

# 2022 Activity Report



## From the Management

We are excited to present the Q-CROC 2022 Activity Report, which covers a year full of concrete achievements that demonstrate our leadership and creativity in supporting clinical oncology research in Quebec. The year 2022 marked an important turning point for our organization; notably with the adoption of a new vision and mission, the result of a strategic reflection elaborated by Q-CROC staff and Board of Directors.

These new orientations reflect the importance we place on collaborative work and the relevance of our actions. They also attest to our efforts to support recruitment, efforts that are already showing results, as evidenced by the popularity of our OncoQuébec platform and our Onco+ personalized support service. As we approach our 15th anniversary, we firmly believe that our nonprofit is more relevant than ever and look forward to continuing our work with the entire Quebec community and beyond.



**Jean-Frédéric Lafontaine**  
Chair



**Lucie D'Amours**  
General Manager



## VISION

Contribute to defeating cancer and improving health care through clinical research



## MISSION

Collaborate with the broader community to develop solutions to optimize participant recruitment and improve knowledge of clinical research



## WHO WE WORK WITH

- Health care institutions & research teams
- Initiatives and organizations involved in the fight against cancer in Quebec and outside Quebec
- Pharmaceutical industry



# Our Values

## SHARING

We focus on sharing ideas and collaborating to foster engagement and break down silos

## INTEGRITY

We build relationships based on trust. Our actions are guided by the respect we have for our collaborators

## AGILITY

We are a creative and efficient organization that adapts quickly to changes in the environment

## EDUCATION

We count on knowledge transfer to develop the expertise of professionals and raise public awareness of the importance of clinical research in improving health care

# Our Network

Q-CROC is the largest clinical research network in oncology in Quebec. It includes 100% of Quebec's health care institutions where clinical research is conducted. Some 15 Q-CROC liaison agents are working in the network's centers.

## Where clinical trials take place

**66%**

Montréal

**20%**

Québec  
City

**14%**

Other  
cities

### **MONTRÉAL**

CHU Sainte-Justine

CHUM - Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal

CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

MUHC - McGill University Health Centre

### **QUÉBEC**

CHU de Québec - Université Laval

IUCPQ - Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec

### **OTHER CITIES**

**CHICOUTIMI** / CIUSSS du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean

**GATINEAU** / CISSS de l'Outaouais

**GREENFIELD PARK** / CISSS de la Montérégie-Centre

**LAVAL** / CISSS de Laval

**LÉVIS** / CISSS de Chaudière-Appalaches

**RIMOUSKI** / CISSS du Bas-Saint-Laurent

**SAINT-JÉRÔME** / CISSS des Laurentides

**SHERBROOKE** / CIUSSS de l'Estrie

**TROIS-RIVIÈRES** / CIUSSS de la Mauricie-et-Centre-du-Québec

# QUEBEC ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS IN 2022

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



Activity 1

# Optimize participant recruitment

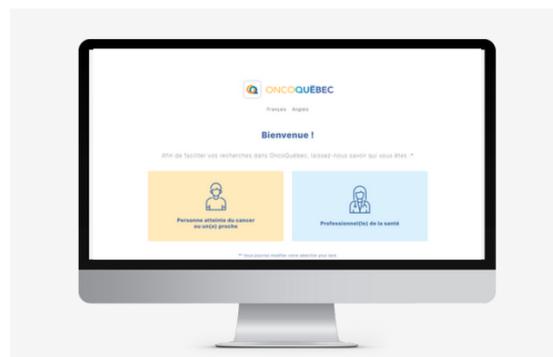




## THE REFERENCE TO SEARCH FOR CLINICAL TRIALS IN QUEBEC

OncoQuébec is one of Q-CROC's flagship projects to support recruitment. Since its launch in 2019, it has been the most comprehensive and efficient web-based platform to search for oncology clinical trials in Quebec and continues to be refined year after year. As evidenced by the new features below, the year 2022 marked a major turning point for the platform with the addition of a personalized support tool and services focused on the needs of people affected by cancer:

### Separate Interfaces



Patients and healthcare professionals are redirected to a homepage that meets their needs. Nearly 50% of users are people affected by cancer.

### Personalized assistance



Professionals and patients who wish to do so can now contact an oncology specialist to assist them in their search for clinical trials.

