

# Believe

*You are creating a healthier society*

Fall/Winter 2021  
ISSUE 10.2

A publication of St. Boniface  
Hospital Foundation

## A Tradition of Excellence

Looking back on  
Manitoba's first  
open-heart surgery  
in 1959

Dr. Rakesh Arora

**How you've made**  
50 years of  
impact possible

# Believe

*Believe* is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper made from environmentally and socially responsible sources.

All materials are the copyright of St. Boniface Hospital Foundation, 2021.

For address changes, distribution questions or to stop receiving *Believe*, please call St. Boniface Hospital Foundation at 204-237-2067.

## St. Boniface Hospital Foundation

C1026 – 409 Taché Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2H 2A6

Open weekdays:  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tel: 204-237-2067

Web: stbhf.ca

Email: info@stbhf.org

Social: @STBHF

**Writers:** Randy Matthes,  
Nigel Moore, Kate Yacula

**Design:** Bounce Design

**Printing:** Prolific Group

**Photography:** Brittany Jill  
Photography, Kelly Morton  
Photography, Nigel Moore,  
Medtronic Canada, St. Boniface  
Hospital Archives



PM 40064250

Return undeliverable Canadian  
addresses to:

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation  
C1026 – 409 Taché Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2H 2A6



## MRI Experience Makes Lasting Impression

*Inside the MRI scanner, a caring voice puts a mind at ease – just ask grateful patient Maury Bay. Story on page 7.*

4



## Memories and Milestones

*How you've added to a timeline of generosity*

9



## Birth of a Life-Saving Program

*St. Boniface surgeon performed first open-heart procedure in Manitoba*

11



## Ready for Anything

*Family endowment fund honours new nurses*

12



## Researcher Helps Develop Compassion Measurement Tool

*Will improve patient experiences at St. Boniface Hospital*

PRESENTED BY:



# SAVE THE DATE!

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19



Throughout the history of our health-care system in Manitoba, St. Boniface Hospital has been a pioneer from the moment it was built 150 years ago in May 1871.

St. B, as we affectionately like to call the institution, has had the unwavering support from its community since the beginning and I, on behalf of all employees, volunteers and doctors wish to thank you.

In 1951, St. Boniface hospital was also the first hospital to have an inpatient psychiatric service in Manitoba. Originally located on the fifth floor of the hospital, the service was finally transferred to the McEwen residence in 1981. Today, therapeutic environments conducive to upholding sustainable healing by rejuvenating the whole person - body, mind, and spirit is a philosophy of care that is encouraged in all that we do. Transformed spaces enable transformative care. This latest transformation last May, was possible in large part because of you, 2.7 million thank-yous.

Our next impressive project is the redevelopment of the Emergency Department now underway. The project has many benefits. From the rapid care initiation and discharge to improving patient and staff satisfaction, this huge project will optimize safety and provide a secure environment.

St. Boniface Hospital has been here for you since 1871 and we wish to continue to strive for the best quality care for all Manitobans. 🍷

**Martine Bouchard**  
President & CEO  
St. Boniface Hospital



On the front cover of this issue of *Believe*, at the bottom, you will see St. Boniface Hospital Foundation's wavy river graphic which represents the Red River that flows past the Hospital.

Introduced this year by the Hospital to mark their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the river graphic honours the spirit of compassion that St. Boniface is known for and is a visual expression of the connection between our caregivers and patients or their families. It also represents the significance of the Red River itself in the Hospital's story.

Over the last 150 years, the muddy Red has always been there next to the Hospital. Imagine all the development and improvements that have occurred on its banks, as it has gone through its cycles of freezing and thawing - and occasionally flooding - like seasonal clockwork. If these waters could talk, indeed.

Western Canada's first hospital was founded on those banks by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, better known as the Grey Nuns, in May of 1871. The sisters carefully planned and built their four-bed health care facility, no doubt helped by many residents of the community that was the town of St. Boniface.

While 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations continue, so do the planning and building today, guided by the legacy and values of the Grey Nuns. As you read this, the long-term process of redeveloping and expanding St. Boniface Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) is moving forward. By 2026 we will have an ED that is several times larger and more advanced than our current one.

