



MILESTONES SPECIAL EDITION

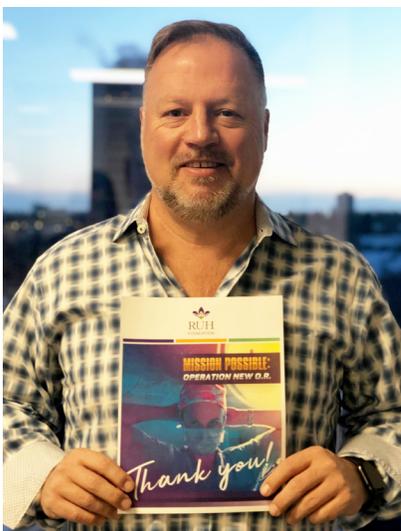
Donate Now



RUH surgeons Drs. Suzie Harriman and Nirashan Sothilingam

MISSION POSSIBLE: OPERATION NEW O.R.

Better • Faster • Safer



Grateful patient Greg Keller

This mission can't wait!

Greg Keller is extremely appreciative to be alive today thanks to the exceptional life-saving quadruple bypass surgery and related care he has received at Royal University Hospital (RUH).

Speaking to the sold-out crowd at the 38th annual Greek Gourmet Feast presented by Nutrien and hosted by Manos Restaurant on June 15, the grateful patient praises the surgical teams and other professionals for what they did for him, and the heroic work they do every day.

He also thanks those in attendance for their ongoing generosity that includes \$85,000 (net) raised at this year's Feast, with the proceeds going to support RUH Foundation's **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R.** campaign.

As he nears the end of his comments, Greg pauses. It's the type of pause that causes a person to stop whatever they are doing knowing that something important is about to be said.

Cont'd on page 2



FROM THIS...



... TO THIS!

Today's operating rooms are cramped even before the patient and surgical team arrive (left image). New O.R.s will be larger and maximize space using the newest technology and equipment on booms that will keep the floor and surrounding area clear, making it safer for the surgical team and patients.

Cont'd from cover

The restaurant becomes silent and still.

As the reality of how close he was to not being around for his family hits him again, Greg gathers himself. He thanks the audience again.

He thanks them on behalf of his brothers (two of which had received the same care at RUH), his sisters and their families, and his wife and children.

And with a quiver in his voice he says: "And my mom thanks you, too!"



Residents from across the province are alive today thanks to donors like you and your support of the surgeons, nurses and support professionals at Royal University Hospital, the province's busiest hospital.

Many of the most serious, complex and specialized surgeries involving the heart, brain, spine, gynecologic, and cancers, to name a few, are done at RUH.

The hospital's dedicated surgical teams do their work in operating rooms built in 1978. Today, the operating rooms are crowded and cramped even before you and your surgical team arrive. The space is small. Its aging infrastructure presents challenges in accommodating the newest equipment and technologies needed to meet evolving standards of surgical care excellence.

The number of surgeries performed at RUH has increased significantly during the past four decades. So has the complexity of the procedures—many take between four to eight hours to complete, some even much longer.

The current pressures will only increase as we address the backlog in cases due to the pandemic.

Approximately 40,000 non-urgent surgeries have had to be cancelled throughout the province because of the pandemic. The Saskatchewan government's goal is to reduce the surgical backlog to pre-COVID levels by March 2025.



“Together we will build a world-class centre of surgical excellence here in Saskatchewan at RUH.”

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



FROM THIS...



... TO THIS!



Today's pre-operative and post-operative recovery areas lack privacy with curtain dividers drawn between patients. Renovations will create private rooms and provide more comfort for patients and their families.

If there ever was a time to invest in re-imagining surgical care at RUH, it is now!



In early 2021, RUH Foundation launched the **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R.** campaign, the most ambitious fundraising effort in our 39-year history. The goal: to raise \$20 million+ to help build and equip new operating rooms and transform surgical care and the patient experience at RUH.

"We want the people of Saskatchewan to have the world's best surgical care right in Saskatchewan," says Dr. Ivar Mendez, Fred H. Wigmore Professor of Surgery, Provincial Head of Surgery, University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority.

"We have the expertise. What we need are the state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. With the support of donors like you, that mission is truly possible," Dr. Mendez says. "Together we will build a world-class centre of surgical excellence here in Saskatchewan at RUH."

