

# REPORT ON **Your Support**

Fall 2005

TORONTO GENERAL & WESTERN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION NEWS



## Muscles, Bones, Joints and Answers



*Dr. Nizar Mahomed, Director, Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Program, (right) speaks to Frederick Banting Society members Dorothy and Bruce Wells, guests at the October "Behind the Scenes" tour at Toronto Western Hospital.*

What is the most often reported reason for seeing a doctor? Or the second most often reported reason for needing medication? If you guessed bone and joint disorders for both you are right. Every year specialists at Toronto Western Hospital's Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Program (MHA) treat over 127,000 patients who suffer these types of aches and pains.

Musculoskeletal disorders, such as osteoporosis, and arthritis are the leading cause of long-term health problems in Canada, affecting one in five people and costing over \$32 billion a year. Our population is aging – one-third of Canadians over 65 will need treatment for these disorders, according to the Arthritis Community Research and Evaluation Unit of MHA. This Unit is working with Health Canada to evaluate the financial burden of arthritis and the nationwide provision of health services to meet the escalating needs. The World Health Organization has named 2000-2010 the Bone and Joint Decade for good reason.

The greatest strength of the Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Program is that it brings highly skilled subspecialties together to deliver the best care from first consultation to complete recovery – literally head to toe excellence.

The rheumatology division is the flagship in Canada and known around the world for its research and clinical care. The Rheumatology Unit, where patients with some of the most complex forms of rheumatism are treated, is the only unit of its kind in Canada. The orthopaedic surgery division provides complex joint replacements, foot and ankle care, fracture repair and minimally invasive reconstructive surgery to patients from across Ontario, including elite athletes, dancers and patients in under serviced northern regions. The hand program is another provincial leader – a multidiscipline team treats traumatic injuries to the hand and forearm with extremely complex surgery and follow-up physiotherapy.

Solid emphasis on preventative care, ground-breaking research and education has created the potential for MHA to be the premier program of its kind in North America. Visit [www.uhn.ca/programs](http://www.uhn.ca/programs); for more information about the MHA Program, please contact Andrew Wilkins, Development Officer, at (416) 603-5800, Ext. 4059 or [andrew.wilkins@uhn.on.ca](mailto:andrew.wilkins@uhn.on.ca)

### Finding the Answers

The cause of many diseases and disorders of the human musculoskeletal system remains a mystery. Your gifts help these research scientists aiming to find the answers.

**Dr. Elizabeth Badley**, Head, Division of Outcomes & Population Health, Toronto Western Research Institute, studies what factors influence arthritis in specific populations.

**Dr. Simon Carette**, Director, Division of Rheumatology, UHN and Mount Sinai Hospital, researches soft tissue rheumatism including fibromyalgia.

**Dr. Angela Cheung**, Director, Osteoporosis Program, UHN, recently introduced, for the first time in Canada, a treatment that stimulates new bone formation.

**Dr. Rod Davey**, Head, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, UHN, is exploring the use of artificial implants for total replacement of damaged hips and knees.

**Dr. Brent Graham**, Director, Hand Program, UHN, specializes in highly complex, reconstructive microsurgery of the hand and forearm.

**Dr. Nizar Mahomed**, Director, Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Program, UHN, directs the Total Joint Network, a partnership aiming to provide a Toronto-wide, integrated model of care for joint replacement surgery.

### Did you know...

**Every 10 minutes** of every day in Canada, someone new seeks help for impaired vision. Clinician scientists at Toronto Western Hospital are probing for answers to damaging eye diseases.

*See story inside.*

# Seeing is Believing

*Of all our senses, sight is perhaps the most shattering to lose. More than 90% of our knowledge is obtained through our eyes and when sight fails, social isolation and loss of independence can severely affect quality of life.*

The Vision Program at Toronto Western Hospital (TWH) receives more patients suffering complex conditions like glaucoma, corneal and retinal diseases, and eye cancer, than anywhere else in Canada. In fact, it ranks among the top five vision programs in North America.

## Equipment and technology vital to success

Complicated vision problems need sophisticated instruments for early and accurate diagnosis. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Vision Program has recently purchased a Digital Fundus Camera to photograph the inside, or fundus, of the eye. Essential for the treatment of retinal diseases, it allows specialists to study nerves and blood circulation as no other camera can. Also new is an Ophthalmic Ultrasound machine – cutting edge technology for examining blood vessel damage in the inside chamber of the eye.

## Poised for exciting growth

With the opening of the spacious East Wing at TWH in early 2005 – an entire floor is devoted to vision – brand new vision clinics are just steps away from the vision research labs. “This arrangement greatly enhances the process of turning research discoveries into improved treatments,” says Dr. Devenyi, Ophthalmologist-in-Chief and Director of Retinal Services, UHN.

