



We all have a role to play in
improving health outcomes
in our region



***Coming Together to
Support Local
Health Research***

About WE-SPARK

VISION:

A thriving and engaged research community driving advancements in health.

Supported By A Unique Partnership Between:



MISSION: Enhance the health, well-being and care of people through transformative research by:

- Accelerating research activities and facilitating connections
- Providing local research funding opportunities
- Offering research workshops, services, and consultations
- Coordinating student volunteers
- Hosting events to engage community members in research

Base Operating Budget: \$500,000



806
Members



53
Volunteers
& Interns



1800+
Volunteer Hours
Logged

What Does Your Donation Support

Investing in Local Research

Impact and Quarterly Reports can
be found at wesparkhealth.com



WE-SPARK Grants Program To Date:



4

Grant
Competitions



52

WE-SPARK Grants
Awarded (\$776,725)



35+

Collaborating
Institutions



85

Trained
Personnel



145+

Collaborators

The success of the grants program fuels an already active local research ecosystem:



85

Clinical Trials



3,335

Patients &
Participants



\$8.8 million

Total External Funding*

**Funding reflects the grant activity of 21 Core Principal Members in 2021*

It takes a Team

Behind each Project Lead is a team of people from diverse backgrounds and experience. WE-SPARK focuses on funding projects that bring together experts from the 4 partner institutions and collaborators across the region, province, nation and world!

Thank you to our 2020-2021 collaborators!



ST. CLAIR
COLLEGE



HÔTEL-DIEU GRACE
ESTD HEALTHCARE 1888



Why Research Matters



Without research,
hope is just a word

~ Dr. Michael Dufresne
Ambassador of Hope



Changes clinical
practice to
improve patient
outcomes.



Drives
discoveries &
provides
solutions



Supports the
health and
wellness of our
community



Trains the next
generation of
researchers and
clinicians



Fuels the
economy to drive
innovation and
create jobs



Saves Lives!

Why Local Research Matters

Research outcomes have a global benefit, but there are additional impacts felt when research is funded locally



Keeps local health professionals & educators current



Attracts and retains the brightest students & professionals



Brings cutting edge infrastructure to our region



Delivers the latest innovative diagnostics & treatments to local patients



Increases access to clinical trials in Windsor-Essex



Improves health outcomes for our community



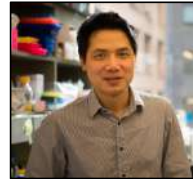
Local Grants at Work

Research improves health

Learn More:



The Research Team:



**Dr. Yufeng
Tong, PhD**

*Core Principal Researcher
WE-SPARK*

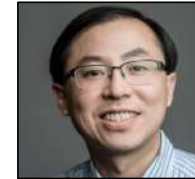
*Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Science
University of Windsor*



**Dr. Lisa
Porter, PhD**

*Core Principal Researcher
WE-SPARK*

*Professor,
Biomedical Sciences
University of Windsor*



**Dr. Kenneth
Ng, PhD**

*Core Principal Researcher
WE-SPARK*

*Professor,
Faculty of Science
University of Windsor*



**Dr. Kendall
Soucie, PhD**

*Core Associate Researcher
WE-SPARK*

*Associate Professor,
Faculty of Arts, Humanities &
Social Sciences
University of Windsor*



**Dr. Mike
McKay, PhD**

*Executive Director
GLIER*

*Professor,
School of the Environment
University of Windsor*

Project:

Establishing a Cost-Efficient and Scalable COVID-19 Early Monitoring System at a Strategic Canadian Land Entry Point

Funders:

WE-SPARK Igniting Discovery Grant (**\$20,000**) & additional funding from CIHR, Mitacs, CFI & NSERC (**\$945,000**)

Project Impact:

Able to detect emergent SARS-CoV-2 variants and provide community-based surveillance to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks.



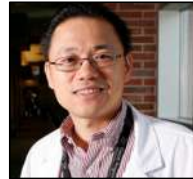
Local Grants at Work

Research improves health

Learn More:



The Research Team:



Dr. Ming Pan, MD

*Core Principal Researcher
WE-SPARK*

*Radiation Oncologist
Windsor Regional Hospital*



Dr. Arash Ahmadi, PhD

*Associate Professor,
Electrical & Computer Engineering
University of Windsor*



John Agapito

*Medical Physicist,
Windsor Regional Hospital*

Project:

Automated Organ Segmentation With Deep Learning: A Pilot Study of Artificial Intelligence in the Radiation Treatment Planning Process for Esophageal Cancer.

Funder:

Windsor Cancer Centre Foundation, Seeds4Hope Program (**\$50,000**) & additional infrastructure funding from Windsor Regional Cancer Center (**\$71,230**)

Project Impact:

Use artificial intelligence to improve esophageal cancer treatment, outcomes, and shorten wait times for patients in our community.



