

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada® (LLSC) was established in 1955 to fund Canadian researchers who focus on leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and Hodgkin's disease. Through funding provided by events like **Light The Night®** hundreds of prominent researchers have made significant progress in developing better, less invasive treatments in their quest to find permanent cures. Research has dramatically increased the survival rates of people stricken with leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

## Therapy Acceleration Program

LLSC's Therapy Acceleration Program addresses some of the hurdles associated with blood cancer drug development — with focused efforts that reduce investment risk and accelerates clinical progress.

Known drugs with previously unrecognized ability to kill blood cancer cells could be rapidly repositioned for a new indication by leveraging the drug's known safety and toxicity profiles. To identify such compounds, Dr. Schimmer compiled and screened a large collection of known drugs seeking compounds that kill blood cancer cells and blood cancer stem cells. From this screen, Dr. Schimmer identified ciclopirox olamine.

Ciclopirox olamine is a known drug used for the topical treatment of fungal nail and skin infections. The ability of ciclopirox olamine to kill blood cancer cells was previously unknown. Dr. Schimmer and colleagues demonstrated that ciclopirox olamine killed blood cancer cells and blood cancer stem cells preferentially over normal cells.

Based on this exciting data from cell culture and animal models, an oral formulation of ciclopirox olamine was developed for Phase I clinical trial in patients with relapsed and resistant blood cancers. Within 14 months of identifying ciclopirox olamine in the lab as a potential treatment for blood cancers, a Phase I clinical trial was started. Currently, we are completing the 4<sup>th</sup> dose level of this trial. Already, we have seen signals that ciclopirox olamine is hitting its target in the blood cancer cells. We are also seeing some patients who have had clinical improvement while taking this drug.



**Dr. Aaron Schimmer  
MD, PhD, FRCP**

“ *The support from LLS and LLSC has been instrumental in advancing this new therapy from the lab into the clinic. I am grateful for the help of the Society and its supporters.* ”

**Light The Night** events are evenings filled with inspiration. During this leisurely walk, walkers carry illuminated balloons - white for survivors, red for supporters and gold in memory of loved ones lost to cancer - thousands of walkers - men, women and children - form a community of caring, bringing light to the dark world of cancer.

**Toronto: Metro Hall Square, 55 John St., Wednesday, October 5, 2011**

**Ottawa: Festival Plaza (Ottawa City Hall), 110 Laurier Ave., West, Saturday, October 22, 2011**

Register today for the Toronto or Ottawa events at [lightthenight.ca/on](http://lightthenight.ca/on)