

## MISSION POSSIBLE: OPERATION NEW O.R.



PATIENT STORY

PG. 2

STAFF PROFILE

PG. 5

ENDOWMENT IMPACT

PG. 6

## Transformation of Surgical Care is Critical to Tackling Post-Pandemic Backlog

It seems like a lifetime ago that we faced the fourth COVID-19 wave and the number of COVID cases, hospitalizations and ICU admissions were rapidly increasing in Saskatchewan. We saw our hospital overwhelmed, our ICU full and the acute health-care system near collapse. We saw our hardworking medical teams exhausted, but still showing up to work every day.

The blanket cancellation of non-urgent surgical procedures to provide COVID surge capacity had devastating and long-lasting consequences for surgical care in our province. The reallocation of resources to cope with COVID admissions created new “COVID victims” as patients in need of surgery had their care postponed. Entire programs such as the organ donation and transplantation

services were put on hold for months. Patients requiring cardiac surgery had their care delayed because of a lack of ICU beds. Providing surgery to cancer patients also has its challenges because there are no beds for their post-operative recovery.

Joint replacements, cataract surgery and other so-called “elective” surgeries were

*Cont'd on page 4*

# LEGACY OF GIVING

Donate Now

## “The nurses were all so good to me!”



During his lifetime, Walter Koob had several surgeries and procedures at University Hospital (renamed Royal University Hospital in 1990). Walter's daughter Shirley remembers her father often saying "The nurses were all so good to me!"

Walter Koob was born on the family farm in the R.M. of Viscount in 1928. Even when he later went on to work as an employee at companies such as Wheat Pool Flour Mill in Saskatoon, Dash Brothers in Kipling and International Nickel Mines in Sudbury, Ontario, he always came back to the family farm in time for seeding. He married Angeline Hering in 1955 and they farmed in the Meacham/Bruno district. They had two children, Lorne and Shirley. Even after he stepped back from his own farm, Walter

was always happy when a farmer would ask him to help work in the field. He always wanted to know how everyone's crops were and Walter was truly a farmer at heart all through his life until his passing in 2020, at the age of 92.

It is with gratitude that RUH Foundation thanks the late Walter Koob who chose to leave a generous \$375,000 gift to RUH Foundation through his Will. Walter's generous legacy gift will help support the **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R. Campaign** to transform surgical care at RUH.

You too can support health care now and in the future by including RUH Foundation in your estate planning through your Will, a life insurance policy, charitable remainder trusts, and other means to support what matters to you today and long into the future. Leaving a small portion of your



Walter Koob

estate to charity could result in a bigger contribution than you ever thought possible, while still supporting those you love. Please contact Candace Boersma, Annual and Legacy Giving Officer, at 306.655.6501, [candace.boersma@ruh.org](mailto:candace.boersma@ruh.org) or visit [ruh.org](http://ruh.org) to find out more.

## PATIENT STORY



Grateful Patient Jeanie Story

## Acting on Warning Signs Saved Jeanie's life

It was a normal fall morning as Jeanie Story from Swift Current was getting ready for work. Suddenly she thought she saw her dog behind her. She turned and looked over her shoulder. Then she remembered her dog had sadly died months earlier. A part of her knew this and still, she had to turn around. A couple of months later Jeanie experienced the same thought pattern and realized something was wrong. Jeanie made an appointment with her family doctor who sent her for a CT scan. Upon seeing the results, he quickly sent Jeanie to Royal University Hospital (RUH) where she met Dr. Mike Kelly in the emergency room. Jeanie had an MRI and received confirmation that she had a Grade 3 Oligodendroglioma brain tumour. "My family and I began to

have many serious conversations, preparing for the worst-case scenario. Things that I thought were important all of a sudden no longer mattered," Jeanie says. She continues, "Dr. Kelly, himself from small-town Saskatchewan, used terminology and words that were easy to understand. This was so important to me and I will forever be grateful for what Dr. Kelly and his team did for me during and after surgery."

