

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Waterloo, ON) November 21, 2019 – With over 23 Community Education Forums (CEF) now complete across Canada, the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) wishes to thank our sponsors for ensuring the success of each event. Without the generous support of Roche, uniQure, Wave Life Sciences and Vaccinex the CEF program would not have been possible.

Every other year, HSC provides a live forum in multiple venues wherein families and individuals affected by Huntington disease (HD) and carers can meet to learn about the most recent updates in HD, network with other members of the community and perhaps most importantly, have the opportunity to have their questions answered by leading professionals who specialize in HD.

“Our community has expressed their sincere appreciation for the Community Education Forums,” says Annie Vanexem, Senior Manager, National Events and Chapter Development with HSC. “They enjoy being able to interact and network with others who understand what they are going through, while also having questions answered about the latest clinical trials in HD. HD can be so isolating, and having this opportunity to come together can make a real difference in the lives of those affected by HD.”

This year, the Huntington disease community’s excitement was palpable, because there is hope for treatments that target the root cause of HD. As many of our family members have expressed to us, for the first time that they can recall, they have **“hearts full of hope”**.

From Victoria, BC to St. John’s, NL, the HD community was out in full force to learn about the latest advances in research and what to expect in clinical trials. Overall, it is estimated that over 500 people were reached.

In addition to our sponsors, HSC extends a special thank you to Drs. Michael Hayden and Ed Wild for their pre-recorded videos and to HSC co-founder, Ariel Walker for her participation in the video. A special thank you goes out, as well, to each local “in-person” presenter across the country.

“Attendees left their local CEFs inspired, engaged and full of hope,” concludes Vanexem. “We are looking forward to continuing to offer educational opportunities to the community in the future.”

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**Huntington disease (HD)** is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend. Huntington disease is often described as having the symptoms of Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and ALS – simultaneously. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington’s become less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.

The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to find a meaningful treatment for Huntington disease. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with Huntington disease across Canada.

**For More Information:**

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