

A dark teal background image showing a group of medical professionals in a meeting. A woman in the center is pointing at a tablet. Other people are visible around the table, some looking at the tablet. A stethoscope and a laptop are also visible on the table.

2021 Activity Report



In this pandemic year of 2021, our organization has once again demonstrated agility and resilience: despite the successive waves of COVID-19, Q-CROC now brings together all of the institutions involved in clinical research in oncology, a first in Quebec and our province has remained an important player in clinical research.

QCROC's ties with all of these institutions allow us to stimulate collaborations, foster commitment and break down silos. The close relationships we have built over the past 15 years with key players in the clinical research community allow us to carry out projects that ultimately contribute to the improvement of cancer care.

More than ever, working together is an essential ingredient in beating cancer.

Jean-Frédéric Lafontaine
Chair

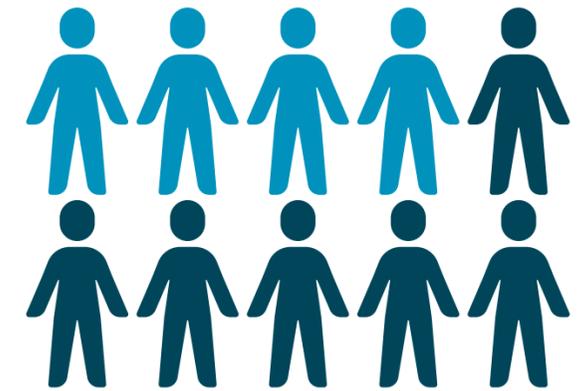
Lucie D'Amours
General Manager

Participating in clinical trials why is it important?

Besides adopting a healthier lifestyle, research is the most powerful tool in the fight against cancer. The more we learn about the different types of cancer, the better our chance to fight them effectively and save lives. The outstanding work of all scientists and health care professionals and the remarkable contribution of all those with the disease who agree to participate in research are making a major difference. Although major progress has been made in the last few decades, the work is far from over as evidenced by the most recent Canadian cancer statistics.

Cancer and COVID-19

Disruptions to cancer care caused by the pandemic could result in more than 21,000 additional cancer deaths over the next decade. More people diagnosed at an advanced stage may turn to clinical trials in the coming years. In 2021, it is estimated that more than 2,400 Quebecers participated in an oncology clinical trial.



4/10 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime



1/4 of Canadians will die from it

Quebec oncology clinical trials in 2021

Thanks to the help of research teams, the work of its liaison coordinators and its powerful database, Q-CROC is able to provide a global picture of oncology clinical trials taking place in Quebec.



18
healthcare
institutions

+ 800
recruiting trials in 2021

+ 2,400
participants



224
trials opened
in 2021

Geographical distribution of trials



65 %
Montreal

20 %
Quebec

7 %
Sherbrooke

8 %
Other
regions

+275 investigators



83 %
pharmaceutical
trials



17 %
academic trials

Not-for-profit organization founded by physicians in 2008

Q-CROC develops solutions to optimize the recruitment of participants in clinical trials and to increase knowledge in clinical research

A network made up of 100% of the institutions in Quebec where clinical research in oncology takes place

- 18/18 healthcare institutions (two new members in 2021)
- 900+ physicians, nurses, research coordinators, managers and health professionals

5 communities of practice

- in thoracic, pediatric, hematological, gastrointestinal and **gynecological** oncology_ (new in 2021)
- with over 170 community members across the province



100 %

With the addition of the CISSS de Chaudière-Appalaches and the CISSS des Laurentides in 2021, our network now includes 100% of the institutions conducting clinical research in oncology in Quebec.



Q-CROC was inspired by the idea that more can be done together. It started with only two hospitals, and it is a great source of pride to see all the work accomplished over the years that has allowed us to complete the network. Q-CROC has been able to create a rallying organization that improves the efficiency of clinical research in Quebec, notably through the work of hospital-based liaison coordinators, knowledge sharing and access to up-to-date data in oncology.

Dr. Gerald Batist, Co-Founder of Q-CROC et Director of the Segal Cancer Centre at the Jewish General Hospital

A local presence in hospitals since 2008

Gatineau

CISSS de l'Outaouais

Montréal métropolitain

CHU Sainte-Justine
CHUM - Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal
CISSS de la Montérégie-Centre
CISSS de Laval
CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal
CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal
CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal
CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal
MUHC - McGill University Health Centre

Saint-Jérôme

CISSS des Laurentides



5

A team of five managers based in Quebec City, supported by

18

18 hospital-based liaison coordinators

Québec

CHU de Québec - Université Laval
IUCPQ - Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec

Lévis

CISSS de Chaudière-Appalaches

Chicoutimi

CIUSSS du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean

Rimouski

CISSS du Bas-Saint-Laurent

Trois-Rivières

CIUSSS de la Mauricie-et-du-Centre-du-Québec

Sherbrooke

CIUSSS de l'Estrie

Managing communities of practice

a proven approach that fosters collaboration

Following the recommendations of its international scientific advisory board, Q-CROC has developed 5 communities of practice in clinical research*. In addition to optimizing patient referrals between hospitals, this approach stimulates collaboration among investigators and allows for discussions on the opening of new studies. Q-CROC coordinates the organization of these community meetings and optimizes the sharing of information among members.



