Dr. Steven Narod is a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Breast Cancer, a full professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto, and a senior scientist at Women’s College Research Institute, where he leads the Familial Breast Cancer Research Unit. Dr. Narod is renowned for his research on the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, that when mutated, substantially increase a woman’s lifetime risk of breast or ovarian cancer. He also studies various aspects of cancer prevention and screening. With more than 550 peer-reviewed publications and an h-index of 85, he is the most-cited researcher in the world in the field of breast cancer.

Dr. Narod has collaborated with many centers in countries around the world, and has advanced cancer genetics through collaborations in North America, Asia, Europe the Caribbean and Latin America. His influence during the last 15 years has profoundly shaped current knowledge of how to assess breast and ovarian cancer risk and reduce its mortality amongst carriers of BRCA1/2 mutations.

Dr. Narod’s seminal discoveries have stemmed from both his laboratory and his database – the largest of its kind – of nearly 13,000 women. His recent research has revealed that one per cent of Jewish women in Ontario carry a BRCA1/2 mutation, that half of these women are not eligible for provincially-funded genetic testing. Most recently, Dr. Narod’s collaborative research showed that women in Poland with BRCA1 mutations have a 46 per cent lower risk of breast cancer than women in North America with the same mutation.