

Fondation
du Centre universitaire
de santé McGill



McGill University
Health Centre
Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021





A MESSAGE TO YOU, OUR DONOR

The past year was one of challenges and opportunities. We began the year with the uncertainty of the pandemic, and finished it with the hope brought by vaccines. Despite having to adapt, the foundation surpassed expectations, raising over \$24 million and completing an historic merger. We have so much to be proud of, despite the difficulties we faced.

The McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Foundation merged with the Montreal Chest Institute (MCI) Foundation in Spring 2021. Under the MUHC Foundation banner, we are now raising millions to benefit the MCI through our *Dream Big. Breathe Easier* campaign. With respiratory illness on the rise, and the lingering effects of COVID-19-induced pneumonia, this partnership could not have happened at a better time.

Though millions of Canadians have now received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, we must continue to support research to better understand every aspect of the virus. The MUHC Foundation is committed to supporting our world-class physician-scientists as they delve into every aspect of the virus. Our big dream is to end the COVID-19 pandemic, and to support all forms of innovative health care to change the course of lives and medicine.

We hope you will dream big with us.



Norman Steinberg, Ad. E.
Chair, Board of Directors



Julie Quenneville
President and CEO, MUHC Foundation



THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING TOGETHER

In the past year, the unpredictability of infectious diseases has resonated beyond the walls of academic health centres and research institutes with the hope of mitigating the threats they pose. Indeed, COVID-19 has had an enormous impact on our community, including drawing attention to the importance of working together to keep each other safe. At the MUHC, we are proud of our teams who overcome new challenges daily while always keeping in their sight line the pursuit of excellence and innovation in our many fields of expertise. Much has been accomplished in a short time, not only from the perspective of testing, treatment, research discoveries and education, but also from the standpoint of learning to better care about each other's well-being. That we owe a lot to the generosity of donors is an understatement. Your support of the MUHC Foundation helps provide us with the means to go above and beyond basic care. In the last 12 months, your support also brought much-appreciated relief to frontline workers.

We therefore take great pleasure in extending our sincerest gratitude to the MUHC Foundation and its remarkable donors, volunteers and staff for supporting the present and the future of the MUHC. We count ourselves fortunate to be working together with as fine a community as ours.

Peter Kruyt
Chair, Board of Directors, MUHC

Pierre Gfeller, MD CM, MBA
President and Executive Director, MUHC

COVID-19

A PANDEMIC YEAR

Take a moment to think back to the beginning of March 2020, when the unimaginable awaited us. As COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, our offices closed, the streets grew quiet, rainbows adorned windows, and uncertainty settled in. But dedication, resilience, and courage flowed through the walls of the MUHC.

The MUHC Foundation is proud to support each and every one of the MUHC's health care heroes, who showed and continue to show such dedication to our community. And we're equally grateful to our supporters at every level, who came together with the launch of our COVID-19 Emergency Fund and helped our Foundation raise over \$7 million to respond to this global health crisis.

From corporate and community leadership, to excellence in research and everything in between, we overcame every challenge together.





EMPOWERING RESEARCHERS TO FIGHT COVID-19

We are grateful to the Trottier Family Foundation, who donated \$2.4 million to support COVID-19 research and community outreach. \$1 million supported a wide range of COVID-19-related research, and \$1.4 million is funding CoVivre, a community initiative to address the impact the pandemic has had on underserved groups.

The MI4 Emergency COVID-19 Research Fund received \$1 million to provide seed funding to research projects related to the coronavirus and the many issues that arise from it. The Trottier Family Foundation's gift was combined with generous donations

from the Hewitt Foundation and the late Elspeth McConnell to fund over 50 research projects related to COVID-19.

The generous \$1.4 million gift to CoVivre is supporting a team of three top researchers as they tackle the inequities deepened by the coronavirus. Led by Drs. Cécile Rousseau, Alexandra de Pokomandy and Sarah Gallagher, this outreach initiative is partnering with community organizations to ensure underserved communities stay safe and healthy during the pandemic. Initiatives include supporting workers in precarious situations and a guide for schoolteachers to ensure their well-being amongst the uncertainty of the pandemic.



COMBATting ISOLATION IN HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS

Strict COVID-19 protocols at the MUHC restricted visitors, which caused many hospitalized patients to experience loneliness and isolation. Separating patients from their loved ones was a heartbreaking reality. TELUS recognized the need to support these vulnerable citizens. Their \$100,000 donation supported the work of physician-scientists Dr. Inés Colmegna and Dr. Amal Bessisow, and computer scientist Dr. David Meger to combat isolation in hospitalized patients.

The researchers provided tablets to patients—particularly those who were not familiar with technology—and taught them to initiate video calls with loved ones at home. Not only did this help alleviate loneliness in many patients, but also allowed the researchers to measure how effective video calling is at combatting isolation and loneliness. While the pandemic will eventually end, this important study will continue to benefit hospitalized patients for years to come.



BIOBANK CREATES BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF COVID-19

Biobanque Québécoise de la COVID-19 (BQC19), a provincially sponsored initiative, is Canada's largest biobank of samples taken from severe COVID-19 patients. It is helping researchers understand how and why the coronavirus causes severe respiratory illness. Thanks to a generous gift of \$100,000 from Marc Parent, President and CEO of CAE and *Dream Big* Campaign Co-Chair, Canada Research Chair in Genomic Medicine Dr. Vincent Mooser is studying COVID-19 samples from BQC19 to understand why the coronavirus causes severe respiratory illness in some patients, but not in others. This work is a critical step in discovering new drugs that can treat COVID-19.