We're entering an exciting new period of development for the Hospital. Through it all, we know we can count on three things: one, the incredible generosity of our donors; two, the unflagging support of the St. Boniface community; three, the Red River will still be there, flowing past the Hospital. It's comforting to know, don't you think? 🍷

**Karen Fowler**  
President & CEO  
St. Boniface Hospital Foundation



**Be a lifeline for thousands of Manitobans. Join us on the airwaves this November to support life saving patient care and life changing research at St. Boniface Hospital.**

Stay tuned for more information at [stbhf.ca](http://stbhf.ca)

# Memories and Milestones

## How you've added to a timeline of generosity

In this year of St. Boniface Hospital's 150th anniversary, there's even more to celebrate together. It's true thanks to another anniversary – our own Foundation's 50th!

Here, we recognize the incredible generosity of donors and the many ways donors have helped the Hospital take care of patients and investigate medical mysteries over the past five decades.

### 2021

#### Renovations, Renewal, and Recovery in Mental Health

In addition to support from the Provincial government, Foundation donors contributed a remarkable \$1.5 million to a total investment of \$2.7 million to transform St. Boniface Hospital's McEwen Building, where thousands of patients each year receive supports for their mental health.



### 2018

#### Operating Room upgrade

Donors step up to complete the funding of Manitoba's first Endovascular Hybrid Operating Room – set to open in 2022.

### 2015

#### Cardiac CT Scanner

St. Boniface Hospital obtained a state-of-the-art cardiac CT scanner thanks to a \$1 million lead gift from Russ and Edna Edwards, and our generous community of donors.

### 2014

#### Intraoperative Transesophageal 3D Echocardiography (TEE)

Donor support enabled installation of four TEE units showing three dimensional images of the heart to assist in cardiac surgery.

### 2020

#### New Frontiers Campaign completion

Foundation donors made a \$25 million investment in life-changing, life-saving medical research. Their support provided both an immediate injection of funds for basic and applied research and lasting endowments to sustain the Research Centre for years to come.



### 2016

#### Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS)

Donors enabled the purchase of a second rTMS machine at the Hospital to treat patients with depression and research ways rTMS technology can help treat other neurological conditions.

### 2015

#### Albrechtsen Research Centre

Research Centre renamed "St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre" to honour Paul Albrechtsen, who donated \$5 million to cardiac research.



## 2013

### The Canada/Italy Tissue Engineering Laboratory (CITEL)

CITEL collaboration with Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata (Rome, Italy) was launched to explore how patches of tissue made from ethical stem cells can strengthen a healing heart. The Sons of Italy Garibaldi Lodge contributed \$100,000 to help fund this project.



## 2007

### Buhler Gallery

The Buhler Gallery, the first in-hospital art gallery of its kind in Canada, was established thanks to a generous donation from John and Bonnie Buhler.

## 2004

### HeartCare Campaign

\$25 million in funding created Manitoba's Cardiac Centre of Excellence, which includes the I.H. Asper Clinical Research Institute and The Bergen Cardiac Care Centre.

## 1996

### Dr. John Foerster Centre for Health Research on Aging

Donors contributed \$12.6 million to create the Dr. John Foerster Centre for Health Research on Aging, which opened in May 2001, specializing in neurodegenerative disorder research.

## 1990

### Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit (MRI)

Manitoba's first MRI unit was purchased thanks to \$5 million from our donors. One of Western Canada's largest diagnostic MRI centres, it's helping patients like Maury Bay get on the road to recovery. See *MRI Experience Makes Lasting Impression*, page 7.

## 1976

### International Award

The International Award was established to honour individuals whose genius, talent, and energy made an outstanding contribution to health care and humanity. Along with first honoree Dr. Jonas Salk, recipients have included Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, Sir Edmund Hillary, Dr. Andrei Sakharov, Rosalynn Carter, Sir Bob Geldof, and Steve Nash.



## 2009

### Everett Atrium

With a \$1 million donation, the Hon. Douglas Everett, Mrs. Patricia Everett, and Royal Canadian Properties Limited launched an endowment fund supporting neurodegenerative research. In appreciation of the investment, the Hospital's main entrance atrium was renamed the "Everett Atrium."

## 2000

### Palliative Care Unit

Donors contributed \$2.5 million to build a new Palliative Care Unit and created an endowment fund to support the unit's compassionate care for patients in their final days.



## 1987

### St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre

This 96,000-square foot facility, painstakingly designed to be one of the finest research facilities in Canada, became operational. Donors made it possible for the Research Centre to develop capacity over the coming years.

## 1985

### St. Boniface Hospital Foundation Lottery

The lottery program was established to expand the Foundation's capacity to fund medical research and patient care at the Hospital. Since its inception, the program has contributed tens of millions of dollars to St. Boniface and made a few lucky winners' dreams come true along the way.

