

Hospital-Based TIL Manufacturing to Provide Standard of Care Immunotherapy for Melanoma

Project duration: 2025-3-9 to 2028-3-31

Targeted cancer type:

Melanoma

This team aims to develop a point-of-care TIL product for melanoma that will enable a clinical study to support development of manufacturing processes and adoption of TIL as standard of care.

Key Investigators:

Project lead:

Dr. Simon Turcotte



Dr. Jennifer Quizi



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BioCanRx funded
Core Facility

**The Ottawa Hospital's
Biotherapeutics
Manufacturing Centre**

Biotherapeutic:
Adoptive cell therapy

Project value:

\$1,870,000

BioCanRx Contribution:

\$730,000

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Partners



Agir plus vite
que la maladie



The Ottawa
Hospital
Research Institute

L'Hôpital
d'Ottawa
Institut de recherche



About the project:

Melanoma, a severe skin cancer, often resists current treatments. In the U.S. and parts of Europe, Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocyte (TIL) immunotherapy is reimbursed as standard care, with up to 50% of refractory melanoma patients responding and 20% achieving long-term remission.

Canada urgently needs sustainable access to TIL therapy. Commercial TIL products from

the U.S. cost over half a million dollars each, making them unsustainable for Canada's public health care system. However, European countries have shown that hospital-based point-of-care manufacturing can produce safe, effective TIL at reduced costs. This model improves access, controls expenses, creates high-quality jobs, and supports research to enhance TIL efficacy.

The teams' project will leverage existing cellular laboratories at the Ottawa Hospital and the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal to develop an affordable, point-of-care TIL product. This will enable the conduct of a clinical study to gather data to support TIL as part of standard care and create a transferable manufacturing process for other Canadian sites.



Partners:

Centre de recherche du CHUM

Fondation du CHUM

Fondation J-Louis Lévesque

Total Pledged Partner Contributions: \$1,140,000

Total Pledged Matched Contributions: \$1,140,000

Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

ScaleReady

Key Deliverables

1. Canadian cGMP melanoma TIL (canTILme) development plan reflecting clinically validated standards, with a cost-reduction strategy and confirmed freedom to operate.
2. Validated canTILme manufacturing process and compendial release assays
3. Pre-CTA meeting supporting the early phase trial design
4. Data generated from pilot and engineering runs confirming harmonized TIL manufacturing at two sites
5. Better defined path for integrating hospital-based manufactured TIL therapy into Canada's public health care system

The power to kill cancer lies within us. Let's tell our bodies how.