To date, donors have generously given \$10 million to the campaign. Another \$10 million+ is needed to reach the \$20-million+ goal.

Did you know the average Canadian has three surgeries in their lifetime? Likely you or someone you know has already had at least one procedure due to a workplace or traffic accident, a heart attack or cancer.

If you think about it, it's not a matter of *if* you or someone you love will need surgery, it's *when*.

"A patient takes a huge risk having surgery. When the stakes are that high, it demands



Your donation will help build new O.R.s and buy equipment that will allow us to see and do things that, until recently, would have been impossible!"

— Dr. Laura Hopkins, BSc, MSc, MD, FRCSC
Surgeon at RUH & Physician Lead of Gynecologic Oncology at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency

perfection," says Dr. Laura Hopkins, Surgeon at RUH and Provincial Lead of Gynecologic Oncology at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

"Your donation will help build new O.R.s and buy equipment that will allow us to see and do things that, until recently, would have been impossible!" Dr. Hopkins says. "You can help us achieve exceptional surgical care for the people of Saskatchewan."

Cont'd on page 4



Donate Now

It could be your life on the table



1978

RUH's operating rooms opened in 1978.

3

The average Canadian has 3 surgeries in their lifetime.



Saving Lives

Many kinds of surgery are performed at RUH: cardiac, brain, spinal, gynecologic, cancer, orthopedic, urology, plastic and general surgery.

4 to 8 Hrs

In 2019, 888 surgeries at RUH lasted 4 to 8 hours.



50%

50% of surgical patients are from outside Saskatchewan.

COVID-19

COVID-19 delayed non-urgent surgeries. It's expected to take years to catch up on the backlog.



Cont'd from Page 3

Building the new centre of surgical excellence with larger operating rooms combined with the newest equipment, robotics, and artificial intelligence technology will create a state-of-the-art environment that will provide exceptional outcomes for patients.

Your support will help ensure that the most serious and complex surgeries can be performed here in Saskatchewan.

By working together, we will decrease wait times for surgery, improve recovery, reduce hospital length of stay, and enhance patient comfort in private pre- and post-operative areas.



Because of donors like you, our surgical teams will finally go from "making the best of it" to having the best.

"I spend more time in the O.R. than with my family," says Ben Manley, RUH Operating Room Nurse. "To be able to work in a hospital that meets and exceeds the care, compassion

and passion that I see in my co-workers would be phenomenal! With your support, our best is going to be even better."



Please join the mission and help our surgical teams provide the world's best surgical care right here at home, now and in the future! When seconds count, lives will be saved . . . maybe even yours . . . because you decided to donate.

As actor Ed Harris said in the movie Apollo 13: "Failure is not an option."

For more information about how you can contribute to the success of **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R.**, please visit ruh.org or call the Foundation office at 306.655.1984. 

CEO MESSAGE

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received during the past few months in my role as new CEO with the Foundation. I have enjoyed hearing directly from friends and donors, like you, about why you support RUH Foundation.

This issue of Milestones looks different than previous ones. Its entire focus is on our \$20-million+ **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R.** campaign. Funds raised will help transform surgical care and build and equip new operating rooms at RUH.

The O.R.s were built in 1978. The time has arrived to say goodbye to the 1970s and hello to a new era in the delivery of surgical care at RUH.

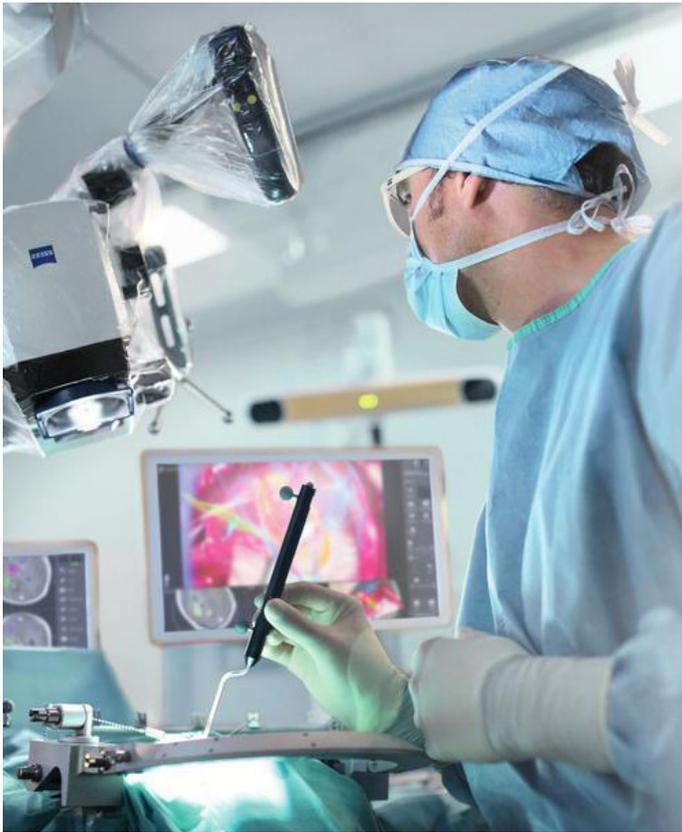
Thanks to you, over \$10 million has been raised to date for the campaign. We still have a way to go. I know that with your continued support, we will do it!