TELEMEDICINE FOR MORE EQUITABLE HEALTH

Despite its challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic presented an opportunity to expand the use of telemedicine as a way to care for patients. A \$350,000 gift from TD is enabling the MUHC to launch a new telemedicine program, allowing more patients to receive health care in the comfort of their homes through virtual visits. TD's gift is enhancing current services with live translation and transcription services, which will benefit patients with hearing impairments or whose first language does not match that of their physician. TD's gift supports inclusive and equitable health services for all.



REDUCING COVID-19 VACCINE HESITANCY

Vaccines are the key to ending the COVID-19 pandemic, but vaccine hesitancy threatens to undermine this long-awaited victory. Vaccine hesitancy is defined as reluctance or refusal to be vaccinated, and has skyrocketed in the past few decades. To reduce vaccine hesitancy, donations to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund were used to offer grants for projects addressing vaccine hesitancy. The selected projects are led by Dr. Abhinav Sharma, Dr. Nadine Kronfli and Dr. Inés Colmegna and their teams at the MUHC.

DREAM BIG



Jean Charest
Campaign Co-Chair



Suzanne Legge Orr
Campaign Co-Chair



Marc Parent
Campaign Co-Chair

OUR FIRST YEAR OF DREAMING BIG

Though it has been a difficult year, our community of donors and volunteers came together to dream big for the future of health care. Thanks to your perseverance, together we have raised over \$79M toward the *Dream Big* Campaign to support the brilliant minds, cutting-edge programs and unmatched patient care at the MUHC.

We are proud to be part of such a dedicated community. Thanks to your support, our physician-scientists have found new avenues for innovation, many of them necessitated by the pandemic. They have discovered approaches to fighting COVID-19 in every discipline: cardiologist Dr. Abhinav Sharma is reducing vaccine hesitancy in heart patients, a particularly vulnerable group; simulation training specialist Carolyn White developed training to help health care teams adapt to new COVID-19 protocols; and Sophie Blondin of the Breast Clinic Wellness Program adapted the entire program to an online format to ensure breast cancer patients receive continued support.

These examples of innovation and flexibility inspire us. And they would not be possible without you. With your support, we have approached the COVID-19 pandemic from every angle, and put big dreams into action to improve health care for all.

Thank you for dreaming big with us.

INFECTION & IMMUNITY

“Infectious diseases—like COVID 19—are among the greatest threats to humanity, and have been from time immemorial. Our ability to survive these diseases is one of our species’ greatest achievements. We are proud to lead the Solve Humanity’s Deadliest Puzzles campaign to ensure that the most dangerous infectious diseases are treatable and survivable now and into the future.”

—Heather Munroe-Blum and Claire Trottier, *Solve Humanity’s Deadliest Puzzles*
Campaign Co-Chairs



LEGGÉ ORR MI4 LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dream Big Campaign Co-Chair Suzanne Legge Orr and husband Jeffrey Orr donated \$1 million to create the Legge Orr MI4 Leadership Award. This new award will provide crucial funding to MI4 to ensure it has a strong leader who can drive forward the initiative's mission to find innovative solutions to some of the world's deadliest diseases: tuberculosis, hepatitis C, COVID-19 and more.

The donation will support the leadership of MI4 Director Dr. Donald Sheppard, who created the initiative. Recognizing the importance of talented leadership, the Legge Orrs made an eight-year commitment to supporting Dr. Sheppard's work, and that of MI4 leaders to come.

YEARS-LONG MYSTERY ILLNESS COMES TO LIGHT

David Ray's life changed the day he was bitten by his brother's dog. From then on, he was plagued with a range of physical and neurological symptoms that no physician could diagnose. For years, David searched for answers, seeing doctor after doctor. Then, he met parasitic disease expert Dr. Momar Ndao and the team at the MUHC Tropical Disease Clinic.

After meeting Dr. Ndao, Ray knew he was in good hands, and that he would finally receive the care he had been desperately seeking. With the help of Dr. Ndao and Dr. Donald Vinh, Ray received the tests that confirmed what he had suspected all along: he had a parasitic infection. Now on the mend, David has raised over \$14,000 through the MUHC Foundation to help Dr. Ndao purchase state-of-the-art equipment that will assist him with diagnosis, patient care and research.





PFIZER EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD

The Pfizer Early Career Investigator Awards will provide emerging scientists and researchers across the McGill and MUHC community the opportunity to undertake high-impact research to curb the threat of infectious diseases and change the course of medicine. Over a three-year period, \$100,000 each will be awarded to two recipients per year, one PhD scientist and one clinician-scientist. Support for the next generation of researchers is key to accelerating discoveries—from conception to practical applications in the real world.



MI4 DIRECTOR DR. DONALD SHEPPARD WINS PRIZE

The McGill Principal's Prize for Public Engagement through Media recognizes outstanding achievement among those who share their knowledge with the public and the media, and who uphold McGill's commitment of service to society and community engagement. Dr. Sheppard received the award for his outstanding communication of COVID-19 information throughout the pandemic. His media presence was instrumental in providing clear and accurate information about COVID-19 and critical public safety measures.