### Alert System



Users can now be notified by email when a new study is added to OncoQuébec



ONCOQUÉBEC

# THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

+11 000

## USERS

visited OncoQuébec in 2022, an increase of almost 40% compared to 2021.

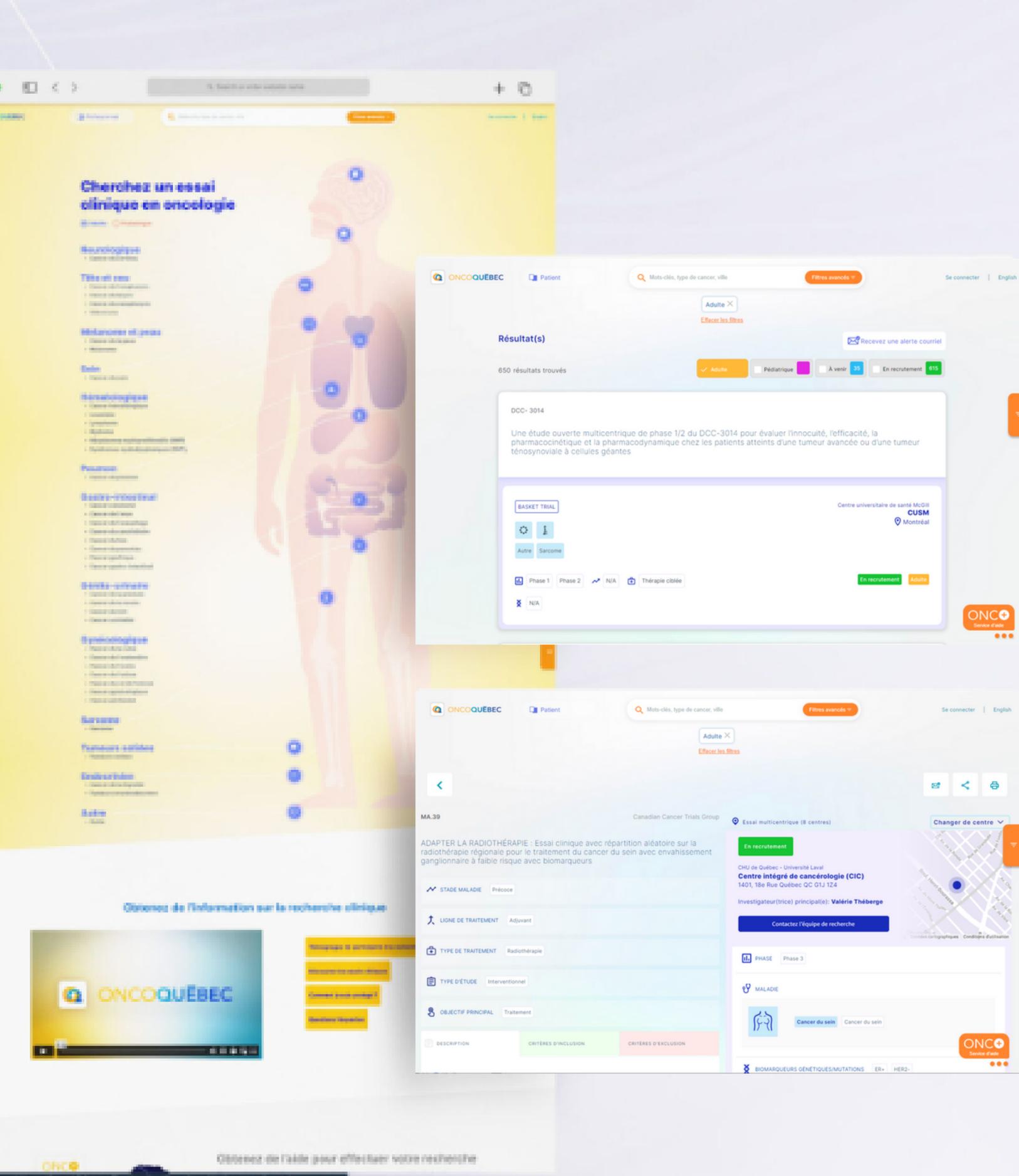
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## ORGANISATIONS

refer to OncoQuébec on their websites, including the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux. This is an increase of nearly 45% over the previous year.

