

Dr. Paula Robson Named New Board Chair of the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance



Dr. Paula Robson

Cancer Research & Analytics (Cancer Care Alberta) is proud to announce the appointment of Scientific Director Dr. Paula Robson as Canadian Cancer Research Alliance ([CCRA](#)) Board chair, effective January 1, 2021.

Made up of more than 30 member organizations across the country, the CCRA acts as a critical hub to identify, establish and promote collaboration among cancer researchers, funders and patients. Major initiatives include developing an ever-expanding database of nearly 30,000 research projects, known as the Canadian Cancer Research Survey. The unique resource has revealed gaps in funding and areas requiring new investment.

The CCRA also hosts the biennial Canadian Cancer Research Conference, which showcases emerging research areas, funding opportunities, and helps researchers meet face to face to seed creative cooperation.

As Board chair, Dr. Robson will foster further collaboration, and help lead the creation of research frameworks which identify key priority research questions.

CCRA Program Manager Kimberly Badovinac credits Dr. Robson's strategic work in research priority setting, her prior role as longtime principal investigator of Alberta's Tomorrow Project ([ATP](#)), and her current co-leadership of a large and diverse portfolio of researchers and expert analysts within CCA's Cancer Research & Analytics, for creating "the perfect CCRA chair for this time."

"Dr. Robson has a very strong grasp on the challenges and opportunities in cancer research today. Further, she is very committed to including the perspective of patients in all stages of cancer research. That pragmatic, real-world approach ensures a strong alignment between what researchers are

investigating, and what the system needs in order to deliver the best care and outcomes possible. We're very excited to be benefitting from her passion and expertise in these areas."

Dr. Robson also serves as scientific director of Alberta's Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (SCN), which was established to improve linkages between services and programs, advance innovation, and lead health system improvements for Albertans facing cancer.

She believes that chairing the CCRA Board will help her further build collaborations to accelerate the implementation of research findings into clinical practice for the benefit of patients and their families.

"The vision for cancer research in Canada is certainly bold," she says. "It speaks to having all Canadians as partners in research, the need for intrepid science, and ongoing innovation. The challenge now is to translate the vision into action. I believe that the CCRA has a pivotal role to play in helping create the conditions that will support that translation."

Dr. Robson will serve as chair of the CCRA Board for two years.