

Warm Spring Greetings from the Women's Giving Circle



Message from the Chair

Thank you to all our members for your continued generous support in growing our Women's Giving Circle! Every dollar of your membership dues goes directly into our annual research grants. In early Spring, our executive committee members vote on research field suggestions from the committee and from the Office of the VP Research at Queen's. The three top choices are sent to all members for a vote.

This Spring, the top choice of our members is **Neuroinflammatory markers**.

Neuroinflammatory markers are found to trigger several diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, and Multiple Sclerosis. The next step in this process is for the Office of the VP Research to call for grant applications, which are then ranked by a research funding panel. The successful team in the competition will be announced at **our June luncheon, to take place on June 20** at the beautiful Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. The team of researchers is then invited to our Fall luncheon for a cheque presentation. This year, the total amount of the grant will be \$36,100.

This face-to-face meeting of granter and grantee is a very special feature of our giving. At our luncheons, the researchers tell us what they are investigating, and how our funding will be spent

to solve the next piece of their puzzle. We can see their passion and excitement about their work. At the same time, the researchers get to meet us -- Women's Giving Circle members. They see our many faces taking in their every word and processing their every slide. They see that we value their work and that we support their efforts. They tell us that they will be picturing us '*tigers*' right at their lab benches as they work. They see us at the back of the dragon boat, paddling with them for better healthcare!

We are delighted to receive an update from Dr. Ana Johnson, one of our grant recipients in 2013, our very first year of funding. Dr. Johnson's remarkable research journey illustrates not only how our WGC grants provide a stepping stone to other funding, but also how they can inspire new generations of researchers and discoveries. Brava Dr. Johnson! (article page 2)

Lucille Davies, Chair



A meet-up of members of the "Chestmates" dragon boat team, with guest speaker Dr. Curtis Nickel, at the WGC Fall luncheon on Oct. 19, 2023. Chair Lucille Davies (right) lent her trademark paddle to illustrate her analogy of WGC members paddling alongside researchers with the common goal of improved health care. From left: coach Sarah Emery, Jane Kitchen, Audrey Harvey, Karen Nickel, Dr. Curtis Nickel, Lucille Davies

Update from 2013 grant recipient

Dr. Ana Johnson



Health care utilization and outcomes of new oral anticoagulants in the elderly with atrial fibrillation (awarded in 2013): \$8,616 – Women’s Giving Circle

It gives me great pleasure to report that shortly after receiving the WGC grant, we also received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant for three years for \$304,406: “Evaluation of Blood Product Utilization, Healthcare Resource Consumption and Patient Outcomes in New Oral Anticoagulant-Related Hemorrhage”, in conjunction with first year Queen’s medical student at the time, Yan Xu (**Principal Investigators:** Johnson A, Sam Schulman, Dowlatshahi D; **Co-investigators:** Holbrook A, Simpson C, Wells P, Giulivi P, Heddle N, Xu Y). Since then, we have had six publications. We closed the grant with our ethics board last year, or ten years later. What a grand finale: then medical student, Yan Xu and now full-on hematologist at the University of Ottawa, sent me a photo of his eight-month-old daughter, Mava, reading a hematology magazine. What an amazing opportunity to start out with seed funding for a pilot project from WGC and collaborate with researchers from Ottawa and Toronto, linking with provincial data.

*Ana P. Johnson, PhD
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The WGC is delighted to announce that Dr. Johnson is one of two guest speakers at the annual Spring luncheon. See next column for details.

WGC In the News

Readers may have seen the informative article by Susan Creasy in the March 28 edition of [Kingston This Week](#). Susan is actively involved in the Kingston community as a philanthropist, fundraiser, public speaker and volunteer at the board and organizational levels, most recently as Chair of the UHKF Phase II campaign for redevelopment at Kingston Health Sciences Centre.

WGC Spring Research Tour

Mark your calendars: Thursday, April 25

Kingston General Hospital – 76 Stuart Street

4:15 pm – meet in the main Abramsky lobby

4:30 – 5:30 pm tour

WGC members and guests who responded to the invitation earlier this Spring will be treated to an exclusive behind the scenes tour of the Interventional Radiology (IVR) Suites that use minimally invasive image-guided procedures to diagnose and treat diseases in nearly every organ system.

If you would like to join the tour, please contact the UHKF office *by April 15*.

foundation@uhkf.ca 613-549-5452

Save the Date

Annual Spring Luncheon

Thursday, June 20

Cataraqui Golf and Country Club

Guest speakers:

Dr. Ana Johnson, WGC grant recipient 2013

Dr. Steven Smith, Deputy Vice-Principal Research,
Queen’s University

An official invitation will be sent soon!

Join us at the Women's Giving Circle!

Membership in the WGC currently stands at 84. We welcome new members to join us in our efforts to support state-of-the-art medical research taking place right here in our local hospitals. Every dollar of our membership dues goes directly to research through our annual research grants. Please check out our webpage for more information and click 'Join'!

We are also inviting current members to join our Executive Committee. We meet once a month to plan upcoming events – with tremendous support from the team from University Hospitals Kingston Foundation. We would very much appreciate input from our members. Please email us if you are interested.

Our webpage:

<https://www.uhkf.ca/Ways-To-Give/Women-s-Giving-Circle>

Newsletter editor:

Barbara Yates, Executive Committee

Membership is \$42 a month for women 40 and over. The monthly membership of \$21 is for women under the age of 40. If you would prefer to pay once a year, please contact our office by email foundation@uhkf.ca or by phone 613-549-5452.

Research
today for
better
health care
tomorrow



Women's Giving Circle

In support of research at Kingston's hospitals

Link to sign up or renew:

<https://uhkf.akaraisin.com/ui/womensgivingcircle/donations/start>

