

2024 Activity Report



Quebec - Clinical Research
Organization in Cancer



From the Management

It is with great pleasure that we present our activity report for the year 2024. For over 15 years, Q-CROC has dedicated its efforts to supporting clinical research in oncology in Quebec. Our collaborative approach has allowed us to build a strong network, and our initiatives, both to support people affected by cancer and research teams, have made us a reference organization in the field of clinical oncology research.

This unique positioning leads us today to deploy our expertise on a national scale, thanks to a partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society. This partnership, which combines our strengths with those of a leader in information and support for people affected by cancer, supports our desire to continue developing solutions to optimize access to clinical trials for all people living in Canada.

This major achievement for Q-CROC reminds us of the importance of our partners and collaborators over the past years, without whom this milestone could not have been reached.

We are proud to share with you the exceptional achievements presented in this activity report. These successes testify to our unwavering commitment to our community and the excellence of the work accomplished by our team. Thanks to the strategic vision and commitment of our board of directors, we have been able to reach new heights. We would like to express our deep gratitude to our directors for their invaluable support.

Jean-Frédéric Lafontaine

Chair of the Board of Directors


Lucie D'Amours


General Manager



Founded 16 years ago by two visionary oncologists

Q-CROC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the field of oncology. We improve recruitment strategies, making clinical research more accessible to people affected by cancer and healthcare professionals. With our innovative tool, OncoQuébec, we transform the search for clinical trials into a simple and intuitive experience, thus facilitating the referral of participants to research teams.

Vision  Contributing to defeating cancer and improving healthcare through clinical research

Mission  Optimizing participant recruitment and enhancing knowledge on clinical research

Drs Gerald Batist et Luc Bélanger - Founders of Q-CROC - 2011

Our main collaborators

One of the main objectives of Q-CROC is to forge strong collaborations with key players in clinical research in Quebec and Canada to fight cancer. Q-CROC was born from a community initiative and has succeeded in establishing strong relationships with centers, professionals in the field, and patient associations over the years.



Catherine Vayssier - Project Manager, Awareness

18



Q-CROC is the largest clinical oncology research network in Quebec, bringing together 18 centers and approximately 1,000 healthcare professionals. We stay connected each month through our newsletter and training activities, thereby strengthening our commitment and collaboration.

We manage 9 communities of practice, allowing clinical research experts from more than 15 different cancer centers to collaborate together.



9

13



In partnership with 13 patient associations, we have the opportunity to participate in webinars and share our educational materials with a wide audience of people affected by cancer. Together, we expand our reach and strengthen our impact.



Our network

Q-CROC is proud to be Quebec's largest clinical research network oncology, bringing together all the healthcare institutions in the province where clinical research takes place. This achievement is all the more remarkable considering that in 2008, we had only two founding centers. Today, about fifteen Q-CROC liaison coordinators work within our partner institutions, with the primary mission of providing up-to-date data to OncoQuébec.

