



## WMFC News - June 2020

Dear <<First Name>>,

### Support Group Meetings via Zoom

WM support groups have been using Zoom technology to hold regular gatherings for those who wish to join. The Nova Scotia Support Group meets every two weeks on Zoom; the Toronto Support Group has met twice; and Calgary has met once. Other group meeting dates will be announced as they are scheduled. Here are some upcoming meetings:

- **Saturday, June 13, at 9:00 am** (EST), the Nova Scotia Support Group will hold a Zoom meeting. Dr. Zach Hunter from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute will be the special guest and will speak about his latest research. The WMFC is inviting you to the Zoom meeting. Password: Rothesay <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8573940250?pwd=eWhMZjZhd2paMDJRSGxWM3RzOEhqdz09>
- **Saturday, June 20, at 3:00 pm** (EST), a Canada-wide virtual support group meeting will be held for any Canadian WMer who wishes to join. We have set this call up to try and offer support for those WMers who live in isolated areas without a local support group. Anybody who would like to join is welcome. The WMFC is inviting you to the Zoom meeting. Password: Rothesay <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8573940250?pwd=eWhMZjZhd2paMDJRSGxWM3RzOEhqdz09>
- **Wednesday, August 5**, the Toronto Support Group will hold a Zoom meeting. Dr. Steve Treon from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute will be their special guest.

Betty McPhee, WMFC Vice-Chair, has done a great job of coordinating with Support Group leaders so that meetings continue to take place and support is still there during the COVID-19

pandemic.

### **July is the WMFC Research Month for 2020**

The WMFC has been trying to identify a research project that will make a difference for WM patients. At our May Board meeting, the Board selected a research proposal by Dr. Zach Hunter of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Hunter, who earlier helped uncover the MYD88 and CXCR4 mutations in patients who have WM, will take 300 WM patients and analyze their DNA, RNA and epigenomic changes to see if there are new patterns that emerge that can help identify new drug targets and possibly help specify the treatment a WM patient should receive. It is complicated, uses big data, but will allow Dr. Hunter and his colleagues to work with other researchers to find out more about how WM treatments could be more specific for each individual's genetic makeup. Stay tuned to hear more about Dr. Hunter's research and how WMers in Canada can help him complete this work.

### **Video Discussion on BTK Inhibitors**

From the Oncology Learning Network, here is a recent video discussion moderated by Dr. Steve Treon on [BTK Inhibitors](#). Please have a look.

### **WMFC Board News**

At the AGM, which took place May 27 via Zoom, we welcomed two new members, Joe Lewicki and Jim Mason. Following is a list of Board members:

<b>Board Members</b>		
Paul Kitchen - Chair	New Brunswick	paul.kitchen@wmfc.ca
Betty McPhee - Vice Chair	Ontario	betty.mcphee@wmfc.ca
Dave Johnston, Treasurer	Ontario	dave.johnston@wmfc.ca
Raffaella Mercurio - Secretary	Ontario	raffaella.mercurio@wmfc.ca
Cam Fraser	Alberta	cam.fraser@wmfc.ca
Joe Lewicki	British Columbia	macroglobulinemia@gmail.com
Jim Mason	Nova Scotia	jimfarmhouse@gmail.com

We also said goodbye to Clancy who was our Treasurer and technology leader. Clancy as a Board member of five years has done much to help the WMFC move forward. Over the past 12 months he has been particularly generous with his time and assistance to the Board Chair.

In addition, we were able to welcome a number of new Statutory members. Statutory members represent the WMFC membership and elect the Board at each AGM. Following is a list of

Statutory members who do not also sit on the Board:

<b>Statutory Members</b>	
Stu Boland	Danielle Gagnon
Paul Cadrin	Bill Gee
Bill Carbonneau	
Janet Cherry Parcher	Charles Murenbeeld
Clancy	Ian Roberts
Lisa Dickie	Ron Ternoway



**Paul Kitchen**

*WMFC Board Chair*