# Research

# **Research Professorships**

The professorship program has been extremely successful in developing and sustaining lung health research here in Saskatchewan. This program has been responsible for bringing world-class lung specialists to Saskatchewan who contribute to enhanced levels of patient care and teaching of medical students, in addition to their research activities.

Another benefit of this program was the development of a respiratory specialty training program at the University of Saskatchewan.

Several respirologists have been trained by this program and many have remained in Saskatchewan, practicing as lung specialists.

Furthermore, the investment in professorships by The Lung Association has been matched several times over by the funding that these scientists have attracted from other sources. Here is a list of the Saskatchewan researchers currently being funded by The Lung Association.

# **COPD Professorship**

One of the authors of Canada's guidelines for COPD management, Dr. Darcy Marciniuk's research has helped to develop COPD rehabilitation therapy and other methods of COPD treatment. \$700,000 has been contributed since 2001.

# **Pediatric Respirology Professorship**

The Lung Association has partnered with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for a five-year \$300,000 professorship which was awarded to Dr. Josh Lawson, Department of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Lawson is studying asthma differences among children living in urban, semi-urban and rural Saskatchewan and the relationship of environmental factors to asthma.

# **Sleep Apnea Professorship**

Dr. Robert Skomro is currently investigating the predictors of sleep apnea in women. Over \$560,000 has been contributed since this professorship began in 2002.

The **Ferguson Professorship** funding of \$40,000, which is in honour of Dr. R. George Ferguson, supports research in the Division of Respirology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine.

# **Other Support**

Includes visiting professorships, research support contributed to the Canadian Lung Association, training grants, support for TB control, seconded staff time, development of patient education programs and support for continuing professional education. Over \$300,000 has been contributed in the past 5 years.

Research has led to the development of Canadian Clinical Guidelines for the treatment of lung diseases such as COPD, asthma, childhood asthma, sleep apnea, and tuberculosis. These guidelines are developed by the Canadian Thoracic Society and are updated regularly. They are distributed to all physicians in Canada. Saskatchewan researchers whom we support are co-authors of current national guidelines on COPD, sleep apnea and spirometry.

# The Saskatchewan Thoracic Society

The Saskatchewan Thoracic Society (health professional section of The Lung Association) invites all health professionals who are active in respiratory care to become part of a progressive, inter-disciplinary organization of health care providers. An annual Education Day is held in November.

Benefits of membership include: helping to improve the quality of respiratory care offered in Saskatchewan; reduced fees for workshops on current issues in respiratory care; eligibility for an LAS educational grant, and much more.

#### Our Mission...

To improve lung health one breath at a time. Our general role is to improve respiratory health and the overall quality of life through programs, education, research, training, treatment and prevention of lung disease and promotion of a healthy environment and healthy lifestyles.

# Lung Health Issues in Saskatchewan...

For a complete list of the lung health issues facing Saskatchewan and the action we are taking, please visit www.lung.ca, click on the "About Us" tab, then click on "What We Do". The top 4 out of 12 lung health threats are:

- 1. Children: While some progress has been made on LAS's report on Children's Lung Health we are still well short of the number of pediatric respirologists needed to care for children's lung health in Saskatchewan.
- 2. COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in Canada and will soon be number three.
- 3. 100,000 Saskatchewan people have asthma. Many do not have access to diagnostic tools and management programs.
- 4. 26% of adults are at high risk for sleep apnea and should be tested but Saskatchewan does not have the capacity to meet this demand.

# Provincial and National Activity...

Although 95% of our budget is spent right here in Saskatchewan, we also provide support and leadership nationally through the Canadian Lung Association and, in turn, benefit from the work of other provincial Lung Associations. When it comes to lung disease, no community and no province is isolated from its neighbours.

# **Provincial Headquarters**

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2013



# Improving Life ... One Breath At A Time

This report covers the year January 1 to December 31, 2013

# The Lung Association of Saskatchewan

#### **RESPTREC®**

Over the past decade the Lung Association of Saskatchewan has provided provincial and national leadership by developing and offering RESPTREC. It is the most widely accessed respiratory education course in Canada for health care professionals working with people and their families affected by chronic lung disease, like asthma and COPD – chronic obstructive lung disease. Building skills in developing effective partnerships amongst health care professionals, people living with chronic disease and their families will assist in improving outcomes for those affected by chronic disease.

