

Believe

You are creating a healthier society

Winter 2023

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A publication of St. Boniface Hospital Foundation

Manitoba's first hybrid operating room opens at St. B.

\$6.5 million project fully funded by St. Boniface Hospital Foundation through donor support



The hybrid operating room includes a fluoroscopic C-arm, two large screen monitors, a specialized operating table and ample room for additional equipment and personnel involved in surgical procedures.

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation announced in December the completion of Manitoba's first endovascular hybrid operating room.

Foundation donors like you fully funded the initiative and made the \$6.5 million project possible for St. Boniface Hospital.

A hybrid operating room is a surgical theatre equipped with advanced medical imaging devices that enable and simplify minimally invasive surgery, which is less traumatic for patients. St. Boniface Hospital's hybrid operating room will make the best outcomes possible, saving more lives and getting patients back to the people they love sooner.

In the hybrid operating room, St. Boniface surgeons can seamlessly transition between traditional open surgery — which requires larger incisions to replace or repair arteries — and minimally invasive endovascular surgery.

Having the ability to perform imaging studies in the same room minimizes the need to transfer patients between the imaging and operating suites during a procedure and reduces the risk of infection.

The Hospital will use the room for the treatment of diseases of the vascular and cardiac system, including patients with aneurysms or atherosclerotic disease. The Hospital's first hybrid operating room patient was treated on December 13.

The Hospital anticipates that the cutting-edge technology, equipment, and infrastructure will also attract surgeons, radiologists, nurses, and other health-care providers to work in this setting.

"The hybrid operating room has long been a long-term goal of the vascular surgery program to optimally support the care provided to patients with vascular disease," said Dr. Randy Guzman, Regional Lead, Section of Vascular Surgery, WRHA and Service Chief, Section of Vascular Surgery, St. Boniface Hospital.

St. Boniface Hospital provides excellent cardiac care and pursues groundbreaking cardiac research, all thanks to you.



Kalyn Murdock, who is one of our development officers, shared with me something interesting a donor said to her recently.

Hemant M Shah is a local business leader with decades of experience in international trade between Manitoba and India.

Hemant's life was saved at St. Boniface Hospital shortly after his heart stopped in June 2021. He underwent cardiac surgery to clear his five major arteries. You can read his story on page 7 of this issue of Believe.

Grateful for the excellent care he received – he calls St. B. one of the best facilities of its kind in Canada – he is encouraging other Manitobans to become monthly donors to the Hospital.

The Foundation has almost 300 donors who choose to give monthly. Being one of them is among the best – and easiest – ways to ensure St. Boniface Hospital continues to provide the best care possible now, all year long, and into the future.

Hemant suggests all Manitobans should, in his words, humbly think about supporting St. Boniface as monthly donors. "I believe it is our moral duty to support cardiac care, other patient care, and medical research at the Hospital," he told Kalyn.

Will you answer Hemant's call? Make a lasting impact this year by becoming a monthly donor. Sign up today at bealifeline.ca.

Karen Fowler, CFRE
President & CEO
St. Boniface Hospital Foundation

PS: Have you also thought about how you want to be remembered? You can add impact to your legacy in a meaningful way with an estate gift to St. Boniface Hospital Foundation. There are a variety of ways to plan for the future, such as a bequest or a life insurance policy. Call 204-237-2067 to start the conversation with us today.

In Brief: Foundation News

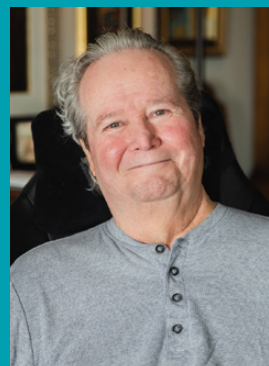


Young Investigators Net Two Major American Heart Association (AHA) Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Inna Rabinovich-Nikitin (pictured), who last November in Chicago won the highly coveted Louis N. and Arnold M. Katz

Basic Science Research Prize for Early Career Investigators competition by the AHA's Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences. She is a Principal Investigator, Women's Heart Health and Cardiometabolic Function at the Hospital's Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences (ICS).