CARDIOLOGY

"We have seen first-hand how community support can transform health care—it can build a hospital like the MUHC. It can also change the future for the 90% of us who have at least one risk factor for heart disease and stroke. If we Dream Big together, we will Fix Broken Hearts."

—Patricia Saputo, Patrick Shea and Sam Reda, *Fix Broken Hearts* Campaign
Co-chairs

COURTOIS CARDIOVASCULAR SIGNATURE PROGRAM LAUNCHES

The new Courtois Cardiovascular Signature Program is pioneering tomorrow's precision medicine in cardiovascular diseases by mapping our signatures—things that make us entirely unique like genetics, lifestyle and more.

Led by cardiologist Dr. Nadia Giannetti, the program will map participants' blood, genomes and biomes, and image their hearts and carotid arteries. By re-examining each participant regularly over the course of ten years, the program's physician-scientists will find patterns and unlock new knowledge about heart disease risk. The goal? In ten years, Montreal will have the lowest rate of hospitalization and fewest deaths due to heart disease in Canada. The MUHC Foundation is grateful to the Courtois Foundation for their transformative \$18 million gift to make this study possible.



NEW APP HELPS CANADIANS GET MOVING

The new MyHeart Counts app will get Canadians moving to improve cardiovascular health. Modeled after the University of Stanford's app—which Dr. Sharma helped develop—MyHeart Counts uses artificial intelligence with real-time feedback and support to improve physical activity and reduce risk of cardiovascular disease. Thanks to the \$100,000 LEAP grant, Dr. Sharma will be able to develop the app for Canadian users.



SKIP BELOFF CHAMPIONS CARE FOR LITTLE-KNOWN HEART CONDITION

Charles “Skip” Beloff was just returning from an Italian vacation with his wife when he began to experience some strange symptoms. He went from enjoying the hot weather and great food of Italy to light-headedness and shortness of breath. Athletic his entire life, Beloff had never experienced any serious health issues. After five months of uncomfortable testing, misdiagnoses, scary prognoses and international visits to specialists—which Beloff refers to as a “wild goose chase”—he was diagnosed with cardiac amyloidosis.

Cardiac amyloidosis is a build-up of

abnormal protein around the heart. Over time, these amyloid proteins replace normal tissue, impacting the heart’s ability to pump blood and transmit electrical signals, eventually resulting in heart failure. Colloquially, it is called Stiff Heart Syndrome because the heart tissue thickens and becomes less flexible. Once considered a rare condition, physicians are now finding that cardiac amyloidosis is much more common than previously thought.

Grateful for his treatment at the MUHC, Skip is giving back to his cardiology team through the *Dream Big. Fix Broken Hearts* campaign and by fundraising through the MUHC Foundation to create a Cardiac Amyloidosis Research Program, led by cardiologist Dr. Michael Chetrit.



WHHI HELPS WOMEN TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR HEALTH

The day Cheryl Beck had a heart attack, she had jet lag and was feeling unwell. Her husband looked up her symptoms, gave her an Aspirin and drove her to the emergency room. His hunch was right: Beck was having a heart attack.

Following this frightening experience, Beck got in touch with nurse Wendy Wray, founder and director of the Women's Healthy Heart Initiative (WHHI) at the MUHC. The WHHI is the first collaborative nurse-led women's heart disease prevention program in Canada. Its goal is to empower women to take control of their own heart health through awareness, education and prevention.

Incorrectly assumed to be a “man's disease,” signs of heart disease in women are often overlooked, despite the fact that it kills one in three Canadian women. Worse, heart disease in women is under-diagnosed, under-treated and under-researched.

WHHI is a self-referral program, meaning any woman can sign up without the referral of a doctor. The program is entirely donor funded, and is free for participants. To date, WHHI has helped over 1,000 women reduce their risk of heart disease.

Through WHHI, Beck received personalized cardiac care, and the knowledge and tools to help reduce her risk of having another heart attack.

DOVEE

“It is our big dream that no woman’s life—and no woman’s potential—is cut short by the silent killer. Together, we can usher in a world where ovarian and endometrial cancers are no longer among the deadliest cancers. With Dr. Gilbert’s DOvEEgene test, we can ensure no more mothers, daughters, sisters and friends are lost.”

—Joanne Photiades, Micol Haimson and Matthew Marchand, *Stop the Silent Killer* Campaign Co-chairs

NEW HOPE AGAINST A SILENT KILLER

Ovarian and endometrial cancers are silent killers, seldom presenting symptoms until it is too late. The sooner these cancers are detected, the more likely they are to be survivable. Gynecologic oncologist Dr. Lucy Gilbert has the answer: the DOvEEgene test. As routine as a pap smear, this minimally invasive test can detect cancer using DNA analysis before it becomes a death sentence. It's a historic discovery, one that could save millions of lives. And it's made in Quebec. Together, we have raised over \$1.9 million to support DOvEE.



Stop the Silent Killer Campaign Co-Chairs (L-R) Micol Haimson, Matthew Marchand and Joanne Photiades.



NO MORE WOMEN LOST CAMPAIGN

The MUHC Foundation and media personality Julie Snyder raised funds for early detection of women's cancers to ensure no more mothers, daughters, sisters and friends are lost to the silent killers. The campaign raised over \$150,000 toward the final clinical trial of the DOvEEgene test to ensure this historic, made-in-Quebec discovery becomes a standard part of women's care.

