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A Truly Collaborative Approach to Family Planning

An Interview with **University of British Columbia's** researcher,
Wendy Norman, Chair, Family Planning & Public Health Researcher.

and **Bayer Inc.**, researcher,
Laurie Wingett, Director, Medical Affairs, Primary Care & Medical Operations.
Bayer Inc.

Laurie Wingett. Director, Medical Affairs, Primary Care & Medical Operations. Bayer Inc.

We are on a mission to reduce unintended pregnancies in Canada. I oversee the medical research team and this team is responsible for the trials that happen after a drug is approved.

Wendy Norman. Chair, Family Planning & Public Health Researcher. University of British Columbia.

We approached Bayer and said, "One of the contraceptives you make — the hormone-releasing, levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system — is the most effective contraceptive available in Canada. Would you donate these to our trial?"

And Bayer came and met with us. They had their staff go over in detail all of the science and the meticulous proposal for the way the research would be conducted. They found that it met their standards and Bayer said, "Yes, this is a trial that we could support." And they provided all of the contraception that would be required for people at all of the sites throughout BC offering abortion care into this trial.



Laurie Wingett

What I love about the breadth of the collaboration that we're doing with Dr. Wendy Norman and her group at UBC, she's really reaching into an area of unmet need. When you look at the stats for post-abortion, 50% of them have another unwanted pregnancy within two years if contraception isn't provided right after abortion has happened. Access to contraception should reach all women in all areas, and really is a driver of change for public policy.

Wendy Norman

When we conducted the trial we realized that those people who were able to accept an intrauterine system at the time of their abortion were four times more likely to be able to prevent a pregnancy within the next couple of years, and about 10 times more likely than those people who chose any other method of contraception. So very, very striking results. And we compiled these in a secondary data analysis across two trials, in fact, which we gave to the BC government, and six months later they funded free post-abortion contraception. That's now been in place in BC for four years.

Laurie Wingett

We have a common goal, and on the academia side, they have the strength of the knowledge and the research. On the pharmaceutical side, we tend to dig a little bit deeper into the therapeutic areas. And when we come together, we're able to reach that common goal.