

# ALL GETHER

YOUR VICTORIA HOSPITALS | YOUR COMMUNITY | YOUR FOUNDATION

**Donors Support Cardiac Study, Caregiver  
Scholarship, And New Imaging Machines**

FALL 2024

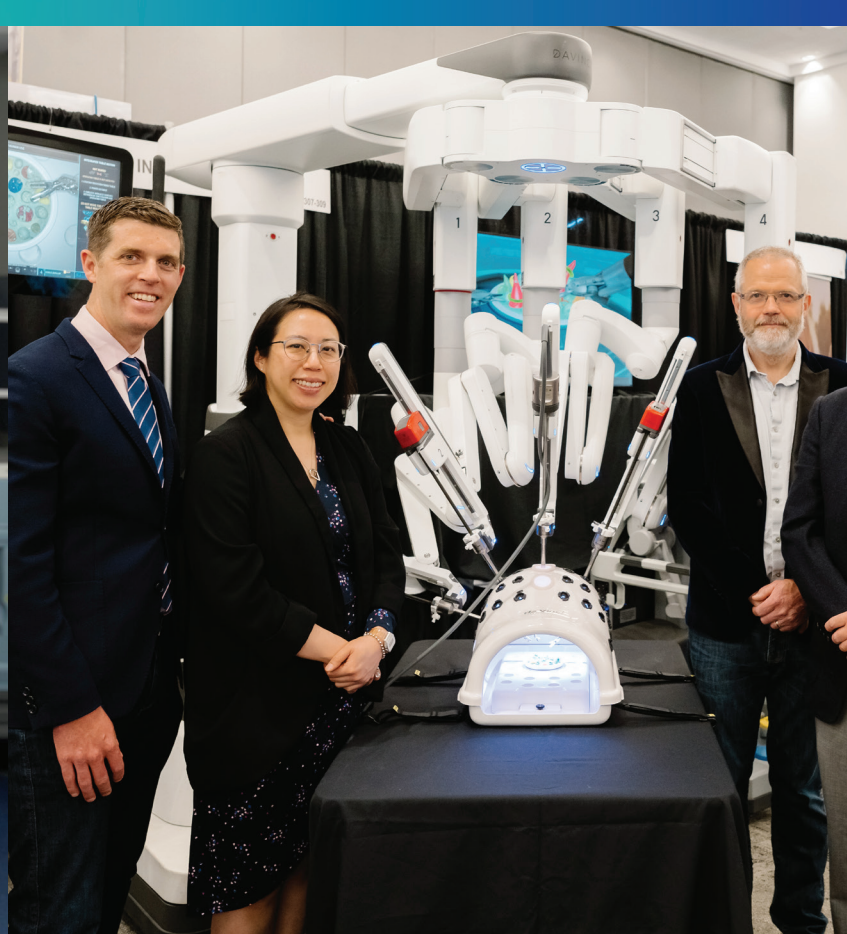


**It's Time For Surgical  
Robotics On  
Vancouver Island**

**H Royal Jubilee Hospital (RJH)**

**H Victoria General Hospital (VGH)**

Pictured: Dr. Rusty Ritenour (Ophthalmology), Dr. Catherine O'Brien (Orthopedics),  
Dr. Jeff McCracken (Urology), Dr. Cailan MacPherson (General Surgery), Dr. Mona Mazgani (Gynecology),  
Dr. Mike Metcalfe (Urology), and Dr. Stephen Hentschel (Neurosurgery)



Dr. Jeff McCracken

Urologists Dr. Metcalfe, Dr. Lee, Dr. McAuley, Dr. McCracken, and Dr. Hosier with the da Vinci surgical robot

# IT'S TIME FOR SURGICAL INNOVATION

**O**UR DONORS AND SURGEONS are redefining what is possible on Vancouver Island through our multi-phase campaign, *It's Time*. Our journey starts with *It's Time for Surgical Innovation* and a remarkable goal of \$17 million to bring new minimally-invasive surgical procedures to the Island.