● MONTRÉAL

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
CHU Sainte-Justine

● QUÉBEC

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

● AUTRES VILLES

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

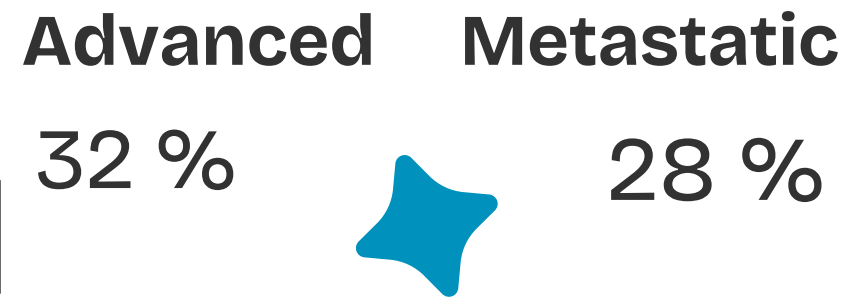
SHERBROOKE / CIUSSS de l'Estrie

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

Overview of studies conducted in our network in 2024

+730
trials in recruitment,
including 260 newly opened

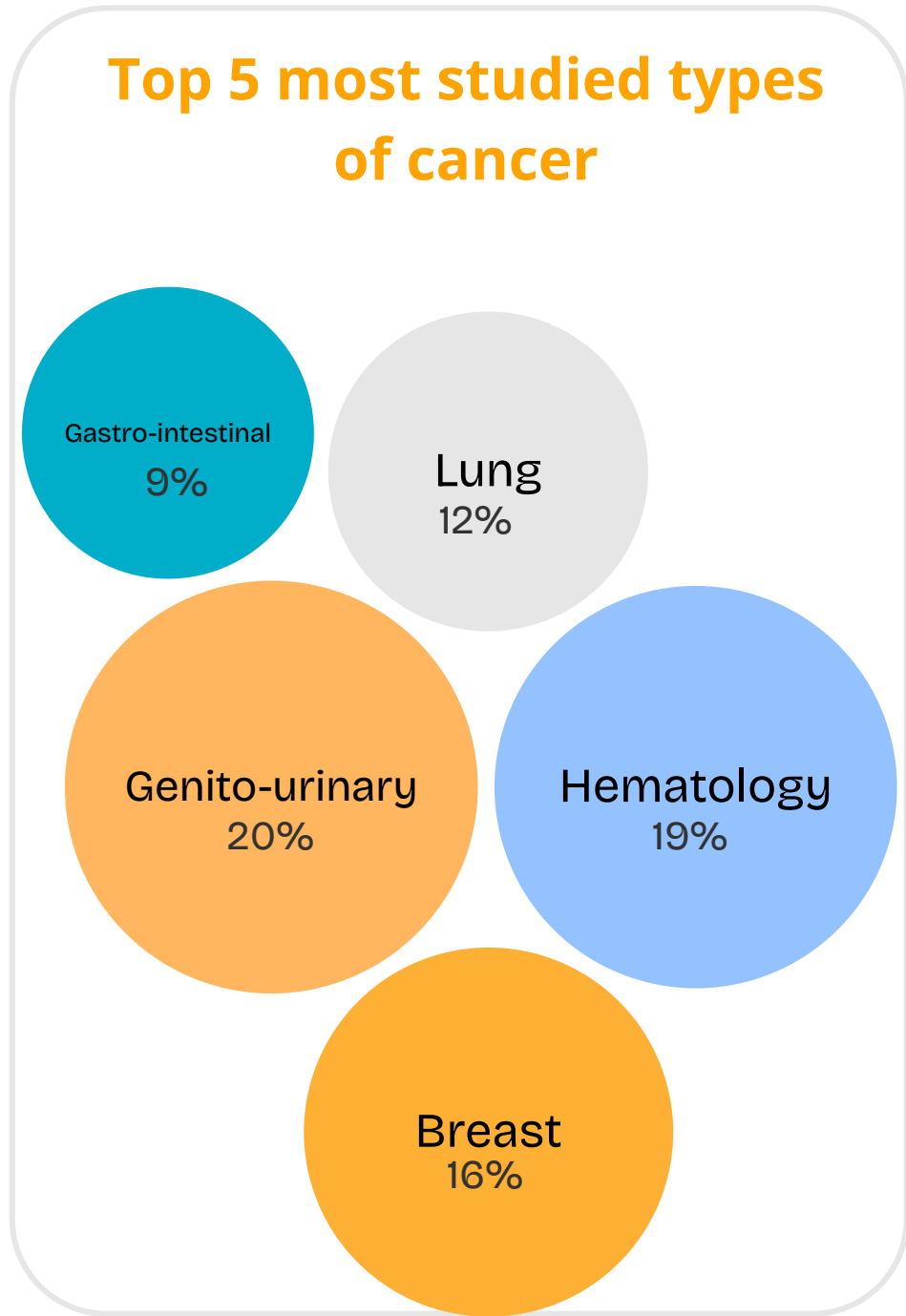
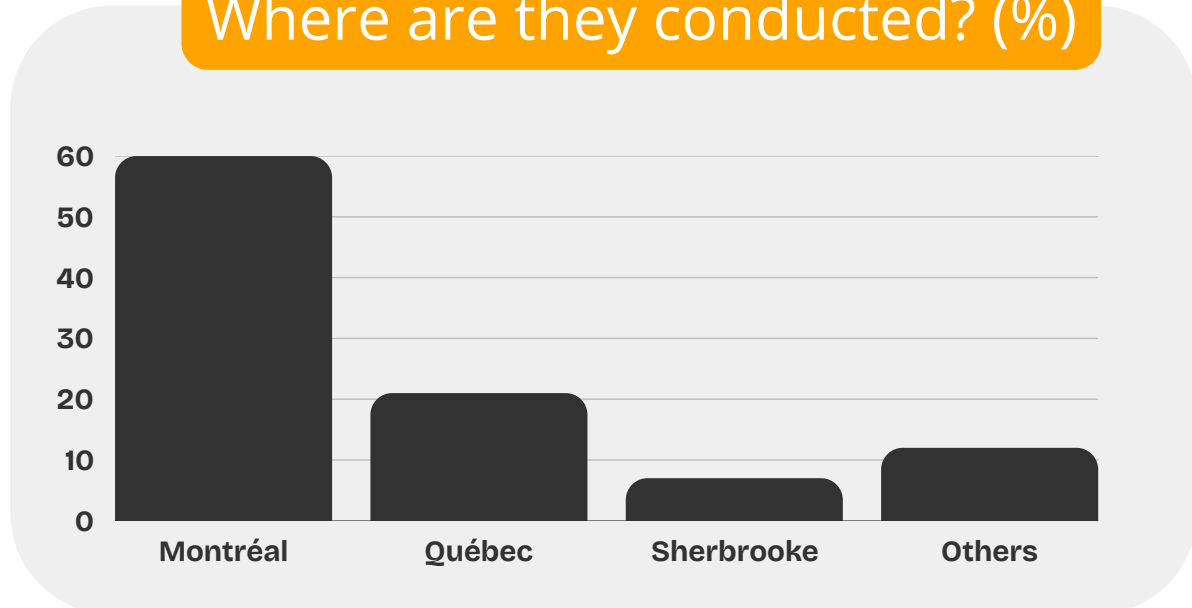
Which stages of the disease are most studied?



