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Reducing turnaround time for cancer treatments

by Daniel McCabe

Patients locked in a desperate struggle against cancer take little comfort from news headlines about promising treatments that are still years away from being available in hospitals or clinics. When cancer is your opponent, patience is a virtue you often can't afford.

Oncology professor Gerald Batist understands the frustration such patients experience. And while he isn't promising miracles, a new McGill research centre he directs will be doing its part to ensure that novel anti-cancer therapies and drugs make their way to patients in a speedier fashion.

In fact, that's the whole idea behind the McGill Centre for Translational Research in Cancer. "The primary goal is to take fundamental research discoveries from the lab in the quickest way we can and put them through the clinical trials process so that these discoveries can start having an impact on patient care," says Batist.

The centre aims to knit together cancer specialists from across the University--the scientists who first uncover new facts about the disease in their labs, as well as the researchers who put drug treatments and other therapies to the test in clinical trials.

"We want talented people involved in all the different stages of cancer research working together," says Batist. "I want lab scientists