360°

With the addition of an accompaniment service and an alert system that makes it possible to be informed of the opening of new studies, OncoQuébec is more than ever a one-stop shop for people and health professionals looking for a clinical trial.





## **A MAJOR ADDITION TO ONCOQUÉBEC**

Searching for a clinical trial is a complex and time-consuming task, especially when it comes to cancer, which includes over 100 sub-diseases. That's why, in collaboration with the Quebec Cancer Foundation, the CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal and the Quebec Cancer Consortium, Q-CROC has launched Onco+, a free, bilingual support service for people (patients, healthcare professionals, etc.) looking for a clinical trial in oncology.

**In just a few months, the service has helped over 80 people.**

**"A huge thank you! You were there at just the right time, when we felt alone and lost. Thank you for the guidance you gave us".**

*- caregiver who used the service*

**OncoQuébec allows us to save a lot of time. Thanks to the automation made possible by the OncoQuébec database, the monitoring of our studies has never been so simple, quick and efficient.**

- LUISA IZZI, MANAGER OF THE QUEBEC CANCER CONSORTIUM (QCC)



The QCC is an initiative that aims to accelerate research into molecular cancer diagnosis and treatment, while placing the patient experience and needs at the heart of its priorities. Q-CROC is an active contributor to the participant recruitment side of the initiative.

# Q-CROC COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

another example of our commitment to breaking down silos

Since 2018, Q-CROC has been coordinating communities of practice composed of investigators and clinical research professionals. This model allows members to collaborate and exchange with professionals at other hospitals and also facilitates patient referrals between institutions. In 2022, at the request of the community, Q-CROC welcomed a new community of practice in neuro-oncology. Our six communities of practice have over 230 members across Quebec.



**2018**

Thoracic



**2018**

Pediatrics



**2020**

Gastrointestinal



**2020**

Hematology



**2021**

Gynecologic



**2022**

Neurology

"Q-CROC provides efficient, rigorous and personalized support and coordination for the promotion and development of cancer clinical trials in Quebec and the recruitment of participants. I invite all teams in the province to engage in a dialogue with Q-CROC to address the specific needs of patients, researchers and research teams."

- Dr. Jean-Paul Bahary, radiation oncologist at the CHUM and leader of the neurology community of practice

Activity 2

# Improve knowledge of clinical research



# Q-CROC SUPPORTS PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

## By helping to train new recruits

A new initiative was launched in 2022: the Q-CROC Academy. Its purpose? To help network institutions face the challenges of a lack of qualified staff and high staff turnover. The Academy's trainers are experts from the network who are willing to share their knowledge and know-how with their colleagues. All the places available for the first session were taken up in less than ten days and over 300 people were trained. Based on the success of the first session, a dozen free virtual training sessions will now be offered twice a year.

## By providing accredited training sessions in French for experienced research professionals

Three webinars organized in collaboration with Health Canada have resulted in the training of more than 400 professionals during the year 2022.

