

Revolutionary researchers contribute to the world's medical knowledge

Michele Charlton - January 30, 2018



Faculty of Medicine researchers Dr. Roy Duncan, Dr. Jean Marshall and Dr. Craig McCormick. (Danny Abriel photos)

To celebrate [Dal's 200th anniversary](#), Dalhousie Research Services is providing an inside look at the remarkable research happening right here at our university. We begin our series of monthly profiles with our Faculty of Medicine, where world-class researchers are improving health care and helping us all live healthier lives.

From neuroscience to vaccinology, cancer research to drug development, Dalhousie Medical School is a major contributor to the world's medical knowledge.

The incredibly innovative work being done by the researchers that call this faculty home has led to amazing advancements in medicine — many of which are being made right here in the Maritimes.

Researchers like Jean Marshall from Dal's Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Dr. Marshall is at the forefront of discovering new ways to defend ourselves against disease. By working with mast cells, which are immune cells that regulate inflammatory responses, her team is exploring how our own immune system can be used to fight cancer, infection, and chronic inflammatory diseases.

And Dr. Alex Quinn from the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

Dr. Quinn has shown for the first time that scar tissue in damaged parts of the heart can still electronically connect with healthy tissue. Dr. Quinn's work has really turned the current understanding of the heart's electrical activity on its head, and may open the door to much needed improvements in treating many cardiac diseases.

And Dr. James Robar from the Department of Radiation Oncology.

Dr. Robar and his team are developing and improving technologies that allow doctors to deploy radiation treatment in more precise and less-invasive ways that improve patient outcomes.

That's just three examples from a faculty that is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year and has over 2,000 members.

The research happening here provides our healthcare providers and policymakers with the solid information that is essential for making real improvements to clinical practice, health service delivery and public health policy.

"Evidence is the cornerstone of effective and efficient delivery of healthcare," says Dr. Roger McLeod, associate dean of research for the Faculty of Medicine. "From new discoveries at the molecular and cellular level to implementation in the clinic and the community, Dalhousie medical researchers are central to maintaining health over the lifespan and treating illness when it arises in our population. In addition, our relevance and impact extends far outside our region."

To learn more about the research happening at the Faculty of Medicine, check out the Faculty's new strategic plan, [#DalMedForward](#), or visit its [website](#).

All researchers at Dalhousie are supported by the federal Research Support Fund (RSF) program. RSF helps Canadian universities and colleges, along with their affiliated health research institutes and research hospitals, with the indirect costs associated with federally-funded research.