Congratulations also to Weiang Yan, a PhD student from Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra's laboratory at the ICS, who was the winner of the Vivien Thomas Early Career Investigator Award at the same event.



Farewell to a leader

The Foundation was saddened to hear of the passing of Tom Carson, Past Chairperson, St. Boniface Hospital Board of Directors, on November 16, 2022. Carson was a director for 13 years and served as Chairperson for five, completing his term as Chair in June 2022 but remaining on as a director until his passing. His passion and commitment to St. Boniface will be greatly missed.



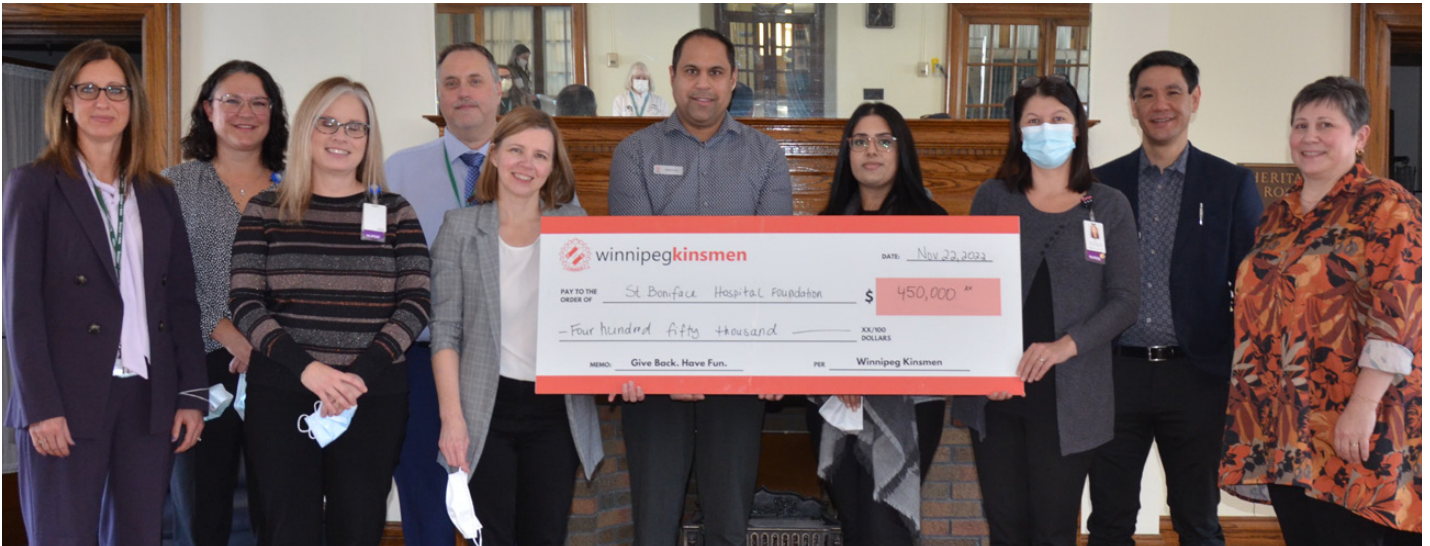
Everett Chair named

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Czubryt, Executive Director, St. Boniface Hospital Research, on being named the Everett Chair in Fibrosis Research. The research chair is generously supported by The Honourable Douglas and Patricia Everett and Royal Canadian Properties Limited Endowment Fund. It will support

Dr. Czubryt's medical research, which is interested in how the altered function of genes contributes to the development of heart diseases.

Heartfelt Support for St. B. from Winnipeg Kinsmen and Scotiabank

Major gifts for priority areas including mental health programming



Winnipeg Kinsmen gave St. Boniface Hospital Foundation 450 thousand reasons to say thank you last November.

The service organization presented a cheque for \$450,000, representing three major gifts made between March 2021 and September 2022.

“What Winnipeg Kinsmen has done for St. Boniface over the past year and a half is nothing short of extraordinary,” said Karen Fowler, President and CEO of St. Boniface Hospital Foundation.