Although she will have to have an MRI every six months to monitor her brain, thankfully Jeanie has recovered quickly from her craniotomy surgery and lives life to the fullest. She shares that her support for RUH Foundation's Mission Possible: Operation

*Cont'd on page 4*

# PAST CAMPAIGN OUTCOMES

Donate Now

## Voices of Gratitude



*Katelyn Harker, Ph. D., Registered Doctoral Psychologist, Child and Youth Services, Mental Health and Addictions Services, SHA*

Since the year 2000, generous donations exceeding \$1.76 million have helped fund professional development for Royal University Hospital's (RUH) physicians, residents, staff and medical teams. This support ensures that those providing outstanding, compassionate care at RUH have access and the opportunity to receive the latest training and education, acknowledging that continued excellence requires continued education. Thanks to donor support, RUH Foundation can

continue to support the growth and development of RUH hard-working health-care staff and medical teams who are providing compassionate and lifesaving care to patients every day.

*I recently received professional development funding to attend a conference. This yearly conference is very informative and helps people in my field to be updated on the best practices, but it is expensive. Your funding made it possible for me to attend so I wanted to extend my thanks. I would not have been able to attend without the support from the Foundation.* Katelyn Harker, Ph.D., Registered Doctoral Psychologist, Child and Youth Services, Mental Health and Addictions Services, Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA).

*I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to take the Osteoporosis Canada Bone Fit program and that the Foundation approved my application for funding. I will share this information with my colleagues*

*to better help our clients combat the risk of fractures due to osteoporosis. Thank you very much for the opportunity to further my knowledge in this area and to be able to help the people in our community.* Cheryl Lehne, B.Sc.P.T., Senior Physical Therapist, SHA.

*We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for the Foundation Professional Development for the funding we were granted in 2021. Please extend our appreciation to your donors. Your financial support was helpful and acknowledges the importance of ongoing quality educational opportunities for SHA staff within our province.* Sherri Nelson, BA-RLS, CTRS, Professional Practice Manager, Recreation Therapy, SHA.

We couldn't agree more. If you would like to learn more about how to support scholarships, training and professional development for RUH staff please contact Lisa Sands, Chief Development Officer, at 306.655.6477, [lisa.sands@ruh.org](mailto:lisa.sands@ruh.org).

## Welcome Jennifer Molloy - RUH Foundation's new CEO



*Jennifer Molloy, CFRE, Chief Executive Officer, Royal University Hospital Foundation*

On March 1, Royal University Hospital Foundation Board and staff were pleased to welcome Jennifer Molloy as the new Chief Executive Officer following Arla Gustafson's planned retirement.

Jennifer was born and raised in Saskatoon and for the past nine years has been the Director of Development at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. A Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE), her extensive experience includes positions at St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, The Canadian Red Cross and the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. Jennifer volunteers as a director on the boards of READ Saskatoon and Haven Family Connections.

Jennifer looks forward to working with donors and volunteers as RUH Foundation moves into the third year of our \$20 million+ Mission Possible: Operation New O.R. Campaign. Welcome, Jennifer!

## Transformation of Surgical Care

also postponed, resulting in prolonged pain, suffering and decreased function. The surgical backlog in Saskatchewan has ballooned to 40,000 patients waiting for surgery. The extremely long and uncertain wait time for people, like yourself, your relatives or friends will cause cumulative harm and disability down the road. This backlog puts unprecedented pressure on health care, and it will take years to clear up. As we now know, the Omicron variant has made a tough situation worse. This is having a tremendous impact on our front line and medical teams, who for two years straight have been battling wave after wave.

Many of the specialized and most complex surgeries in Saskatchewan happen at Royal University Hospital (RUH). While our dedicated and knowledgeable surgeons, nurses, and support teams at RUH are stellar, the 44-year-old operating rooms needed to help save a life and where they work tirelessly to address the surgical backlog are outdated and cramped. Modern medicine demands better, and patients **deserve** better. This is why in early 2021, RUH Foundation launched **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R. Campaign**. The vision is to raise \$20 million+ to build and equip new state-of-the-art operating rooms, pre-and post-operative areas and put the newest equipment into our surgeons' hands to reduce wait times at RUH now and in the future. Mission Possible has already delivered new equipment and is helping reduce the time a patient is in the hospital, decrease repeat



*Dr. Ivar Mendez MD, PhD, FRCSC, DSc (hon), FCAHS, Fred H. Wigmore Professor of Surgery, Provincial Head of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority*

visits and start to tackle the surgical backlog. In the future when the new surgical centre is complete we will have a public system that includes RUH having the most modern surgical facilities and equipment to better treat and help save lives. Donor support is helping to accelerate this vision.