Most common trial phases (%)



Where are they conducted? (%)



Q-CROC CoPs



In parallel with our network of member hospitals, sub-networks of researchers have developed over the years. Our Communities of Practice (CoPs) constitute an effective model for strengthening communication among leading researchers in Quebec and simplifying the referral of participants to clinical trials between different centers.

"Q-CROC is the vector that helps us identify sites and, more importantly, allows patients to find clinical trials. Last summer, we encountered an under-recruitment issue, and they graciously collaborated with us to identify additional sites. Thanks to their help, we will be able to reach our global recruitment goal on time, which will result in valuable data to help more patients."

-AbbVie Team



Fostering innovation and communication through Q-CROC communities of practice

90

Thoracic Oncology
Since: 2018
Leader: Dr. Nathalie Daaboul (Hôpital Charles-LeMoine)
Number of members: 90

75

Gastrointestinal
Since: 2020
Leader: Dr. Francine Aubin (CHUM)
Number of members: 75

45

Gynecology
Since: 2021
Leader: Dr. Diane Provencher (CHUM)
Number of members: 45

70

Neurology
Since: 2022
Leader: Dr. Jean-Paul Bahary (CHUM)
Number of members: 70



Melanoma

Since: 2023
Leader: Dr. Rahima Jamal (CHUM)
Number of members: 40

40

Neurology, Radiology & Gynecology

Since: 2023
Leader: Dr. Jean-Paul Bahary (CHUM)
Number of members: 30

30

Bladder

Since: 2024
Leader: Dr. Wassim Kassouf (MUHC)
Number of members: 40

40

Breast Radiology

Since: 2024
Leader: Dr. Jean-Marc Bourque (CHUM)
Number of Members: 5

5

Molecular Genetics

Since: 2024
Leader: Dr. Alan Spatz (MUHC/JGH)
Number of members: 25

25

Testimonials from our leaders

"As a physician and leader of the melanoma community of practice, I have seen firsthand the significant benefits such a platform can bring. One concrete example is the increase in clinical research referrals. By bringing together experts, researchers, and healthcare professionals from various backgrounds, we have established a close-knit collaborative network that encourages patient recruitment for clinical studies. Sharing our experiences and observations allows for better identification of eligible candidates for clinical trials.

Regular exchanges during our meetings and seminars have helped many clinicians better understand patient selection criteria for specific research. This has also strengthened patient confidence in clinical trials, a crucial aspect since we know these studies are essential for advancing melanoma treatments. By increasing referrals to research centers and facilitating patient participation, we have contributed to the implementation of more effective new therapies."

