

# Bloorview Research Institute

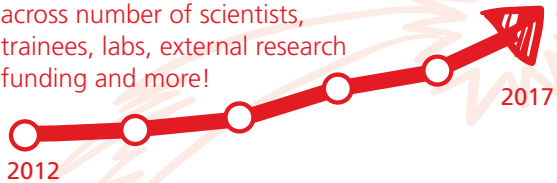
Discoveries and innovations for the most meaningful and healthy futures for all children, youth and families



CANADA'S TOP  
**40**  
RESEARCH  
HOSPITAL  
2012-2017

## Steady growth over 5 years

across number of scientists, trainees, labs, external research funding and more!



**Research Family Engagement Committee (RFEC)** – established in 2013. Works in partnership with Holland Bloorview’s research institute to engage families in all aspects of research

## BRI ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Canada’s largest hospital-based pediatric disability health research conference

## 11 unique research labs

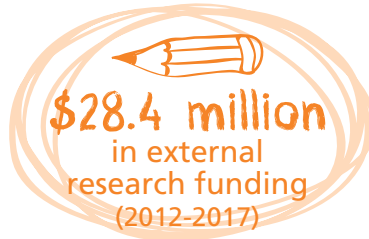
Research focus: Child development, acquired brain injury, participation and inclusion and innovation



18 scientists in 2012

43 scientists in 2017

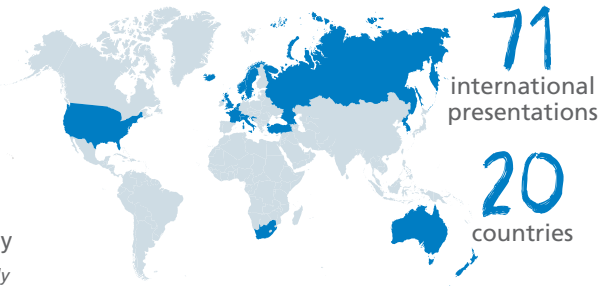
18.3 are full-time equivalents (including scientists, clinician scientists and clinical investigators)



## Ward Summer Student Research Program\*

1,000+ applications worldwide each year

20 of the best and brightest undergraduate students annually



2 Canada Research Chairs

6 Endowed Chairs

\*Generously supported by the Ward family

## A FAMILY STORY:

# Meet Julian & Donna

“Julian was first introduced to Holland Bloorview’s research institute about 10 years ago. At that time, Julian’s classmates in kindergarten were using the computer, but because of his cerebral palsy, he couldn’t operate the mouse. Over the next few years, we explored different solutions for access, before being introduced to Dr. Tom Chau at Holland Bloorview and the Hummer.

The Hummer enabled Julian to browse the Internet, send emails, and even do written homework. It helped him to complete tasks he wasn’t able to before. But by the time he entered high school he craved more. Julian wanted the ability to do things on his own.

We’ve met some of the most amazing researchers at Holland Bloorview’s research institute and seen their passion to improve the lives of children like Julian. I am confident that one day soon, Julian will have the technology that will help him to be as independent as he can be. Like them – we haven’t given up.”

– Julian & Donna Cappelli

(Image courtesy of Bernard Weill/Toronto Star)



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RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Holland Bloorview**  
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

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## A FAMILY STORY:

# Meet Geoffrey & Isabelle

Geoffrey Feldman is a family leader and member of Holland Bloorview's Research Family Engagement Committee (RFEC). He believes that the family voice is crucial in research as it offers a perspective and practicality that cannot be identified without the experience of being a parent of a child with additional needs.

"Holland Bloorview is a leader when it comes to involving families in research. Parents can help researchers identify questions they may not have thought of and offer valuable insight from their personal experiences."

Geoffrey's daughter Isabelle was born with a rare condition and has taken part in Holland Bloorview's research and therapeutic programs for many years, including arts and dance. Her therapies have helped her strengthen her legs and balance and develop her fine motor skills.

"It's astounding to see how much the hospital has evolved in the last five years in their commitment to involving families in research. I'm excited to see how far it can push the boundaries to ensure kids can have the most meaningful and healthy futures."

– Geoffrey & Isabelle Feldman



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## A FAMILY STORY:

# Meet the Brown Family

"I chose to be a part of research to support my advocacy efforts for kids who have acquired brain injury (ABI). It's important for educators to hear kids' stories to increase their understanding of ABI in the classroom, and improve reintegration into the school system. After meeting with Dr. Shannon Scratch (clinician scientist, Holland Bloorview), I was able to gain a deeper understanding about my own son's ABI and our role in supporting his learning needs. It was important for my family and I to use our knowledge and voice to help develop a program for teachers to support kids with an ABI, and in turn, help other families with a similar experience."

– Alicia Brown & Family



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## A FAMILY STORY:

# Meet Alex & Jenn

Once completely non-verbal, six-year-old Alex Munro can now speak in full sentences and carry on conversations.

Alex, who was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) when he was two years old, didn't speak or make eye contact with his parents and they didn't know whether he ever would. Then he began an innovative research program at Holland Bloorview's autism research centre (ARC), and it turned their lives around.

The Social ABCs, a 12-week parent-mediated intervention, teaches parents strategies to help toddlers with their spoken language skills and positive emotion-sharing. It was developed by Dr. Jessica Brian, co-lead of ARC at Holland Bloorview, in partnership with Dr. Susan Bryson at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax.

"Hearing Alex's voice for the first time was incredible," says mom Jenn Potenza. "I will never forget the day he first said, 'Mom, I love you.' Just to hear them talk to you about something is the best feeling in the world."

– Alex Munro & Jenn Potenza



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