



ADVANCING HEALTHCARE

Voice

Our Hospital. Our Community. Our Impact.

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TELL US WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU!

Win an iPad. See page 7 for details.

GIVE. INVEST. SAVE LIVES.

TheVicFoundation.ca



Victoria General Hospital
FOUNDATION
HEALTHIER FUTURES

OUR VISION:

Healthier futures for the people in our community.

OUR MISSION:

We are dedicated to advancing healthcare at the Victoria Hospital and in our community. We engage our community, health experts and other stakeholders to identify, support and fund innovations that enhance patient care and improve the health and well-being of our community.

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Don't miss the latest news!

Sign up for e-news and get updates on new research, upcoming events, health tips and more.

TheVicFoundation.ca



MESSAGE FROM THE VIC FOUNDATION

As you are aware, recent news has focused on the significant changes on the horizon for our hospital and community healthcare. The Vic Foundation understands that few things in life are more important than our health, and that of our families and friends.

For more than 45 years, we have been a leader in advancing healthcare at the Victoria Hospital and in our community, unwavering in our dedication to create healthier futures for us all. We have invested your generous donations in innovations that achieved a measurable impact on the health of the people in our community. Innovations that have saved lives, prevented disease and injury, and improved the quality of life and well-being.

And now, in this rapidly changing provincial healthcare landscape, we can continue to be a transformative force, shaping and advancing healthcare for the good of all people in our community. Together, we can continue to give, invest and save lives – building the continuum of care we will need tomorrow.

In this issue of The Vic Foundation Voice, we are excited to share a few stories about how your support is already making a difference, and invite you to help us prepare for the future by participating in our Community Survey. It is imperative that what is most important to you guides our investments in the future delivery of healthcare for our community.

Your dedicated support and partnership not only inspires us but shows us, time and time again, what can be achieved by working together. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the health of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Grant Shaw, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Charlene Rocke, Executive Director

Research Investment Leads to Better COPD Diagnosis Method

Researchers from the Victoria Institute of Clinical Research & Evaluation working in partnership with Dr. Francis Lin's Immunotrafficking Lab at the University of Manitoba and Seven Oaks General Hospital have developed a safe and more efficient method to diagnose Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

"This new method uses a microchip smaller than those found on a credit card with specially designed channels to test the interaction between white blood cells and mucus from the lower airways (sputum). COPD sputum contains factors that can attract white blood cells, and the level of motion can be used as a measure of COPD," says Dr. Susy Santos, Director of the Victoria Institute of Clinical Research & Evaluation.

"While the connection between cell migration and COPD has been known for many years, we have now developed a test that is simple and fast enough for clinical diagnosis," says Dr. Jiandog Wu, scientific author and collaborator.

The standard method for COPD diagnosis is known as spirometry, which tests how well the patient can breathe. According to Dr. Lin, the main limitation of spirometry is that it requires patient cooperation, which can be difficult for patients with severe conditions or who are unable to follow the procedures. Research shows that for patients diagnosed using the spirometry test, diagnoses were only correct half the time.

"The cell migration test is a more refined option since it assesses the disease at the cell function level," says Dr. Ke Yang, scientific author and collaborator. "This test can provide information to complement traditional methods for more accurate disease diagnosis and can help predict disease progression. The inexpensive and simple to perform method allows for better patient care and increased efficiencies."

A subsequent study measured the effectiveness of this test using an upgraded microchip and smartphone with

Research Spotlight:



Dr. Susy Santos, Victoria Hospital



Dr. Francis Lin, University of Manitoba



Dr. Ricardo Labato de Faria,
Seven Oaks General Hospital



University of Manitoba Research Team

specialized apps for analysis. This innovative system was used at The Vic and the Immunotrafficking lab to calculate cell migration distance in healthy participants and COPD samples.

"Smartphone-based systems offer new platforms for analysis and it is our vision that such systems have the potential to enable these tests for clinical applications," says Dr. Lin.

