



As I enter my first term as Chair of the DMRF Board, I have never been more proud to be a part of this organization. When I was invited to join the DRMF Board in 2014, by my friend and associate Mr. Allan Shaw (also our most recent board chair!), I had no idea the breadth of research being conducted locally, right in our own back yard.

Throughout the years, as I met the researchers who work so passionately to advance health outcomes for the many diseases and conditions that affect each of us, I have been so impressed by the immense talent our region holds. From Dr. Rudolf Uher's world-renowned work in adolescent mental health, Dr. Carmen Giacomantonio's ground-breaking work in cancer immunotherapies, to Dr. Lisa Barrett's trailblazing research in infectious disease, every passing year I see their dedication, their hard work, their enthusiasm. Like the theme of this issue of *The Philanthropist*, I appreciate the critical momentum required to take research from bench to bedside.

# MESSAGE

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

We are all touched by health concerns. Like you, I have experienced it both personally and through my loved-ones. Upon entering 2020, we all watched as an unknown virus grew into a global health pandemic. Never, in the history of our organization have we better understood just how important our collective effort is. I stand proudly behind our researchers as they work to find better outcomes for the novel coronavirus COVID-19. Furthermore, last spring, the spotlight shone brightly on you, our donors, for your generous support of our Molly campaign that raised funds to bolster local COVID-19 research. Aside from that, working with institutions across the province, DMRF was able to lead the creation of the *Nova Scotia COVID-19 Health Research Coalition*, a fundraising consortium that gathered \$1.5 million to support this crucial research area. Cumulative donor support over the last 41 years enabled us to create a soundly managed endowment that gives us the flexibility to respond rapidly to critical funding needs, just like COVID-19 research.

I thank you; all of the DMRF volunteer Board members thank you; the DMRF Team thanks you; our researchers thank you; and somewhere, I know a beneficiary of the health research you have supported, thanks you too. You just have to flip through the pages of this issue to learn all about that.

In the coming year, it is my vow, as Chair of this board, to work even harder to advance the health outcomes that are important to our communities, both near and far. Here's to you and your health.

Sincerely,



Janet MacMillan  
Chair, DMRF Board