



Saskatoon Nutana
Rotary
 Club



November 02, 2021

NOVEMBER 2021
Theme: The Rotary
Foundation

Program Chair:
Ravi Chibbar

Date	Rotana Editor	Greeter	Desk	Cheer Captain	Speaker/Topic	Intro	Club Thanks
Nov 9	Norm Woodcock			Edwin Larkai	Andrew Van Kessel Associate Director VIDO Intervac Vaccine Research	Ravi Chibbar	Bob Devrome
Nov 16	Norm Woodcock			Betty Ann Arscott	Dr. Raman Chawla Fresh Vegetables in the Indian Himalayan Region	Ravi Chibbar	Joe Dierker
Nov 23	Norm Woodcock			Jim Blackburn	Asit Sarkar Community Inclusion: A Personal Commitment	Ravi Chibbar	Walt Pawlovich
Nov 30	Norm Woodcock			Ravi Chibbar	Grace Munro Amarok Society	Ravi Chibbar	Peggy Clark

OPENING

President Micheal Gramiak called the meeting to order with the acknowledgement that WE LIVE ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY, HOMELAND OF THE METIS” welcomed all guests. Guests present included our speaker Chris McLeod from Toronto but originally from Regina; and from Regina Joan Liddington(Chris’ mother), Stewart and Glenda Graham, Murray Cain and Ian Toms. Michael thanked those who are helping with the meeting today.

Betty Ann led us in the singing and playing of “O Canada” and our “4 Way Test Song”.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Board is targetting January 2022 as a starting date for in-person meetings.
- The Board has formulated a Racial Justice statement for the club to review. Comments were received, the Board will resubmit the statement for acceptance by the members on November 9th.
- Jim Gillis reminded club members to register for the District chat on Thursday. Featured will be a viewing of the last of the series Jim prepared on the 4 Way test

- The Enchanted Forest will operate from November 14th to January 9th. Sign up sheets for members to assist at the gate will be available at the November 9th meeting.

PROGRAM



Bill Christensen introduced our speaker, Chris MacLeod. Chris is a native of Regina who received his law degree from the University of Saskatchewan. He had a law practice in Hamilton for a number of years before moving to Toronto. During much of his working life he has been an advocate for people with cystic fibrosis and worked towards the acceptance of a highly effective treatment drug (Trikafta) to be covered by the provincial health plans.

Chris was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) when he was 4 years old. Life expectancy has improved from 4 years to 50 years+ due to the development of new treatments. Chris notes that Saskatchewan has always been a leader in provision of new treatments for CF patients. He said he was lucky to have been born in Saskatchewan for that reason.

Trikafta is a transformational drug that can treat up to 90% of Canadians with cystic fibrosis. It is a triple combination [precision medicine](#) (ivacaftor, tezacaftor and elexacaftor). Rather than just treating symptoms, Trikafta targets the basic defect from specific genetic mutations that cause CF. Chris has a rare form of CF that could be treated with initial iterations of Trikafta. He began taking the drug in 2008 and soon noticed a tremendous improvement in his general health and quality of life.

Seeing the effect the drug had on his own life he immediately became an advocate for the acceptance by Health Canada of Trikafta as a treatment for CF. In June 2021 Trikafta received approval for its sale in Canada for treatment of CF. Canada was the last major country to grant this approval. By the fall of 2021 all provincial governments had approved coverage for the drug under the provincial health plans.

Trikafta is a gene modulator that costs the drug plans approximately \$100,000 per year per patient. The patient takes two pills a day, 365 days a year. The drug is still protected by the initial patent.

The acceptance and approval of this drug's use was a huge team effort involving court cases and political advocacy by many parties.

After Q and A, President Michael thanked Chris for his inspirational presentation

CHEER CAPTAIN

Super Sub and Club Webmaster Candace asked the membership a series of questions about the club website. It was evident throughout that most members do not access the website. Come on people its on the interweb! Happy and Sad \$ were given by Mike, Jack S., Betty Ann, Joe, Bob Mac., Bob D., Jim B., Jim G., Candace, Asit and Ravi.

The Rotary Foundation thanks Candace and those who contributed.

Next meeting is **November 9th on Zoom.**

Officers

President - Michael Gramiak

Vice-President -

Past President - Lorne Braithwaite

Secretary - Jack Scott

Treasurer - Bob MacGillivray

Board members

Club Administration- Peggy Clark

Public Relations - Candace Odishaw

Membership - Betty Ann Arscott

Service Projects- Jim Gilles

Rotary Foundation- Ravi Chibbar

Communication- Candace Odishaw

Rotary International

RI President - Shekar Mehta

District Governor - Dan Sutton

Assistant Governor - Asit Sarkar

Contact Information

Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana

Club No. 1380

Founded May 31, 1961

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Club website: www.rotarynutana.org

Club Facebook Link: [\(11\) Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club | Facebook](#)

Club email address: nutanarotary@gmail.com

Links

District 5550 <http://www.clubrunner.ca/portal/home.aspx?did=5550>

Rotary International www.rotary.org