The Foundation is committed to raising \$10.25 million for robotics and \$6.75 million for a suite of over 50 best-in-class surgical instruments and technology, including:



Dr. Mona Mazgani

**SPY-PHI technology:** a minimally invasive, more accurate, and sophisticated technology to localize relevant lymph nodes in gynecological cancers to allow for appropriate treatment.



Dr. Heather Emmerton-Coughlin

**MOLLI technology:** new wire-free and radiation-free technology for breast cancer treatment that will minimize pain and complications for patients.

**TOGETHER,** let's redefine what's possible for Vancouver Island patients.

Learn more about the campaign, or donate today: [VictoriaHF.ca/ItsTime](https://VictoriaHF.ca/ItsTime)

A LEAD GIFT of \$2.5 million from the Jawl Foundation in honour of our surgical teams kicked off our campaign in an inspiring way.



\* at time of campaign launch, October 30th, 2024



# ROBOTICS IN OUR OPERATING ROOMS



**R**JH WILL BE ONE OF CANADA'S FIRST COMMUNITY CENTRES TO OFFER ROBOTICS in our operating rooms— with support from our donors.

“Robotics will enable us to be much less intrusive and demanding on our patients’ bodies, perform new surgeries we simply couldn’t do before, minimize the length of stay

of patients, alleviate the intensity and length of care our valued nurses provide in recovery, and recruit the very best surgical team members. It will undeniably decompress the hospital system.”

–*Dr. Jeff McCracken*

Chief Urologist for RJH and VGH

Read full letter: [VictoriaHF.ca/McCracken](http://VictoriaHF.ca/McCracken)

## UROLOGISTS WILL USE ROBOTICS IN PROSTATECTOMIES\*

RESULTING IN: **90%** fewer blood transfusions

**50%** shorter stays in the recovery room

**60%** shorter stays in hospital

*\*removal of prostate*

# FROM CHILDREN TO SENIORS: EVERYONE BENEFITS



Dr. Linda Lee

**B**ETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES are among the many benefits robotic surgery will bring to Victoria’s surgical landscape. While prostatectomies are mainly performed on adults, many children receive urological care at VGH, our pediatric centre. Robotics will allow surgeons to better operate in small regions within small bodies.

“ In many centres, robotic surgery is becoming the preferred

way to perform surgery. The benefits include a less invasive surgery for the patient, which in turn results in reduced pain, better recovery, and shorter hospital stays. For our pediatric patients, robotic surgery will be a true gift.”

–*Dr. Linda Lee,*

Pediatric Urologist, RJH and VGH

Read full letter: [VictoriaHF.ca/Lee](http://VictoriaHF.ca/Lee)

ASHER WAS IN SO MUCH PAIN, he lost interest in the activities he loved.

Then, the 11-year-old from Parksville met Dr. Linda Lee and received life-changing surgery.

Read Asher’s full story: [VictoriaHF.ca/Asher](http://VictoriaHF.ca/Asher)



Asher

JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY TO RAISE **\$17 MILLION** FOR SURGICAL ROBOTICS AND INNOVATION.

→ [VICTORIAHF.CA/DONATE](http://VICTORIAHF.CA/DONATE)

# CAREGIVER, DONOR, LEGACY MAKER



Susan Anderson

“ I LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF helping others very early in life. My parents were always involved in our community and volunteered their time to several important causes. I knew I wanted to follow in their footsteps.

Those childhood lessons led to me to a career in nursing which fulfilled my desire to help others. But after fifteen years, I was ready to help people in a new way. I embarked on a new career in social work; this was my true calling.

As a social worker in our Victoria hospitals, I have seen countless instances where people were thrown into situations beyond their control. Social workers are intuitive listeners; we're often meeting people who have just experienced a traumatic life event. We're a shoulder to cry on but also there to help with everything from government support programs to funeral planning. I have often described it as the emotional side of medicine.

