

Myeloma Canada *Aurelia Initiative:* 2025 Milestones



**AURELIA
INITIATIVE**
Funding Myeloma Research



**MYELOMA
CANADA**
MAKING MYELOMA MATTER



AURELIA INITIATIVE

Honouring *Innovation.*
Driving *Research.*
Improving *Lives.*

Introducing Myeloma Canada's new Science and Research program, re-imagined.

Through Aurelia, Myeloma Canada connects research leaders, scientists, and healthcare providers. Their shared work, guided by patient priorities, supports innovative research and collaboration, helping ensure progress reaches patients in meaningful ways.

Aurelia, meaning *gold* and *light*, embodies a visionary approach to science and research, one that guides funding and reflects a commitment towards a life uninterrupted by myeloma.

Aurelia Research Funding Highlights

*Supporting the Research
that Matters Most*

In 2025, Myeloma Canada supported over **\$1M in myeloma research**, accelerating discovery while strengthening the next generation of scientific leaders.

16 Canadian
investigators

10 research
projects

8 emerging
myeloma
researchers

Competitive Research Grants

Aldo Del Col Research Grants

Named in honour of Myeloma Canada's co-founder, the Aldo Del Col Research Grant supports projects that align with at least one of the Aurelia Research Grant funding priorities.



2025 Aldo Del Col Grant Winners:

- **Dr Nizar Bahlis, Calgary, AB**
(in partnership with Cell Therapy Transplant Canada)
- **Dr Richard LeBlanc, Montreal, QC**
(in partnership with Cancer Research Society)
- **Scott McComb, PhD, Ottawa, ON**
- **Dr Suzanne Trudel, Toronto, ON**
(in partnership with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada)

Co-funded Operating Grant Partnerships

Strategic partnerships allow Myeloma Canada to amplify donor impact by equally co-funding high-potential research alongside trusted national organizations.



Cancer Research Society Operating Grant:

- **Dr Florian Kuchenbauer, Vancouver, BC**

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada Operating Grant:

- **Dr Nizar Bahlis, Calgary, AB**

Research Project Highlights

Advancing **new immune-based treatments**, including CAR T-cell therapy, bispecific antibodies, and other novel and/or innovative immunotherapies.

Deepening understanding of **genetic changes** that drive treatment resistance and disease progression.

Improving **disease monitoring**, including highly sensitive blood tests that help clinicians track myeloma more accurately and earlier than ever before.



“Aurelia brings together researchers, clinicians, and patients in a way that really moves the field forward. This support allows us to pursue innovative science, better understand myeloma, and translate discoveries into meaningful advances for patients.”

Dr Nizar Bahlis, Calgary, AB



Multiple Myeloma March (MMM) Fund-Sharing Partnership & Locally Funded Research Programs

This program invites charitable organizations affiliated with Canadian myeloma treatment centres or universities to partner with Myeloma Canada on local fundraising events.

Projects supported through these local partnerships monitor how patients' antibody levels change when receiving BCMA-directed T cell therapies to ensure safety and effectiveness, study how myeloma cells interact with their surrounding environment to better understand disease behaviour, and collect real-world patient data to inform treatment decisions and optimize outcomes.



2025 Grant Recipients:

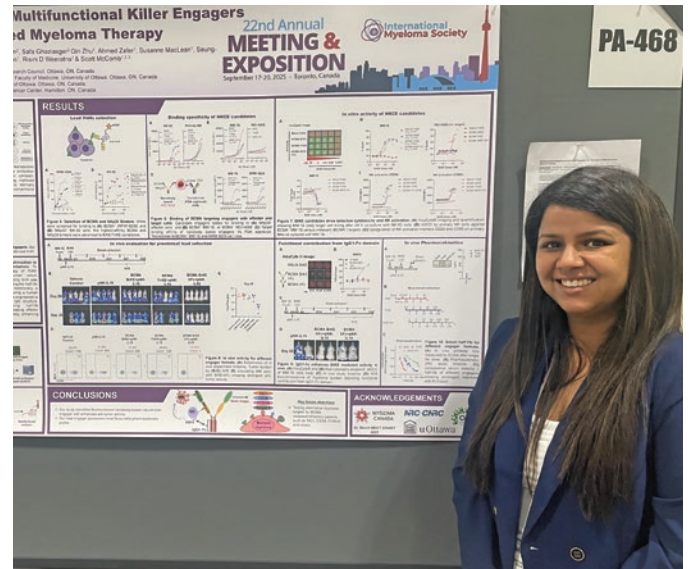
- Dr Julie Côté, Québec, QC
- Jonathan Bramson, PhD, Hamilton, ON
- The Myeloma Research Program at the Ottawa Hospital
- Dr Richard LeBlanc, Montreal, QC

Did you know?

Myeloma Canada is one of the founding partners of the Myeloma Canada Chair in Multiple Myeloma Research of Université de Montréal at the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital, established in 2012.

Supporting the research of:

Dr Richard LeBlanc & Dr Jean Roy,
Montreal, QC



Dr Andrew R Belch MEET Grant for Young Myeloma Investigators

The Myeloma Education and Enriched Training (MEET) Grant supports and encourages early-career investigators in myeloma by enabling them to present their research on the international stage and strengthening Canada's scientific leadership.

