



## Dr. Sandra Turcotte

**Recognizing a Health Researcher who is Changing the Face of New Brunswick**

**Dr. Sandra Turcotte**

is the recent recipient of a Canadian Cancer Society Research Chair, a Research Scientist at the Atlantic Cancer Research Institute and is currently an Assistant Professor in the "Département de chimie et de biochimie" at the Université de Moncton.

Dr. Turcotte obtained her PhD degree in Biochemistry from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and completed two post-doctoral fellowships, the first at Stanford University and the second at l'Institut du cancer de Montréal. Her research is focused on kidney cancer and the development of new treatments that target the loss of the critical tumor suppressor gene Von Hippel Lindau (VHL). Her approach involves finding therapeutic compounds that selectively kill only cancer cells that are defective for VHL by inducing autophagy. Having recently arrived in the province in July of 2011, she has quickly established herself as a rising star on the national research landscape and has earned numerous research grants and awards from national agencies and health charities including a KRESCENT New Investigator Award created by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canadian Society of Nephrology, and The Kidney Foundation of Canada and with partial funding from the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, which was also accompanied by a KRESCENT Infrastructure Award funded by the Kidney Foundation of Canada. She currently trains and mentors a growing research team which includes several graduate students from our universities.

By attracting talented researchers like Dr. Turcotte to New Brunswick, we are contributing to the global efforts to find cures for diseases like kidney cancer. We are also creating a robust research environment that will train our students to become the talented researchers of tomorrow.

Please join us in saluting Dr. Sandra Turcotte, whose work will have an impact on the health of New Brunswickers – and indeed the world – for years to come, through earlier detection and more effective treatment of certain cancers.

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(Health Research Scientist)

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