

# DALHOUSIE'S BREAST CANCER ARMY

Other breast cancer research projects at Dalhousie University include:

**Viral weapons:** Researchers Patrick Lee and Chris Richardson have used viruses to target cancer cells. Richardson recently completed a six-year project that used the measles virus to infiltrate breast, lung, colon and bladder cancer cells. Lee has used reoviruses, naturally occurring viruses that cause mild respiratory infections, to kill cancer stem cells. These stem cells, the "queen bees" that spark the growth of cancer in the first place, are the most difficult cells to eradicate.

**Immune response:** David Wiseman is working to halt the growth of blood vessels that feed cancerous tumours. Wiseman is looking at the body's own response, which can in some cases make things worse. The immune system can respond inappropriately, which can lead to inflammation, new

blood vessels and additional damage.

**Fungal power:** Julie Jordan, a researcher who specializes in employing Chinese herbal products as anti-cancer agents, recently has explored using cordyceps mushroom derivatives to stop the spread of breast cancer.

**Disease tracker:** The Atlantic PATH population study, headed by Dr. Louise Parker, identifies lifestyle factors that raise the risk of breast and other cancers. The study will follow the health of 300,000 people in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia for 30 years. For more information, go to [atlanticpath.ca](http://atlanticpath.ca).

**Chemo recharge:** Dr. Graham Dellaire is exploring ways to resensitize breast cancer cells to chemotherapy. The recurrence rate for breast cancer is high and the recurrent cells are resistant to chemotherapy, making the disease very difficult to treat.

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