"The establishment of our community of practice in gastrointestinal cancers has greatly improved collaboration between the different centers involved in treating these cancers. The community of practice has also facilitated the sharing of new knowledge in digestive oncology. Updates on scientific advances and clinical practices are effectively disseminated, allowing members to quickly integrate the best approaches into patient care.

Finally, discussions of complex cases among experts provide invaluable input. The diversity of perspectives enriches our decision-making and enhances our ability to offer personalized, high-quality care. In summary, this community of practice has created a true ecosystem of mutual support and excellence, promoting better coordination and optimal care for patients with digestive cancers."



Dr. Francine Aubin
CHUM



Dr. Rahima Jamal
CHUM



Awareness and Participation: Keys to Advancing in the Fight Against Cancer

Clinical trials lead to significant medical breakthroughs and are a crucial step in improving cancer treatments. However, low awareness and certain misconceptions are barriers to participation. While approximately 60,000 Quebecers are diagnosed with cancer each year, less than 5% of them participate in a clinical trial, even though thousands more could potentially be eligible.

One of Q-CROC's strategies is to collaborate closely with patient associations. To date, several hundred people affected by cancer across the province have participated in our various joint educational activities, thereby helping to raise public awareness about the importance of clinical research.

Who we teamed up with in 2024:

- Quebec Lung Association
- Colorectal Cancer Canada
- Bladder Cancer Canada
- Coalition Priorité Cancer
- Craig's Cause
- Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
- Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation
- Quebec Cancer Foundation
- Leucan
- Myeloma Canada
- Procure
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada





ONCOQUÉBEC

The reference in oncology for searching for clinical trials

Approved by health institutions and patient associations

More than 40 of them display their studies on OncoQuébec or direct cancer patients and professionals to the platform as a reliable resource on their website.