Your generosity will result in faster response times for surgery, larger and less crowded O.R.s, newer equipment and technology, quicker recovery time, greater patient privacy and comfort, and stronger surgical teams—all because you cared to donate.

Please reach out to me at 306.655.1050 or jennifer.molloy@ruh.org if you require more information about this mission.



CEO JENNIFER MOLLOY, CFRE



The Kinevo microscope enables surgeons to see what they cannot see using existing microscopes



NIM Eclipse system reduces risk of neurological damage during surgery



Newest anesthesia machines enhance the tracking of all vital signs



OSI Spinal Surgery Tables automate the repositioning of the patient rather than doing it manually

Creating RUH's modern surgical care centre

Few experiences in life are more stressful than surgery. Royal University Hospital Foundation's \$20-million+ **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R.** campaign wants to help our surgical teams make it less so. But we need your support.

Imagine a calm, quiet space for you and your loved one with the privacy you need to ask questions of your surgical team and prepare yourselves emotionally for surgery.

Imagine arriving for your surgery, performed here in Saskatchewan in an operating room that is spacious, uncluttered and safe, knowing that your surgical team has access to the newest equipment and technology.

Imagine your own private recovery room where you can stay until you are moved to an in-patient unit or able to go home.

So how do we make this vision a reality? By investing in:

- **State-of-the-art integrated operating rooms** that are larger providing your surgical team with plenty of room to move and where the latest technology is mounted on booms or the wall. In addition, all your vital imaging and tests are displayed on large screens, ensuring your surgical team can better access, understand and analyze your medical data when they need it.
- **The most modern equipment available.** For example, surgical microscopes that provide an unprecedented full 3D-view on a giant crystal-clear screen; spinal tables that allow your surgical team to rotate you to any position they need safely, smoothly and instantly; anesthesia machines that deliver potent

pain medication to you more precisely; and neurological imaging equipment to monitor the slightest nerve function during surgery.

- **Saskatchewan's first hybrid operating suite** that allows your surgical teams with different specialties to perform complex surgeries on you at the same time without having to move you to other areas of the hospital for imaging or tests.
- **New pre-operative and post-operative rooms** where you can prepare and recover with greater privacy.

The power to transform surgical care in Saskatchewan is in your hands. Your donation will help create the surgical experience you'd wish for if you could create it. You can make it a reality. 

Donate Now

Your donation helps save lives!



I am so grateful to be able to walk with my wife and play with my two little girls thanks to the care that I received at RUH. Your gift will make sure RUH's operating rooms are ready for surgeons to save lives—maybe even yours.”
— Karsten Felske, grateful patient



It is so important to me to know that, through donor support, RUH can have leading-edge technology and equipment to complement their already best-of-the-best neurosurgeons. Thanks so much for your generosity.”
— Jeanie Story, grateful patient



Suddenly, we both required surgery within the same month. We feel blessed and grateful for the ongoing support of donors who help ensure that top-notch care is available right here at home for years to come.”
— Keith and Marilyn McIntyre, grateful patients



For you or someone you live with who needs spine surgery, your donation will make an enormous difference in daily pain, function and quality of life. We cannot thank you enough!”
— Dr. Daryl Fourney, Professor and Director of Research, Division of Neurosurgery, Royal University Hospital and University of Saskatchewan



Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the province. By donating and helping to purchase state-of-the-art equipment such as the transanal endoscopic microsurgery platform, you can help change that!”
— Dr. Dilip Gill, Specialist in Colorectal and General Surgery, Royal University Hospital, and Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan



The newest ultrasounds will allow us to resuscitate, monitor and get patients into surgery faster. When every second counts, your donation will help save lives!”
— Dr. Melanie Orvold, Royal University Hospital Anesthesiologist and Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology, University of Saskatchewan.

