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PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Ski for a Cure for Pancreatic Cancer on February 20 at Mont Sutton
Grassroots fundraiser makes innovative research possible

Montreal, February 17, 2016 – On Saturday February 20, skiers and supporters are rallying on Mont Sutton to ski and raise money for the Cancer Research Society.

For 17 consecutive years, the Rob Lutterman Ski for a Cure event has been a beacon of hope for pancreatic research in Canada. The event and the accompanying Rob Lutterman Memorial Fund have raised over \$1.5 million to fund research on pancreatic cancer – a cancer affecting 4800 Canadians yearly.

The event is held in memory of Rob Lutterman, an avid skier, who died of pancreatic cancer in 1999 at 63. Then, pancreatic cancer was a bigger mystery than it is today. In 2016, thanks to research made with donated funds by the public and private foundations, scientists have found ways to better detect pancreatic cancer and treat it. It is a tough cancer to treat, yet every discovery gets us closer to a treatment and a cure!

“My family and I are proud that the Rob Lutterman Fund at the Cancer Research Society for research into pancreatic cancer created in memory of my late husband is helping to make strides in the fight against this disease”, said Fran Lutterman. “I remain hopeful that 17 years after his death, awareness is being raised, research is ongoing and the fight of patients and of researchers working day in and day out to find a cure is unrelenting”

Pancreatic cancer develops when malignant cells form in the tissues of the pancreas, a gland located behind the stomach and in front of the spine. It has the 4th highest cancer mortality rate, as only 8% of Canadians diagnosed with pancreatic cancer survive 5 years after their diagnosis.

Although the statistics are dismal, research gives us hope. One of the many research teams making a difference is one led by Dr. Michel Tremblay and Dr. George Zogopoulos. The team is finding markers in the blood that can predict pancreatic cancer early - its dire prognosis is because doctors find the cancer at a late stage. He and his team are also developing a cancer "vaccine" to kill cancer cells once they are in the body.

“Thanks to research dollars, scientists are making potentially life-saving discoveries. Dr. Tremblay and Dr. Zogopoulos’ research is just one example of what is being done through the Rob Lutterman Memorial Fund. We are proud to be part of this annual event. The Lutterman family and friends deserve to be commended for spearheading this very successful event for the past 17 years” said Andy Chabot, President and Chief Executive Officer.

For more information on the Ski for a Cure event or to make a donation online to the Rob Lutterman Memorial Fund, visit www.SkiForaCure.ca.

About the Cancer Research Society

Founded in 1945, the Cancer Research Society is a national not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is to fund research on all types of cancer, thereby contributing to the advancement of science aimed at preventing, detecting, and treating this disease. The Cancer Research Society is devoted to both basic research, which has resulted in several innovative discoveries, as well as environment-cancer, a field in which the Society is considered to have played a pioneering role in Canada. Over the last 5 years, the Society has allocated more than \$57 million to 334 cancer research projects across the country through various fundraising initiatives. For more information on cancer, on the Society or to support research, visit www.CancerResearchSociety.ca.

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