



Foundation Connection

Delivering Tomorrow's Health Care, Today

SPRING 2025

From Paramedic to Patient: Donor-funded Equipment Brings Hope For a Better Future

Donor-funded navigation equipment gives options for life-changing surgery

Paramedic Deborah Rudney knew something was wrong the moment she and her partner lifted a stretchered patient into an ambulance in June 2022.

"I had pain right away," says Rudney, who lives in Gimli. "But we carried on and completed the call."

It was a devastating injury for Rudney, who was 57 years old at the time—not just because of the pain, but because it forced her out of a job she loved.

"You're in people's homes, you're in a ditch, and you sometimes have to work in awkward positions when you lift people—but I loved it," she says of the job she did for 18 years. "I always had a fascination with medicine and I loved helping people."

"Helping people is a huge passion of mine... I can help people by sharing my story with donors and potential donors to the HSC Foundation."

Rudney's back pain quickly intensified, and soon radiated down her side, her buttock, and her leg, all the way down to her heel and her toes.

"I couldn't work, couldn't ride my bike, couldn't kayak, I couldn't even walk very far," she said. **"Sleeping was hard, too. Every facet of my life was affected."**



Deborah Rudney: "So, while I can't physically respond to a patient's needs now, I think I can help people by sharing my story..."

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The Stryker Q-Guidance system and Ziehm intraoperative 3D imaging system work together to make spinal surgery more precise.

She learned early on from her doctors that she would have a very long wait for further assessment and any surgery she would need. While waiting, she took pain medications, did physiotherapy, and applied heat regularly. This all offered some relief, but not enough. She and her spouse started to examine options in the United States, and had an initial consult with a surgeon in Fargo.

And then, “out of the blue”, a call came from HSC that the assessment and surgery could happen, thanks to the recruitment of Dr. Jay Toor—a surgeon from Toronto who specializes in minimally invasive spine surgery—and the anticipated arrival of new navigation and imaging equipment funded by donors to the HSC Foundation’s Operation Excellence campaign. The equipment offers surgeons three-dimensional imaging and real-time visualization to support decision-making.

“I met with Dr. Toor and it became clear that I was a good candidate for the technique he used,” says Rudney. Surgery took place in July of 2024. Two rods and eight screws were used to fuse and stabilize her spine, and spacers were used between the vertebrae to relieve compression. The pain down her leg went away “more or less immediately,” she says.

Her injury was a complex one, likely compounded by years of job-related wear and tear. Some back pain persists and is being further investigated; it’s unclear whether Rudney will be able to return to the job she loved. Still, she is grateful for HSC, Dr. Toor, and for the donors who made acquisition of the navigation equipment possible.

“I haven’t shared my story with too many people. I don’t really like to talk about it,” says Rudney. “But helping people is a huge passion of mine. That’s why I became a paramedic. So, while I can’t physically respond to a patient’s needs now, I think I can help people by sharing my story with donors and potential donors to the HSC Foundation. I want to highlight just how much this new technology and the surgeons who use it make a difference for Manitobans. It brings hope for a better future!”



SCAN ME

*Operation Excellence makes a difference for health care in Manitoba for thousands of people. **Consider donating and being part of that difference today.***

HSC Foundation Welcomes Anita and Philip Lee, C.M., O.M., as New Bannatyne Legacy Circle Members

Bannatyne Legacy Circle members fund vital research and care at HSC, making a meaningful difference for generations to come

The HSC Foundation welcomes new members, Anita and Philip Lee, C.M., O.M., to the Bannatyne Legacy Circle, a community of donors dedicated to supporting HSC by leaving a final gift to the Foundation upon their passing.

Anita and Philip Lee, C.M., O.M., decided to support the HSC Foundation with a legacy gift as a heartfelt expression of gratitude for the care their family has received—from the birth of their children and grandson to treatment for a rare genetic condition.

The Lees have three adult daughters—Margaret (Maggie) Mona, Mabel Nancy, and Malinda Ann—all of whom were born at HSC. Grandson Philip, who lives in Winnipeg, was also born at HSC; and grandson Brandon lives in Toronto. In late 2024, a fourth grandson, Sam, was born at HSC Women's Hospital. Sadly, Anita and Philip's infant grandson Roy passed away in 2021.

