

## Every day an incredible day in operating rooms at VGH



Hundreds of patients from all parts of British Columbia have surgery performed by medical experts in the Operating Rooms at VGH every week, the hospital is a complex care centre where adults with the most traumatic and catastrophic medical situations are referred. Surgeries related to cancers, spine injury, serious burns and major accidents are just a few of the hospital's many areas of specialties. Pictured below, Dr. Guy Fradet performs a delicate cardiac procedure.

When you pass the corner of Oak Street and 12th Avenue in Vancouver, you know you're close to a hospital. But, do you have any idea of the depth and breadth of complex medical care that's taking place there?



The Operating Rooms (ORs) at VGH are an incredibly intense, high-traffic zone. Every year, more than 17,000 seriously ill or injured men and women from across the province undergo desperately-needed surgeries in the 21 ORs on the second floor of the Jim Pattison Pavilion. Before each procedure can begin, specialized nurses, anesthesiologists, surgeons and other OR team members must be in place, and essential equipment and medical instruments available.

If you could look into the VGH ORs right now, here's what you might see:

- Neurosurgeon Dr. Gary Redekop performing emergency surgery on a 52-year-old school teacher with a brain aneurysm;
- General Surgeon Dr. Neely Pantan or one of the hospital's 14 other General Surgeons

conducting a complex "minimally invasive" procedure on a restaurateur with colon cancer. Each year, thousands of cancer surgeries are performed by these General Surgeons at our hospital.

- Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Guy Fradet undertaking an aortic valve replacement to improve the life of a retired truck driver with heart disease;
- Nearby, Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Kelly Lefavre, a trauma specialist is operating on a 27-year-old woman – a flag person hit by a careless driver;
- Farther down the corridor, Spine Surgeons Dr. Marcel Dvorak and Dr. Brian Kwon are engaged in a complex spinal column procedure on a 41-year-old software designer. Many spine surgeries last between 12 - 24 hours;
- Using a new surgical practice she recently encouraged all BC gynecologists to adopt, Gynecologic Oncologist Dr. Sarah Finlayson performs a hysterectomy for a 56-year-old mother-of-three with ovarian cancer;
- Vascular Surgeon Dr. Gerry Chen completing blood vessel surgery on a 72-year-old accountant;
- Ophthalmologist, Dr. Patrick Ma, repairing a 56-year-old seamstress' retinal detachment;
- Plastic Surgeon Dr. Nick Carr reimplants a farm-worker's amputated hand.

Behind the scenes in all of these cases, members of the VGH Department of Anesthesia headed by Dr. Raymer Grant, provide patients with the specialized anesthetic care that's needed.

These teams can only remain at the forefront when the facilities and equipment they need is available to them, so they can keep pace with the today's and tomorrow's best practices. A new technological discovery, or a sudden mechanical failure can shift equipment priorities for any one of these medical teams. That is where your donations to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation have an impact.

Over the next few years an extensive fundraising campaign to upgrade the hospital's ORs will get underway.

The need for donor support to help a variety of areas of our hospital, including the ORs is very real.

By giving to the Best of Health Fund, you provide our hospitals with a flexible way to fund urgently-needed medical equipment and health care initiatives that are financially above and beyond what government can provide.

If you live in BC, chances are that you or someone close to you has had or will have an experience in one of the Operating Rooms at VGH. If having world-class health care at VGH is important to you, and you'd like to make a donation to the Best of Health Fund, please contact VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. Visit [www.worldclasshealthcare.ca](http://www.worldclasshealthcare.ca) or call 604.875.4676.

## Combined efforts equip hospitals

Sometimes in life, to get things accomplished, people band together and work towards a common purpose. The same thing can be said for philanthropy. The combined generosity of many donors recently helped VGH purchase an important new tool to diagnose lung cancers, infections and other diseases in the chest.

The equipment, an EndoBronchial Ultrasound System (EBUS), gives the Thoracic Surgeons at VGH – Drs. Ken Evans, Richard Finley and John Yee – one more powerful piece of life-saving equipment.

Said Dr. Evans, "We couldn't be more excited about what this means for our patients. The EBUS system gives us the world's best equipment to work with."

Many of the donors who played a role in this purchase responded to mailings for urgent hospital needs with one-time gifts such as \$150. Monies from the Foundation's monthly donors also contributed. Yet others cashed in stock, asking that the proceeds benefit the work of the Thoracic Surgery team. The Kin family of Kin's Farm Market, thought this was such an important piece of equipment for the Thoracic team that they generously donated \$50,000 towards it, and encouraged donations from others by offering to



Kin Wah Leung, Queenie Chu and Kin Hun Leung (from left to right) are part of a family who knows what a difference the right medical equipment can make. Their father is alive today thanks to the expertise of VGH medical teams and a special piece of equipment that diagnosed his cancer at a very early stage.

match their gifts. All of these generous acts were important in making the EBUS purchase a reality.