## 1971

### A strong foundation

For its centennial, St. Boniface Hospital gifted itself the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation.





(From left) Carmine Militano, Chair, St. Boniface Hospital Foundation Board of Directors; Lorrie Kirshenbaum, Director, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences; Eric Lafreniere, Vice President & Head of Commercial Banking, National Bank; Ross Feldman, Medical Director, Cardiac Sciences; Karen Fowler, President & CEO, St. Boniface Hospital Foundation.

# 150 for 150!

**National Bank of Canada (National Bank) has joined in the celebration of St. Boniface Hospital's 150th anniversary with a \$150,000 gift in support of cardiac treatment and research at the Hospital.**

"While heart disease remains a pervasive health concern for Manitobans, we see how St. Boniface Hospital, as the region's Cardiac Centre of Excellence, is improving patient outcomes, helping people live longer, fuller lives than they would otherwise," said Louis Vachon, President and Chief Executive Officer of National Bank. "National Bank is making

this donation to help further St. Boniface Hospital's long legacy of compassionate and innovative care – especially in a community many of our employees and clients call home."

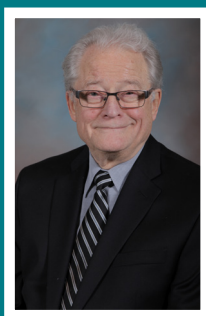
Including this latest gift, National Bank has donated more than \$430K in support of St. Boniface Hospital projects.

With the donation, National Bank will be title sponsor of the Cardiac Classic golf tournament for the next five years. The 2021 National Bank Cardiac Classic took place Monday, August 9 at Niakwa Country Club and raised over \$104,000 for cardiac care and research. [📰](#)

## In Brief: Foundation News

- **Farewell to a leader**

The Foundation was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Dr. John Foerster, the first Executive Director of Research at St. Boniface Hospital (1986-2006), and a veritable pillar in the academic, scientific research, medical and faith communities. He will be missed.



- **Research head named**

Congratulations from the Foundation to Dr. Michael Czubryt, who was named Executive Director of St. Boniface Hospital Research, effective September 1. Dr. Czubryt is a global expert on gene regulation in cardiac fibrosis and heart failure. He takes over from Dr. Grant Pierce, who stepped down from his administrative duties last year.

- **Food for the front lines**

The Princess Auto Foundation continues to show their generosity and support for St. Boniface Hospital through their Meals for the Frontline Program. We thank them for their continued support of meal donations to our tirelessly dedicated health-care workers.

- **Celebrating our Foundation family**

A heartfelt congratulations to our very own Board Chair Carmine Militano and staff member Nancy Militano on their recognition as the 2021 Ignatian Challenge Award recipients.

- **We'll be in touch**

Did you get a call from us this summer? We recently worked with Voice Logic, a reputable third-party company, to reach out to our valued community of donors to talk about exciting opportunities to make a difference. Thank you to everyone who responded by making a generous one-time gift or monthly donation, which will be matched dollar for dollar by Canadian Pacific for the purchase of new cardiopulmonary exercise testing equipment.

- **New faces on our Board of Directors**

We welcomed three new members to our Board this July: Emeka Nnadi, a landscape architect and CEO of Nadi Group, Ab Freig, CEO mentor with Manitoba Technology Accelerator, and Joël Rondeau, CEO of Caisse Financial Group.



# MRI Experience Makes Lasting Impression

**A caring  
voice puts a  
mind at ease**

*Former patient Maury Bay (right) is grateful for the compassion shown by MRI technologist Richelle Kapilik at St. Boniface Hospital last year.*

**Maury Bay has a discerning appreciation for the qualities of the human voice.**

From the enclosure of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner, the retired radio-industry professional welcomed the reassuring tone and words of technologist Richelle Kapilik.

“She had such a clear and distinctive voice,” said Bay. “I said ‘it’s not too late to go into broadcasting.’ She had the confidence.”

Bay suffered a fall in May 2020. Resulting problems with his back brought him to the Dr. Andrei Sakharov MRI Centre on the St. Boniface Hospital campus later in the year.

While it wasn’t his first MRI scan, Bay still had concerns.

“Breathing can change for the worse when your position changes – that was my worry. With a sore back, I was also concerned about being comfortable. Right away, Richelle said, ‘do you need a little extra support?’”