Taking place over two months, the campaign included features on Snyder's show, *La semaine des 4 Julie*.



GIVING TUESDAY RAISES \$80K TO STOP THE SILENT KILLER

Combined, more than 3,000 Canadian women die each year from ovarian and endometrial cancers. In fact, these cancers are the fourth-highest cause of cancer cases and deaths in Canadian women. Thanks to your support, Dr. Lucy Gilbert and her team are now in the final clinical trial of the DOvEEgene test, the world's first reliable way to diagnose ovarian and endometrial cancers early, when the disease can still be cured. With your outstanding support, we raised over \$80,000 to support Dr. Gilbert and her team as they surmount the last hurdle before the DOvEEgene test becomes a standard part of women's health care.



LUCY GILBERT NAMED TO TOP 25 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

As a remarkable leader and change agent, Dr. Lucy Gilbert has been named to the Top Women of Influence™ for 2021—a celebration of Canada’s most accomplished women role models.

“When I began my career in medicine, there were very few women, especially in surgery. I was inspired by those few women who had broken that glass ceiling. I hope I can do the same for young women today, especially visible minorities. I want women to know that you can have a family and a big career. The key is believing in yourself and following your passions.”

—Dr. Lucy Gilbert , Director, Gynecologic Oncology, MUHC



A GIFT TO HONOUR A MOTHER LOST

Cary Green is determined to change the face of ovarian cancer forever. After losing his wife Ronda to the disease, he and his family donated \$50,000 to the DOvEE project.

Ronda was a loving mother of three and a new grandmother. She loved golf, skiing, traveling, entertaining and playing mahjong, but above all, she loved spending time with her family and friends. Like so many women, Ronda was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the late stages of the disease. Cancers of the ovaries and endometrium rarely present symptoms, meaning that most women don't realize something is wrong until it is too late. The Green Family's gift will help ensure more women are diagnosed earlier, to ensure other families don't lose a loved one to ovarian cancer.



LYCEUM OF GREEK WOMEN OF MONTREAL FUNDRAISES FOR DOVEE

The Joanne and Melina Virtual Event included heart-wrenching testimonials from cancer survivor Joanne Photiades and Melina Tsagaropoulos, who is currently undergoing treatment. The women provided honest and emotional accounts of their cancer journeys and of becoming mothers following treatment. Featuring opening remarks by Canada's Minister of Health Patty Hajdu, the event included a Q&A with Dr. Lucy Gilbert about her groundbreaking DOvEEgene test. All donations are funding the test's final clinical trial, which is now enrolling anyone with a uterus between the ages of 45 and 70 (doveegene.com). The event raised over \$31,000 to support the DOvEEgene research program.



A LIFE CUT SHORT BY A SILENT KILLER

Monique Girard-Solomita led a happy, adventurous life. A journalist for thirty years, she travelled the world. At home in Laval, she was a wife and mother, raising two daughters. On April 26, 2020, the life she loved was taken from her. At the age of seventy, Monique passed away from ovarian cancer.

Following stomach pains, Monique was diagnosed with ovarian cancer on her 69th birthday. She was referred to gynecologic oncologist Dr. Lucy Gilbert at the MUHC, and underwent treatment. Dr. Gilbert was there every step of the way, providing excellent care, a sympathetic ear, and even answering Louise's worried text messages late at night.

Not even a year after Monique's treatment ended, the cancer returned. It had spread to her brain. She was hospitalized as the pandemic began, and her family could not visit her. After two weeks, Monique decided she was coming home. In the end, she lived only one more week. She died at home surrounded by her husband and daughters.

To prevent stories like Monique's, and to ensure no more women, mothers, sisters, daughters and friends are lost, the MUHC Foundation has raised over \$1.9 million to fund the final clinical trial of Dr. Gilbert's DOVEEgene test for the early detection of ovarian and endometrial cancers.

SKILLS & SIMULATION

“Having the time to actually pause and learn from simulations not only gives us the confidence as professionals, but allows us to learn essential lessons. At the end of the day it is all about making sure we provide the best care possible for our patients.”

—Christine EcheGARAY-Benites, Advanced Practice Nurse



SIMULATION TRAINING ESSENTIAL TO COVID-19 CARE

At the MUHC, when a patient goes into cardiac arrest, everyone springs into action. Just like in a medical drama, physicians and nurses rush to the bedside at the call of “Code Blue,” airways are checked and chest compressions begin. COVID-19 completely changed this.

With such high risk of transmission to health care staff, COVID-19 presented a challenge: physicians and nurses could no longer rush to the bedside to assist a crashing patient. First, they had to don full protective gear. Pausing to put

on PPE when a life is at stake is not easy. But this essential step could be a matter of life and death in itself: if an essential health care worker becomes ill, they cannot save lives. And if they become critically ill, they could die.

To implement these new Code Blue measures, the MUHC turned to simulation training. Hundreds of staff received training using life-like simulation mannequins donated by CAE. Recognizing the need for on-site simulation training at the MUHC, CAE donated \$500,000 in funding and equipment to the MUHC’s Skills and Simulation Network in early 2020. Little did they know that this equipment would prove essential to training the MUHC’s staff in pandemic procedures.