HSC has played another significant role in the Lee family. Anita, two of the Lee daughters, and one of the grandsons have von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) syndrome, a rare genetic condition that can lead to frequent tumours. Sadly, Anita's sister passed away from this condition in 1980 before certain surgical procedures and early genetics screening were available. VHL also claimed two more of Anita's siblings and her father outside of the province.

Over the course of 30 years, now-retired neurosurgeon Dr. Michael West performed multiple life-saving brain surgeries on Anita, Maggie, and grandson Philip. Family members who carry the VHL gene continue to visit HSC regularly for monitoring and follow-up care.

"HSC is the leading health care facility in the province, and it has always had an enormous impact on people's lives. We have experienced this in our own family, and we are very grateful. Joining the Bannatyne Legacy Circle is our way of saying thank you," says Philip.



Anita and Philip Lee, C.M., O.M., joined the HSC Foundation Bannatyne Legacy Circle as an expression of gratitude for the life-saving care provided at HSC.

Anita and Philip Lee's decision to leave a legacy gift to the HSC Foundation is a heartfelt expression of gratitude for the life-saving treatments provided by HSC's dedicated staff. It also ensures that future patients will continue to receive the same exceptional care that has had such a lasting impact on their family.

By leaving a gift to the HSC Foundation in your will you are contributing to the future of health care, helping to support innovative research and patient care for generations to come. For more information, contact Irma McKenzie, Director of Gift Planning, HSC Foundation, at 204-515-5624 or imckenzie@hscfoundation.mb.ca.

Read more and watch a video about Anita and Philip Lee, C.M., O.M.,'s commitment to health care in Manitoba.



HSC's Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit Celebrates Five Years of Improving Care

Donor-funded initiative setting the standard for thoracic care in North America



Dr. Biniam Kidane, Medical Director of the Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit.



Dr. Gilly Akhtar-Danesh, Thoracic Surgeon at the Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit.



Dr. Sadeesh Srinathan, Professor and Head, Section of Thoracic Surgery at the Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit.

Since its opening in 2019, the Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit at HSC has revolutionized care for patients with lung cancer, esophageal cancer, and other thoracic conditions. **This donor-funded space stands as Canada's only consolidated thoracic surgery clinic and endoscopy unit.**

Funded by a \$3.275 million campaign led by volunteer Mavis Taillieu, in memory of her late husband Wilf, the clinic provides same-day referrals and biopsies for patients dealing with lung and esophageal issues. Prior to its establishment, patients often waited up to eight weeks for a diagnosis. Now, certain cancers can be diagnosed in as little as two weeks.

"In 2018, before the clinic opened, we had 7,283 clinic visits and performed 524 procedures. In 2023, we were able to accommodate 9,256 visits to the clinic and 1,275 procedures," says Dr. Biniam Kidane, Medical Director, Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit. "For many thoracic patients, the unit has enabled same-day procedures without any nights required in hospital. With quicker detection, more lives can be saved, and shorter wait times mean less distress and fewer

long visits to the Emergency Department. For some patients, the clinic's minimally invasive equipment provides a surgical option where none existed before."

The clinic's impact has been profound: it can handle about 10,000 appointments annually and has allowed for the expansion of HSC's thoracic surgery team from two to six surgeons.

With cutting-edge minimally invasive equipment and specialized staff, the clinic has helped reduce emergency room visits, cut wait times, and improve patient outcomes. Its innovative approach is setting a new standard for thoracic care and attracting top-tier surgical talent to HSC.

To support crucial updates at the Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit, please consider making a gift to support the Advancing Thoracic Surgical Care Fund at hscfoundation.mb.ca/donate.



SCAN ME

Read the recent Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit impact report.

Grateful for Everything

“For a while it didn’t look like she was coming home.”

At 76 years old, Barb McCulloch’s weeks are busy and full. Lunches out every Tuesday and Thursday, church every Sunday, winter weekends spent cheering on her husband Dan as he curls at the Fort Garry Curling Club.

And then there’s dialysis three times a week—every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at Health Sciences Centre. It’s a routine Barb has followed since 2014 when she was first diagnosed with kidney disease.

“You get to know everyone there. The patients, the nurses, the staff—we’re like one big family,” Barb says of the HSC Dialysis Unit. “The nurses are so helpful there. They take really good care of you.”