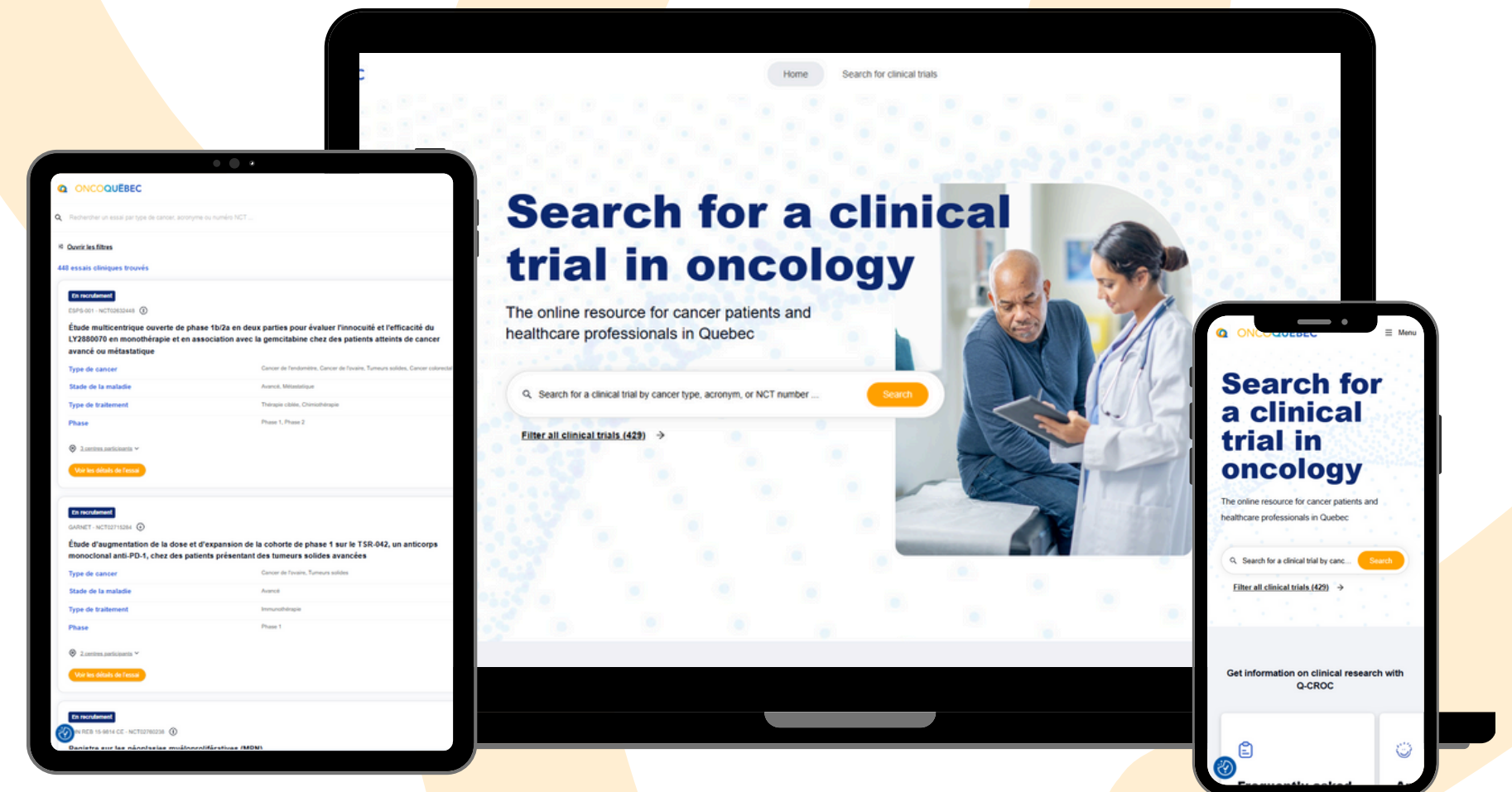
Significant impact

Since October 2019, more than 40,000 users have turned to OncoQuébec for reliable information on clinical trials. This proves that our platform was meeting unmet needs in the field of oncology.

Diverse user profiles

Our platform inspires as much confidence in patients as it does in healthcare professionals, each representing 50% of our user base. For them, having up-to-date information is essential.

NEW SITE



www.oncoquebec.com

Facilitating access to clinical trials through Onco+

Since 2022, Q-CROC has partnered with the Quebec Cancer Foundation to help people with cancer search for clinical trials. Proof that our support service meets a crucial need that had not yet been addressed: more than 250 people have already benefited from it, mainly outside major urban centers