The donations will support three important priority areas at St. Boniface Hospital: COVID-19 response, cardiac care, and the redevelopment and expansion of the Hospital’s Emergency Department.

When the Foundation approached the Winnipeg Kinsmen to discuss support for the new Emergency Department, its board was immediately supportive, recognizing the project’s importance to the community they serve.

“Our health is among our most precious possessions. It is imperative that we do all we can to ensure Manitobans can access the best emergency and cardiac care, when seconds count,” Winnipeg Kinsmen vice-president of service Hiren Shah said.

“Winnipeg Kinsmen is very proud to support St. Boniface Hospital’s Emergency Department and Cardiac Science program. Certainly, we’ve had several members who have been directly impacted by Manitoba’s Cardiac Centre of Excellence.”

The Mental Health Program at St. Boniface Hospital can do more to help patients find their footing thanks to a \$150,000 gift in December from Scotiabank.

The donation will help St. Boniface add resources to support clients as they learn and develop life skills such as cooking, personal hygiene, and self-care so that they are positioned to thrive in the community after their discharge.

“Scotiabank believes in helping communities, households, and individuals alike become more resilient in the face of ongoing challenges,” said David Zyla, District Vice President, Manitoba East and Northwestern Ontario.

“We’re pleased to contribute to the impactful work St. Boniface Hospital is doing to bolster mental health supports for patients to help them re-integrate into daily life and position them for success.”



Our thanks to Winnipeg Kinsmen and Scotiabank for their steadfast and generous support of patient care at St. Boniface Hospital.

Striking a Novel Path for Autism Research

Donation from Kali Dyck Foundation brings researcher to St. Boniface



Dr. Henry Dunn, at far right, with Erik, Jackie, and Lloyd Dyck.

Dr. Henry Dunn has devoted his career to understanding how neurons – the brain’s information messengers – communicate with one another and how this communication can become disrupted.

These neurodevelopmental deficits hold answers for families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and neuropsychiatric disease.

Now he’s pursuing those answers at St. Boniface Hospital. Dunn joined St. Boniface Hospital Research last October as a Principal Investigator with the Division of Neurodegenerative Disorders (DND).

The Kali Dyck Foundation made a \$500,000 donation in support of Dunn’s position and his lab.

“I’m so grateful the Dyck family sees the value in my research. They have my full commitment,” said Dunn. “The ultimate goal is to guide better early intervention and treatment options.”

According to a 2019 Statistics Canada health survey on children and youth, one in 50 Canadian children and youth aged one to 17 years were diagnosed with ASD. The disorder manifests in different ways depending on the person, with varying degrees of severity.

Parents Lloyd and Jackie Dyck know this firsthand. Their oldest son, Chad, now an adult, lives with ASD.

“When Chad was a baby, we experienced everything from (recommendations for) psychedelic drugs to putting him away in a home,” said Lloyd Dyck when the family met Dr. Dunn for the first time and toured his lab on January 30. “That was the amount of support we could find.”

A southern Ontario native, Dunn arrives in Winnipeg following six years as a Postdoctoral Researcher The Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, Florida: a world-renowned non-profit medical research facility. With his return to Canada, Dunn also became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Manitoba.

Dunn made a discovery at Scripps Research that alters the current understanding of neuronal communication with implications for ASD and neuropsychiatric disease.

“Previously, we understood this neuronal communication mechanism heavily relied on G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). They’re known for receiving and interpreting chemical messages from communicating neurons,” he explained.

“I’ve discovered these GPCRs are facilitating additional neuronal communication pathways that were previously undescribed yet appear to be disrupted in patients with ASD and neuropsychiatric disease. This alternative mechanism might be useful to design novel, next-generation therapeutics specific to ASD and/or a host of neuropsychiatric diseases.”

The Dyck family, owners of Winnipeg-based agribusiness BrettYoung Seeds, see a parallel between their industry and Dunn’s research.

“We know research takes time,” said Lloyd Dyck. “We’re in this for the long haul, not the short term. We’re really looking forward to seeing what comes of the research.”

