



Health Sciences Centre  
**FOUNDATION**

# Foundation Connection

Innovating Together for Health Care

WINTER 2021



Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: PW112-700 William Ave. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 0Z3

## Changing by the Day

Thank you for your support of our COVID-19  
Crisis Response Fund

COVID-19. Never in our lifetimes have we seen a public health crisis of this magnitude and complexity. The coronavirus has taken lives, damaged the economy, and compromised our physical and mental health.

While the virus has proven to be unpredictable in its trajectory and impact, two things have been very predictable: the remarkable response of our colleagues on the frontlines at HSC; and the enthusiasm of our donors.

When it became clear last spring the pandemic would be with us for an extended period of time, we launched the COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund as a way to help HSC be nimble and resilient in caring for an onslaught of patients while working under new safety protocols.

The response from the community has been remarkable. At the time of writing, we have received 1,000 donations to the fund with more gifts being processed every day.

Because of this generosity, we have so far been able to invest \$1.3 million in HSC's battle against the coronavirus. The money has been used for new equipment in the hospital's Critical Care Unit, including 35 high-flow nasal cannula machines to keep people off of ventilators for as long as possible; ultra-violet disinfection units to sterilize items brought into the hospital; 21 end tidal modules that allow a patient's CO<sub>2</sub> to be measured from a safe distance; three new video laryngoscopes for intubation; meals for frontline health care workers; complimentary communications services for patients so they can connect with loved ones, and so much more.



HSC Foundation President & CEO, Jonathon Lyon, and Board Chair Tina Jones, O.M., pictured in 2019: "The response from the community has been remarkable."

We continue to raise funds for portable ventilators and fitness equipment for HSC's mental health program. And, undoubtedly, new needs will emerge even as the pandemic subsides.

The support has been tremendous, but not surprising. We have always been able to count on our donors to make generous gifts of all sizes to support specific, timely, and essential projects at Manitoba's hospital.

There is no question that your support of the COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund has saved lives. There is no question that your ongoing support will keep HSC nimble and resilient. And there is no question that your ongoing support will help us deliver tomorrow's health care, today. We thank you!

Stay safe!

**Tina Jones, O.M.**  
Board Chair

**Jonathon Lyon**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

# Memorable Final Moments

## Donor-funded tablets kept couple connected

The sound of a loved one's voice; a smile on a familiar face; the knowledge that a friend or family member will soon be in touch. That's what lights up these dark days—especially for patients at HSC Winnipeg who aren't allowed



*Pat and Dan Sernyk met in university and spent 52 years happily married before a stroke claimed Dan's life.*

visitors due to pandemic restrictions. For patients in HSC's intensive care unit, this light—both physically and metaphorically—comes from an iPad screen.

In the early days of the pandemic in Manitoba, donors to our COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund supplied HSC's ICU with iPads for patients like Dan Sernyk to remain in touch with loved ones.



*Dan Sernyk and his beloved dog, Daisy.*

Married for 52 years, Dan and Pat Sernyk were inseparable—from relaxing at their cabin, to travelling overseas, to sharing the same profession of teaching, they were never far apart until the spring of 2020. On May 7, 2020, Dan suffered an ischemic stroke that would ultimately claim his life.

“It happened so suddenly,” says Pat Sernyk. “The day before Dan's stroke was like any other day. We drove to Lockport, had lunch, fed the seagulls; we came home, Dan took our dog Daisy for a walk. I had no idea what the next day would bring—you never know where you will be tomorrow.”

The next day, and the following 11 days, proved to be the hardest of their lives. Two days after Dan's stroke, doctors discovered Dan was suffering from pulmonary problems—his oxygen levels had dropped, and he was

transferred from the stroke ward to the ICU where it was determined that Dan was palliative.