“You’re helpless in a funnel. When someone on the other end cares about you – that’s a good feeling.”

“You’re at the mercy of the voice,” Bay added with a laugh.

## **Like a pilot**

She agrees with Bay’s observations on her approach to the job.


“For some patients, just laying on a table is a challenge. It’s a hard surface; you might have to hold your breath. Some

have issues with the confined space. It can be loud, like a jackhammer.”

“I like to inform my patients of what exactly is going on during their scan the way a pilot will come overhead and explain how much longer until arrival or if we are about to encounter a different weather system. I feel that when patients know a noise will change, or start or how much longer to go, that they have a better experience overall.”

Kapilik has been an MRI technologist nearly 15 years, entirely at St. Boniface Hospital. While she demurred on Maury Bay’s encouragement for a new career in broadcasting, a past career informs her approach in health care.

“I was a professional server in restaurants, including some fine-dining establishments. I have definitely learned to be patient over the years while having to provide excellent service for my guests who often needed some extra attention.”

MRI technology makes very clear images of the human body without using x-rays. Where x-rays take an image of dense structures like bones, the MRI scanner takes images of soft tissues in joints such as shoulders, wrists, and knees. 

**Learn more! Read the rest of this story at [stbhf.ca](https://www.stbhf.ca).**

**Manitoba’s first MRI unit was purchased in 1990 thanks to our donors. Thank you for continuing to support one of Western Canada’s largest diagnostic MRI centres.**

# The Future is Now

*Dr. Randy Guzman, head of the vascular surgery program at St. Boniface, holding a new Huntleigh hand-held Doppler ultrasound machine the Hospital recently purchased.*

**The generosity of Foundation donors has put new, state-of-the-art medical technology into the hands of vascular surgeons, residents, and nurses at St. Boniface Hospital.**

In June, the Hospital's vascular surgery program purchased two Huntleigh hand-held Doppler ultrasound machines, a \$20,000 investment in portable equipment. As well, the program is finalizing plans for a simulation device used for the training of endovascular procedures. The new devices are significant improvements over similar tools at the Hospital that are out of date.

Vascular surgery procedures have been around since the 1950's and became a separate surgical specialty in Canada in 1983. Such procedures involve the treatment of patients with arterial diseases, mainly atherosclerosis. These patients may require surgery and procedures of the arteries and veins mainly outside

## **Doppler ultrasound machine has a visual output**

The new Huntleigh "Dopplex" machine is used mainly to assess blood circulation in the arms and legs of vascular surgery patients. "Particularly in arterial disease in the lower limbs for assessing patients with peripheral arterial disease (PAD), sometimes you can't feel a pulse. Using the Doppler ultrasound machine, you can hear a signal. It's the same technology used to detect fetal heartbeats," said Guzman. "We use it on the ward in assessing patient circulation, particularly for patients with wounds related to arterial insufficiency."

"It's a tool that's used by other physicians, certainly, but the vascular surgeons are the ones who use it the most. It's like our stethoscope, really," he said.

---

**"The new devices are easier, faster, better, and more reliable to use than our older ones."**

---

the chest," explained Dr. Randy Guzman, a vascular surgeon and researcher at St. Boniface Hospital since 1998, and the Section Head of Vascular Surgery at the University of Manitoba.

"Many done today are performed with less invasive techniques, which are called endovascular procedures," said Guzman.

St. Boniface's new high-tech endovascular hybrid operating room, the first of its kind in the province, will be an exciting addition when it opens next year, he added. The hybrid suite was also made possible thanks to the generous support of donors.

"In addition to audio signals, the new machines offer a visual output on screen. The new devices are easier, faster, better, and more reliable to use than our older ones."

## **Sim training to provide better teaching opportunities**

New simulation (sim) training equipment will be purchased to replace a system that has been used in the Hospital for more than 10 years. It will have higher-resolution imaging, better simulation modalities and scenarios, better teaching features, and software upgrades over the old one. "It's like getting a new computer," said Guzman. 🖱️

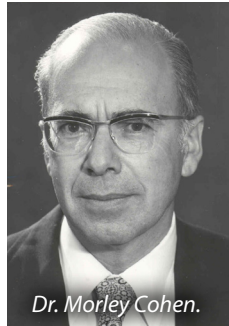
**Patients are benefiting from cutting-edge medical technology, thanks to your support.**

# Birth of a Life-Saving Program

## St. Boniface surgeon performed first open-heart procedure in Manitoba

The first patient to undergo open-heart surgery in Manitoba was a five-year-old boy from the community of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, on a chilly day in February 1959.