"COVID-19 and its variants will be in our community for the foreseeable future. The fight against COVID should not come at the expense of surgical care ignoring the needs of tens of thousands of patients that require surgical interventions to be able to live a

healthy and dignified life," says Dr. Ivar Mendez MD, PhD, FRCSC, DSc (hon), FCAHS, Fred H. Wigmore Professor of Surgery, Provincial Head of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority.

For more information about how you can help support the **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R. Campaign** to transform surgical care at RUH, please contact Lisa Sands, Chief Development Officer, at 306.655.6477, [lisa.sands@ruh.org](mailto:lisa.sands@ruh.org).

Cont'd from Pg. 2

## Acting on Warning Signs

New O.R. Campaign is personal; she most likely will need another brain surgery in her lifetime. Jeanie concludes, "Knowing RUH can have cutting-edge technology and equipment, like the Kinevo@900

Microscope because of donor support to the campaign, to complement their already best-of-the-best neurosurgeons will ease my anxiety as I try to keep on living in the moment."

If you would like to share your story or make a donation, please contact Bev Cooper, Senior Development Officer at 306.655.1063, [bev.cooper@ruh.org](mailto:bev.cooper@ruh.org).

## CEO's MESSAGE

On January 27 and 28, we held our annual Radiothon in support of the Mission Possible: Operation New O.R. Campaign. It was very humbling to listen to the heartfelt stories from grateful patients, family members, and our medical teams. Over 600 generous listeners phoned in or donated online and, with matching and other donors, we received an amazing record-breaking \$1,008,960 in support of the vision to transform surgical care now and in the future at RUH. Thank you!

On a personal note, after fifteen years with our Foundation, I have made the difficult decision to retire. Every single day since I first walked into the Hospital in May 2007, I have left at the end of the day knowing that our Foundation supports and accelerates patient care because of you, our donors and volunteers. Over the years, I have helped raise, with your support, over \$110 million to improve patient care, provide education and accelerate research at Royal University Hospital. Thank you.

I am pleased to welcome Jennifer Molloy to the RUH family as the Foundation's new CEO. Jenn's extensive fundraising background and expertise will ensure a smooth transition and continued success as the Board, staff and volunteers continue the vital Mission Possible: Operation New O.R. Campaign. I am excited about the next chapter of my life. This is not goodbye as I will remain an advocate for and donor to our Foundation. Thank you!



CEO ARLA GUSTAFSON



## STAFF PROFILE



*Some of the MDRD team members: (l-r) Lubna, Brad, Maria, Racquel, Hilda, Rosilo, Brenda, Jana, Laurie, Chris, Susan and Carlo.*

## The Heart of Surgical Safety

There's one department responsible to ensure that specific equipment is available, sterile and ready for use by the medical professional to treat or support patients at Royal University Hospital (RUH). That department is the Medical Device Reprocessing Department (MDRD) and it is vital to ensure patient care and safety at the hospital. MDRD consists of three teams with 90 dedicated and passionate individuals. Their top priority is to get the right tools and equipment to the right people so patients can get the care they need. The Case Carts Team makes sure that each procedure and surgery have the equipment needed. The team is also on-call in case of an emergency, to make sure no time is wasted in saving someone's life. The (Sterile) Processing Team inspects used tools from all RUH's departments before cleaning and sterilizing them so they are ready for next time. The third team is the Sterile Instrument Technicians who assemble the necessary kits specifically needed for each of the more than 100 different procedures performed at RUH.

MDRD has the expertise and insight into the demand and new equipment needed for all the varied procedures offered at RUH. The teams must be quick to change tasks when a trauma patient is rushed to RUH and seconds can make the difference between life and death. It's an ever-changing environment and patient safety comes first.

"I'm proud of my teams who, with their unique expertise, can support all the different departments at RUH. We make sure that what is needed is in the surgery room at the right time so that the O.R. teams can get to work fast. It's rewarding to know we add value in that way," says Brad Kovach, Manager, MDRD. "We take pride in knowing that we support the large-scale operations at RUH with quality and safety. Patients' care comes first and we love what we do."

