

February 13th, 2024

565 W 10th Ave
Vancouver, BC , V5Z 4J4

Dear Canadian Cancer Society Research Trainee Award Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of Dollina Dodani's application to the Canadian Cancer Society Research Trainee Awards. This letter also serves to express my interest and willingness to continue to collaborate with the Uterine Health Research Lab as a mentor and community partner.

I recently retired from an enjoyable career related to health & fitness education plus business ownership and consulting. My career projects also reached into Population Health areas [chronic health conditions such as arthritis and exercise, cardiac exercise rehabilitation etc]. I still have a great interest in Population Health topics, and the empowerment which comes with understanding and participating in one's health journey. It was during my post-graduate diploma coursework in Kinesiology at SFU that a seed planted for me regarding the potential for more research focused on Women's health. Now in my retirement; I am appreciative to participate as a volunteer in such research. To fund research, such as Dollina's project, is to also elevate women's health equity in a number of areas, including the discovery of less invasive diagnostic measures or timely treatment paths. In my role as volunteer research participant; it feels like I'm close to full circle from that original seed which was planted as a young student. It's been a great privilege to volunteer in research projects. I leave meetings or discussions feeling hopeful for the advancement of women's health care. I'm also more hopeful that my young adult daughters and subsequent generations will benefit from an increased priority around women's health research funding. These inspiring research projects are a collaborative product of many bright minds like Dollina's and colleagues within a community of academic rigour and community support, plus the funding to advance such good work.

In 2022, I took part in a research study titled "Spot the Difference: Recognizing Risk for Cancer in the Experiences of Normal Aging." The study was conducted through the University of British Columbia's Uterine Health Research Lab. While participating in the study, I shared my experiences and thoughts regarding my own medical issues and eventual diagnosis journey. This diagnostic journey confused me - as much as it educated me. I became even more educated in 'Spotting the Difference' for myself, thanks to participating in the study. I now have a goal to communicate this topic and new learnings with my daughters and family; to contribute generational progress where possible. I am very happy to continue my partnership with the lab in their upcoming study on the "Utility of Vaginal Microbiome and Cell-Free DNA for Endometrial Cancer Screening."

In my role as a community mentor for this study, I will offer my guidance on various aspects such as reviewing materials like infographics and lay publications, suggesting necessary changes to the study design, and providing guidance on sharing knowledge through educational public forums and social media campaigns.

I feel this research project will be pivotal to elevate the efficiency, target population reach, accuracy, and comfort in the diagnostics and treatment path for women experiencing uterine health issues.

Warm regards,



Wendy Harris
Harrison Hot Springs, BC