The operation, to repair a small hole in the boy's heart, took seven hours and was performed at St. Boniface Hospital by Dr. Morley Cohen while his colleague, Dr. Richard Burrell, ran the heart-lung machine. Their team had trained for months to prepare for the procedure. Cohen held the child's heart in his hand while mending the hole; it stopped beating for eight minutes, and the organs remained exposed to the air for more than 20 minutes. Thankfully, the operation was a success.



Dr. Morley Cohen.

"The types of procedures we're doing, and the nature of the procedures, have changed," said Arora. "We're doing more complex valve procedures using the heart-lung machine; more cardiopulmonary bypass is the fancy term for it."

"We have a tradition of excellence at St. Boniface," said Arora. "I think the things that have been key to that are a sense of teamwork, good communication tools, and a team that's genuinely interested in the best results for our patients. I think that's an important legacy that Dr. Cohen would be very proud of; that it was maintained after he departed from the program."

### Less invasive is the way of the future

In the future, the open-heart surgery program at the Hospital will move increasingly towards state-of-the-art and less-invasive procedures, said Arora. "We used the term open-heart at the outset. That is usually through a big cut through the breastbone, and that has been the traditional way of doing surgery from 1959 all the way through to the current day," he said.

"We are moving more into the area of what's called minimally-invasive cardiac surgery. So, using imaging and other things, like little telescopes through the chest wall (laparoscopic surgery), to help improve surgery through smaller incisions. This is the new era of cardiac surgery." 📺

***You've put St. Boniface Hospital cardiac surgeons at the top of their field for more than 60 years. Thank you.***

### Scope of cardiac procedures has changed

After the first operation, a dozen more open-heart surgeries were carried out at the Hospital in 1959. That number doubled the following year. Today, St. Boniface Hospital focuses on open-heart surgery cases in adults and completes more than 70 cases *every month*. Last year, 763 cases were completed despite the slowdown caused by the pandemic.

Dr. Rakesh Arora is the Section Head and Medical Director for the Cardiac Surgery and Intensive-Care Cardiac Surgery Units at St. Boniface Hospital. If Cohen could see the open-heart surgery program as it stands today, Arora hopes he would be very proud of his legacy at the Hospital.



Dr. Rakesh Arora, head of cardiac surgery at St. Boniface Hospital, with the original medical equipment used by Dr. Morley Cohen in 1959. Courtesy of St. Boniface Museum.

# “More than classmates, they were like sisters”

It was August 1958 and Ethel Hook – then a young woman of 18 – had just left the family farm and her small, tight-knit community in rural Manitoba to enrol in the St. Boniface Hospital School of Nursing in Winnipeg.

“My mother, father, and aunt had dropped me off at the Hospital. I had never been there before. As I stood behind the statue of Jesus at the front of the residence and watched them walk away, I thought, “My life will never be the same and boy, was I right,” said Hook with a chuckle.

This year, as the Hospital marks its 150th anniversary, Hook and her nursing classmates are celebrating the 60th anniversary of their graduation. Of the 53 student nurses who completed the three-year program in 1961, 38 of them are still living. They have held a reunion “like clockwork” every five years without interruption for 60 years. Hook, who lives in Winnipeg, has played a coordinating role for her classmates over that time,

keeping everyone in touch and up to date on the latest news and events.

Many of them have known each other longer than their spouses, noted classmate Carol Cochrane, also of Winnipeg. “We share a special bond,” she said. Cochrane, too, has been instrumental in coordinating reunions over the years. 🇺🇸

**Keep going! Read the rest of this story at [stbhf.ca](http://stbhf.ca).**



## Sister Gauthier's Challenge



**Standards were high in the late sixties at the St. Boniface Hospital School of Nursing.**

Students enrolled in what was then a three-year diploma program were expected to put in the work, and no one made that clearer to them than Sister C. Gauthier (at left), director of the school from 1967 to 1971.

“We had a lot of respect for her, and I guess, a

little bit of fear,” remembered Linda Everitt (née Christie), who was among 90 young women who graduated in 1968. “Sister Gauthier ran a kind, but tight, ship.” After 1968, the program length was reduced to two years.

Applicants to the School of Nursing had their IQs tested as part of the entry process. As a student, Everitt once got called into the director's office to discuss how she was doing in school. “Sister Gauthier said to me, ‘You are not performing up to your IQ level, Ms. Christie. You were tested. You can do better; you're just not trying.’”

