

abbvie

At Five Years

New Approaches, New Advances

Tell us about AbbVie.

I am proud to say that AbbVie is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. On January 1, 2013, AbbVie separated from Abbott and launched as a global research-based biopharmaceutical company. Five years in, we are more than ever focused on addressing some of the world's most complex and serious diseases.

AbbVie is ranked among the top 50 Great Places to Work and one of the best companies for women in Canada. Globally, AbbVie is one of Fortune's 500 Most Admired Companies and ranks #1 in the Global Pharma RepTrak®, #2 with PatientView, and #2 on the Pharmaceutical Innovation Index.

Regarding our research and development, in 2016 we conducted 132 clinical trials across our therapeutic areas. Also in 2016, AbbVie invested 17% of its global revenue in R&D and we expect to launch 20 new molecules or indications in Canada by 2022, with two late-stage molecules being studied in rheumatology, gastroenterology, and dermatology. In oncology, we are leveraging our experience in immunology to develop next-generation immuno-oncology therapies. We currently have treatments approved in prostate cancer and for relapsed/refractory chronic lymphocytic leukemia



▲ Stéphane Lassignardie, General Manager, AbbVie Canada

(CLL). Our future areas of focus include hematologic malignancies and solid tumors.

It is a very exciting time to be at the helm of AbbVie Canada.

What are the current therapeutic areas of focus for AbbVie?

We focus, by design, on therapeutic areas where we have a proven expertise and we can have a significant impact on unmet medical needs. Our areas of focus are immunology, oncology, virology, neuroscience, and general medicine.

Our medicines target difficult-to-treat and chronic diseases in-

Two minutes with Stéphane Lassignardie

? **If you were not working in the pharmaceutical industry what would you be doing instead and why?**

I would be a movie producer. Movies have the ability to inspire action and elicit emotion.

? **Tell us what most people do not know about you?**

I have travelled to 70 countries, many backpacking.

? **Is there anything you cannot live without?**

Music.

? **Which superhero power would you like to possess and why?**

I would like to fly to see life from another perspective.

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? What are the top three things remaining on your bucket list?

Parachuting, visiting Yemen, and learning to play a musical instrument.

? Who is your favorite actor?

Leonardo DiCaprio.

? When reading a book, do you prefer the print copy or the electronic copy?

Print.

? Who is your favorite author?

Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

? If you were to compete in the Olympics, what would be your event and why?

Rugby because it is a team sport; it is strategic and always dynamic.



cluding several auto-immune diseases like Crohn’s disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriasis, as well as hepatitis C, advanced Parkinson’s disease, and CLL.

This past year we received approval for the first and only medication for a chronic dermatology condition called hidradenitis suppurativa (HS). HS is a chronic, systemic, immune-mediated skin disease that affects between 1 to 3% of the global population; however, the diagnosis is often delayed or the condition is misdiagnosed, so the true prevalence is unknown. HS is known to produce lesions in the skin that are inflamed, recurrent, and chronic. It can have both a psychological and physical impact.

These medicines dramatically improve people’s lives and we continue to work to ensure access

to them as well as to new, innovative options for those with unmet needs. We are particularly focused on continuing to deliver game-changing medicines for patients and bringing to market the new molecules in our pipeline.

But delivering the medication is the first step. The second is ensuring people are adherent to their medication and treatment plan via our patient support program: AbbVie Care.

What does AbbVie Care offer?

To date, over 80,000 Canadians have benefited from our patient support program, which helps with such services as financial coverage, disease education, medication administration, and adherence – and we all know medicines don’t work for people who don’t take them. When they

do, however, there is a real economic benefit to the health care system in measures such as reduced hospitalization and increased productivity.

Because every patient is different, AbbVie Care offers on-going and personalized support beyond treatment initiation. For example, when a patient stops following their treatment plan during or after a difficult life event, when they may be distracted, such as a loss in the family, we work with them to get them back on track.

What's more, over 25% of AbbVie Care members have at some point benefited from financial assistance from AbbVie in situations where the out-of-pocket amount could not be covered by the patient. This often happens when a patient is in between jobs or retires.

What key business objectives and priorities have you established for AbbVie?

Our priorities in the short term are to stimulate innovation, grow our patient-centric mindset and actions, and continue to contribute to health care sustainability in Canada.

One example of this is a program we created called Patients at Heart. The objective of this program is to demystify clinical trials for Canadians. We want to humanize the process and ensure that participants understand their contribution to science. This is a way to stimulate innovation – bringing new medicines to market – in a way that puts our patients first from the outset.

Regarding health care sustainability,



we are committed to partnering with community, government, health care professionals, and people living with chronic diseases to advance standards of care and help build a sustainable health care system. We have taken actions such as piloting a centralized referral system with the University of Alberta and the Government of Alberta, to define an optimal model of care for hepatitis C patients.

To what do you attribute AbbVie's success?

I'd say we can attribute it in large part to meaningful innovation and patient inclusivity. From our pipeline through to our involvement with patient associations, the patient is always at the heart of what we do.

We also undertake numerous strategic partnerships to advance the standard of care across our therapeutic areas.

For example, over the past 18 years, we have funded 139 radiation oncology research projects with the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology, representing a more than \$3.2 million investment with more projects expected to be funded in 2018. We also made a \$15.5 million investment with the Structural Genomics Consortium to help scientists better understand how proteins are involved in human diseases, specifically in immunology and oncology.

Coupled with our focus on therapeutic areas of unmet medical needs, these are the reasons for our success to date and will be the cornerstones of our future success.

To learn more about AbbVie Canada, visit abbvie.ca or follow us @abbviecanada