In 2020, a donated kidney became available and Barb underwent a transplant. Unfortunately, her body rejected the organ and what followed was a complicated five-month hospital journey that included five surgeries, three months in the Intensive Care Unit (including a period of intubation and an induced coma), and two months in a room as she recovered.



Barb McCulloch: “By donating, we are saying ‘thank you.’”

It was very disappointing that the transplant didn’t take, but we’re so grateful for the magic that happened afterwards.

“It was very disappointing that the transplant didn’t take, but we’re so grateful for the magic that happened afterwards. The care they provided was wonderful and they always kept me informed,” says Dan. “I have her home. For a while it didn’t look like she was coming home.”



Barb McCulloch receives dialysis at HSC three times a week.

Shortly after Barb was discharged, the couple decided to express their gratitude for the care she received—and continues to receive—by becoming donors to the HSC Foundation.

“They work so hard and provide such excellent care,” says Barb. “Dan and I were in good hands. By donating we are saying ‘thank you.’”

To support patients like Barb, the HSC’s health care staff, and continued excellence in health care, please make an online donation at hscfoundation.mb.ca/donate



Innovation HSC Radiothon Raises Record Funds for Health Care Advancements

The 2025 Innovation HSC Radiothon raised more than \$319,000 to support critical health care improvements at HSC Women's Hospital



(L to R): Dan Rolfe, President, Maric Homes; Jonathon Lyon, President & CEO, HSC Foundation; Tanya Maric, VP Operations, Maric Homes; and Andrea Senebald, Director of Partnerships & Major Gifts, HSC Foundation celebrate exceeding the event's fundraising goal.

The 19th annual Innovation HSC Radiothon, presented by Maric Homes, took place on January 17, and raised a **record-breaking \$319,002** for the HSC Foundation, with donations supporting equipment upgrades at HSC Women's Hospital and other priority needs at HSC.

Broadcast live from HSC Women's Hospital on 680 CJOB, the event featured inspiring stories from patients and health care professionals, underscoring the impact of community contributions.

This year, matching gifts totalling \$92,000 were provided by partners: Access Credit Union,

Arbor Memorial, Birchwood Automotive Group, Johnston Group, Just Like New To You, Manitoba pork producers, Payworks, and Winnipeg Kinsmen.

"The undeniable donor support during the Innovation HSC Radiothon shows how important coming together as a community is. It's humbling and inspiring to see so many people donate for the continued exceptional care at HSC. **On behalf of the Board, staff, and volunteers of the HSC Foundation, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this event,"** says **Jonathon Lyon, President and CEO, HSC Foundation.**



HSC Foundation Board Member Jackie Wild visits with the radio host during a segment at the 2025 Innovation HSC Radiothon.



Grateful patient and breast cancer survivor Karin Carlson discusses her experience undergoing treatment and reconstructive surgery at HSC with 680 CJOB host Jim Toth at the 2025 Innovation HSC Radiothon.

(L to R): Dr. Sarah Kean, Medical Lead of CervixCheck Manitoba; Dr. Amanda Morris, obstetrician and gynecologist specializing in pediatric and adolescent gynecology; and Dr. Devon Evans, Assistant Professor and Section Head, Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, Max Rady College of Medicine, at the 2025 Innovation HSC Radiothon.



Winnipeg Jets Bring a Power Play of Positivity

The Winnipeg Jets took a break from the ice to bring some holiday cheer to patients at HSC



Jets players pose for a photo with patients at HSC's Child and Adolescent PsychHealth unit.

On December 11, some Winnipeg Jets players took a break from their busy season to bring some holiday joy to the patients at HSC. Dressed in team jerseys and festive Santa hats, the players visited the HSC campus, including the Child and Adolescent PsychHealth unit. The players spent time with the patients signing autographs, posing for photos, and playing mini basketball and table tennis together.

The visit provided a much-needed break for patients and staff alike, creating lasting memories and showcasing the Jets' dedication to their community.



HSC patient, Greta, received a signed jersey from Mason Appleton.

To make your donation today, visit hscfoundation.mb.ca
or call 204-515-5612 or 1-800-679-8493 (toll-free).



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Health Sciences Centre Foundation

Phone: 204-515-5612 Toll Free: 1-800-679-8493
Email: info@hscfoundation.mb.ca Online: hscfoundation.mb.ca

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