



A letter from the President and Scientific Director



It is my pleasure to introduce the 2025-26 OICR Impact Report: Ontario Leads, and share with you the amazing innovations and discoveries that OICR's scientists, clinicians, patient partners and other collaborators from across the province have made together this year. This report shows how OICR is truly changing lives here in Ontario and around the world, improving our province's health while boosting its prosperity.

This is my first opportunity to introduce a report as President and Scientific Director, having joined OICR in August. The stories told within, and the people behind them, are examples of what makes OICR so unique and why I am excited to be a part of the Institute.

Reflecting on this report, I am grateful for the incredible, dedicated leadership of Dr. Christine Williams and Dr. Lincoln Stein in their respective interim roles as President and Scientific Director, prior to my joining OICR. During this transitional period, they ensured that OICR maintained its momentum – providing a steady hand that allowed the Institute to continue to flourish and grow. I look forward to working with Christine and Lincoln to lead the Institute.

I would like to thank Dr. Rebecca Tamarchak, who departed the Institute this past July, for her many years of extraordinary service to the Institute. Rebecca shepherded the development of OICR's last three Strategic Plans and played an integral role in building OICR's patient partnership and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, among many other achievements. The Institute is stronger and more inclusive because of her time with us.

My thanks go to our Board for the thoughtful and insightful guidance they provide to the Institute and for entrusting me to lead such a special organization. A special thanks to Dr. Jason Berman and Dr. Nancy Ross who have completed their terms with the Board and a hearty welcome to Mr. Muhammad Mamdani and Dr. Julie St-Pierre, who have joined.

Thank you to all of OICR's patient partners and especially the members of OICR's Patient and Family Advisory Council, which concluded its work this year as OICR transitions to a new model to decentralize and even more deeply embed patient partnership at the Institute. Programs and projects across OICR are enriched by patient partners who selflessly contribute their lived experience, expertise and knowledge to see that our research is connected to the needs of those with cancer.

Thank you to all of our partners who are working with us to harness the full potential of Ontario's cancer research community and OICR's committed staff, scientists and funded researchers. Your outstanding professionalism, innovative and collaborative nature and most of all dedication to our mission are crucial to our success as an Institute. During my short time so far at OICR you have even further boosted my excitement for what we can achieve together. I am thrilled and honoured to have the opportunity to work with you and build upon all that you have accomplished thus far.

Finally, my thanks to the Government of Ontario for continuing to invest in OICR and cancer research across our great province and to Minister Nolan Quinn and our colleagues at the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security for their continued trust, encouragement and support for the Institute. This support is making a real difference in the lives of Ontarians facing cancer and their families and enabling OICR and FACIT to realize the economic benefits of Ontario's world-leading cancer research.

When reading this year's Impact Report, I hope you too feel the pride I do that these good news stories being told are happening right here at home in Ontario. These stories show that OICR, together with our community, has tremendous momentum in our campaign to solve cancer and that we are poised to make even greater progress as we adopt new technologies and deepen collaboration. I thank you for your continued support of OICR and hope you enjoy reading about all that we have achieved together this year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Aaron D. Schimmer
President and Scientific Director