“And it was true, she caught me coasting a little bit. I wasn't failing or anything, but she demanded the best that you could be. It had more to do with, ‘You are going to continue your education,’” said Everitt, who lives in Warman, Saskatchewan. 🇺🇸

**There's more! Read the rest of this story at [stbhf.ca](http://stbhf.ca).**

# Ready **for** **Anything**

## Family endowment fund honours new nurses

### One wants to travel, and one wants a dog.

Registered nurses Stephanie Lajoie and Jeanelle Ramos are this year's lucky recipients of the Wyrzykowski Family Graduate Nurse Endowment Fund. Both recent graduates – Lajoie from Université de Saint-Boniface and Ramos from the University of Manitoba – they each started their jobs at St. Boniface Hospital in October 2020.

The endowment fund was established to reward and support grads employed in their first nursing jobs at the Hospital. A random draw of the 60 eligible graduates hired in 2020 was held May 10th, during National Nursing Week.

“For our nurses, this draw was a bright light in a dark time,” says Rhonda Cairns, Chief Nursing Officer. “We are so grateful to the Wyrzykowski family for creating this endowment fund and everything else they do for St. Boniface.”

Lajoie was just getting back to work after taking time off, following a wrist fracture in February. “I got an email from my manager with the subject line ‘Urgent’. I wondered if I had forgotten to fill out a benefits form or something; but when I opened it, it said that I had won the endowment fund draw. Then Mr. Wyrzykowski called to congratulate me not long after that,” she says.

“As I was off work for two months with my broken wrist, the money was the best thing that could have come to me, at the best time,” says Lajoie, adding she also moved in March. “I’ve paid off some stuff, and I’m going to Victoria in July on my vacation, to visit a good friend I haven’t seen in years.”

Ramos got a similar email from her manager. “She said that I had won. I thought, ‘How? Why?’ I had not applied for anything. Then I thought it was like a certificate or an award – at first, I did not realize it was for money! When I got something in the mail making it official, it was thrilling. It was unexpected at a stressful time, and much appreciated.”

She and her family have decided they are going to get a small



*A pair of newly-hired St. Boniface Hospital nurses were selected as this year's winners of the annual Wyrzykowski Family Graduate Nurse Endowment Fund draw, held in May 2021.*

dog. “We’re looking at a Bichon Frise-Poodle-Shih Tzu mix,” she says. “It will be my first dog – we are going to pick her up in July, and I think we will name her Luna,” says Ramos. She plans to put the rest into savings.

### COVID-19 changed nursing roles

Lajoie is on the Hospital's Specialty Resource Team, a float pool for cardiology units. She works with cardiac patients before and after procedures (like angiograms) and cardiac surgeries, and for medical management. 🧡

**Keep reading! Find the rest of this story at [stbhf.ca](https://stbhf.ca).**

**Thank you for supporting St. Boniface Hospital nurses on the front lines.**

# Researcher Helps Develop Compassion Measurement Tool

## Will improve patient experiences at St. Boniface Hospital

**At a time when virtually all hospital patients and care-residents were and continue to be isolated from loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic due to visitor restrictions, the expression of compassionate care becomes even more important for Canada's future and the well-being of its population.**

How patients experience compassion in the health-care system is something that can now be more accurately measured with the use of the Sinclair Compassion Questionnaire (SCQ), a first-of-its-kind tool developed jointly by Dr. Thomas Hack, of St. Boniface Hospital Research and U of M College of Nursing, and his co-principal investigator Dr. Shane Sinclair from the University of Calgary.

"I am so pleased this tool is available to empower healthcare facilities and their teams to be better at alleviating the suffering of our fellow humans," said Hack.

The product of a comprehensive country-wide study examining patient experiences in the healthcare system, SCQ was based on data gathered from more than 600 individuals in acute care, long-term care, and hospice settings, and will be of particular benefit to teams working in these facilities.

"We talk about compassion a lot as health care professionals, but it's really how the patient perceives and receives compassion that matters the most. That's why we undertook the study and developed the questionnaire – to create a robust tool that truly captures with consistency, validity, accuracy, and sensitivity, that can help inform better programming in our facilities and how our staff are trained to deliver compassionate care," Hack elaborated.