User satisfaction rate



85 %

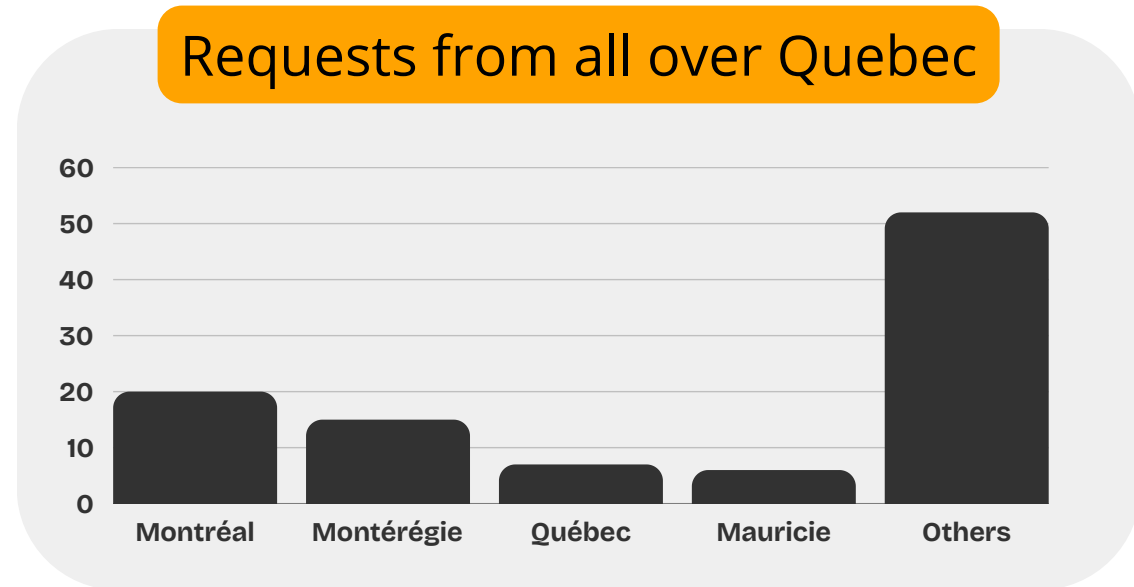
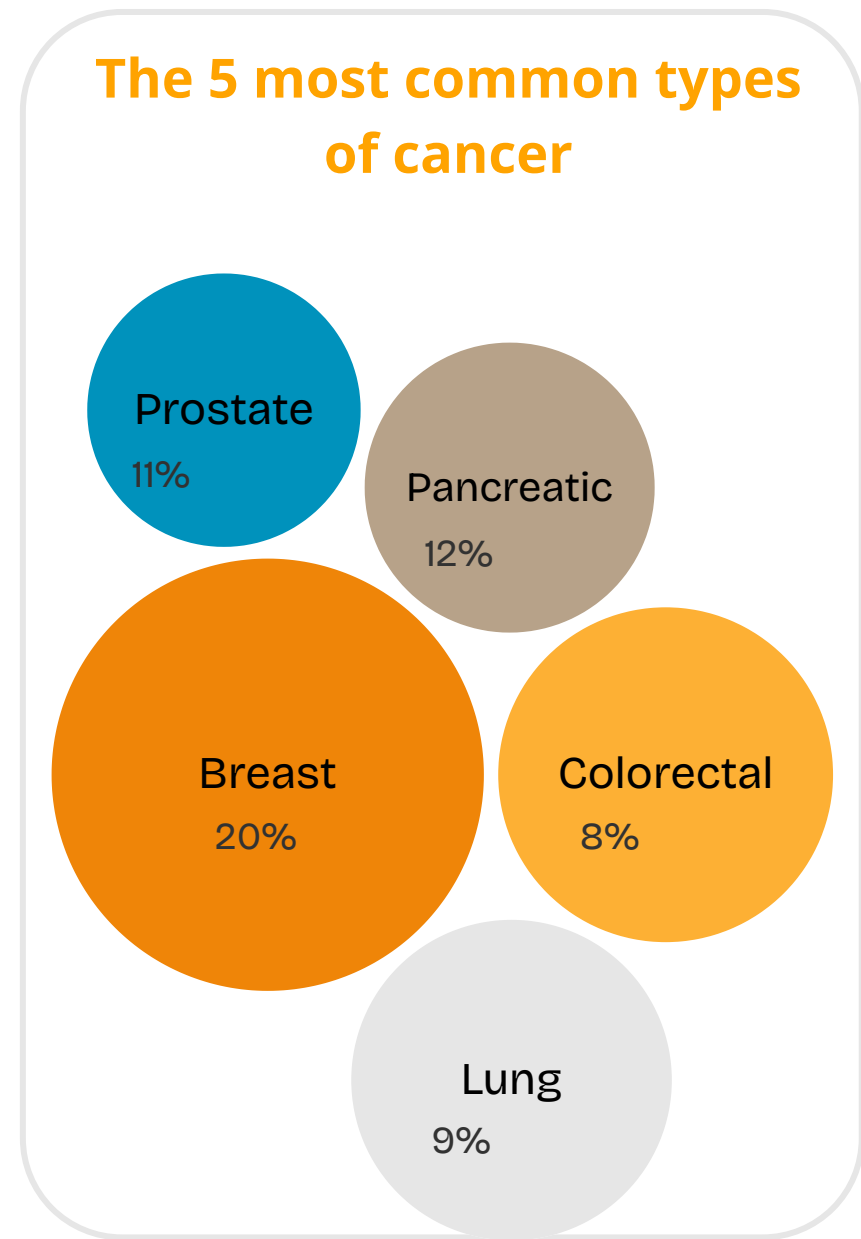