SNC-LAVALIN GIVES LIFESAVING SKILLS A BOOST

Simulation training involves creating true-to-life patient scenarios using high-tech simulation mannequins. These life-like “patients” can simulate heart attacks, respiratory distress and dozens of other medical situations to allow health care workers to practice their skills before they perform them on real patients. SNC-Lavalin’s support is ensuring continued excellence in care for the 1.9 million Quebecers the MUHC serves. Just knowing where a piece of equipment is kept can speed up response to a medical emergency, and the ISSN will help ensure staff know how to perform their role as part of a cohesive health care team.

RESPIRATORY



HISTORIC FOUNDATION MERGER

On April 1, 2021, the Montreal Chest Institute (MCI) Foundation officially merged with the MUHC Foundation, joining forces to help patients living with complex and chronic respiratory conditions breathe easier and live longer. Together, under the MUHC Foundation banner, the foundations will have an even bigger impact on patients. The new MCI Fund of the MUHC Foundation will ensure the MCI continues to flourish and play a global leadership role in respiratory care, teaching and research.

“By joining forces with the MUHC Foundation, we can better support the renowned team of scientists conducting groundbreaking research. Together, we can work towards developing innovative solutions that will allow millions of people with respiratory disease, in Quebec and around the world, to breathe easier.”

—Bryan Fitzpatrick, Former Chairman, Montreal Chest Institute Foundation and Member, Board of Directors, MUHC Foundation

DREAM BIG. BREATHE EASIER.

In February 2021, the MUHC Foundation launched the *Dream Big. Breathe Easier* campaign to raise \$10 million to support breathtaking research and breath-giving care. The campaign will focus on four pillars:

Excellence in patient care through improved diagnostics, updated equipment, and talented personnel.

Home monitoring so physicians can track patient symptoms, even when they are at home.

Research innovation grants to provide critical funds to scientists with big dreams for the future of respiratory medicine.

A respiratory clinical trials program to provide the infrastructure, equipment and expertise to carry out clinical trials of the latest treatments for respiratory disease.

This ambitious campaign will ensure the MCI continues to provide cutting-edge care to its patients.



“Breathing is something we take for granted, but for someone with a respiratory disease, every breath is a struggle. Millions worldwide live with lung conditions, and we must find innovative new ways to treat these illnesses. We are honoured to help the Montreal Chest Institute ensure our community breathes easier.”

—Scott Jones, Paul Beattie and John Kalaydjian, *Breathe Easier* Campaign Co-chairs

SUPPORTING EMERGING RESEARCHERS IN RESPIRATORY DISEASE

Dr. Margaret Becklake was a pioneer of respiratory medicine. A distinguished physician-scientist at the MCI and McGill University, she established the renowned Respiratory Epidemiology and Clinical Research Unit. The Dr. Margaret Becklake Fellowship supports the research and training of an up-and-coming respiratory scientist from an Indigenous community or low- or middle-income country. Thanks to a generous \$250,000 gift from an anonymous donor, half of which will support the fellowship, the next generation of researchers in respiratory disease will receive the support they need to become experts. The other half of the gift will support projects related to respiratory sleep disorders, like sleep apnea, and other lung diseases.



ADDRESSING POST-COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

A year into the COVID-19 pandemic, we are starting to see some of the lasting effects of the virus. Research has found that 42% of COVID-19 patients are still experiencing symptoms six months after their initial illness. This means that nearly half of those who were infected with COVID-19 are experiencing shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste and smell, muscle aches, and in serious cases, lung damage. To support these individuals, the MCI is creating the Post-COVID-19 Clinic. Many of the long-lasting effects of the coronavirus can be improved by ensuring proper diagnosis and treatment, and the MCI has the expertise to provide this much-needed care.

CANCER

“Our goal is to understand each individual’s cancer so we can provide precise and personalized treatment that saves lives.”

—Dr. Peter Metrakos, Cancer Research Program Leader, MUHC

IMPROVING CANCER TREATMENT USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Pomerleau, one of Canada's leading construction companies, joined forces with the MUHC Foundation to support a ground-breaking cancer project. With a \$250,000 donation over five years, Pomerleau is supporting research led by Dr. Peter Metrakos, Cancer Research Program Lead at the RI-MUHC. Using local engineering expertise in artificial intelligence, Dr. Metrakos' work will significantly improve survival rates of patients diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Canadians and is responsible for more deaths than breast cancer or prostate cancer. It is incredibly deadly, with a five-year survival rate of only 12%.

Using liquid biopsy techniques, Dr. Metrakos, Dr. Anthoula Lazaris and their team will separate DNA, RNA, proteins and other constituent parts of the blood to identify the ones associated with a patient's cancer. Artificial intelligence (AI) will be used to identify patterns and insights into the data gathered from each patient's blood sample. These patterns will then

be used to create a test that will predict outcomes, providing a critical key to personalized treatment and improved survival.

Pomerleau's gift was matched by MEDTEQ+, an initiative of the *Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation*.



NEW PARTNERSHIP IMPROVES CANCER TREATMENT

A new partnership with MEDTEQ+, the RI-MUHC, MIMs, and Caprion-HistoGeneX, respective leaders in cancer research, artificial intelligence, and precision medicine, is helping increase survival of stage IV colorectal cancer patients. MUHC oncology surgeon and researcher Dr. Peter Metrakos and his team are improving survival rates of patients diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer by using AI to create personalized treatments for each individual.