Kathleen Klassen, Chief Nursing Officer, Deer Lodge Centre, helped support patient input from her facility used to inform Hack and Sinclair's research, which ultimately led to the development of the questionnaire.

"The Compassionate Care Questionnaire provides a reliable and valid measure of compassionate care as experienced by patients and residents. By being able to measure compassionate care, we can target quality improvement actions at the individual, unit, facility level to improve the quality of life and service experience for those living at Deer Lodge Centre," she shared.

Klassen explained how the questionnaire would be incorporated as part of annual client experience and quality of life surveys facilities such as Deer Lodge Centre regularly undertake. "The results will then be analyzed at the unit, program and facility level to help identify themes and opportunities to improve our quality of life and quality of care delivery models," she added.

Hack added: "Researchers and health care staff now have, for the first time ever, a robust tool for measuring compassionate care, a tool developed over the course of several years, from the voices of patients themselves. It is now possible to evaluate the impact of compassion training programs on the experiences of patients receiving health care." 🙌

***Thank you for supporting groundbreaking research at St. Boniface Hospital.***



*Dr. Thomas Hack, of St. Boniface Hospital Research and U of M College of Nursing.*

# Battery Breakthrough

Researchers in the Cardiac Regeneration and Tissue Engineering Program at St. Boniface Hospital Research have synthesized a next-generation bio-compatible electrode named TTO MXene which has the potential to support battery life that can be measured in decades, to safely power medical devices such as pacemakers and cochlear implants, among others.

“When I first saw the data from our research, I couldn’t believe what I was seeing,” said Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra, Principal Investigator, Cardiac Regeneration and Tissue Engineering Program, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, Albrechtsen Research Centre at St. Boniface Hospital. 🧪

## The Beat Goes On

**St. Boniface Hospital’s Cardiology Department will launch a new remote monitoring system later this year that will offer more convenience for patients with implanted pacemakers and defibrillators.**

Over 16,000 clinic visits for routine care and follow-ups are performed every year by the Pacemaker and Defibrillator Clinic at the Hospital. For many patients, this can mean having to travel from all over Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario to Winnipeg at least once a year for a 30-minute visit. During these clinic visits, their devices are checked by a nurse, who can wirelessly download information from the pacemaker or defibrillator to make sure that it is working normally.



*Dr. Colette Seifer, Medical Director, Cardiology, St. Boniface Hospital, says the new CareLink Express system will save patients from having to travel to the Hospital for routine appointments.*

Cardiac Sciences Manitoba plans to take this service outside of the Hospital, to reduce unnecessary patient travel. Two to three CareLink Express remote monitoring sites will be set up, initially in Winnipeg, by the end of 2021. The system was developed and is owned by Medtronic, the world’s largest medical technology, services, and solutions company.

Patients with a Medtronic device that is compatible with the system (some older devices are not) will be able to

visit these new community locations for routine check-ups of their pacemakers and defibrillators, explained Dr. Colette Seifer, Medical Director of Cardiology at the Hospital.

“Some examples in other provinces include going to the local pharmacy or YMCA where they have a station set up where you sit near the CareLink Express device for about 5 minutes. Using Bluetooth technology, it collects the information from your pacemaker or defibrillator and transmits it to the Hospital clinic,” said Seifer. Long-term plans will see the remote monitoring stations expanded to locations across Manitoba, she added.

“This will reduce the number of routine appointments in the clinic. So, we will have more time to spend with patients who have more complex or urgent needs,” she said. 🧪

***Thank you for helping Cardiac Sciences Manitoba at St. Boniface Hospital to improve patient care.***



© 2021 Medtronic

# Giving. Remembering. Celebrating.

Thank you to our many compassionate donors who have chosen to make gifts to St. Boniface Hospital Foundation in honour of those listed below. Gifts recognized were made from December 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021.



## In memory

Joan Ace  
Zoe Albi  
Vernon C Anderson  
Lenard Antonation  
Roland Barthel  
Michael E Bartmanovich  
Julia Beaudin  
Jean Beaulieu  
Bernice M Bell  
James A Bell  
Frank V Bigourdan  
Kimberly Addison R Bird  
Joseph Blanchard  
Allen Bodner  
Georges Boily  
Steven Boroditsky  
Allison Bouchard  
Don Bozek  
Margaret Bozek  
Anna Brok  
Edward D Brown  
Jim Carrigan  
Marlene Chudy  
Lorne Clarke  
Baby Leighton Cline  
Eliduina Conci  
Junior Cooke  
Johanna Cotter  
Larry Cumming  
Roger Dennis  
Levi Doerksen  
Stanley Domansky  
Rev William Duff  
Leo J Dumaine  
Nathalia Dupont  
Larry Duval  
Jacob Elias  
Jeffrey Fawkes