As Canadians get older, more and more are experiencing some degree of vision loss. The Vision Program needs your on-going support to continue to treat the volume of patients welcomed each year – 60,000 and rising. For more information on how you can help, please contact Andrew Finn at (416)-603-6498 or [andrew.finn@uhn.on.ca](mailto:andrew.finn@uhn.on.ca)

*New mother Tammy Gunter, here with her son, Sam, suffered from severe diabetic retinopathy towards the end of her pregnancy. Delicate eye surgery performed at TWH, restored her sight. For Tammy's story, [click here](#).*



*Diabetes can result in a retinal disease known as diabetic retinopathy – where blood vessels in the retina become damaged and sight is severely blurred, as shown above.*



## The Frederick Banting Society

CONTINUING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

### MEMBERS CORNER

Dr. Frederick Banting's discovery of insulin changed medical history. His legacy of achievement lives on in the Frederick Banting Society (FBS). Members support research, equipment and education that helps to restore health and quality of life to thousands of patients at our hospitals.

#### Renew your FBS membership this January!

The beginning of the year is the time to renew. Society members play a vital role – as an FBS member, *your yearlong partnership makes an essential contribution that our hospitals depend upon.*

A growing number of our supporters are choosing to make monthly donations through our Circle of Life Monthly Giving Program. It's so easy and convenient – and for as little as \$10 a month, *you automatically become an FBS member!* (FBS members give from \$100 to \$24,999 in a calendar year).

*TG&WHF thanks all of our FBS members for their invaluable support.*

Make it a life-giving New Year. For more information please call 416-340-3935 or email [foundation@uhn.on.ca](mailto:foundation@uhn.on.ca)

**Front Cover:** Over 80 FBS members toured 'Behind the Scenes' at Toronto Western Hospital on October 25, 2005. Six specialists in orthopaedic surgery, osteoporosis, rheumatology, epidemiology and arthritis were on hand to share their experience.

“Many of us know someone who suffers from joint, rheumatic or arthritic pain,” says Anita Nielsen, Director, Community Development & Relations, “We were thrilled to host a tour about the research and clinical activity related to these conditions.”

**NEW feature:** The FBS Member Highlight will introduce some of our wonderful members who help continue a tradition of excellence. In this issue, meet Marianne Oundjian...

### FBS MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Of all the losses in Marie Altiparmakian Rosen's life, losing her vision was the hardest. Diagnosed with macular degeneration in her 60's made things difficult. Seeing that, Marie's granddaughter, **Marianne Oundjian**, decided to set up a fund in her grandmother's name. Marianne has been a Frederick Banting Society member for several years and knew her grandmother would want to support vision research at Toronto Western Hospital. At Marie's funeral in 1995, the Marie Altiparmakian Memorial Fund was started and through generous donations from her friends and family, continues to support important vision research.



M A R I A N N E O U N D J I A N

# Meet Marcia Rosenberg

*"My life started to flash before my eyes and I was terrified I was going to lose it."*

It was a busy Saturday morning in December 2004 when 66 year-old Marcia was rushed to the Emergency Department at Toronto Western Hospital suffering from a sudden, acute stroke.

Within the first hour of arrival, Marcia was assessed and a clot-busting drug was administered. She also had both an angiogram and an MRI and was diagnosed in lightening time. Very few hospitals have the resources to act this fast, which is why Toronto Western Hospital is one of only three designated Regional Stroke Centres in all of Ontario.

Thankfully, Marcia is now fully recovered. "The care I received was outstanding. The doctors and the emergency staff at the Western were just wonderful."

Marcia survived a serious stroke – the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of disability in Ontario. Specialists at TWH have the ability to rapidly provide the latest treatments, saving lives and increasing the possibility of full recovery from stroke.

"It is hard to believe that not too long ago,

stroke was considered an untreatable disease that often left patients disabled for life," says Dr. Frank Silver, Director, Stroke Program, UHN. "Over the last decade we have learned both how to prevent stroke and how to treat it. We are very fortunate to have a system of stroke care in Ontario that is one of best in the world."

You can meet more patients who have generously allowed us to share their stories by visiting [www.tgwhf-uhn.ca](http://www.tgwhf-uhn.ca)



*Marcia Rosenberg with her grandchildren*

## Grand Cru Grand Slam



*Todd Halpern gets the bidding going at the Grand Cru Live Auction.*

The Grand Cru Culinary Wine Festival, held on October 27, 28 and 29, was an incredible success, raising over \$1.5 million and drawing 1400 wine lovers from across Ontario and parts of the United States. All proceeds raised support scientists' research at Toronto General Hospital and Toronto Western Hospital.

"We're extremely grateful to fellow Board member Todd Halpern for bringing his idea to reality," says David Smith, Chair, TG&WHF Board of Directors. "He has given extraordinary leadership, determination, imagination and enthusiasm to Grand Cru." The Foundation also thanks the many participants who contributed - among them, donors who generously hosted private dinners in their homes.