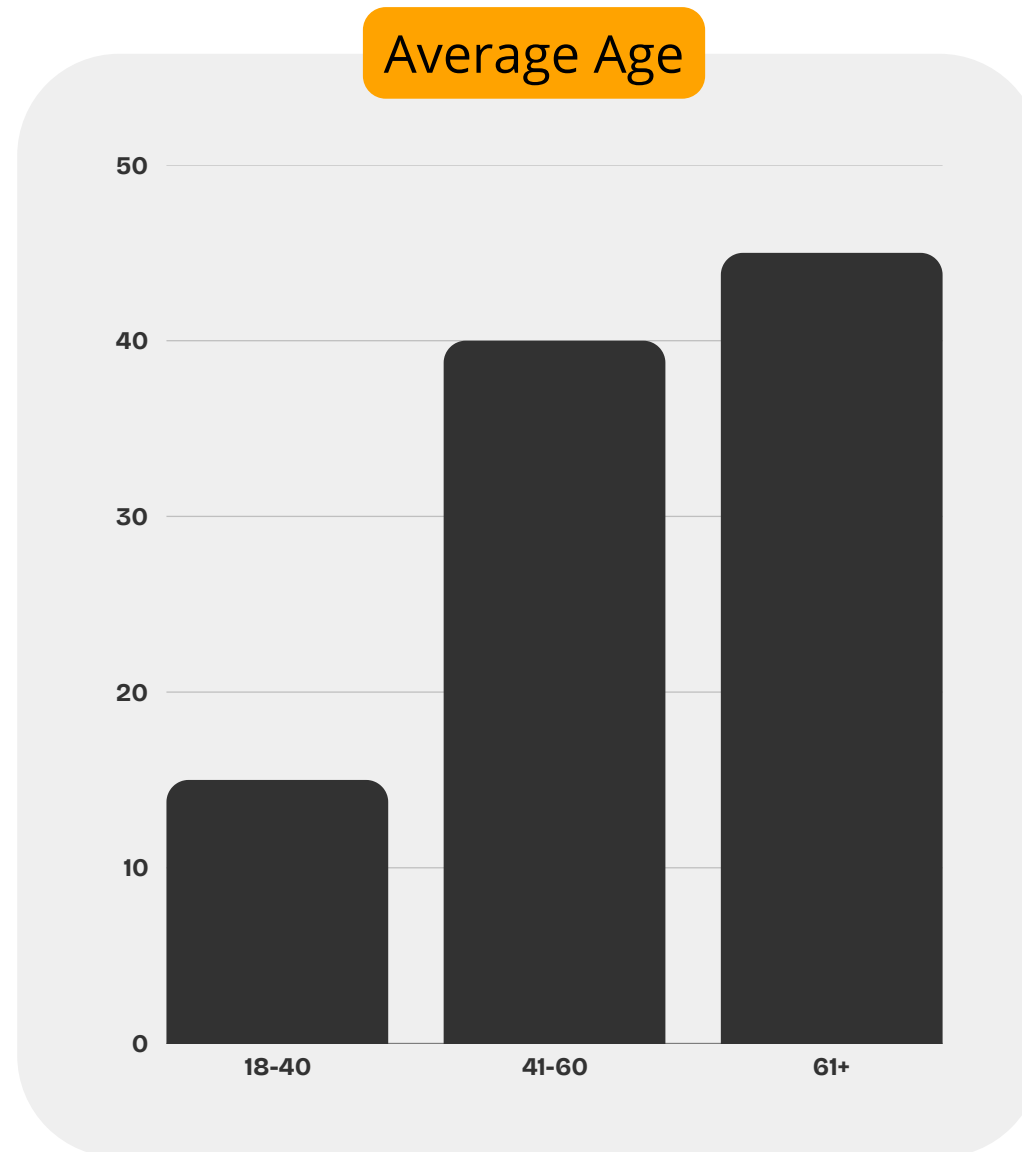
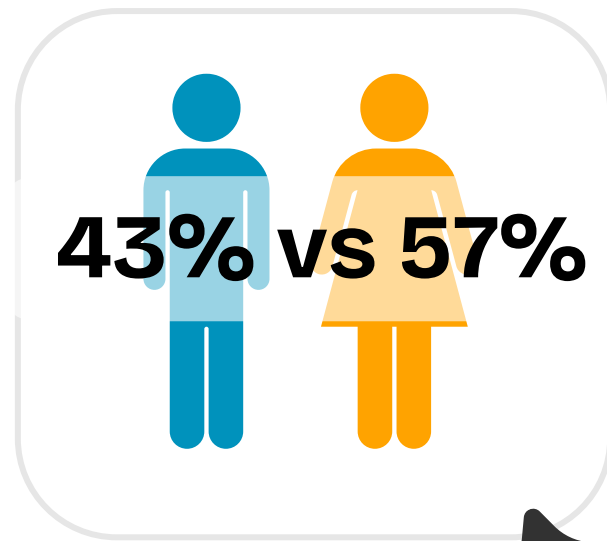
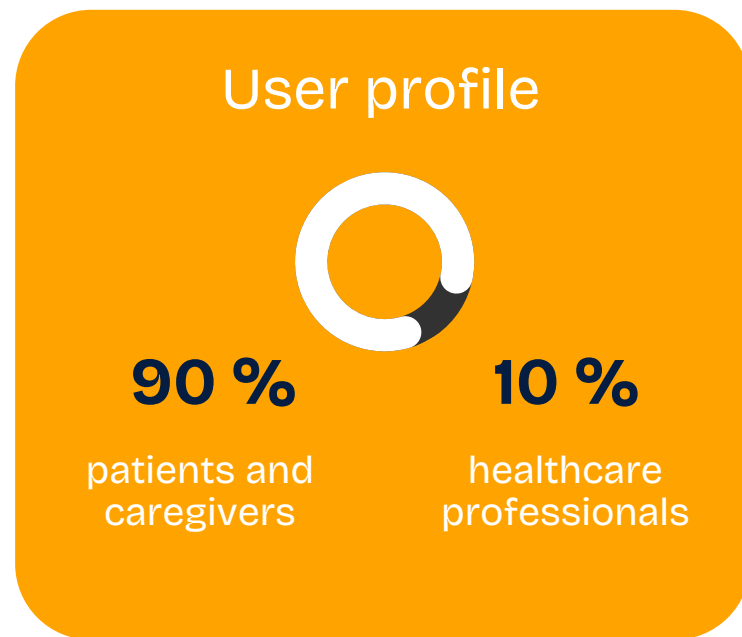