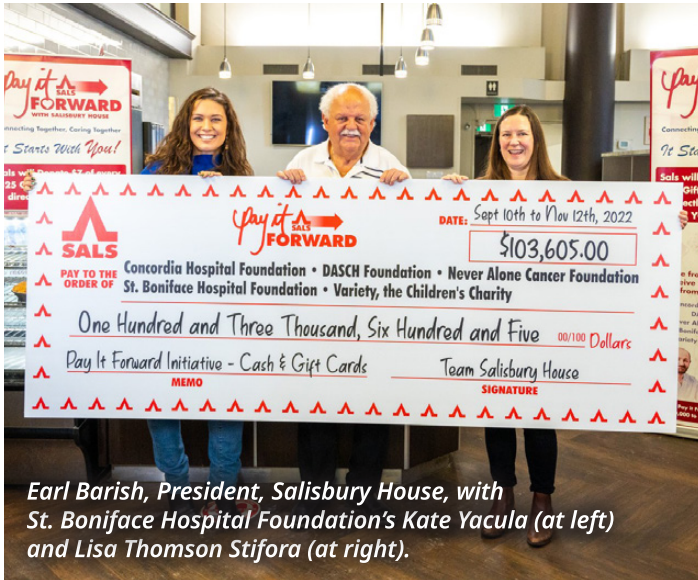
The family’s commitment to ASD research honours their daughter Kali, whose life was claimed at age 25 in 2011 by a car accident.

“Chad is our oldest and Kali was our third child,” said Jackie Dyck. “They did a lot together. She was a champion for Chad. She was a kind, caring soul who was looking at career in health care, maybe nursing.”

Thanks to you, scientists like Dr. Henry Dunn are pursuing treatments for challenging neurological disorders.

Donors and Hospital Staff Pay It Forward

Iconic, red-roofed restaurants help recognize health-care heroes



Earl Barish, President, Salisbury House, with St. Boniface Hospital Foundation's Kate Yacula (at left) and Lisa Thomson Stifora (at right).

After a long shift, a Nip Platter really hits the spot.

St. Boniface Hospital staff and health-care heroes on the front lines will enjoy hot meals thanks to the generosity of their co-workers, donors, and a beloved Winnipeg institution.

Last year's Salisbury House Pay It Forward campaign wrapped up in November. By then, 520 "Sals" gift cards worth \$25 each had been purchased thanks to donations made online and at the popular Winnipeg restaurant chain's locations.

During that period Salisbury House also donated \$7 directly to charity partner St. Boniface Hospital Foundation with every gift card purchase made for staff, and \$3 with every item on a special Pay It Forward menu. Salisbury House started the Pay It Forward program for Manitoba charities in 2020 during the pandemic.

Earl Barish, President of Salisbury House, called the program a true win-win-win for all involved.

"I was intrigued by the Pay It Forward concept. It encompassed the thought of doing something to help someone else," said Barish. "Both parties were happy, the donor and the recipient," he added.

"We all felt so helpless during the early months of COVID-19 and since then. Hospital staff were overworked helping patients back to recovery. People wanted to show their appreciation to essential workers and didn't know how best to do that," said Barish.

"The Pay It Forward initiative provided an opportunity to show that appreciation through purchases and donations. It became a meaningful way for Manitobans to say thank you and for our health-care heroes to feel appreciated."

Over the next several months, thanks to Sals and Foundation donors, Hospital staff will "pay it forward" by nominating their super co-workers to each receive \$100 in Sals gift cards! The program has been a great morale booster at St. B.

Already, more than a dozen winners have been chosen including workers from Housekeeping Services, Cardiology, Social Work, Medicine, Property Management, and Patient Registration Services, among many other departments.

Heartfelt thanks to Salisbury House for their continued commitment to the St. Boniface community and their generous support of life-saving patient care and medical research.

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Radiothon Returns In Person

Donors once again beat fundraising target



After two years of being held virtually due to the pandemic the Radiothon of Hope and Healing, presented by VICKAR Automotive Group, was back on the air and in person in 2022.