“It was incredibly hard to not be there with Dan—to not see him or advocate for him. When we used FaceTime, I could actually see how he was doing. I could also communicate directly with his caregivers,” says Sernyk. “I am so grateful to donors, as well as the staff and volunteers who took the time to hold the iPad for Dan—he'd never used an iPad before.”

Dan wouldn't be getting better or coming home to his beloved Pat and Daisy. Thanks to donors, third- and fourth-year medical students, along with HSC volunteers, Dan, Pat, and Daisy used the iPad to FaceTime twice a day during this painful stretch of time.

“Thanks to the iPad, Dan was able to say goodbye to his brothers, including his brother in Indianapolis, who wouldn't be able to fly in due to COVID-19,” says Sernyk.

**“Thanks to the iPad, Dan was able to say goodbye to his brothers.”**

**—Pat Sernyk**

The act of Dan communicating with the donor-funded iPads was a true testament to Dan's communicative, personable nature.

“When Dan was taking Daisy for a walk, he would playfully say: ‘If I am not back in 20 minutes, send out a search party.’ I would look out the window after 30 minutes and see that he was catching up with the neighbours and hadn't even left the driveway,” she says. “Communication was of utmost importance to Dan,” says Sernyk. “Those last precious days of his life were made so much more profoundly meaningful to us, thanks to the iPads and the Family Liaison Program at HSC.”



*Pat Sernyk's handmade log-book for nurses.*

**Your gift to the HSC Foundation's COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund will help save lives, change lives, and bring comfort to patients—and their loved ones—across Manitoba. Please make your gift at [hscfoundation.mb.ca](https://hscfoundation.mb.ca) or call 204-515-5612.**

# 3D Printing in the OR

TELUS Friendly Future Foundation invests in the big picture of health care for Manitobans

Joey\* never slept in. He didn't care about making it to the next level in a video game or how many followers he had online. At age 17, Joey had spent more time on the ice than he ever had celebrating birthdays with friends, holidays with family, or having anything that resembled a social life.

Joey didn't mind. Sacrificing his childhood for a chance to be drafted into the NHL was worth it—until his hockey game on February 9, 2019. Fifteen minutes into the game, a puck—whipped from a slapshot—cracked Joey in the head. Despite wearing a helmet, there was severe bleeding in his brain.

Emma loved her job. Being a school librarian was incredibly rewarding, but, even though she would never admit it, her job was getting harder to complete with her worsening arthritis—plus, Emma's retired husband had his heart set on migrating south during Manitoba's winters.

***“For brain injuries, we can now use CT scans to build a piece of custom titanium mesh that is the exact replica of what the patient is missing in their skull.”***

***—Dr. Christian Petropolis***

One month after handing in her retirement notice, and one week after purchasing a condo in Arizona, Emma learned that the ache in her jaw wasn't arthritis, but cancer.

Separated by decades and lifestyles, Joey and Emma share something in common: their gratitude for 3D printing in health care. Joey successfully had a piece of his skull replaced with titanium, while Emma had a portion of her jaw rebuilt. Thanks to 3D printers, surgeons can better treat patients with increased accuracy while spending less money—and time—in the operating room.

This past spring, TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, a foundation that contributes over \$8 million annually to Canadian charities, invested in the transformational results of 3D printing by making a \$100,000 gift to the HSC Foundation. This gift helps fund the essential research and development of 3D printing at HSC Winnipeg.



*A mesh titanium skull is created at HSC with 3D printers. “For brain injuries, we can now use CT scans to build a piece of custom titanium mesh that is the exact replica of what the patient is missing in their skull,” says Dr. Christian Petropolis.*

“For brain injuries, we can now use CT scans to build a piece of custom titanium mesh that is the exact replica of what the patient is missing in their skull,” says Dr. Christian Petropolis, plastic surgeon at HSC Winnipeg. “Because of 3D printing, we can now calculate exactly what segment of the body needs to be removed. Prior to using 3D printing, there was a lot of guesswork—it was hard to be accurate.”