"I am privileged and grateful to be able to benefit from the indispensable help of ONCO+."

-Cancer patient

Profile of Onco+ users

Whether online or by phone, our service provides personalized support to patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals in Quebec. Here is an overview of the supported individuals:



A promising new partnership

The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) and the Quebec - Clinical Research Organization in Cancer (Q-CROC) have joined forces to establish a unified, patient-first, bilingual program to improve access to clinical trials for all Canadians.

This innovative program aims to connect cancer patients with research teams by leveraging an innovative technology solution and patient-friendly, plain language content that will make it easier to find, understand and access clinical trials.

CCS is a recognized leader in Canada for credible and accessible cancer information, and Q-CROC has pioneered a comprehensive 360-degree platform that is ready to be expanded nationwide. Our collaborative vision, in partnership with other organizations, seeks to create an agile and sustainable solution that will advance and promote innovation in cancer care. More details will follow in 2025!



Some members of our respective teams during a collaborative work session.

EQUITABLE ACCESS

Ensuring that all patients, regardless of gender, age, or place of residence, have equitable access to clinical trials is a core commitment for us. Here are some examples of our positive impact:



OncoQuébec

Our platform attracts visitors from all over Quebec (and beyond). About 50% of our users are from outside Montreal and Quebec City. So far in 2024, the majority of our visitors have been between the ages of 25 and 55, with women making up 63% of the audience compared to 37% men.



Onco+

Since 2022, we have addressed requests for support across more than 30 different types of cancer. Approximately 70% of the requests to our support service come from outside Montreal and Quebec City, highlighting our reach and the trust placed in our services by diverse communities.



Communities of Practice

An impressive 40% of our participants comes from regions outside Montreal and Quebec City. These participants are spread across more than 15 different hospitals, from Sherbrooke and Saguenay to the Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

Professional Training

Since 2019, we have successfully trained over 3,600 healthcare professionals, thereby enhancing their expertise in clinical research.



Training provided as part of the Annual Congress of the [Quebec Association of Oncology Nurses](#)

Q-CROC Academy

Twice a year, sessions offer 10 to 12 one-hour interactive online courses, led by seasoned professionals from the network, aimed at young professionals.

"It was an excellent opportunity to discuss with experts in the field and learn from them. I want to thank you for taking the initiative to train the rising new generation in clinical research. Well done!"

Coaching Program for Investigators:

The program is designed for researchers developing their own clinical trial in oncology, as well as for their team. It includes a 6-hour interactive remote coaching session with a world-class GXP consultant.

Webinars with Health Canada

Each year, representatives from Health Canada directly present new regulations, guidelines, and other relevant topics related to clinical research. A Q&A session is included, allowing participants to interact and clarify their doubts.

The webinars attract between 100 and 300 participants, and over 95% of participants consistently rate them as "very useful for my work."

Thank you to our 2024 financial partners



AbbVie
Amgen
AstraZeneca
Gilead
GSK
Incyte

Merck
Novocure
Pfizer
Servier
Takeda



To collaborate with Q-CROC:



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