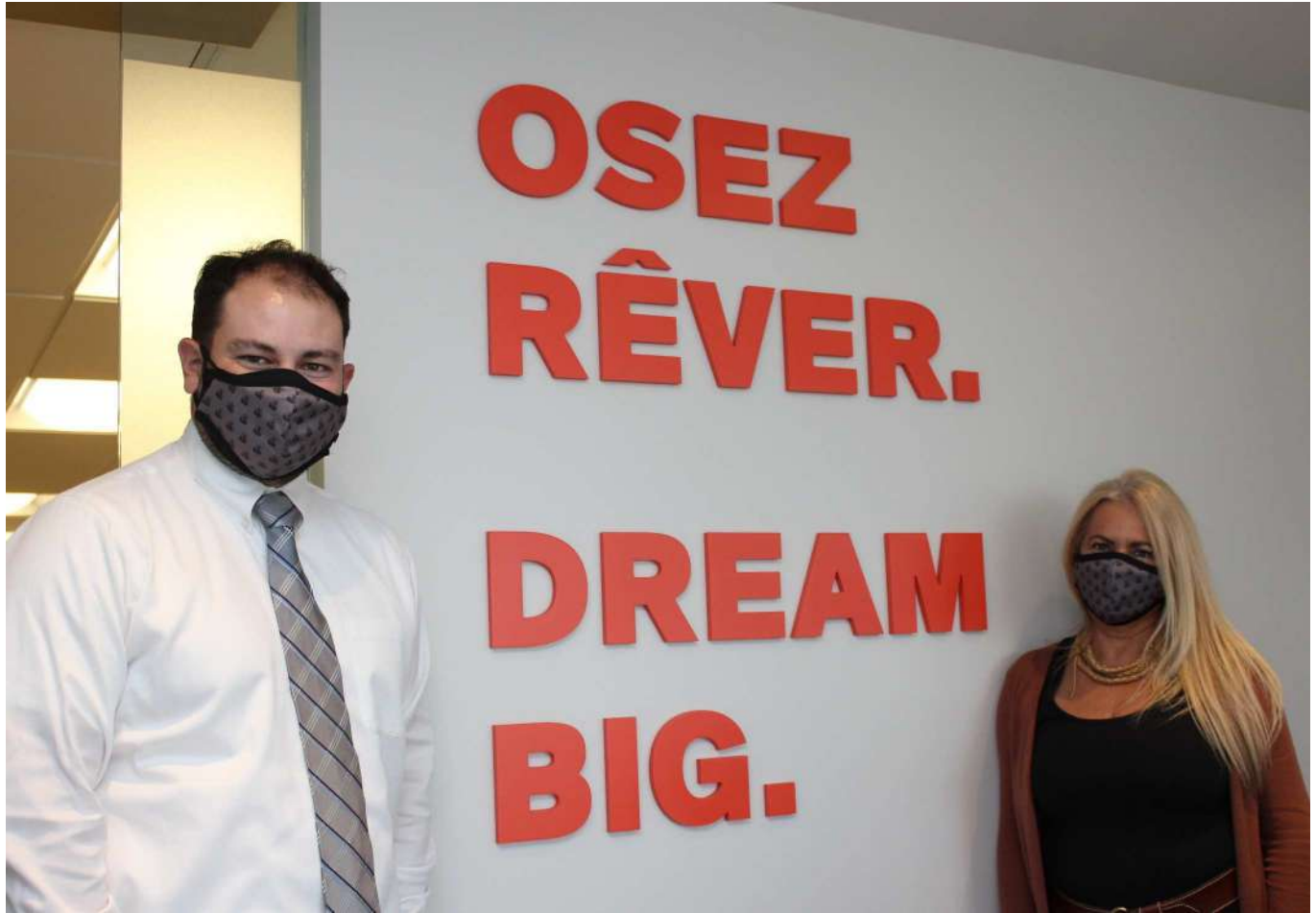
STORIES

FOUNDATION IN ACTION.



NURSING WEEK 2021

On International Nursing Day, Goodfood and CIBC donated 6,000 meals to the MUHC's nurses to show their immense gratitude for their incredible work on the front lines of the pandemic and throughout this incredibly challenging year.



FREE MASKS FOR HOSPITAL VISITORS

In response to public health guidelines, the MUHC Foundation provided free masks to MUHC patients and visitors over the course of Fall 2020.



HOLIDAY SPIRIT

The MUHC Foundation provided meals to 4,000 MUHC staff in December to lift their spirits during the holidays. The meals were made possible thanks to a generous gift from the Gustav Levinschi Foundation.



BREAST CLINIC WELLNESS PROGRAM GOES VIRTUAL

A breast cancer diagnosis is always gut-wrenching. For Brandi Lee Hicks, it was made all the worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, which added a new level of uncertainty to an already stressful time.

“I remember writing all of my many, many appointments into my calendar, and I broke down,” says Hicks. “It was all too overwhelming.”

Shock, fear and overwhelming feelings are common reactions to a breast cancer diagnosis. To help the 15,000 individuals treated at the MUHC each year, the Breast Clinic Wellness Program offers a range of services specially designed to support breast cancer patients. Although the



coronavirus complicated many aspects of cancer treatment, Patient Support Coordinator Sophie Blondin made sure that every patient continued to receive the support they need.

Blondin adapted the Wellness Program offerings to online sessions. Now, breast cancer patients have access to nutritionists, exercise kinesiologists, a sex therapist and more via the internet. For patients like Brandi Lee Hicks, these online sessions were actually more convenient, since she lives off island.