To learn more about how to support Mission Possible: Operation New O.R. Campaign to transform surgical care at RUH, please contact Lisa Sands, Chief Development Officer, at 306.655.6477, [lisa.sands@ruh.org](mailto:lisa.sands@ruh.org).

Donate Now



# SPECIAL INTEREST

## The Benefit of Supporting Health Care Through Monthly Giving



Monthly Donor *Thomas Morris*

Some days are more special than others. On Monday, November 29, 2021, Thomas Morris came into our office at Royal University Hospital (RUH) with his brother and said, "I would like to sign up for a monthly donation to RUH Foundation." Thomas comes from a large family and many of his family members are involved in the medical field in one way or another which is one of the reasons for his decision to become a monthly donor. Thomas has also experienced patient care first-hand at RUH and humbly concluded, "I just wanted to give something back."

No matter the size of a person's donation, a monthly donation can have a significant impact on health-care at RUH. Monthly donations are affordable - you pick the

amount! By dividing your annual donation into twelve equal payments, you can meet your charitable giving goals and stay on budget hassle-free throughout the year.

A planned monthly contribution helps provide the highest level of care to those people whose lives and well-being may depend on it inside our health-care system at RUH or in the community.

To find out more about how to make your donation monthly or how your monthly gift has impacted patient care at RUH, please contact Candace Boersma, Annual and Legacy Giving Officer, at 306.655.6501, [candace.boersma@ruh.org](mailto:candace.boersma@ruh.org).

[Donate Now](#)

## KUDOS Ed Urbanowski



*Ed Urbanowski (far right) with his parents Anton and Victoria*

Born and raised on the family's 1928 homestead outside of Fairholme, Saskatchewan, Ed Urbanowski eventually took over the farm and, at one point, raised over 500 cattle. Ed worked hard and has always given back to the community. In November 2021, the Foundation received a generous donation of \$200,000, in memory of Ed's parents Anton and Victoria Urbanowski. "I'm a lucky farmer, so why not give back and let other people get some benefit of my good fortune. This money will go towards something good, and it will be used to help patients at Royal University Hospital. I just want to help out," Ed humbly explains.

For more information about how you can support Royal University Hospital, please contact Bev Cooper, Senior Development Officer, at 306.655.1063, [bev.cooper@ruh.org](mailto:bev.cooper@ruh.org).

Donate Now

## RUH Foundation Board of Directors 2021-2022



### Royal University Hospital Foundation Purpose Statement:

The RUH Foundation creates excellence in and impacts health care by raising funds to anticipate and respond to needs for innovative research, education and patient care.

### EXECUTIVE

Chair **Douglas Osborn**, Retired Lawyer

Vice Chair **Kaylynn Schroeder**, Retired Senior Executive

Member at Large **Joe Vidal**, Retired Senior Executive

Past Chair **Irene Boychuk**, Partner, EY LLP

CEO **Jennifer Molloy** (incoming) and **Arla Gustafson** (retiring)

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Valerie Arnault-Pelletier**, Indigenous Coordinator, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

**Dr. Marilyn Baetz**, Vice-Dean of Faculty Engagement, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

### MEMBERS AT LARGE (cont'd)

**Graham Blue**, Executive Director of Acute Care, Saskatchewan Health Authority

**Erin Eccleston**, Partner, MLT Aikins LLP

**Landon Fehr**, Senior Manager, EY LLP

**Grant Grenier**, Business Development Manager, Graham

**Mark Loeppky**, President, FFUN Motor Group

**Sharon McDonald**, Private Banker, RBC Wealth Management

**Emmanuelle Morin**, Management Consultant, CAMBIAR Consulting

**Dr. Marek Radomski**, Vice-Dean of Research, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

### RUH FOUNDATION STAFF

Chief Executive Officer **Jennifer Molloy** (incoming) and **Arla Gustafson** (retiring)

Chief Development Officer **Lisa Sands**

Chief Financial Officer **Jocelyn Zurakowski**, CPA, CA

Senior Development Officer **Bev Cooper**

Senior Communications Officer **Lisa Wigerblad**

Development Officer, Corporate & Community Partnerships **Tricia Haugen**

Stewardship Donor Relations Officer **Shawna Jardine**

Annual and Legacy Giving Officer **Candace Boersma**

Communications Officer **Michelle Morrison**

Operations Officer **Mia Cavanagh**

Gift Shop Manager **Lisa Gibson**

Administrative Assistants **Lisa Gaudet** and **Naomi Jalbert**

### SPECIAL GIFTS

A gift *In Honour* is made to commemorate a loved one or friend, to mark a milestone or to celebrate a special occasion. A gift *In Memory* is a lasting tribute to someone departed who was respected and loved. We thank family members and friends who paid tribute to the following individuals between October 1 - December 31, 2021, by making donations in their names.