This year, I have spent a lot of time thinking about the legacy I want to leave. In January, I lost my husband, Dennis, after 49 years of marriage. He spent his final days at RJH, where he received excellent care. In December, I'll retire after 25 years, many of which were spent working at RJH and VGH.

My husband was extremely generous which is part of the reason why I decided to include the Foundation in my estate. I want to ensure the legacy of giving we started together, continues. I know Dennis would be proud of my decision—one that will leave behind glimmers of hope and positivity.”

—Susan Anderson

Grateful Donor

Read Susan's full letter

→ [VictoriaHF.ca/Susans-Story](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Susans-Story)

PLANNED GIVING is an impactful way to leave a legacy.

Learn more: [VictoriaHF.ca/Will](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Will)

## GOLFERS, DONORS, IMPACT MAKERS



CARDIAC CARE has been at the heart of the volunteer-led Uplands Golf Club Annual Heart Tournament since 1978. Every year, golfers come together to raise funds for RJH—our heart centre. This past summer, they raised more than \$100,000 to fund a new portable ultrasound for RJH's Heart Catheterization Lab, helping interventional cardiologists perform over 2,000 critical heart procedures each year. Thank you to everyone who supported this beloved tradition and, for the 47<sup>th</sup> year, elevated local cardiac care.

# ENDING 2024 ON A STRONG NOTE

“**A**S WE APPROACH THE END OF 2024, I find myself reflecting on what the year has meant to me and the Foundation. I joined the Foundation five years ago; every day I have worked here, I have been honoured to do the work we do. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unwavering support of our mission. You are the changemakers who have made this work possible.

Just this past year, with our campaign *Imaging is Power*, you helped us equip our hospitals with the best imaging equipment to help with diagnosis. And now, your generosity is instrumental in helping us transform what is possible in surgery after diagnosis. It is with deep gratitude that we had the opportunity to launch our recent campaign, *It's Time For Surgical Innovation*.

Throughout our campaigns, I have the privilege to see firsthand the impact you are making. Prudently stewarding your contributions makes my role profoundly rewarding. I am proud of our Foundation's performance and ability to be such a strong contributor to our Victoria hospitals.

With giving season in full swing, I want to remind you of important deadlines for



The Foundation team celebrating the completion of Imaging is Power

year-end giving. To ensure that your contributions are counted in the current tax year, please make sure your donations are made by December 31.

I'd like to highlight the option to make a gift of securities, a simple, tax-conscious way to contribute. By transferring ownership of the stocks or bonds to the Foundation, you reduce the implication of capital gains and reduce your tax bill.

Your giving is important. Every gift, no matter the size, plays a crucial role in supporting our caregivers.

I sincerely thank each of you for your support and belief in our vision. Together, we are making a lasting impact on our community."

—*Heather Crow* CPA, CA, MPAcc  
Chief Financial Officer  
Victoria Hospitals Foundation



## GIVING DEADLINES:

### December 6, 2024

To ensure you receive a 2024 tax receipt for your gift of securities, it is recommended that you initiate the transfer with your bank or broker by December 6. This is to ensure there is enough time for the transaction to be completed and deposited into our account by December 31.

### December 31, 2024

The giving deadline to receive a 2024 tax receipt is the last day of the year.

- ✉ **By Mail:** ensure your mailed envelope is postmarked by Canada Post in 2024
- ☎ **By Phone:** please call us at 250-519-1750 to make a donation over the phone
- ➡ **Online:** visit our website [VictoriaHF.ca](http://VictoriaHF.ca) to make an online donation

Please note: Our office is closed the week of December 23-27, 2024. Online donations are possible throughout this period, and our office will reopen for December 30 and 31, 2024.