"Matching the right wine to the right meal to the right philanthropist to the right scientist was an exciting challenge," says Todd, President, Halpern Enterprises and Chair of the Grand Cru Committee. "It's been tremendous fun - and the cause made it all worth it."

## Donation web pages to help you fundraise

The Foundation can quickly and easily create personalized donation web pages for anyone wishing to raise funds for Toronto General Hospital and Toronto Western Hospital.

The pages are accessible on the Foundation website [www.tgwhf-uhn.ca](http://www.tgwhf-uhn.ca). "It's an exciting new service we are pleased to offer our donors," says Pearl Veenema, Vice President, Advancement at TG&WHF. "Through the Internet, family, friends and colleagues around the world can be invited to participate while supporting in a meaningful way."

The Foundation recently helped a donor make his wife's birthday a special one. A **Birthday Donation** web page was set up and the link was emailed to friends and family so they could make online donations instead of buying presents.

Another donor, running a marathon, asked the Foundation to set up a **Donation** web page – he emailed the link to his friends and family, asking for pledges. All the proceeds were directed to the Foundation, in support of TGH and TWH.

You may want a **Tribute Donation** web page set up to honour someone special or express your regards for the loss of a loved one. It's easy, it's personal and best of all, it helps the hospitals you care about.

If you would like a personalized donation web page or more information about fundraising online, please contact Andrea Blackler at (416)-603-5756 or email [andrea.blackler@uhn.on.ca](mailto:andrea.blackler@uhn.on.ca)

*Grand Cru*



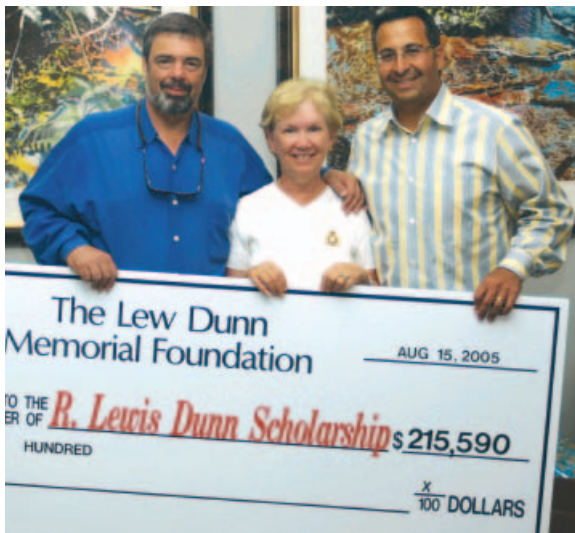
CULINARY WINE FESTIVAL



The Transplant Open Golf Tournament on June 9th raised \$13,000 for lung transplant research. Committee members Merv Sheppard; Kim Cassar, and committee Chair Peter Laurence presented the proceeds from the event to Dr. Shaf Keshavjee, Head, Division of Thoracic Surgery, UHN, and Dr. Lianne Singer, Medical Director, Lung Transplantation, UHN.

*Photo: from left - Merv Sheppard, Kim Cassar, Dr. Keshavjee, Lianne Singer, and Peter Laurence.*

# Thanks a Million Lew



*This year's cheque is held aloft by (from left) Dr. Richard Reznick, Vice President Education, UHN; Sandy Dunn, widow of Lew Dunn; and Igal Mayer, President of Aviva Canada, platinum sponsor of the Lew Dunn Charity Golf Classic.*

In its six-year history the Annual Lew Dunn Charity Golf Classic has raised more than \$1 million in support of the R. Lewis Dunn Scholarship in Colorectal and Oncologic Surgery.

This year's tournament on August 15, at the DiamondBack Golf Club in Richmond Hill, was "the best event ever, both in proceeds and in spirit," said Dr. Richard Reznick,

Vice President Education, UHN and R.S. McLaughlin Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto. The fund supports medical graduates specializing in colon cancer and cancer surgery.

Lew Dunn was President and CEO of CGU Insurance Company of Canada and a loving family man. Following his death from colon cancer, his family established a fund to keep his spirit alive and support education in colorectal and oncologic surgery.

The R. Lewis Dunn Scholarship Fund continues to grow. "This is great for the family," says Lewis's son, Greg Dunn. "People know why they are here, but essentially it's a fun event. It's good to look back at the end of the day and know that you've done something good."

"Events like the Lew Dunn Charity Golf Classic allow individuals to exceed their own giving level by involving others – and they help raise awareness of critical hospital programs," says Linda Ruickbie, Director of Events, Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation. "We couldn't be more grateful to these wonderful volunteers."