**+700**

Number of professionals trained in 2022 with Q-CROC

**+90 %**

Satisfaction rate for our webinars

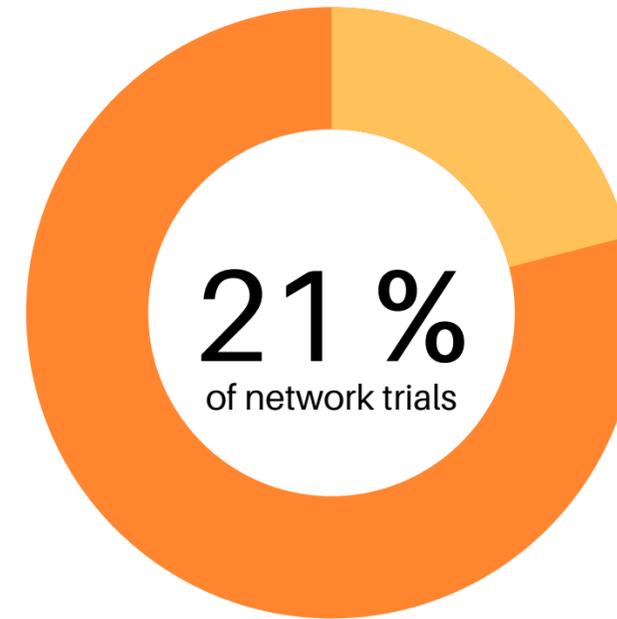
## SPOTLIGHT ON

# ACADEMIC CLINICAL RESEARCH

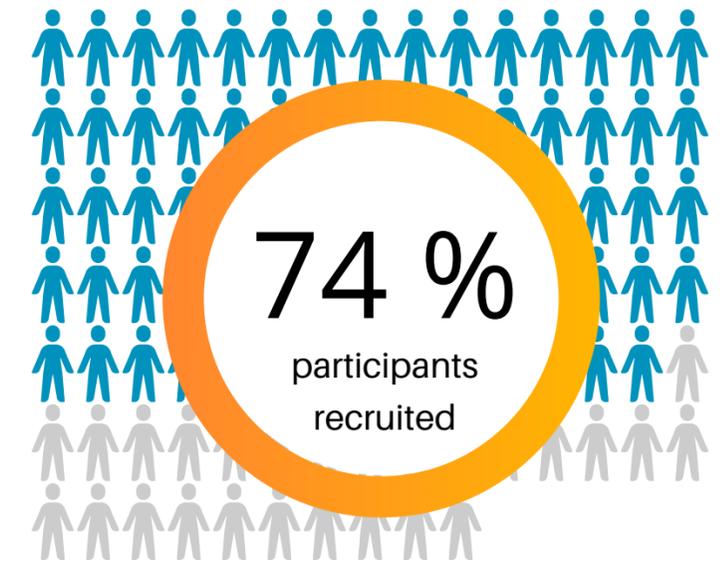
Investigator-initiated trials (IITs) present a significant challenge for investigators who, in this context, take on the additional role of sponsor. Whether through webinars, voluntary audits or training grants, Q-CROC actively supports investigators and their teams in conducting this type of study. Our objective? To enhance the value of these clinical trials, mitigate their risks and maximize their quality and effectiveness.

# +100 000\$

**Awarded in training grants to Quebec investigator-sponsors in the framework of our programs since 2019**



● Academic trials      ● Pharmaceutical trials



**Did you know?** Q-CROC is a founding member of the pan-Canadian initiative for academic clinical research, 3CTN (Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network), and has been the representative for the Eastern provinces since 2015.

# Raising awareness of clinical research at the heart of Q-CROC's priorities

Through the development and distribution of educational materials, conferences or content for its collaborators' website, Q-CROC makes information on clinical research available to as many people as possible. Here are some examples:

## 9 partnerships with patient associations

Q-CROC has formed three new partnerships to strengthen its clinical research education and awareness program for cancer patients. Procure, the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and Myeloma Canada join the Quebec Cancer Foundation, Leucan, the Canadian Cancer Society, Colorectal Cancer Canada, the Quebec Lung Association and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada as partners in the promotion of clinical research in Quebec.

400

With its partners, Q-CROC collaborated on 4 webinars that informed over 400 people about clinical research during the year.

## ICTD 2022: Another successful provincial campaign

Every May 20, on the occasion of International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD), Q-CROC organizes awareness activities throughout the province of Quebec.

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### participating organizations

(hospitals and organizations working in oncology or research)

In parallel, Q-CROC has set up a virtual awareness campaign: *Participating in clinical research*. From May 20 to June 3, 2022, it was viewed more than 20,000 times on social networks.

## A promising project with the Espace partenaires en cancérologie

In collaboration with Q-CROC, a new awareness initiative will be launched in 2023 at the Espace partenaires en cancérologie (EPC) of the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital. This one-stop shop will inform all patients using the EPC's support service about clinical research in oncology. In addition to patients, the project will also raise awareness among health professionals at the institution (who do not do clinical research).

# Thank you!



The trust-based relationships we have built over time with key players in the clinical research community allow us to carry out projects that ultimately contribute to improving oncology health care. Thank you to all the organizations that supported us during 2022:

## OUR FINANCIAL PARTNERS

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

## AND OUR COLLABORATORS

- Quebec Lung Association
- Biovalorem
- Canadian Cancer Clinical Trials Network (3CTN)
- Colorectal Cancer Canada
- Ovarian Cancer Canada
- Coalition priorité cancer
- Quebec Cancer Consortium
- Fleexer
- Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
- Fondation cancer du sein du Québec
- Quebec Cancer Foundation
- Leucan
- Myeloma Canada
- Procure
- Health Canada
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada