



# Cancer has touched so many lives... But it can be beaten!

## Will there ever be a cure for cancer?

So many people ask if cancer will be cured – those living with cancer, those whose families have been touched by the disease, and those who fear that cancer might be in their future.

The good news is that research has increased our understanding of the many diseases called cancer, leading to better treatments and improved prevention and risk reduction strategies. Today, over 60 per cent Canadians diagnosed with

cancer will survive at least five years after their diagnosis. In the 1940s, survival was about 25 per cent.

Some experts doubt that we'll ever find a single, universal cure for cancer, which isn't really a single disease but actually more than 200 different diseases. Yet researchers have uncovered a staggering amount of information about cancer over the past two decades and will continue to do so in the coming decades.

This revolution in our understanding of cancer has set the stage for a new era in cancer therapy and prevention, due in part to the many studies and clinical trials funded by the Canadian Cancer Society.

### Exemestane reduces breast cancer risk

A large international clinical trial investigating a new way to prevent breast cancer in women at increased risk found that the drug exemestane reduces this risk by 65 per cent compared with placebo. This discovery was recognized as one of the world's most important cancer treatment breakthroughs in 2011.

### New surveillance protocol improves survival

A Toronto research team led by Dr David Malkin

found that a new cancer surveillance protocol dramatically improves survival for adults and children with Li-Fraumeni syndrome, a hereditary disease that significantly increases a person's susceptibility to cancer. The study found that those under surveillance had a 100 per cent survival rate after cancer was detected. For those not under surveillance, the survival rate was 21 per cent.



## Cancer Research



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