

MitoCanada Announces New Leadership

November 9, 2020 (Calgary, AB) - The MitoCanada Foundation (MitoCanada) Board of Directors is pleased to announce Kate Murray as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Catherine Mulvale as Chief Development Officer (CDO) effective November 2, 2020.

MitoCanada's Board of Directors embarked on a competitive and comprehensive recruitment process earlier this year to fill the role of current CEO and Co-founder, Blaine Penny, who will continue to support the foundation as a valued member of the Board. Upon completing a thorough and rigorous process, the co-leadership team of Kate Murray and Catherine Mulvale were chosen to elevate MitoCanada to its next stage of evolution.

"I could not be more excited to have the very talented team of Kate and Catherine leading MitoCanada. Their combined skills and experience will certainly drive MitoCanada to new levels to serve patients and families. Blaine Penny built an incredible organization. We are very grateful for his service and we look forward to the future with our new leadership team," says Board Chair, Dave Mosher.

Kate Murray is no stranger to MitoCanada. She spent two years as past interim CEO and Director of Program Development, Communications and Operations. She is passionately motivated and inspired by the strength of the Mito community and driven to build capacity to impact the lives of those living with mitochondrial diseases. Kate has extensive not-for-profit experience working for small charities and foundations. She founded her own children's charity, Robbie's Rainbow with her son and has worked with the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation in various leadership roles. Previous to not-for-profit life, Kate worked for Coca-Cola. As one of just three women to hold a distribution management position within Coca-Cola Canada, Kate turned one of the country's lowest-performing locations into one of the top five in North America.

"I am tremendously excited and honoured to join MitoCanada as CEO and co-lead with my colleague, Catherine Mulvale," says Kate. MitoCanada has an incredible legacy. Its investment in mitochondrial disease research, connecting patient and scientific communities, and supporting and advocating for the needs of those affected, displays a truly interdisciplinary commitment to the cause. I am looking forward to driving boldly into the future and am energized by the opportunity to use our collective passion and determination to impact the lives of those affected by mitochondrial disease."

Catherine Mulvale is an experienced innovator with extensive marketing, communications, public relations and fundraising expertise. She has supported the advancement of small businesses, national corporations and global charitable foundations; developed countless educational programs across multiple mediums for the public, businesses and health care professionals; founded and transformed several national charitable organizations; raised over \$27 million, and, is the survivor of a rare, life-threatening disease. Catherine is the founder of Dynamite Design, Strategies for Life, and the Global Friends Foundation. She has been Executive Director for the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation as well as the Canadian Foundation for Infectious Diseases and has worked with the International Centre for Infectious Diseases. She is the recipient of the YMCA Peace Medal Award as well as Canada's Leading Women Community Award.

“Energy is life,” says Catherine. “Every single one of us relies on trillions of mitochondria every moment of every day. When these tiny powerhouses are not functioning properly, our ability to move, think, breath and live are at risk. MitoCanada is an essential organization with a compassionate core, a successful ten-year history and a brilliant future. I am honoured to be working with Kate, Blaine and the team at the foundation to steward MitoCanada to its next stage of evolution. Our focus will be on helping to establish a world where all lives are powered by healthy mitochondria and to facilitate the discovery of solutions which prevent and cure mitochondrial disease.”

MitoCanada’s Board of Directors and Staff congratulate Ms. Murray and Ms. Mulvale as the organization’s new CEO and CDO. Their combined leadership, experience, and passion for rare chronic diseases will be a catalyst to enable MitoCanada to continue as the leading organization to support people in Canada living with mitochondrial disease, and in fulfilling its vision to improve the quality of life for people living with the disease and ultimately find a cure.

About Mitochondrial Disease

Mitochondrial disease can strike at any age and affects a broad range of people. Primary mitochondrial disease is a debilitating genetic disorder that robs the body’s cells of energy, causing multiple organ dysfunction or failure and potentially death. There are few effective treatments, and no cure yet.

Most people have never heard of mitochondrial disease. Once considered rare, it is now thought to affect 1 in 4,000 people, making it the second most commonly diagnosed, serious genetic disease after cystic fibrosis. Researchers have discovered links between mitochondrial dysfunction and other conditions including Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, diabetes, cardiac issues and some cancers.

About MitoCanada Foundation

MitoCanada Foundation’s mission is to get one step closer every day to the cure for mitochondrial disease by supporting research and families to succeed. MitoCanada exists to transform the outlook, quality of life and sense of community for people impacted by mitochondrial disease through education, awareness, support, and funding transformational research. Until a cure is found, MitoCanada is facilitating a future where Canadians impacted by mitochondrial disease feel inspired, empowered and supported.

Visit mitocanada.org to learn more.