Not only do 3D printers at HSC yield better results for patients, but the associated costs are much lower. For example, prior to 3D printers, Dr. Petropolis would have to outsource an implant for \$10,000—or more. Now, he can create the same implant in-house for around \$1,000–\$2,000.

“Here at HSC, we are doing the kind of work that would typically be outsourced. To have this rapid access to 3D printers is incredibly beneficial—not many hospitals have what we have here,” says Dr. Petropolis. “It’s a big deal to have in-house medical modelling and a 3D printing lab. I am grateful to have these funds that enhance the work being done at HSC.”

\*Cases in story are based on common examples.



# Building Bridges; Moving the Dial

## New position aims to elevate nursing research

In 2015, some nurses at HSC Winnipeg wondered whether the whiteboards near patient beds were communicating as effectively as they could be. The boards are intended to share information among health care providers, but also with patients and their visitors.

“We realized that the whole system was missing input from two key stakeholder groups—patients and their families,” says Dr. Diana McMillan, who was appointed HSC Clinical Chair in September 2020. “They hadn’t been asked how useful the boards were.”

***“We made small changes that made big differences for patients, but it took research to get us there.”***

***—Dr. Diana McMillan***

So, Dr. McMillan and her colleagues, with funding from the HSC Foundation, conducted a study involving interviews with 45 patients and family members that led to important and well-received changes in practice.

“We made small changes that made big differences for patients, but it took research to get us there,” says Dr. McMillan.

As Clinical Chair, a new position at HSC, Dr. McMillan aims to build bridges among academics, clinical nurses, and graduate students and create a culture where the observations and ideas expressed by nurses can evolve into meaningful, fundable research projects. The five-year role is one of only a few of its kind in Canada and was funded by the HSC Foundation’s Dolly and Michael Gembey Nursing Research Endowment Fund, HSC, and the College of Nursing at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.

Dr. McMillan earned her master’s degree in nursing from the University of Manitoba and her PhD at the University of Washington (Seattle). Much of her own research has been in the area of sleep.

“I have the opportunity to shape this role which is very exciting,” she says. “I want to help promote mentorship and build synergies among organizations so that we can shine a bright spotlight on the great work that nurses do



*Dr. Diana McMillan: “We are looking for ways to spread great nursing practice far and wide.”*

and on the importance of nursing research, which often goes under the radar.”

Dr. McMillan envisions ideas coming forward related to understanding sleep and delirium in the Critical Care Unit, offering patient-centred video-based health education at the bedside, building strong virtual care systems to improve access and support patients and families as they transition from hospital to the community, and helping patients to understand their role in assessment to better manage acute pain before it becomes chronic pain—all through the lens of nursing.

“Ultimately this is about moving the dial in patient care,” she says. “We are looking for ways to spread great nursing practice far and wide. The funding we have received through the HSC Foundation and its donors is instrumental in making this happen.”

***The HSC Foundation’s Dolly and Michael Gembey Nursing Research Endowment Fund was established by the Gembey family to honour Dolly Gembey’s distinguished nursing career at HSC. To learn more about establishing endowment funds at the HSC Foundation, please call 204-515-5612 or toll-free at 1-800-679-8493.***

# On the Frontlines of Virtual Care

## Canada Life donation seeds innovative research

Your 86-year-old mother is not feeling quite right. She's light-headed, her heartbeat is irregular, and she's getting frequent headaches. This has happened to her before. An adjustment in her blood pressure medication resolved it. She should see her doctor again, but it's cold and slippery outside. Getting around is difficult.

Your cousin lives an hour north of Thompson. His diabetic foot ulcer is acting up and he should probably see his specialist in Winnipeg. But it's an eight-hour drive which would be very painful for the foot that needs attention. He'll wait.

Sound familiar? It is true that access to care is often challenging and sometimes that prevents people from seeking the care they need. It is similarly true, though, that innovations in technology are making it possible for people to get the care they need without leaving their homes.