Dr. Santos says the team has a strong vision for the future success of this new method. "In the future, a self-test kit could be prescribed to the patient to be done at home," says Dr. Santos. "We believe this method will be successful in the diagnosis and monitoring of COPD and other diseases such as chronic kidney disease, diabetes and cancers in the years to come."

The highly-skilled team has presented and published their research internationally, in addition to being featured in a scientific press release.

COPD is a progressive disease that makes it difficult for sufferers to breathe. It is one of the most common lung diseases, with a patient's condition worsening over time as the disease progresses.

Since 2009, your gifts have enabled The Vic Foundation to invest over \$1.5 million in new research to advance healthcare. Your gift can help make the next breakthrough possible! Please donate online or by sending back the envelope inside.

[Donate](#)

Donor Spotlight:



Carl Pitura's Legacy

When Carl Pitura was diagnosed with cancer at age 70, he was shocked. Now cancer-free for 22 years, Carl recalls his journey with cancer and how that experience inspired his family to create an endowment at The Vic Foundation.

"For my family, establishing an endowment was a way to give something back and pay tribute to The Vic's Oncology team."

Endowment funds are a great way to pay it forward and make a lasting impact on the health of our families and our community. Funds can be created in your name, in honour of a loved one or in support of a specific purpose that's important to you like the Oncology Program is to Carl and his family.

To learn more about Carl's journey, please visit TheVicFoundation.ca



Thanks to the generosity of our endowment fund donors, The Vic Foundation awarded more than \$36,500 in scholarships and grants at our 2017 Endowment Reception. These awards helped to advance healthcare by providing unique educational opportunities to healthcare professionals working in our hospital and community.

To pay it forward and build your own legacy, please contact us at 204-477-3513 or visit TheVicFoundation.ca

[Donate](#)

\$23,000 increases patient safety and surgical efficiencies

Thanks to the generosity of a special longtime donor, The Vic Foundation has invested \$23,000 in an upgraded camera system for use in minimally invasive surgeries. This leading-edge technology provides high-definition images which help improve patient safety through enhanced visualization. The innovative camera system also increases staff efficiency by aiding their ability to identify images.

"The Vic is a center of excellence for minimally invasive surgery and this specialized equipment helps to keep us at the forefront of innovation," says The Vic's Acting Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director of Surgery Dr. David Hochman. "This state-of-the-art equipment will benefit all surgical specialties that perform laparoscopic surgery at The Vic."

This specialized camera equipment is the latest addition to The Vic's minimally invasive surgical suites. With the support of donors, The Vic Foundation has invested more than \$1 million in state-of-the-art upgrades to two surgery suites. The benefits of minimally invasive surgery include less pain, fewer complications and faster recovery times.



Help The Vic lead the way
in minimally invasive surgery! You can advance
healthcare by donating online or sending back
the envelope inside.

[Donate](#) ❤

\$100,000 for Phase 2 Upgrades to Medical Units

The Vic Foundation will be investing \$100,000 in new furnishings on the 5th floor Medicine Units to ensure the environment is as comfortable as possible for patients and families. These enhancements include new chairs, bedside tables and overbed tables and will result in better and safer spaces for patients and families.

These upgrades follow a major makeover to the 5th floor earlier this year, where it was transformed into a more welcoming and restorative environment through bright light, new flooring and fresh paint.

To learn more, please visit
TheVicFoundation.ca



Check out our new website!

Visit TheVicFoundation.ca to find out how your gifts are advancing healthcare at The Vic and in our community. Sign up for e-news and learn more about upcoming events, new research, healthy living and more.

Now you have the freedom to go anywhere! GoSafe with the next generation of Victoria Lifeline help buttons.

