



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Sjögren's Society of Canada
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Making Strides for Patients

Reflecting on the achievements of the Sjögren's Society of Canada (SjSC) over the past year, we take great pride in our efforts to support and educate Sjögren's patients nationwide. Through programs such as Support Groups, Town Halls, the National Patient Conference, and monthly and quarterly newsletters, we have made significant strides. Of particular importance is the successful launch of our new website member portal, offering access to copies of our Connections newsletters and videos of our informative town halls, all of which facilitate seamless interactions with the SjSC. Our commitment to raising awareness about Sjögren's remains unwavering evidenced by the Canadian Sjögren's Awareness social media campaign, our Walks for Sjögren's, our website content and the distribution of SjSC brochures. We are encouraged by the growing membership, increased fundraising efforts, expanding roster of in-person meetings and events, and the revival of our research grant program.



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Impact Snapshot

150

New members joined
the SjSC in 2023

2023 Town Hall &
Conference attendees

530

24,921

Visitors to our
website in 2023

Reaching Our Goals



PATIENT EDUCATION & SUPPORT

- Member Portal launched with access to our *Connections* Newsletter and recordings of our Members Only Virtual Town Halls
- Introduced new Support Group in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)
- Four Members Only Town Halls held in 2023



AWARENESS

- Launched National Walk for Sjögren's in 5 cities across Canada with over 200 participants and donors
- Canadian Sjögren's Awareness Month in July featured daily posts on social media about the symptoms and complications of Sjögren's



FUNDRAISING

- National Walk for Sjögren's nearly met our goal of raising \$20,000
- Giving Tuesday & Year End Fundraising campaign raised over \$27,000 with the help of a generous \$10,000 matching donor



RESEARCH

- Set aside 5% of all donations into a research fund
- Awarded two \$4,000 Summership Research Grants to Canadian graduate students to investigate a Sjögren's related issue

National Walk for Sjögren's

The first annual National Walk for Sjögren's held on September 23, 2023 was a success! The Sjögren's Society of Canada (SjSC) transitioned from organizing small local walks on different dates in the past few years to holding walks in five major Canadian cities and in neighbourhoods across the country - ALL ON THE SAME DAY! Over 200 donors, 6 teams, 23 fundraisers, 70 Walk attendees, and 5 sponsors, contributed over \$19,000 to help us achieve the mission of the Sjögren's Society of Canada to increase awareness, education, and research.



It was great to see so many Sjögren's patients and their family members and friends participate in Walks in Calgary, Ottawa, Durham, Paris and London! Support group leaders and members in each city did an excellent job of organizing their walks.

The Walk event began with a Zoom Kick-off watched across the country. Sjögren's experts presented information and insights about the disease and two patients shared challenges and advice from their own Sjögren's stories. The Kick-off also included reports from each city.

We are very grateful for the sponsors of our National Walk for Sjögren's: AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Labtician Ophthalmics, Oral Science, and Sun Pharma. These are all companies who develop and manufacture some of the medications and treatments that Sjögren's patients use every day.

Making Strides for Sjögren's



THANK YOU

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the donors and volunteers who have generously supported us in 2023. Your dedication and selflessness have made a profound impact on our organization. Thanks to your contributions, we've been able to provide essential support, continue to raise awareness and promote much needed research. Your kindness and commitment inspire us to continue our mission of making a difference in the lives of Sjögren's patients. Together, we are creating a brighter future for everyone. Thank you for your incredible support.

Special thanks go to Lauren Vording (Managing Director), Dr. Leslie Laing (President), Mary McNeil (Vice-President), Marc Foisy (Treasurer), Christin McGinn, Lucy Pavao, Ellen Wang & Julie Yoshikuni (Board of Directors), our Medical Advisory Board and all of our incredible Support Group Leaders.