L-R: Jonathon Lyon, President & CEO, HSC Foundation; Debbie Down, Director, Community Relations, Canada Life; and Katerina Bleznitsky, Senior Program Manager, Community Relations, Canada Life, pictured at the November 2019 unveiling of the Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit, another HSC Foundation campaign supported by Canada Life.

***“We’ve learned a lot during COVID-19 about the importance of adapting and embracing virtual innovation.”***

***—Katerina Bleznitsky***

Thanks to a transformational investment by Canada Life, Manitoba researchers are learning how to best apply communications and remote monitoring technology through the Technology for Assisted Living initiative.

“We are very proud to be investing early in this work,” says Katerina Bleznitsky, Senior Program Manager, Community Relations at Canada Life. “Our purpose is to improve the financial, physical, and mental well-being of Canadians. We see the type of technology being explored through this initiative as instrumental in the future of health care. It aligns very well with what we’re all about.”

The Technology for Assisted Living campaign, a collaboration between the HSC Foundation and the University of Manitoba, seeks to raise \$3 million

to advance the work. The program will look at how telepresence robots can help seniors with cognitive impairment or mobility challenges stay at home for longer; how remote sensors can assess the mobility of people recovering from surgery; how video can be used to treat people who live far from HSC; how people can be diagnosed and monitored from home, and other possibilities.

“We’ve learned a lot during COVID-19 about the importance of adapting and embracing virtual innovation,” says Bleznitsky. “The Technology for Assisted Living initiative is a great example of that.”

***To learn more about the Technology for Assisted Living initiative or to make your gift, please visit: <https://www.hscfoundation.mb.ca/support/ways-to-give/technology-for-assisted-living/>.***

***To watch our video, visit: <https://bit.ly/HSCFvideoTAL>***

# Holiday Flight Results in Fight for Life

“The ER doctor told my sister to get the family together and prepare for the worst”

Carole Rickey has a fear of flying that doesn't have anything to do with heights.

On December 24, 2009, Winnipeg-born Rickey was flying from Port Moody, B.C., where she had been living and working for seven years, to Winnipeg for her annual Christmas visit with family when she caught strep A and double pneumonia on the plane.



*Carole Rickey's two-week holiday in Winnipeg turned into a six-month fight for her life.*

**“Dr. Embil gave my family hope.”**

—Carole Rickey

“I felt like I was coming down with the flu three days after landing in Winnipeg. I was able to celebrate Christmas and Boxing Day before deciding I should stay in bed to let the flu run its course,” says Rickey. “Thankfully, I was staying at my sister Judy’s home and she insisted on checking up on me.”

On December 28, Rickey’s sister found her semi-conscious in bed. Unable to wake her, Judy called 911 and Rickey was rushed to the closest ER, Seven Oaks General Hospital, in respiratory arrest.

“The ER doctor told my sister to get the family together and prepare for the worst—it wasn’t likely I’d make it through the night,” says Rickey.

Rickey had a trach tube surgically placed in her windpipe to assist her with breathing as her vital organs started to shut down, she was barely clinging to life.

After three days, the hospital called Dr. John Embil, Infectious Diseases Specialist at HSC Winnipeg, who, after consultation with ICU doctors, corrected the dosage and choice of antibiotics, ultimately saving Rickey’s life.



*Carole Rickey (front) with Dolly Gemby (far right)—Rickey's nursing mentor—and HSC Winnipeg operating room nurses at Rickey's farewell breakfast in 2002.*

“I started showing progress after they called Dr. Embil—

he gave my family hope,” recalls Rickey. Rickey’s two-week holiday in Winnipeg turned into a six-month fight for her life. Despite the long-term damage this infection caused, Rickey felt lucky to be alive.

“I am forever grateful that they called Dr. Embil for help—I owe my life to him,” says Rickey.