*A community of practice is a group of people (e.g. investigators, nurses, managers) who work together and interact to learn from each other, sharing experiences and good practices in a particular area of their professional practice.

Professional Development: innovative projects offered in French

From grants to webinars to the creation of educational resources, Q-CROC supports the professional development of research teams and works to promote a culture of quality in clinical research across its network.

4 webinars

Our four webinars accredited by the Collège des médecins du Québec have trained **over 700 people** in 2021. The conferences have also been viewed on our website over a 1000 times.

1 webinar for aspiring nurses

Two research nurses from the McGill University Health Centre shared their experience, background and the research projects they are working on with some **60 college and university students**.

3 microlearning capsules

Since their launch in 2018, Q-CROC practical issue flash trainings have continued to grow in popularity. In 2021, they saw a nearly **50% increase in views**. Three of the longest-running Capsules were revitalized and re-launched during the year.

1 training tool

In collaboration with the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP), Q-CROC has translated the **Entry-level Clinical Research Coordinator Competency Development and Assessment Roadmap** into French. Available on the Q-CROC website, the roadmap is used by key individuals involved in the training of coordinators within the network.



At the demand of network members, self-training certificates have been added to the webinars and microlearning capsules, so that professionals who view them on-demand can document their training.

Nearly \$100,000 in grants awarded to Quebec investigators in 2020-2021

8 MOCK AUDITS

The last three audits of the "Voluntary investigator-initiated clinical trial regulatory compliance assessment program" were conducted in 2021. Since 2019, this program has provided eight sponsor-investigators with a comprehensive evaluation of their trial and identified opportunities for improvement to ensure its success.

— “

"We greatly appreciated the auditor's visit and are very pleased with his thorough and relevant evaluation. It was very informative and instructive for my research coordinator and me."

—participating researcher

7 COACHING SESSIONS

In 2021, seven sponsor-investigators benefited from an IIT start-up verification grant. The program offered a six-hour coaching session with an expert in project management and good clinical practices (GCP). The goal was to assess the readiness of key aspects of their trial prior to start-up in order to minimize risk and improve its quality and efficiency.

"The coaching session helped to clearly identify all the elements and aspects to be considered before the trial begins. I believe my trial will be greatly improved as a result of this training session."