Thanks to donor generosity and the passion of the Wellness Program’s staff to help others, patients like Brandi are receiving the support they need to overcome this terrible disease.



YOUNG WOMAN'S WISH GRANTED

Kirandeep Kaur came to Canada to study business. A strong and determined young woman, she and her husband Baljeet Singh Sidhu left India to begin a life in Canada. But Kirandeep and Baljeet's dream was not to be. In December 2020, Kirandeep was diagnosed with cancer. Despite chemotherapy, she was admitted to the MUHC multiple times with complications. Surgical oncologist Dr. Sinziana Dumitru saw her each time, and realized there was nothing more anyone could do to save her. Kirandeep was dying.

Realizing that she would die half a world away from her family, Kirandeep was determined to go home to India. But the

odds were stacked against her: the trip is not just a 14-hour flight to Delhi, but another 8 hours by train to Punjab. The medical team was unsure whether she would survive the trip.

The MUHC surgical oncology team looked at every option to send Kirandeep home. She was too weak to travel alone, and transport by air ambulance was prohibitively expensive. Finally, they called MUHC Foundation President and CEO Julie Quenneville.

Moved by Kirandeep's story, Julie called Mark Smith, and France Chrétien and André Desmarais, all loyal donors. When they heard Kirandeep's heartbreaking story, they quickly took action. They not only donated the funds for Kirandeep to return home, but organized the entire journey.

Dr. Dumitru called on a Friday night, and by Tuesday, Kirandeep was home. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Kirandeep's wish was granted.



PLANNED GIVING

DANA MASSARO IS BUILDING HER FAMILY'S LEGACY

Dana Massaro lost her husband, Ken Verdoni, in 2011 after a seven-year battle with cancer. Ken had colorectal cancer, which eventually spread to his liver and lungs. Once the cancer has spread, it is notoriously difficult to treat. Ken passed away at just 59 years of age.

Throughout his illness, Ken was treated by Dr. Peter Metrakos at the MUHC. Shortly before he died, he told Dana that he wanted to do something to help Dr. Metrakos fight this deadly cancer.

“When he passed, I knew I had to do something to honour Ken and to help Dr. Metrakos in his research to treat metastatic cancer,” says Dana.

Dana began to fundraise. She held a golf tournament, a cocktail dînatoire and even



Left to right: Dr. Peter Metrakos, Dana Massaro and Ken Verdoni Fellow Dr. Miran Rada

published her journal about the first forty days after Ken's passing. Determined to do more, Dana decided to leave a planned gift to the MUHC. She took out a life insurance policy with the MUHC as the beneficiary.

Dana's gifts created the Ken Verdoni Liver Metastases Fellowship, which is awarded to up-and-coming cancer researchers to allow them to work in Dr. Metrakos' lab. This year marks a milestone: Dana has been fundraising for 10 years, and has raised over \$500,000 to support cancer research.

"Ten years later, I am still involved with keeping Ken's memory alive. I want to continue honouring him by helping others on their cancer journey," says Dana.

Leaving a gift in your Will to the MUHC Foundation ensures excellence in health care for generations to come. Planned gifts are a vital way of ensuring the hospital is there for you and your loved ones when it matters most.

PERSONAL FUNDRAISING

JOHNNY MAIORINO – A LIFE-CHANGING TREATMENT FOR DIABETES

At the age of nine, Johnny Maiorino was diagnosed with Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes, a disease that is life-changing. Most children spend time thinking about which game to play next; Johnny's childhood involved praying for life without self-administered insulin and multiple blood tests each day. After 25 years of insulin injections, it was no longer helping. The disease was damaging his kidneys, affecting his nervous system, and caused temporary loss of eyesight that had to be corrected with surgery. Johnny's doctor told him he would only get worse, and recommended a pancreas transplant.

Johnny's dream of not having to take insulin injections was answered in June 2003 when he received the transplant. His life changed, but the road to recovery was very long and difficult. Determined to help others struggling with Type 1 Diabetes, Johnny is fundraising to support the work of

Dr. Steven Paraskevas, who is researching islet transplantation. This involves transplanting insulin-producing islet cells from a healthy individual's pancreas into the pancreas of someone with diabetes. This alternative to a pancreas transplant is much less invasive and carries less risk of complications. It is Johnny's dream to see this procedure become standard for people living with Type 1 Diabetes.

Johnny has raised nearly \$30,000 for islet transplantation.



THE GAGLIARDI FAMILY – STOPPING THE SILENT KILLER

Outcomes for ovarian and endometrial cancers have not changed in over 30 years. Due to a lack of symptoms, nearly 75% of these cancers are diagnosed late, when they have spread outside the pelvis. Only 10-30% of women survive.

To ensure more women are diagnosed with these silent killers early, the Gagliardi Family is fundraising to support the work of Dr. Lucy Gilbert, whose DOvEEgene test can detect ovarian and endometrial cancers long before they become deadly. The family is fundraising in honour of Nancy Gagliardi, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer that has spread to her lungs. Despite frequent visits to hospital for various ailments, the cancer was diagnosed in a late stage. All funds are helping support the final clinical trial of the lifesaving DOvEEgene test to prevent stories like Nancy's.

The Gagliardi family has raised over \$53,000 of their \$60,000 goal. Mondo Payments generously matched the first \$25,000 in donations.