COME BY OUR  
OFFICE OR DROP  
BY OUR OPEN  
HOUSE  
December 19 & 20,  
10 AM - 4 PM



# YOUR IMPACT IN OUR HOSPITALS

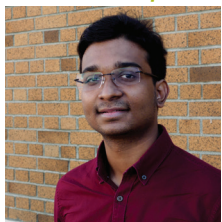
## EDUCATION: SCHOLARSHIP SHINES LIGHT ON CAREGIVERS

**A**N ASTOUNDING 246 CAREGIVERS are feeling supported in their career advancement after being shortlisted for the 2024 Heather A. Simpson Scholarship. The Scholarship began two years ago as an expression of heartfelt gratitude to all the healthcare staff who cared for Heather during her 14-month stay at RJH.

Initiated by an inspiring \$3-million pledge, the scholarship helps cover 50% of annual tuition fees for those who pursue healthcare studies. This year's recipients include:

### Hrishikesh Sasikumarnair

*Future Hospital Technologist*

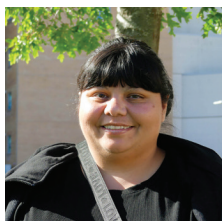


*"Working as a housekeeper at RJH, I see the inside of patient rooms more frequently than most staff. I want to make the lives of those patients better."*

 → [VictoriaHF.ca/Hrishikesh-HF](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Hrishikesh-HF)

### Ilse Filan

*Future Licensed Practical Nurse*



*"To know there are donors out there who want to support my education is amazing. Helping lift someone up by supporting their education is the biggest gift you can give."*

 → [VictoriaHF.ca/Ilse-HF](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Ilse-HF)

### Esther Jang

*Future Registered Nurse*



*"It has always been a dream of mine to pursue a career in healthcare. I feel so supported by the community through this scholarship. It motivates me to become the best nurse I can be."*

 → [VictoriaHF.ca/Esther-HF](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Esther-HF)

ADVANCING HEALTHCARE CAREERS is a core pillar our donors can support.

Learn more and donate: [VictoriaHF.ca/Education](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Education)

## RESEARCH: CARDIAC STUDY COMES TO VICTORIA



SAVE BC patient Carlos Gomez, with Foundation donors Eileen and Al Gilchrist

**R**JH IS JOINING HEART CENTRES IN BC in a preventative research project for cardiac care, thanks to a generous commitment of \$320,000 from Al and Eileen Gilchrist.

Joining Kelowna General Hospital, Royal Columbian Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, and Vancouver General Hospital, RJH will host SAVE BC, Study to Avoid cardioVascular Events in British Columbia, designed to help patients, families, and healthcare professionals better identify, treat, and prevent premature atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

The Gilchrists met with the first SAVE BC patient in Victoria, 42-year-old Carlos Gomez, who had early onset heart attack symptoms in 2021, and required cardiac care at RJH. Carlos has a family history of high cholesterol disease.

*"Knowledge is power and comfort. It is important for me, and for my two children, to understand why I developed cardiac care issues before my fortieth birthday,"* shares Carlos. *"My hope is that by working with Dr. Franco I can support my children and their friends in the future, before they even face cardiac issues."*

RESEARCH keeps us at the forefront of healthcare locally.

Learn more and donate: [VictoriaHF.ca/Research](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Research)



Left to right: Miracle on the Mountain Chair Amy Ratcliff, Foundation CEO Avery Brohman, Radiologist Dr. Alan Andrew, donor Craig Mearns, and Foundation Vice Chair Ian Wong in front of the new CT scanner

## EQUIPMENT: NEW IMAGING MACHINES ARE OPERATIONAL

**D**ONORS TO *IMAGING IS POWER* can be proud: three new imaging machines are now operational in our hospitals thanks to their support.

The first of three MRI refurbishment projects is now complete: a milestone to celebrate in our hospitals and across the country, as the MRI was refurbished using a first-in-Canada technique. Over 200 MRI scans of the knee were performed during the first weekend of operation.

A brand-new CT scanner is also now installed at VGH. 15,000 scans will be performed on the new CT every single year—what an imprint our donors will have on patient journeys.