Thank you for your generosity

Royal University Hospital Foundation and the hospital's surgical teams know you have many options when it comes to deciding which causes to support.

We are extremely humbled and appreciative of those who have already contributed a total of \$10 million to the \$20-million+ **Mission Possible: Operation New O.R.** campaign.

Donors like:

- **Erika Flath of Radisson** who bequeathed a legacy gift in her will;
- **Sponsors and participants in the FFUN Spirit Champions Classic** charity golf tournament presented by BMA Benefits and Ledcor; and
- **Hundreds of donors** who contributed sums both small and large to the RUH Radiothon presented by Suer & Pollon Mechanical.

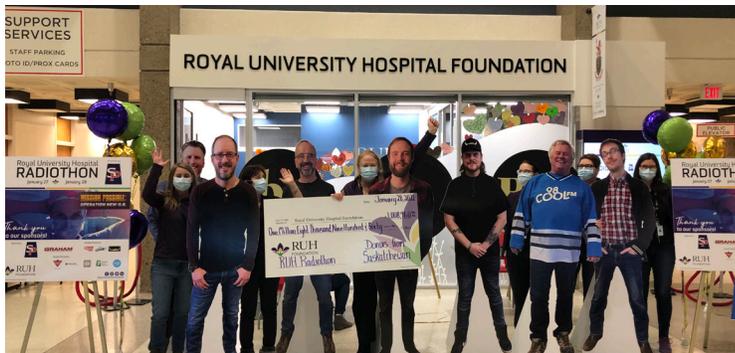
The impact of this generosity and the ongoing support from other donors like you will benefit RUH patients and surgical teams today and for decades to come. **Thank you.**



Harlene Simmonds presents a generous gift on behalf of her aunt Erika Flath's estate to Lisa Sands, RUH Foundation Chief Development Officer (left)



Joe Vidal (left), RUH Foundation Board Vice-Chair; Jennifer Molloy, RUH Foundation CEO; Mark Loeppky, President of FFUN Motor Group; Bob Fawcett, FFUN Spirit Champions Classic Volunteer Chair



Donors from across the province raised over \$1 million during the RUH Radiothon presented by Suer & Pollon Mechanical



Ways to Give

- Make a one-time donation or a monthly gift
- Transfer shares or securities to RUH Foundation
- Name RUH Foundation in your Will
- Donate in honour or memory of a loved one
- Suggest donations as a gift idea
- Support one of our great events
- Invite your friends, family and coworkers to donate, too!
- Ask us about naming and sponsorship opportunities

Join the mission!

Give at ruh.org/donate or call 306.655.1984

Donate Now

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RUH Foundation Board of Directors 2022-2023



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.

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YOU'RE INVITED!

September 26, 2022

Women Leading Philanthropy Voting Meeting

October 15, 2022

Royal Wizard's Chronicle Ball:
Harry visits Narnia

November 29, 2022

Giving Tuesday

January 26 & 27, 2023

Royal University Hospital Radiothon

Visit 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.

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 February 1 - May 31, 2022, by making donations in their names.

IN HONOUR OF

Dr. Rashpal Basran
Dr. Rudradeo C. Bowen
Dr. G. Dalshaug
Mike Dupuis
Joy Friesen
Arla A. L. Gustafson
David Hill
Richard Hill
Roshan Knight
Dr. Lissa Peeling
Dr. Ali H. Rajput
Marilyn J. Scutt
Evan Thomas and the Thomas Family
Maria K. Trakadas
Dr. Aleksander Vitali and Neurosurgery Staff
Christine Weal
Rod Wilson

IN MEMORY OF

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Donald J. Beneteau
Klaas and Pieterella Boersma
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Joyce Oi Han Cheung
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Sarah Turpin
Gloria Verbeke
Douglas Weber
Ella West
Carmen D. Wilson
John T. Wright and Greta Sleeva (Wright)
Leonard Wudrich

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.



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