Local Grants at Work

Research improves health

Learn More:



The Research Team:



**Dr. Wassim
Saad, MD**

*Chief of Staff
Windsor Regional Hospital*



**Dr. Andrea
Steen, MD**

*VP Medical Affairs, Quality &
Performance, Chief of Staff
Hôtel-Dieu Grace
Healthcare*



**Dr. Ross
Moncur, MD**

*Former Chief of Staff
Erie Shores HealthCare*

Project:

Collection and Evaluation of Potential Long-Term Impacts of COVID-19 Infections in Windsor-Essex

Funder:

WE-SPARK Igniting Discovery Grant, Sponsored by NYN Designs

Project Impact:

Better understand the demographic and clinical characteristics of *local* patients who were hospitalized with COVID-19 infection and the long-term impact.



Local Grants at Work

Research improves health

Learn More:



The Research Team:



**Naomi Levitz-Shobola, MSW,
RSW, PhD (ABD)**

WE-SPARK Researcher

*Part-Time Faculty,
School of Community Studies
St. Clair College*



**Elizabeth Strutt MacLeod, BA
BED, Med LLB, JD**

*Coordinator/Professor
School of Community Studies
St. Clair College*



Community Partner

Project:

How Did I Get Here? Exploring the definitions of meaningful activity for recently housed Windsor-Essex residents with street involvement

Funder:

WE-SPARK Igniting Discovery Grant (**\$18,000**) & In-kind support from Family Services Windsor-Essex

Student Team: Miranda Caron, Danielle Macdonald, Hanna Wager (St. Clair College Honours Bachelor of Applied Arts in Social Justice and Legal Studies)

Project Impact:

Understanding meaningful activity through the lens of lived experience in order to increase impact of future social service programming for the recently housed.

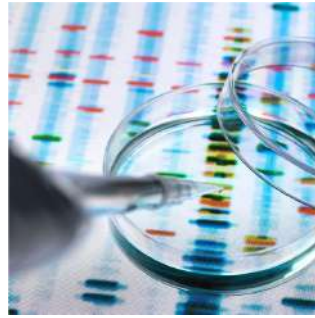


Realities of Research

Research takes time

Research takes investment

Here are some examples of common research costs



MICROPIPETTE

\$500

Your investment could help cover the costs of supplies like a pipette that is commonly used in chemistry, biology and medical labs to transfer liquid



MATERIALS

\$20 - \$20,000

Your investment can help our researchers purchase vital research materials including chemical and molecular biology reagents and drugs



PERSONNEL

\$12,000+/project

Your investment could help train the next generation of researchers. *Hiring Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) costs vary*



What Does Your Donation Support

WE-SPARK's local grants program

Note: All WE-SPARK donations go directly to support the grants program

**Igniting
Discovery
GRANT**

up to \$20,000

Funds early-stage, novel & innovative health research projects throughout Windsor-Essex.

**Incentive
GRANT**

up to \$40,000

Funds projects that are close to being successfully funded in large, national funding competitions.



Donor Levels

All donors will be recognized on the WE-SPARK website, at the Cheers to Hope event and acknowledged in the yearly impact report



Visionary

\$20,000+

Customize based on donor request, including option to name the grant



Champion

\$10,000

Customize based on donor request, including option to name the grant



Advocate

\$5,000



Supporter

\$2,500



Friend

\$1,000



Believer

<\$1,000

Thank You to Our 2020 & 2021 Supporters



Visionary



Champion

Gang Lu



Friend

Lawrence Delmore
Peter Dunn
Heather Metcalfe



Believer

Marcella Beneteau
Michael J. Dufresne
Jo Anne Lambing
Wonder Broads of
Windsor-Essex

How to Play a Role

Everyone has a role to play in supporting health research.

Donate today.



Charitable Tax receipts for gifts \$10 and over will be issued by mail.
Reg. #10816 2611 RR0001



One-Time Donation

Make a one-time donation to support the 2022 WE-SPARK grants program.



Monthly Donation

Commit to a monthly donation to ensure the continuous support of the WE-SPARK grants program.



Named Grant

By donating **\$10,000+** you have the opportunity to customize the focus and name the grant.

Donate by:

Cheque payable to:

WE-SPARK Health Institute

Phone anytime:

(519) 253-3000 x4394

Visit our website:

www.wesparkhealth.com/donate

Thank you for helping us ignite new discoveries, address gaps in health care, spark collaborations and improve the health of our community

DONATE TODAY:
wesparkhealth.com/donate



**Igniting
Discovery,
Living Better**