## Team for Transplant



Team for Transplant is a community of dedicated patients and volunteers who have had an organ transplant or know someone who has. Formed in June 2005, the Team raises funds and awareness for the Transplant Program at Toronto General Hospital – and momentum is growing. "We're supporting the largest organ transplant program in Canada," says Team Chair Brenda Hunter. "It gives hundreds of patients something infinitely precious – a second chance at life."

An estimated 20,000 people in Toronto alone will need a transplant within the next 9 years. Together, Team for Transplant and TG&WH Foundation have launched a web site to inform, motivate and fundraise. **Also, following the success of the inaugural 'Birthday Ball' last year, a second is planned for April 26, 2006 at the elegant Carlu in Toronto.**

Join Team for Transplant and become a 'friend giving life'. Visit [www.teamfortransplant.ca](http://www.teamfortransplant.ca) today and support "It Takes Two" or consider planning your own fundraising event – and we're here to help you! For more information, please call the Foundation (416) 340-3935 or email [foundation@uhn.on.ca](mailto:foundation@uhn.on.ca).

*73-year-old Maurice Longsworth is one of the longest-surviving kidney transplant patients in the world. Next spring marks his 36th "Transplant Birthday".*

**Donate. Volunteer. Get Involved.**  
For more information please contact:

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Toronto General & Western  
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**Our home at Toronto Western Hospital:**

Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation  
Toronto Western Hospital, Ground floor, WW 1-404  
399 Bathurst St., Toronto ON M5T 2S8  
Tel: (416) 603-5958 Fax: (416) 603-6224

For more information or to donate online,

please visit [www.tgwhf-uhn.ca](http://www.tgwhf-uhn.ca)

Email: [foundation@uhn.on.ca](mailto:foundation@uhn.on.ca)

**Toll free donation hotline 1-877-846-4483 (UHN-GIVE)**

Registered Canadian Charitable Organization Number 12386 4068 RR0001

## upcoming events

November 19, 2005

**Team for Transplant Stag & Doe Party**  
Holy Rosary Parish Hall, Thorold  
Proceeds to Transplant Centre, TGH

March 2, 2006

**The 8 Ball**  
Eagle's Nest Golf Club  
Senator Homes evening of billiards.  
Proceeds to benefit Surgical Suites, TGH.

March 25, 2006

**7th Annual "A Night to Celebrate"**  
Terrace Banquet Centre, Vaughan  
Proceeds to colon cancer research, education  
and clinical care, TGH

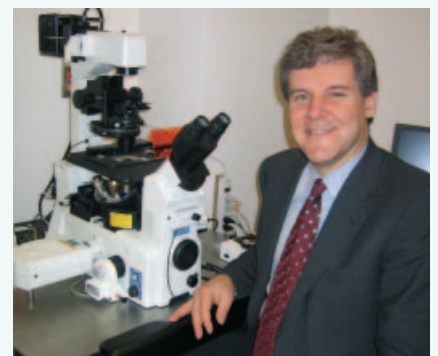
April 26, 2006

**Team for Transplant Birthday Ball**  
The Carlu, Toronto  
Proceeds to Transplant Centre, TGH

June 15, 2006

**Dr. Michael Baker Tribute Dinner**  
The Sheraton Centre, Toronto  
Proceeds to leukemia research, UHN and  
the Weizmann Institute of Science

**The Foundation thanks** Barbara Forrestall, founder of the Canadian Syringomyelia Network ([www.csn.ca](http://www.csn.ca)), for their 10th Annual CSN Gala held on Nov. 12 at the Angus Glen Golf Club, in support of spinal cord injury research. Below, Dr. Michael Fehlings, Head, Spinal Cord Injury Program, Krembil Neuroscience Centre, with the new Nikon confocal microscope made possible through CSN Gala proceeds.



**Special Events** can be over-the-top glamorous or small and intimate...from mystery nights and sporting events to theme parties and home tours. They're a great way to get family, friends and colleagues together this holiday season while helping the hospitals you care about.

**If you are planning an event, please contact [linda.ruickbie@uhn.on.ca](mailto:linda.ruickbie@uhn.on.ca), call (416) 340-5377 or visit [www.tgwhf-uhn.ca](http://www.tgwhf-uhn.ca) for our Special Events Resource Guide**

## Privacy matters

To protect your privacy, we maintain a strict policy of not trading, renting or selling our donor mailing lists to third parties. Respecting the confidential nature of your personal information is our obligation to you. You are welcome to view our Privacy Policy at [www.tgwhf-uhn.ca](http://www.tgwhf-uhn.ca), request a printed copy, or limit or alter the number and/or timing of the mailings you receive by contacting us at 416-946-2114, toll-free 1-877-846-4483 or email [foundation@uhn.on.ca](mailto:foundation@uhn.on.ca)



**Toronto General & Western  
Hospital Foundation**  
There's always an answer. *We'll find it.*

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