There are numerous opportunities for donors to contribute to urgently needed medical equipment and important research at VGH, UBC Hospital and GF Strong Rehab Centre.

A powerful way to help is to make a donation to the Best of Health Fund. This flexible funding source allows quick response to emerging priorities and needs, helping our hospitals stay on the leading edge of health care. To make a donation to the Best of Health Fund, visit [www.worldclasshealthcare.ca](http://www.worldclasshealthcare.ca) or call 604.875.4676.

## BMO donation making a difference



Representatives from BMO Financial Group including staff from the BMO Branch located at Broadway and Commercial, Community Health Services and VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation gathered recently in the BMO Financial Group Atrium at the Grandview Woodlands Community Health Centre to mark the occasion of the atrium's naming. Holding the cheque (from left to right) Rob Serraglio of BMO Bank of Montreal, Ron Dumouchelle and Barb McInnis, both of VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

Health care doesn't always start or end in hospitals. That's why a partnership exists between VGH, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehab Centre and Community Health Services in Vancouver – the services that link patients to the health care system beyond the hospitals' doors.

The recently-opened Grandview Woodlands Health Care Centre, at Commercial Drive and Broadway in Vancouver, is an important new initiative that's changing the way people access care in their neighborhood. At Grandview Woodlands, primary care services are provided to those of all ages, dental services are available to young children, and mental health and addiction services, as well as other health-related programs offered to those in need.

It's estimated that, every year, the 200 health care professionals working out of this unique centre will provide services to 90,000 babies, teens, adults and seniors.

As supporters of local initiatives that impact families, BMO Financial Group saw the difference it could make and is providing a \$750,000 donation to the Centre. Said Rob Serraglio, Senior Vice President, BC & Yukon Division, BMO Bank of Montreal, "We are committed to building strong communities and investing in programs that offer vital health care for diverse populations. Supporting this Centre, and improving access in this neighborhood was a natural fit for us."

Already, there are good news stories such as this one: a teenage mom brought her baby to the Centre for the Healthiest Babies Possible Program. While there, her behavior alerted a health care worker to the fact that the 17-year-old was experiencing suicidal tendencies. Because the Suicide Attempt Follow-up, Education and Research (SAFER) Program is also in the building, she was able to immediately speak to an expert about her situation and get counseling that helped both her and her young child.

Donor generosity is making a difference in people's lives today and will continue to do so in the future. More support, such as that demonstrated by BMO Financial Group, is needed. To make a donation towards Grandview Woodlands, please contact VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. Visit [www.worldclasshealthcare.ca](http://www.worldclasshealthcare.ca) or call 604.875.4676.

## VGH stands out with specialized care



There's something special about Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). Actually, there are many things that are special about it.

At VGH, healthcare teams treat almost every imaginable illness and condition. VGH is the hospital doctors around the province consult with or refer patients to when treatment or surgery is needed for serious situations such as stroke, complex cancers, traumatic spine injuries, or major burns, to name a few.

As a patient, your journey may start in Cranbrook, Prince George or Nanaimo, but it will lead to VGH if super-specialized medical treatment is required. Over 40 per cent of those cared for at VGH come from outside the Vancouver region.

VGH, and affiliates UBC Hospital and GF Strong Rehab Centre, helps thousands of adult patients annually. And, Vancouver's Community Health Services delivers exceptional health-care services outside hospital walls, complementing treatment provided there. People in British Columbia can take comfort in knowing that high-calibre care is available for them and their loved ones when needed.

We hope the stories in this edition of VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation's Community Report resonate with you. If they do, we encourage you to support our health care teams so they can continue to provide world-class health care.

Thank you,

*Ron Dumouchelle*

Ron Dumouchelle  
President and CEO  
VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation

## Please consider a donation to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation

One of the best ways you can show your gratitude for the exceptional care you or a loved one received at Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehab Centre or Community Health Services across Vancouver is by making a gift. For more information, or to make a donation, please visit [www.worldclasshealthcare.ca](http://www.worldclasshealthcare.ca)

VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation is a registered charity that raises funds for medical equipment, world-class research and improvements to patient care for the many specialized areas of care at VGH, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehab Centre, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and Community Health Services across Vancouver.

Consistent with Board Policy, a contribution from all designated donations goes to the Best of Health Fund to support the hospitals' most urgent priorities and the work of VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

This edition of VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation's Community Report is part two of a three-part series. Once published, all three editions will be available at [www.worldclasshealthcare.ca](http://www.worldclasshealthcare.ca).