### IN HONOUR OF

Candace F. Boersma  
Dr. Rudradeo C. Bowen  
Cancer Clinic Staff  
Dr. M. Cenkowski  
Dr. Kelly Coverett  
Ronald Deetz  
Loreen Fazakas  
Dr. Graham Arla Gustafson  
Dr. Tony Haddad and Megan  
Dr. Nicole Labine  
Neurosurgery Team  
Dr. Jason Orvold  
Dr. Elliott Pally  
Val Pottle

Dr. Alex Rajput  
Dr. Ali H. Rajput  
Dr. John Shaw  
Dr. Stevenson  
Dr. Carlo Stuglin  
Surgery Staff  
Ian D. Sutherland  
Dr. Julian S. Tam  
Evan Thomas and the Thomas Family  
Timothy Thompson  
Unit 5000 Staff  
Dr. Aleksander Vitali  
Dr. S. Wasyliv  
Dr. Alexander Zhai

### IN MEMORY OF

David Abraham  
Barbara Andreen  
Albert G. Ayers  
Michael J. Bodnar  
Klaas and Pieternella Boersma  
Marie Anne M. Borsa  
Audrey Bracken  
Naomi Braun  
George A. Brown  
Marion Brown  
Tenille Bryanton  
Ronald P. Budd  
Marylenn Burkholder  
Sarah A. Caspell  
Nancy Chillog  
Allison Chorneyko  
Jack H. Christopher  
John Clarke  
Gloria Currie  
Kathleen and Robert Davidson  
Fred and Mildred Davies  
Peter F. Dyck  
Adrienne Eidem  
Doreen Farrant  
Dianne Fisher  
Roy F. Fondse  
Ron T. Frost  
Gilles Gaudet  
Lillian Genereux  
Benjamin R. Gerbrandt  
Dennis Gilewicz  
Bert Halyk  
Tori Hanson  
Bill Harvie

Douglas Hergott  
C. S. Houston  
George T. Jarman  
L. K. Jenkins  
Theron Kolla  
Joseph and Nellie Kostyniuk  
Zenon G. Kotelko  
Lance Kunz  
Jan Lahti  
Daniel Larlham  
Alex Leschuk  
John Loeppky  
Gerald W. Mengerling  
Edward Querry  
Barbara Racine  
Merv Renz  
Kristen J. Saunders  
Kimberly Sawchuk  
Lloyd Smith  
Cody Smuk  
Max Struthers  
E. J. Sutton  
Norman Swinnerton  
Thomas E. Tracey  
Mavis Trask  
Gee Tsang  
Anton and Victoria Urbanowski  
Mary J. Walcer  
Richard F. Walcer  
Keith Walters  
Bryan Woods  
John T. Wright and Greta Sleeva (Wright)

*If you would like to give a gift in honour of someone special or in memory of a loved one who has passed away, please contact RUH Foundation at 306.655.1984 or make your gift online at ruhf.org.*

### YOU'RE INVITED!

March 26, 2022

Purple Day for Epilepsy - wear purple!

June 15, 2022

Greek Gourmet Feast - Mano's Restaurant

June 20, 2022

Women Leading Philanthropy Meeting

June 28 & 29, 2022

FFUN Spirit Champions Classic  
Moon Lake Golf & Country Club

Visit [ruhf.org](http://ruhf.org) for details.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing lists, please contact us at 306.655.1984.

Royal University Hospital Foundation does not sell, trade or lease the personal information of its donors.



RUH  
FOUNDATION

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41571019

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ITEMS TO:

Royal University Hospital Foundation  
103 Hospital Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W8

Phone: 306.655.1984 Fax: 306.655.1979

Email: [info@ruhf.org](mailto:info@ruhf.org) Web: [ruhf.org](http://ruhf.org)



Charitable Business Number: 11927 9131 RR001