RESPTREC has trained over 300 healthcare professionals in Saskatchewan and has prepared them to become Certified Asthma Educators (CAEs) and Certified Respiratory Educators (CREs). Theses skilled individuals work in pharmacies, hospitals, doctors' offices, pulmonary rehabilitation programs and in health clinics.

The most recent addition is the Chronic Disease Management Educator Course and will be available in 2014. This course will be open to all health care professionals who work in chronic disease management and want to develop their skills as a health educator.

For more information on courses see www.resptrec.org.

# Community Youth Challenge (CYC)

Three Roughriders visited over 60 schools in Saskatchewan to talk to youth about the importance in saying no to tobacco and challenged youth to exercise their lungs. Students had one week to track their exercise. Approximately 800 students took part in the challenge and together completed 9,099 hours of exercise.

# **Lung Squad Youth Ambassadors**

The Youth Ambassadors have been advocating for a ban on flavoured tobacco products. Last spring they presented at the legislative building to Saskatchewan MLA's. In November, they received funding from the provincial government to attend a youth tobacco conference where they joined 100 other youth in a demonstration on Parliament Hill.

# WHL Lung Health Challenge

The Lung Association partnered with the Saskatoon Blades and Regina Pats. Players from each team visited schools to educate youth about making healthy choices. They encouraged youth to take part in a friendly Lung Health Challenge to see which city could exercise their lungs the most. All minutes of exercise entered were converted to distance. Saskatoon had 4306 km and Regina had 1313 km.

# Team COPD Coast to Coast Challenge

Members from pulmonary rehabilitation programs with COPD and the public participated from all across Saskatchewan. When all the distances and activities were totalled, Team COPD had racked up an impressive total of 36139 km.

### School of Public Health - U of S

We have continued to partner and work with the School of Public Health at the University of Saskatchewan. We worked on five projects with them.

### **Community Outreach**

We participate in health fairs, community presentations, and communicate lung health messaging through social media outlets.

# Home Oxygen

Severe lung disease can cause low blood oxygen levels. People with low oxygen levels may need home oxygen. The Lung Association, through a contract with the Saskatchewan Health Department, educates and supports the health care professionals who perform the testing required to access funding for home oxygen. This service ensures that everyone in the province has equal access to this life saving treatment.

# Sleep Apnea

The Sleep Apnea Handbook was developed in Saskatchewan and is used widely throughout Canada. Additional support to people with sleep apnea, and their families, is available through the website and the help line.

#### **COPD** and Asthma

The Lung Association of Saskatchewan has five Certified Respiratory Educators (CRE) on staff who are licensed health care professionals. By calling the Helpline people can access the staff which includes nurses, physical therapists and a respiratory therapist. The staff can help people to understand their disease, learn how to best manage their disease, and inform them of the resources available in their community.

Regular Tele-health sessions are offered to the public on various topics to help manage chronic lung disease; newsletters with up-to-date information on lung health are also available.

# **Pulmonary Rehabilitation**

We work with various health regions and health care providers to enhance new and existing programs and we act as a source of referral for existing pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

# Statement of Operations For the year ended December 31, 2013

For the year ended		
	2013	2012
Revenue	(\$)	(\$)
Direct Mail Campaigns:		
Christmas Seals	194,889	182,941
Lung Disease		
Research Fund	80,398	96,656
Artworks	53,023	58,806
Summer		
Campaign	28,431	-
Other Direct Mail	24,976	24,478
Sweepstakes	220	34,326
Other Campaigns:		
Bequests	581,311	520,607
STA Raffle	272,467	297,222
SOAR Raffle	202,482	213,710
Door to Door	113,271	182,759
Memorials	48,431	39,658
Donor's Choice	15,508	15,126
Other Fundraising	42,109	123,919
Other Income:		
RESPTrec	497,182	662,563
Grants	406,774	115,660
Respiratory		
Therapy Program	77,718	76,037
Other Income	66,661	49,556
Program Cost		
Recovery	47,267	55,715
Investment		
Income	2,721	2,661
Total Revenue	2,755,839	2,752,400
Expenses		
Health Promotion		
- general public	976,065	816,414
Health Education		
- professional	663,472	779,671
Research &		
grants	221,257	282,338
Development	695,365	729,151
Operations	218,227	208,928
Total Expenses	2,774,386	2,816,502
 Deficit	(18,547)	(64,102)

There was a planned deficit this year which is due to noncash depreciation. Extracted from 2013 audited statements. Full copies are available on request.