

REPORT ON **Your Support**

Fall 2003



His Royal Highness, Edward, Earl of Wessex (at left) practices his skills in minimally invasive surgery under the watchful eye of UHN Surgeon-in-Chief Dr. Bryce Taylor

A Visit From Royalty

Continuing a proud history of supporting hospitals around the world, His Royal Highness, Edward, the Earl of Wessex, visited the new Clinical Services Building at Toronto General Hospital on June 23, 2003.

The tour began in the Robert R. McEwen Atrium, where His Royal Highness was introduced to Robert and Cheryl McEwen, members of the Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation Board of Directors and other invited guests.

Dr. Bryce Taylor, UHN Surgeon-in-Chief, gave His Royal Highness a hands-on tour of the state-of-the-art Surgical Centre, demonstrating some techniques in minimally invasive surgery. After trying it out himself, His Royal Highness earned an honorary technical skills award for his surgical proficiency.

The last stop of the tour was the Patient Court where His Royal Highness met many of the staff. After receiving a gift of hospital scrubs for himself and his wife, the Countess of Wessex, His Royal Highness praised donors for their vision in supporting the hospital.

"I do very much hope that this new Centre will be well-used and appreciated by the community," said the Earl of Wessex.

Celebrating a Great Family's History of Support

Friends and members of the Eaton Family gathered at Toronto General Hospital on October 9 to celebrate the re-dedication of the John David Eaton Building that opened 22 years ago.

Present were Timothy Eaton's two great-grandsons John Craig and Fredrik (Thor and George were unable to attend).

Janet Beed, Vice President and COO of Toronto General Hospital, presented the brothers with a special montage depicting the rich history of the Eaton family and the Hospital.

In acknowledging the Eatons' support, President and CEO of Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation Tennyson Hanson said, "The Eaton family has fostered Toronto General Hospital in a way that will endure for years to come. They have been generous and they have been leaders – and for that we express our deepest thanks."



Standing in front of the re-dedicated John David Eaton Building, from left to right are John D. Eaton, Sally Eaton, John C. Eaton, Nicki Eaton, Fredrik S. Eaton and Fredrik D. Eaton

Did you know...

Toronto Western Research Institute scientists Dr. Jonathan Brotchie, Dr. Peter Carlen, Dr. Robert Chen and Dr. Anthony Lang captured two of only five grant awards announced by the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. The researchers competed for the awards with 37 applicants from seven countries.

Putting teamwork and passion to work

Introducing 'Support a Scientist'

"Support a Scientist is an opportunity to bring our donors together with the best and brightest young investigators. It delivers nothing less than the potential to cure disease and restore quality of life for countless patients in Canada and beyond."

Bryce W. Douglas, Chair, Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation

Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation is introducing a new program for donors interested in supporting research. "Support a Scientist" is a new initiative that matches donors with promising research scientists.

Donors know that our hospital-based research institutes, Toronto Western Research Institute (TWRI) and Toronto General Research Institute (TGRI) are the professional homes to some of the best researchers anywhere. These individuals have been selected from universities and medical centres around the world – many are expatriates lured back to Canada by the collaborative research environment of University Health Network.



'Support a Scientist' is a strategic way to invest in research

How 'Support a Scientist' works

When you support research, you need to see that your gifts make a difference. Through our Support a Scientist program, your contribution goes to a scientist of your choice – one whose projects are of particular interest to you – to cover that individual's salary, plus laboratory, equipment costs and the recruitment of support staff. Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation facilitates the who, what, when, where and how of your support – keeping you up to date and a partner in the exciting progress of a top-flight scientist.

Partners in medical discovery

When you Support a Scientist, you meet the face behind the search into the cause and prevention of disease and you get to know the curious mind and caring individual driving the exploration of innovative treatments. In turn, your commitment advances medical research that can impact millions of people in Canada and around the world. For more information on how you can 'Support a Scientist', please contact Carole Chabot at (416)-340-3914.

Thanks to our Partners Introducing Two New Scientists



Jonathan Brotchie PhD,
Krembil New Scientist, TWRI

Parkinson's Breakthrough

New recruit **Dr. Jonathan Brotchie**, from Manchester, England, is a powerful complement to the outstanding clinical and research expertise in Parkinson's disease for which Toronto Western Hospital has drawn international acclaim. As principal investigator in a recent landmark study, Dr. Brotchie has identified a brain chemical that influences the activity of the 'sub-thalamic nucleus' – a small area of the brain that controls movement. An insufficient amount of this chemical, which plays a crucial role in cell-to-cell communications, contributes to the uncontrolled movements typical in Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Brotchie's significant find proves that Parkinson's disease is not only attributable to low dopamine levels. "This disease has many faces, so there is a greater chance of finding several cures," he says. "Our discovery will allow a more focused approach for treating Parkinson's – one that just targets the malfunctioning areas of the brain. Medications currently used to treat the disease affect cell communication chemicals throughout the brain."