JO ANNE KELLY RUDY – BREAST CLINIC WELLNESS PROGRAM

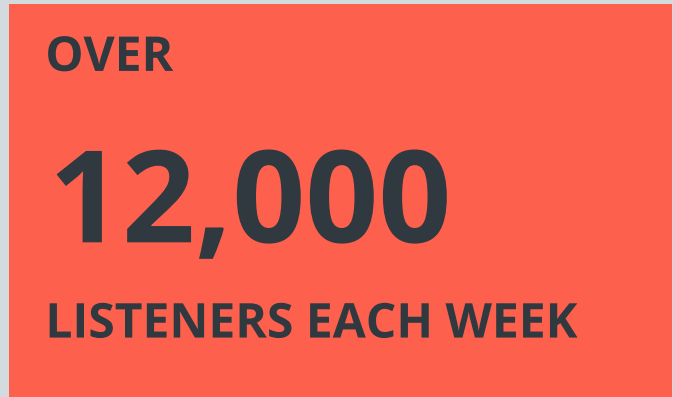
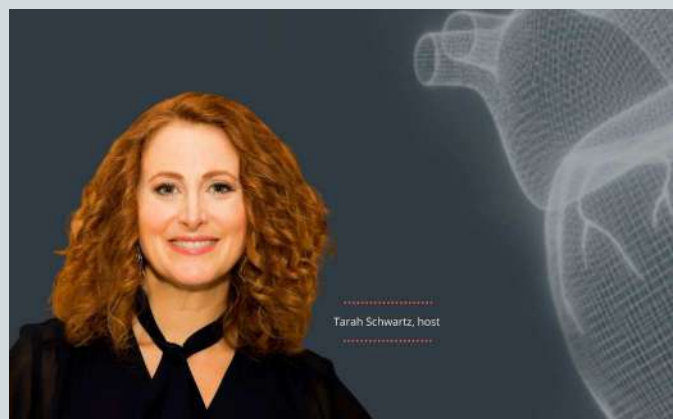
Jo Anne Kelly Rudy co-chaired the annual Enchantée event to benefit the MUHC Breast Clinic's Wellness Program for two years. Though COVID-19 led to the cancellation of the 2020 event, she recognized that the Wellness Program continues to need support. Jo Anne created a personal fundraising campaign to ensure women with breast cancer continue to receive the wellness services that make their breast cancer journey bearable. Jo Anne raised over \$12,000, surpassing her initial goal of \$10,000.

HEALTH MATTERS

ON CJAD 800AM

The MUHC Foundation's Health Matters radio show launched in September 2020. Host Tarah Schwartz speaks with the inspiring researchers, physicians, clinicians, donors and patients who are changing the course of lives and medicine in Montreal. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we introduced live question-and-answer broadcasts which gave listeners direct access to the MUHC's top experts to answer their health questions.

Health Matters airs on CJAD 800 Sundays at 12pm and is streamed live on CJAD 800's website and the iHeartRadio Canada app. Full episodes are available after the broadcasts on our website, Apple and Spotify.





MUHC FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021

REVENUE

Donations and grants	23,005,782
Estates	885,415
Activities	402,758
	<u>24,293,955</u>

EXPENDITURES

Administrative costs	3,666,948
Fundraising and campaign costs	779,740
	<u>4,446,688</u>

OTHER INCOME (EXPENDITURES)

Investment income	30,401,254
Investment management fees	(696,268)
Other income	176,918
	<u>29,881,904</u>

Excess of revenue over expenditures
before the following 49,729,171

Distribution for the benefit
of the MUHC (27,270,175)

Excess of revenue for
expenditures over the year 22,458,996

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current	
Cash	4,783,644
Other receivables	144,128
Due from other funds	9,903,911
Prepaid expenses and other assets	152,150
	<u>14,983,833</u>
Investments	135,689,308
Leasehold improvements	54,390
Land and building	32,718,706
	<u>183,446,237</u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5,279,747
Payable to the MUHC	136,467
Due to other funds	9,903,911
	15,320,125
Mortgage on land and building	32,718,706
	<u>48,038,831</u>
Capital	
Fund balances	126,925,685
Funds held by Trustees	8,481,721
	135,407,406
	<u>183,446,237</u>

MCI FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021

REVENUE

Donations	1,116,866
Investment income	<u>1,316,234</u>
	2,433,100

EXPENDITURES

Grants to MUHC	1,587,367
Administrative costs	<u>63,893</u>
	<u>1,651,260</u>

Excess of revenue over expenditures	<u><u>781,840</u></u>
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current	
Cash	6,254
Other receivables	<u>2,255</u>
	8,509

Long-term	
Investments	<u>4,992,634</u>
	<u><u>5,001,143</u></u>

LIABILITIES

Current	
Accounts payable	18,417
Long-term	
Deferred contributions from fundraising campaigns	<u>868</u>
	<u>19,285</u>

NET ASSETS

Reserved for the MUHC and its related entities	957,644
Unrestricted	<u>4,024,214</u>
	<u>4,981,858</u>
	<u><u>5,001,143</u></u>

HONOUR ROLL

The Honour Roll identifies individuals, corporations and foundations that have made a leadership donation in 2020.

To view the Honour Roll, please visit:

annualreport2020.muahcfoundation.com/honour-roll

Thank you.



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