The fundraising drive took place in the Hospital's on-site Galerie Buhler Gallery. Dozens of special guests visited to share their inspiring stories, live on 680 CJOB (along with sister

stations Peggy@99.1 and Power 97), as donations flooded in on November 18.

St. Boniface Hospital Foundation was overwhelmed and humbled by the support of our donors, the community, and our sponsors. Gifts raised through phone calls and online donations reached \$235,000 by day's end, exceeding by far the Foundation's \$200,000 one-day goal.

Once more, patients and researchers at St. Boniface Hospital will benefit from our donors' generosity.

"The money we raised will be used to fund compassionate patient care at St. B.," said Karen Fowler, President and CEO of the Foundation.

Fowler added that some will go towards the Emergency Department redevelopment and expansion project currently underway at the Hospital, scheduled to open in 2025.

"It will also help in purchasing equipment used by our caregivers in many units throughout the Hospital; especially in the Cardiac Sciences Manitoba program," she said.

"And, of course, our medical researchers here at the Hospital, who are changing the face of patient care every day through the work that they do."

Speaking to 680 CJOB hosts Richard Cloutier and Julie Buckingham at the end of the day, Radiothon Chairperson Larry Vickar told radio listeners, "Manitobans came through in such a big, big way."

As a former St. Boniface Hospital Foundation board member, Vickar has been involved with the Hospital for close to 15 years. That experience has given him a clear perspective on the needs of the community, he said: "We have to meet the demands. We have to do more from within."

Thank you to our listeners and sponsors for tuning in and giving generously! Radiothon will return in November 2023.



The 2022 Radiothon of Hope and Healing raised \$235,000 in support of the Hospital on November 18.

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Cold Hands, Warm Hearts

Business leader nicknamed “Mr. India” grateful for “best-in-Canada” cardiac care



Retired Indian-Canadian business leader Hemant M Shah has a saying about his adopted home.

“I always say that in Winnipeg our hands are cold, but our hearts are warm,” said Shah on a video call from his birthplace of Mumbai. “I am proud to be called a Winnipegger.”

At age 68, Shah spent 19 days in St. Boniface Hospital in the summer of 2021 while receiving life-saving cardiac care.

“St. Boniface Hospital cardiac care is one of the best programs of its kind in all of Canada. I am firmly convinced of that,” he said.

Shah moved to Winnipeg in 1975. He earned the nickname “Mr. India” by forging bonds between Manitoba businesses and customers in India, using a lifetime of knowledge and experience in international trade and business development. He was also an executive in the heavy equipment and aviation industries.



Code Blue at Victoria Hospital

Shah was at home with his family in June 2021, making plans to celebrate Father’s Day when he had what he thought was an upset stomach or indigestion.

His wife, Hina, had been a health-care worker for many years at Victoria Hospital. She thought she could hear fluid in his lungs and rushed him to Urgent Care at the Vic.

“A nurse put me in a wheelchair. The doctor walked into the room and asked me how I was,” recalled Shah. “The last thing I remember was answering, ‘I am not feeling great,’ and that was it. The next thing I knew, I woke up in St. Boniface Hospital in the Cardiac Care Unit.”

Shah found out that he had experienced a Code Blue – cardiac arrest. Five of his major arteries were blocked.

“I had been gone for 16 minutes, with them performing CPR on me at the Victoria Hospital,” he said. “After I was stabilized, they moved me to St. Boniface for open-heart surgery on June 30th. They gave me a totally new (cardiac) system.”

A team of seven physicians was attending, said Shah. “The health-care team, the nurses, they gave me 200 per cent. I am a very bad patient, but they gave me soothing comfort. My doctors all gave my care that personal touch.”

One of them, Dr. Nitin Ghorapde, Interim Medical Director of Cardiac Surgery at St. Boniface, is also from Mumbai. “He even spoke to me in my native tongue,” said Shah.

“They all explained what was happening to me with emotions – there were feelings behind it – as one human being to another.”

Your support has saved the lives of St. Boniface Hospital cardiac patients like Hemant M Shah. Thank you.

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 August 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022.

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