—participating researcher

” —



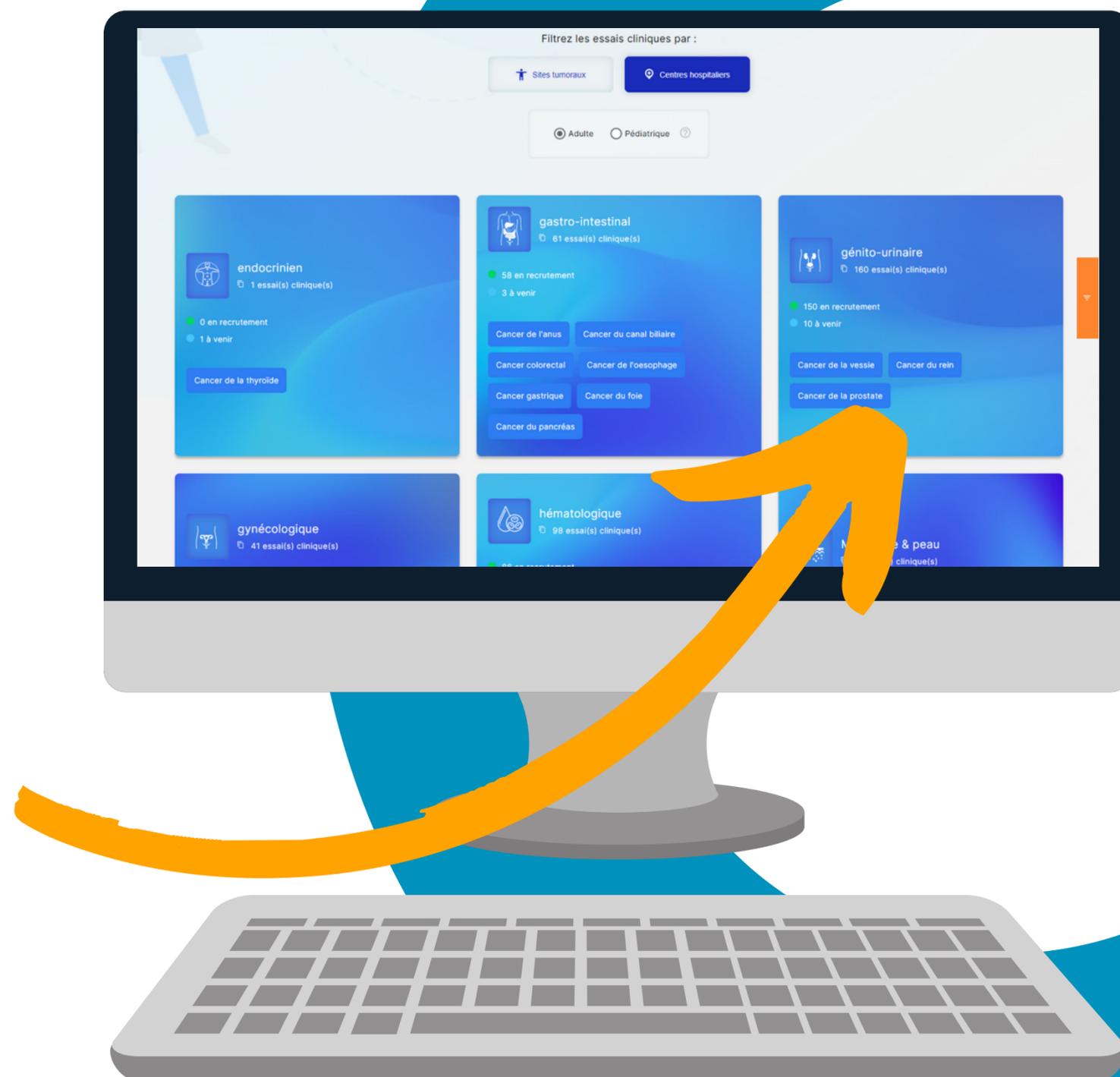
ONCOQUÉBEC

THE REFERENCE TO SEARCH FOR CLINICAL TRIALS IN QUEBEC

OncoQuébec is a Web application developed by Q-CROC that allows searching for clinical trials in oncology using filters or keywords. It contains the most complete and up-to-date information on ongoing cancer clinical trials in Quebec.

The year 2021 was marked by the start of major work that led to the launch of a brand new version of OncoQuébec. This improved version allows for **faster** (addition of several search filters) and **more precise searches** (selection of several search criteria at the same time). All of this is managed in a new, high-performance database that saves research teams time during data entry.

www.oncoquebec.com





ONCOQUÉBEC



Q-CROC is proud of the success of its platform to date.
Since its launch in 2019, OncoQuébec has become increasingly popular.



+ 8 000

+85% increase in the number of visitors
compared to 2020



+ 70 000

+50% increase in the number of pages
viewed compared to 2020



+ 25

Number of partners who refer to
OncoQuébec on their website doubled
in 2021

FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

In June 2021, Q-CROC held a focus group to evaluate OncoQuébec and test a new version of the platform to understand if it is suitable for different types of users.

*"It's a huge plus in terms of focusing our research more precisely. There is a tremendous amount of information on research locations, phases and detailed medical descriptions."
- Caregiver*



+75 % of the focus group recommendations will be integrated by 2022



REORGANIZE

Some key elements should be more visible.
E.g. filters, tumor sites



SIMPLIFY

Patients and caregivers want plain language content



SPLIT

Two home pages are needed to meet different needs.
Patients want to be reassured and guided in their search,
while professionals want to act quickly and efficiently.



ADD

Users would like to see new features added to the platform.
E.g. Alert system



"Q-CROC is doing important, tangible work that is having a real impact on the clinical research community in Quebec, in partnership with patient associations, the pharmaceutical industry, hospitals and research teams."

- Eva Villalba, Coalition Priorité Cancer

RAISING AWARENESS: AT THE CORE OF OUR PURPOSE

Part of Q-CROC activities is to raise public awareness of the importance of clinical research in the fight against cancer and the development of new treatments. Every May 20, on International Clinical Trials Day, Q-CROC organizes outreach activities across its network of hospitals. Here's a look at the 2021 hybrid version:

International Clinical Trials Day (May 2021)

A rallying event:

- **13** participating hospitals across Quebec
- **11** participating patient associations

Educational:

- **4** webinars organized for patients and healthcare professionals
- **3** video vignettes in collaboration with the CHUM

Available online:

- **2** web pages created for the occasion
- **1** Facebook campaign that generated over 1,000 visits on these new pages

Making information more accessible than ever

Through its collaborations with associations that support people with cancer and with key hospital personnel, Q-CROC facilitates access to quality information on clinical research. Whether it is through the development and distribution of educational materials, participation in conferences or the creation of content for its partners' websites, Q-CROC aims to make information available to as many people as possible.



3 new partnerships in 2021

The expertise and commitment of three new partners in 2021 will strengthen our awareness and research support activities. [Colorectal Cancer Canada](#), the [Quebec Lung Association](#) et the [Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada](#) join the Quebec Cancer Foundation, Leucan and the Canadian Cancer Society as partners in promoting clinical research in Quebec.

4 webinars

Q-CROC collaborated with Ovarian Cancer Canada, Colorectal Cancer Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society and CROIRE at Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital to present webinars on clinical trials to people living with cancer and their families.

THANK YOU

to our financial partners of 2021:

- Amgen
- AbbVie
- AstraZeneca
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Gilead
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Merck
- Novocure
- Oncopole
- Pfizer

and to our collaborators:

- Biovalorem
- Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network (3CTN)
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Coalition Priorité Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer Canada
- CROIRE Fund
- Fleexer
- Leucan
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada
- Health Canada
- Ovarian Cancer Canada
- Quebec Cancer Foundation
- Quebec Cancer Consortium
- Quebec Lung Association



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