Rickey was later transferred to B.C.’s Eagle Ridge Hospital for further rehabilitation until early July. Unfortunately, the illness forced Rickey to retire prematurely. “Retiring was heartbreaking. I looked forward to going to work every day—it never felt like I was going to a job,” says Rickey.

Rickey, who worked as a nurse for over 35 years, began her storied career in health care at HSC in 1967 after graduating from the Operating Room Technician Program. She worked as an OR technician for 16 years in HSC’s operating room, specializing in plastic and reconstructive surgery, before pursuing her love of nursing by entering the HSC School of Nursing in 1980.



*Carole Rickey in 1999 with the graduating class of perioperative students from WRHA's Perioperative Nursing Program, which Rickey helped found.*

“One particular memory was being a part of the surgical team in the operating room when the FIRST kidney donor/transplant in Manitoba was performed at HSC. I was afforded so many, many great experiences at HSC, having witnessed first-hand the health care innovations that happen at HSC,” notes Rickey.

“As a nurse, I’ve witnessed death so many times. My experience with my own mortality didn’t teach me anything new; it enhanced what I already thought: take life one day at a time and live life to the fullest,” says Rickey.

**To help patients like Carole Rickey live their life to the fullest, please make a gift to the Lynne Ransby and Gerry Hodson Infectious Disease Research Fund. To contribute, please call the HSC Foundation at 204-515-5612 or toll-free at 1-800-679-8493.**



# An Impact for all Time

Bannatyne Legacy Circle members invest in future of Manitobans



Top L-R: Debra Faye Bausman; Katherine Klassen; Kevin McFadden; Gary Steiman. Bottom L-R: Dr. John B. (Ian) Sutherland; Mavis Taillieu; R.W. (Bob) Cunningham.

In true 2020 form, our third-annual Bannatyne Legacy Circle Celebration, presented by Johnston Group in partnership with Canad Inns, looked—and sounded—a little different. This year, we transitioned our in-person event to a celebration peppered with inspirational stories, nostalgic melodies, and noteworthy insights on the airwaves of CJNU 93.7 FM.

On November 29, 2020, seven special Manitobans joined the Bannatyne Legacy Circle, a community that is passionate and committed to improving health care in their province. These generous individuals come from all walks of life and share a desire to improve health care for all.

Please join us in welcoming members: R.W. (Bob) Cunningham, Debra Faye Bausman, Katherine Klassen, Kevin McFadden, Gary Steiman, Eva and Dr. John B. (Ian) Sutherland, and Mavis Taillieu.

Through their bequests, they are supporting the Health Sciences Centre Foundation in transformational and powerful ways by endowing a final gift to the Foundation.

“Our health care needs are constantly changing; what does not change is the need for philanthropists in our community,” says Jonathon Lyon, President & CEO, HSC Foundation. “The ripple effect of Bannatyne Legacy Circle members’ generosity is felt for myriad years to come, and we are forever grateful for their lasting commitment.”

Thanks to the support of our Bannatyne Legacy Circle members, HSC can continue to provide the absolute best in patient care to Manitobans for years to come.

To learn more about planned and legacy giving and the Bannatyne Legacy Circle, please contact Irma McKenzie at [imckenzie@hscfoundation.mb.ca](mailto:imckenzie@hscfoundation.mb.ca) or 204-515-5624. To hear the radio program or learn more about our 2020 members, please visit [hscfoundation.mb.ca](http://hscfoundation.mb.ca).

***The HSC Foundation Bannatyne Legacy Circle Celebration was presented by Johnston Group Inc. in partnership with Canad Inns, with additional support from Outstanding Branding, BelleFosh Signs, and CJNU 93.7 FM.***



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# Innovation HSC Radiothon



## Thank you, Manitoba!

Through your generous support of the Health Sciences Centre Foundation's Innovation HSC Radiothon on January 22, a record-breaking **\$219,338** was raised to help HSC advance innovation in health care.

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