Dr. Brotchie is the first researcher to be supported by the Krembil New Scientist Fund, which supports exceptional research in neuroscience.

Partner: The Krembil Foundation

New Scientist for Artists' Health Centre

Dr. David Cassidy brings a wealth of expertise in anatomy, pathology, surgery, musculoskeletal and traumatic brain injury, biostatistics and rehabilitation. A senior scientist who combines his interest in chiropractic with research, Dr. Cassidy's chief



David Cassidy PhD,
Al & Malka Green Senior Scientist in Artists' Health, TWH

focus is epidemiology – the study of health, control of health problems and health-related outcomes in the population. Epidemiological studies look at the associations between risk factors and how they affect the population.

Dr. Cassidy is supported through the generosity of Al & Malka Green. The Al & Malka Green Artists' Health Centre – the first of its kind in the world – offers a comprehensive approach to improving health treatments for creative artists and performers. Dr. Cassidy is investigating the incidence of types of muscle pain (in the low back, for example) in the population and how these pains are associated with health and socio-economic factors. He is also spearheading a project on neck pain and its related disorders.

In addition to musculoskeletal epidemiology, Dr. Cassidy is also researching the physical, social and economic consequences of traffic accidents, exploring how resultant pain and injury affect a patient's quality of life and what factors reduce suffering and speed recovery.

Partners: Al & Malka Green





Dr. Rod Bremner, left, demystifies genetic mutation for an inquisitive audience in one of the Vision Science Research Program laboratories.

Behind the Scenes at the Western

Tour guests enjoy a firsthand look

Twenty-first century donors are sophisticated, curious and focused – as demonstrated on October 22, when a cohort of enthusiastic guests and Banting Society members toured research laboratories at Toronto Western Hospital. The second in a series of planned tours, visitors were invited into labs where scientists are exploring Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, musculoskeletal disorders, eye cancer, multiple sclerosis and stroke.

On-hand to field questions and share information about their current research projects were Dr. Elizabeth Badley, Dr. Rod Bremner, Dr. Phil Ellison; and Dr. Jonathan Brotchie and Dr. David Cassidy (two new recruits featured in this issue).

These individuals – with their 90-plus colleagues at TWRI – share a high profile on the international stage of research, publishing in high-impact scientific journals, lecturing around the world and attracting prestigious grants from agencies in Canada and the U.S.

A look into their labs revealed another dimension in the lives of these dedicated researchers. Visitors were impressed by their passion for basic science, so fundamental to revolutionary treatments. Whether for a new drug, an innovative intervention, a more cost-effective therapy or hard-won biomedical statistics, the zeal these researchers have for their science is palpable.

"Researchers are the explorers of the 21st century. Their innate curiosity takes them on a lifelong quest for adventure and – like true explorers – they claim new horizons through their scientific discoveries," said Dr. Catherine Zahn, Vice President, University Health Network and COO, Toronto Western Hospital.

The Foundation thanks all those who attended the tours. Please tell your friends and colleagues to join us at the next *Behind the Scenes!*

Retinal disease research leads to a new treatment that restored this young mother's sight



A routine eye exam alerted Tammy Gunter to a condition she had feared all her life – diabetic retinopathy. Insulin dependent from an early age, Tammy learned that vessels in her retinas were swollen and threatened to leak blood into the inner chambers of her eyes. She was 29 years old.

In spite of laser treatments to halt the abnormal vessel growth, the problem persisted. Tammy's vision was badly blurred and when she became pregnant, her eye specialist knew this would make the retinopathy worse. He referred her to Dr. Robert Devenyi, Ophthalmologist-in-Chief and Director of Retinal Services at Toronto Western Hospital.

Towards the end of her pregnancy Tammy's left eye hemorrhaged, leaving her with only blurred vision in the right eye and the shattering threat of blindness. In February 2002, she gave birth. "After Sam was born, my right eye hemorrhaged which was extremely stressful. I could hardly see and I was really scared," Tammy recalls.

Dr. Devenyi restored Tammy's sight by performing a vitrectomy on each eye. After draining the blood, he introduced a saline liquid that exerted enough pressure on the leaking vessels to seal them off. Gradually Tammy's retinas healed – and by the time Sam took his first steps, Tammy could see clearly again.

