- Foster Collaboration
- Empower Albertans
- Promote Economic Diversification in Alberta