Joan Ferguson  
Iris F Ferris  
Ian & Ivy Fye  
Lawrence A Gambin  
Greg Gartner  
Jennifer Gibson  
Richard E Gilmer  
Una Globerman  
Kenneth Gray  
Luigi Grossi  
Rick Grunsten  
John M Hannah  
Baby Evelyn M S Harder  
Ethan Harris-George  
Bob Hawryliuk  
Rita A Hay  
Juliette Hébert  
Baby Grace C Hurrie  
Maureen A Joss  
Doreen Kaltenthaler  
Sharon Kaplan  
Don Keller  
Claudia Kenney  
Nick Kiryluk  
Sherry L Klassen  
Rachel P Konefall  
Baby Charlotte Kuzminski  
Baby Elizabeth J Kuzminski  
Claude Laframboise  
Dr Charles C K Lam  
Leo A Landry  
Anna Lavallee  
Henri Lecuyer  
Francis Lemoine  
Maruis Lemoine  
Kazimierz Leszczynski  
Millie Lev  
Baby Charlotte A E Lockhart  
Ken Loeppky  
Stephanie J Lopuck

Fred Loveday  
Donna M MacNeil  
Darryl Manchulenko  
Lawrence Marchinko  
Irene Marriott  
Elaine Martens  
Baby Theodore Mate  
Bill May  
David McElheran  
Bernard McGowan  
Joan A McGregor  
Doreen McNeill  
Rylan K McQueen  
Christopher McQuilkin  
Everly Meredith  
Klaus Meyer  
Frank P Mikuska  
Ted Misanchuk  
Wilfred T Moore  
Don Murray  
Doreen Murray  
Josiah Neufeld  
Suzie Ng  
Calvin & Patricia Nowe  
Robert S Nykolaishen  
Janette Ollinik  
Michelle Owens  
Dr Julian Pierre  
Ralph Pielt  
Helen Plett  
Pauline Pomarenski  
Johnny Potorieko  
John M Pottinger  
Art Prescott  
Sylvia V Pryhitko  
Eugene Pytlinski  
Luigi A Quaglia  
Bob Ramsay  
Raymond Roman  
Brooks & Eli Romanychn

Annette Rosenberg  
Larry M Rosenberg  
Mickey Rosenberg  
Norma Jean Rosky  
Barton Rossen  
Hedy Rowinski  
Janina Runge  
Noreen M Ryan  
Krishan Sadana  
Gerald Samels  
Cornelius Schenkeveld  
Matthew Schiller  
Judith Seipp  
Rikki Sharpe-Wiebe  
Michael J & Lena Shewchuk  
Beverley Shiffman  
Marguerite Sinclair  
Donna Sitter  
Stanislaw Smolenski  
Linda Sommerfeldt  
Wanda St Paul Funk  
Margaret Stegman  
Eileen K Storozuk  
Anne E Streilein  
Richard Streilein  
Seko Temu  
Anthony P Thottingal  
Baby Broden P R Trithart  
Norma Trudel  
Adrianna VanderMeulen  
Lynne Vrooman  
Marvin Warawa  
Baby Rikki M E Wiebe  
David D Williamson  
Norman Wolk  
Carl F Wozney  
Conrad L Wyrzykowski  
Emil Zajic  
Susan Zettler

## In celebration

Nello Altomare  
Anne Anderson  
Arthur Arpin  
Ed Bernier  
Heather Bouchard  
Dr Kevin R Coates  
Adrienne Diner  
Daniel Doerksen  
Francois Dulude  
Joseph Egan  
Marguerite Forest  
Larry Friesen  
Shane & Joanne Grusko  
Walter Hunt  
Lucille Johnstone  
John Morris  
Louis & Claudette Prefontaine  
Rudy & Audrey Ramchandar  
Pearl Rosenberg  
Leanne Ruby  
Gwendalyn Sangalang  
Henry Scott Sawchuk Wehrle  
Lois Shapera  
Rick St Croix  
E4 Family Medicine Staff  
Maurice & Stanis Steffano  
Erin Thomas  
Cuc A Tu  
Henry Wehrle  
Paul D & Margaret Wright  
Julie Yan & Reid Winter