Tammy's appreciation is heartfelt. "I'm so grateful for the Vision Program at the Western – without it, I wouldn't be able to see my son," she says.

Keeping A Legacy Alive

Paul Helliwell was a thoughtful man. A long-time supporter of Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation, he supported many programs at Toronto General Hospital as well as the University of Toronto. After his death in November 2001, his wish to help people would live on with the establishment of the Paul B. Helliwell Foundation.

Mr. Helliwell's intention to support higher education and health care will continue with the creation of the Paul B. Helliwell Centre for Medical Education at Toronto General Hospital. The Centre will be the new home of the Wightman-Berris Academy – a major teaching academy within the Faculty of Medicine at University of Toronto.

Thanks to this gift, students in health professions will benefit from the latest technology in education, including wireless technology and superb audiovisual capability to provide a teaching setting as close to "real-world" as possible.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Paul B. Helliwell Foundation, this Centre will modernize and facilitate the way our medical students are taught," says UHN Vice President, Education, Dr. Richard Reznick. "His name will always be associated with excellence in education."

The Gift Planning Program at Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation provides a variety of giving options that allow donors flexibility in supporting leading-edge research and care – both now and for the future. If you would like more information on these different ways of giving, please contact Paul Grossman, Major Gifts Officer, at (416) 340-4854.



Shopping for Heart at Hazelton Lanes

Hazelton Lanes "Heart of the Holidays" Shopping Event

Join us on December 2, 2003 for an exclusive evening of fashion and fundraising at Hazelton Lanes.

Fifty unique lifestyle stores – from fashion, home décor to health services – will offer special discounts, exclusive incentives and gift with purchases for event shoppers.

Need a break from shopping? Enjoy the live entertainment, cocktails and food. Or take part in the silent auction, with items donated from various Hazelton Lanes retailers.

Hazelton Lanes will donate a portion of the total retail sales from this event to heart research through the Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation.

To purchase tickets for this event, please contact Marni Mackenzie at the Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation at (416) 340-4800 ext.6279.

Andrew's Coat Sale: Wonderful Coat – Worthy Cause

Andrew's, an exclusive women's clothing store at Hazelton Lanes and Bayview Village, has teamed up with outerwear designer Dominic Bellissimo to support heart research at Toronto General Hospital.

On October 9 Andrew's hosted a reception to showcase Bellissimo's luxurious shearling coats – including styles only available by special order – and to unveil his new home collection to the public. Known for his attention to detail, style and quality workmanship, Bellissimo is a respected designer and a celebrity favourite.

The afternoon was highlighted by the silent auction where guests bid on an original, hand-painted, full-length goatskin shearling coat by Bellissimo, valued at \$6995.

"Andrew's is a destination for coats. This is our chance to give back, to participate in the community and to work together with Toronto General Hospital. Most importantly, this is an opportunity to raise awareness for a very worthy cause," said Darren Mason, President of Andrew's.

In addition to the proceeds from the silent auction, Andrew's will donate a percentage of all its coat sales throughout the month of October to cardiac research. By supporting research, Andrew's is helping the cardiac specialists at Peter Munk Cardiac Centre save, sustain and improve lives of heart patients around the world.



A wonderful coat – Dominic Bellissimo (left) with a model wearing his showpiece creation.

University Health Network Foundation (U.S.) Inc.

Making giving easier for friends in the United States

Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation has established the University Health Network Foundation (U.S.) Inc.

The Foundation will accept charitable gifts from the public on behalf of the world leading programs at Toronto General Hospital and Toronto Western Hospital, including its research and educational initiatives.

The University Health Network Foundation (U.S.) Inc. will issue tax receipts and benefits the same as those provided by other U.S. charities. It is a tax exempt charitable organization as described under Internal Revenue Code 501(c) (3).

There are many ways to give, from cash donations to bequests and securities.

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upcoming events

November 22, 2003

The Supper Club At Design Exchange
Proceeds to Heart & Circulation, Neural & Sensory Science and Transplantation

For more information, contact Marni Mackenzie at 416-340-4800 ext 6279

December 2, 2003

Heart of the Holidays
Presented by Hazelton Lanes
Proceeds to Heart & Circulation

January 29 2004

Annual Nursing Scholarship Tea, TGH

February 10 2004

Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation Board Meeting, TGH

March 2004

A Night to Celebrate
Proceeds to colon cancer research, education, equipment and clinical care, TGH

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Together We Make Life Better

Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation
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