



**DR. MARIANA PRADIER SILVA**  
1959-2021

For more than three decades, Dr. Silva made a significant impact on children and youth with cancer, survivors of childhood cancer and their families in many ways, including through her participation on the POGO Board of Directors and POGO’s clinical initiatives across Ontario.

A true champion of childhood cancer care, Dr. Silva was instrumental in the development and implementation of the POGO Provincial Pediatric Oncology AfterCare Program and was a key representative on several initiatives to improve equitable access to care for kids with cancer around the world.

The Silva family feels immense satisfaction knowing their mother, Dr. Mariana Silva, made POGO a beneficiary in her will and that her life’s work will continue.

*“Our mother dedicated most of her adult life to advancing care for children with cancer,” says Tomas Silva. “It was her desire that the work she started in life would continue long into the future. It is comforting to know that through this gift, the impact she made as a committed pediatrician and passionate hematologist and oncologist will continue for years to come.”*



# Dr. Mariana Silva/ POGO Award Information Package

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# Dr. Mariana Silva/POGO Award

## Background

This funding opportunity is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mariana Silva, and made possible by a generous donation by her family, with additional contributions from POGO.\*

Dr. Silva joined the Department of Pediatrics at Queen's University in 1988. She was an energetic contributor to the work of POGO, known for her dedication to her patients and to the development of a childhood cancer care system that provided equitable access to high quality care to all who needed it.

The overarching objective of this opportunity is to support research related to one of POGO's five priority research themes listed here. Moreover, a goal of the funding is to conduct research that is relevant to patients, families, and survivors throughout Ontario, and expands research capacity in the province.

## Award Themes

<b>Evidence-informed Supportive Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive care encompasses the prevention and management of adverse effects of cancer and management of physical and psychological symptoms, and treatment-related side effects across the continuum of the cancer experience.</li> </ul>
<b>Psychosocial Needs of Patients, Survivors and Families</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention and management of late effects and optimizing access to quality psychosocial care is critical in promoting emotional well-being and optimal functioning for both patient and family during and beyond treatment.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation of Interventions to Improve Outcomes for Survivors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimizing access to appropriate care, prevention and management of late effects are critical features of survivorship. POGO will support research that improves the quality of evidence that guides survivorship care.</li> </ul>
<b>Data-Driven Evaluation of Unmet Needs in the Pediatric Cancer System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POGO will support work that utilizes or enhances pediatric cancer data holdings to improve the planning, monitoring and evaluation of childhood cancer related programs and initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaborative Care Models</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving equitable access and optimal experiences for patients, survivors and families, and supporting oncology professionals in the delivery of quality health programs and services is integral to POGO's work. POGO will support multidisciplinary collaborations working to address gaps and challenges and develop opportunities and actions that strengthen the childhood cancer care system.</li> </ul>

## Funds Available

The total amount available for this funding opportunity is **\$200,000** over two years (i.e. \$100,000 annually). It is expected that one project (\$200,000) or two smaller projects will be funded.

*\* additional funds are from POGO donations and do not include Ministry of Health funding*

## Eligibility to Apply

While the competition is open to all applicants, primary consideration will be given to Ontario citizens and landed immigrants within the province. Projects must be conducted at a hospital, research institute or university in Ontario, although applicants do not have to be permanent residents of Ontario.

The Primary Investigator should be on staff at an Ontario university, teaching hospital, or equivalent institution and be able to hold research funds, or affiliated with an Indigenous non-governmental organization operating in Ontario with a research and/or knowledge translation mandate.

When scientific merit is considered comparable, preference will be given to projects that include investigators and patients from more than one pediatric oncology program in Ontario.

## Notification

Successful applicants will be notified in September.

## Policy on Deferring Awards

Deferrals are not supported by POGO Research although may be considered under exceptional circumstances. Should a deferral be granted, it may be for a period no longer than one year.

## Review Process and Evaluation

Applications will be adjudicated by the Project Funding Grant Review Panel consisting of established researchers in pediatric oncology who are not in any way involved with the project.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Extent to which the application aligns to the themes stated above.
- The extent to which the project includes meaningful contributions from investigators in more than one university (or geographic region) in Ontario and/or is directly relevant to patients, families or survivors from more than one geographic region in Ontario.
- Feasibility of the proposed research approach, timelines and deliverables.
- Consideration of potential barriers or difficulties that may be encountered in the research and the inclusion of strategies to manage them.

## Registration Process

The deadline for registration is **June 30, 2023**, by 5:00 p.m. All applicants must complete the [online registration form](#) by the deadline, expressing their intent to submit a full application. All applicants must provide the following information in the registration form:

- Project title
- Name and institution of the primary investigator
- Name of all co-investigators
- A 250-word lay summary of the proposed project

Applicants will receive a link to the full application form shortly after registration.

## Deadline

The deadline for submission of the **full application** is **August 20, 2023** by **5:00 p.m. EST**. Please note that applications must be received by the deadline. Hardcopy applications are not required. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

## Expectations of Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Provide POGO with a brief (one page) update on the work related to this project by the end of each fiscal year (March);
- Acknowledge funding from POGO on all outcomes (publications, presentations, posters, etc.) relating to the project, including affixing POGO logos to abstracts, posters and presentations;
- Prepare and present a poster on the project at the annual POGO Symposium;
- Be available to provide POGO opportunities for stewardship purposes;
- Provide copies of all publications resulting in whole or part from the award to POGO Research at least 60 days prior to publication; and
- Submit a final report (up to three pages) no more than two months after the project's completion, including an indication of next steps in the development of the research (where the grant provided preliminary or feasibility data).

## About POGO

POGO works to ensure that everyone affected by childhood cancer has access to the best care and support. We partner to achieve an excellent childhood cancer care system for children, youth, survivors, their families, and healthcare teams in Ontario and beyond. POGO champions childhood cancer care, and as the collective voice of this community, is the official advisor to Ontario's Ministry of Health (MOH) on children's cancer control and treatment. POGO provides leadership and support for regular, province-wide consultations, resulting in long-range system plans that have been enormously effective in shaping and coordinating childhood cancer care in Ontario, including the current [Childhood Cancer Care Plan](#), endorsed by the Ministry.

POGO ensures access to high quality, coordinated care and support through various activities including:

- A unique database on childhood cancer (POGONIS - Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario Networked Information System);
- Eight POGO Satellite Clinics bringing patient care closer to home in communities across Ontario;
- POGO Interlink Nurses providing excellent nursing support to the young cancer patient and helping families identify useful resources and services in the community, including the POGO Financial Assistance Program;
- Development of clinical practice guidelines which provide a way to translate scientific evidence into clinical practice and help optimize outcomes and improve patient quality of life;
- The POGO Financial Assistance Program\* which provides much-needed financial support to families for food while their child is in cancer treatment;
- Seven POGO AfterCare Clinics across Ontario monitoring survivors regularly for long-term effects from cancer treatment;
- POGO School and Work Transitions Counsellors\* who help survivors get the support and assistance they need to finish high school and move on to post-secondary education or work;
- A conference and education events\* program providing educational opportunities for health care professionals, including the annual POGO Symposium, Satellite Education Days and S2S Network presentations;
- An analytic centre, POGO Research, with a mandate to: stimulate and promote pediatric oncology research; engage in collaborative multi-disciplinary investigations of childhood cancer; conduct research in the areas of tracking and forecasting within the childhood cancer population; undertake program evaluations (including utilization of health care resources); and assess the burden of illness in the form of long-term health status and health-related quality of life.

*\*Funded in part or in full by private donations*