Bernie Krahn, 66, took the bus down to the Victoria Lifeline office with one thing in mind – “[When can I get the new GoSafe mobile help button?](#)” Living with a chronic medical condition, Bernie uses a motorized wheelchair to get around. A retired long-haul trucker, Bernie spends his days volunteering at Winnipeg Harvest and doesn’t want anything slowing him down. “[When I found out I could go anywhere in Winnipeg with GoSafe and get help if I needed it, that was big for me. I had to have it.](#)”



Bernie isn’t the only one who couldn’t wait to use GoSafe. Victoria Lifeline quickly ran out of stock after they first launched the new mobile service in April. “[There’s really high demand for the technology,](#)” Communications Officer Krystal Simpson noted, “[Every time we order more buttons, they fly off the shelf.](#)” GoSafe features six advanced location technologies, fall detection and two-way voice communication with the Victoria Lifeline Response Centre – at the touch of a button. GoSafe automatically transitions from in-home coverage to on the go, giving clients the confidence to continue living life to the fullest.

Staying active and socially connected are key components to any healthy aging strategy. Health Canada lists physical activity as one of the determinants of healthy aging, urging older adults to engage in regular exercise. The GoSafe mobile service can give individuals like Bernie the confidence to remain active knowing the button is designed to accurately identify location and quickly find them if they need help*. Bernie travels by bus to and from Winnipeg Harvest and wanted the safety and protection of a mobile help button.

Before signing up, Bernie even took the Lifeline brochure to his doctor to talk it over. He wanted to make sure this was the right button for him. So far... it's two big thumbs up! “[I’ve had no problems with the service at all,](#)” he remarked.

Krystal said clients can use the button right across Canada and they recently installed the service for a woman who travels to see her daughter in Hamilton twice a year. The client loved the idea of being able to use the button wherever she goes.

GoSafe is right for people of all ages and abilities, especially during our cold Manitoba winters. With automatic fall detection built right into the button, it’s an added layer of protection for people as they negotiate icy sidewalks during the winter months. “[GoSafe gives people the peace of mind to go out and enjoy life,](#)” Krystal said. “[The response so far has been fantastic.](#)”

* Lifeline may not always be able to determine location, the service relies on cellular network availability and coverage.

New Service

To learn more about the technology behind this groundbreaking new service, please visit VictoriaLifeline.ca or call 204-956-6777.



TELL US WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU!

We're Listening...

The Vic Foundation invites you to participate in our Community Survey. Tell us what causes are important to you. You can impact how we advance healthcare delivery in our community to better meet your needs.

and your unique opinion matters to us!

We welcome people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures. Complete the survey before October 1, 2017 and in appreciation for your time, you will be entered for a chance to win an iPad.

It only takes a few minutes – go to TheVicFoundation.ca/CommunitySurvey



Mark Your Calendars

The Garden Party September 14, 2017

Enjoy the tastes of Italy! Wander through our award-winning Miracle Garden while tasting exceptional wine, indulging in themed food stations and listening to a variety of musicians. Proceeds support the Buhler Cancer Centre Solarium.



For more info or to reserve tickets, please call 204-477-3513 or visit TheVicFoundation.ca.

Blue Bombers Night September 22, 2017



Watch the game against the Ottawa Redblacks from section 233 while supporting a great cause! Order your \$37 ticket at BlueBombers.com/vic2017 using the promo code **VIC2017** and a portion of the proceeds will support Mental Health programming at The Vic.

Photo credit: Dave Darichuk

Get Involved with The Vic

The South Winnipeg Patient Voice Committee is looking for new members for Fall 2017! Share your unique perspective as a patient, client or family member on a variety of care issues, initiatives and strategies as a member of this volunteer committee. For more information, please call 204-477-3419.



Donate Now 

Advance Healthcare so it's there when we need it!

We want our loved ones to have access to the best possible care at The Vic and in our community. Every dollar you give supports healthier futures for us all. 100% of your gift is invested in vital healthcare innovations that enhance patient care, prevent disease and injury, and improve the overall health and well-being of our community.

Give. Invest. Save Lives.

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 foundation@vgh.mb.ca

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