In RJH’s Heart Catheterization Laboratory, a new C-Arm has been installed—the most vital piece of equipment for our interventional cardiologists. The new machine provides exceptional image quality more efficiently and reduces the number of procedures required.

Donors will continue to make an impact as three other donor-funded imaging tools will be operationalized in 2025. With imaging being a catalyst in many surgical patients’ journeys, we are excited to parallel the momentum of *Imaging is Power* as we embark on *It’s Time for Surgical Innovation*.

Our deep thanks to Dr. Alan Andrew and Dr. Anthony Della Siega for helping us champion this campaign.



Left to right: Foundation CEO Avery Brohman, outgoing Board member Tom Siemens, donor Alex Miller, Visions Chair Charlotte Salomon, KC, donor Rick Ilich, and Radiologist Dr. Alan Andrew in front of the new MRI machine



Left to right: Foundation’s Avery Brohman and Colleen Bronson, donors Carol Navickas, Andrea and Satnam Lalli, and Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Anthony Della Siega in front of the new C-Arm

# YOUR FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

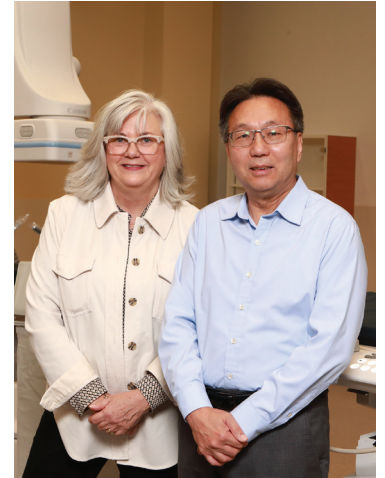


Left to right: Foundation CEO Avery Brohman, Anup Grewal, Jessica Thomson, Jas Dusanj, Cynthia Smith, Marko Peljhan, Helen Wale, Joan Yates, Ryan O'Grady, Kendall Gross, Jagdeep Bawa, and Ian Wong

During our 2024 AGM, we bade farewell to Donnie Wing, Tom Siemens, and Emilie de Rosenroll. Donnie Wing and Tom Siemens joined the Board in 2018, and both assumed Vice Chair and Board Chair roles during their six-year tenures. We thank them profoundly for their dedication to our cause during that time.

We also welcomed Jas Dusanj, Anup Grewal, Kendall Gross, Ryan O'Grady, and Cynthia Smith to the Board—and we are proud to announce Joan Yates as the Foundation's new Board Chair.

Our Board is passionate about advancing local care. Thank you for championing our hospitals with them.



Incoming Chair Joan Yates and outgoing Chair Donnie Wing

**O**UR BOARD IS ENTRUSTED TO SUPPORT the work of the Foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance. As community leaders dedicated to making a difference in healthcare, their expertise and commitment to governing our Foundation, and supporting our hospitals is deeply inspiring.

MEET YOUR FOUNDATION BOARD, and read member bios:

[VictoriaHF.ca/Governance](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Governance)

BOARD CHAIR JOAN YATES shares her story through our #HumansFirst series:

[VictoriaHF.ca/Joan-HF](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Joan-HF)



## Open Houses: December 19 and 20, 10 AM–4 PM

Come by our office, located in the Wilson Block at RJH to celebrate the holidays. Drop off your year-end donation, connect with our Foundation team and meet some of the caregivers that your generosity has supported this year.

Find our office: [VictoriaHF.ca/Location-Map](https://VictoriaHF.ca/Location-Map)



VICTORIA HOSPITALS  
FOUNDATION

### Victoria Hospitals Foundation

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Victoria BC V8R 1J8  
[victoriahf.ca](https://victoriahf.ca) | [vhf@islandhealth.ca](mailto:vhf@islandhealth.ca)

📞 250-519-1750 | 📠 250-519-1751

📱 Victoria Hospitals Foundation  
@ourvichospitals

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