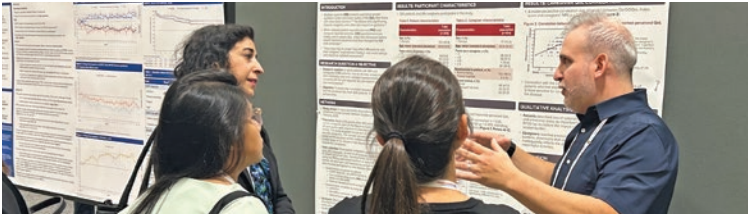


2025 MEET Grant Winners:

- Simin Ahmadvand, Ottawa, ON
- Melika Bakharzi, Vancouver, BC
- Ariene Cabantog, Vancouver, BC
- Ankita Dabla, PhD, Ottawa, ON
- Dr Daniela Di Francesco, Vancouver, BC
- Lorenzo Lindo, Calgary, AB
- Ben J. Patrick, Ottawa, ON
- Dr Andrée-Anne Pelland, Vancouver, BC

Knowledge Transfer and Clinical Impact: *From Research to Patient Care*

Aurelia ensures that discoveries don't stay on paper. Our efforts help ensure new discoveries are quickly shared and adopted, resulting in better care for people living with myeloma.



4 Co-authored Publications & 2 Poster Abstracts Presented at 4 Conferences:

- *First Line Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Transplant Eligible Multiple Myeloma Recommendations from a Canadian Consensus Guideline Consortium*
- *Exploring what matters most to patients in relapsed refractory multiple myeloma treatment: a Canadian discrete choice experiment with patients, caregivers and physicians*
- *Minimal Residual Disease Testing Infrastructure in Multiple Myeloma: Guidance for Clinical Trial and Routine Practice Use in Canada*
- *The Burden of Multiple Myeloma on Patients' and Caregivers' Quality of Life: A Canadian Real-World Study*

Disseminating Information

Ensuring that advances in research are quickly adopted into improvements at the bed side of care.

National Consensus Guidelines:

Evidence-based recommendations for consistent myeloma care across Canada; guidelines in development for relapsed/refractory myeloma and CAR T-cell therapy.

Continuing Medical Education (CME):

580 Primary care providers to date trained through the Myeloma Canada sponsored CME program to improve early diagnosis, referrals, and patient care.

Quebec Plasma Cell Dyscrasia Group (GMPQ):

Support for GMPQ's educational activities that ultimately ensure that myeloma patients in Quebec benefit from the most up-to-date, evidence-based care.

Myeloma Canada Nurse Network (MCNN):

Canada's first myeloma nurse network, with 106 members receiving updates, research access, and professional development opportunities.

Why this Matters

Through consensus guidelines, education, and national networks, Aurelia helps:

Patients

get diagnosed sooner

Healthcare teams

gain access to the latest evidence in treatment approaches

Care

become more consistent across provinces and territories

Pioneering Initiatives & Scientific Meetings

Collaborative Solutions

Driving Access, Inclusion, and Innovation in Myeloma Care

Minimal Residual Disease Implementation Program in Canada

What MRD testing is:

MRD testing detects tiny amounts of myeloma cells after treatment. It is more sensitive than standard tests, helping spot relapse early and guide treatment decisions.

Current challenge in Canada:

MRD testing is rarely available in routine practice, and methods vary across the country.

In November 2025, Myeloma Canada hosted Canada's first MRD Testing Implementation Summit, uniting researchers, lab leaders, regulators, industry, and patients to implement MRD testing into standard of care. Building on this, Myeloma Canada is leading efforts to establish consensus on quality standards and operationalization, and support provincial access and reimbursement.



Adapting Quality of Life Measures for Today's Patient Experience

The Burden of Multiple Myeloma on Patients' and Caregivers' Quality of Life: A Canadian Real-World Study was completed in 2025 as a first step in developing and updating Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in myeloma that reflect the current treatment landscape. PROMs capture patients' and caregivers' experiences, symptoms, and quality of life, providing critical insights that help guide clinical decisions, may improve access to meaningful therapies, and ensure research data reflects real-world patient impact. Findings were presented at three national and international conferences, and a manuscript is under review for publication.

Phase 0: Operationalizing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in Clinical Trials

Despite growing efforts to improve EDI in clinical trials, many people still face barriers to participation. To address this, Myeloma Canada led a national initiative to identify and reduce non-health barriers such as geographical, financial, cultural, and lack of access to support services.

Through collaborative meetings with patients, research teams and industry partners, a co-created pre-trial navigation service was developed, combining human support, AI tools, and community resources. The model aims to improve access, boost participation, and ensure trials reflect the diversity of people with blood cancers, with a pilot project currently underway.

Looking Ahead

Aurelia is more than a research funding program: it is a commitment to collaboration, scientific advancements, accelerated progress, and care that truly reflects patient needs.

For more details on the Myeloma Canada Aurelia Initiative and its portfolio, please visit myeloma.ca



**AURELIA
INITIATIVE**
Funding Myeloma Research