

# MOMENTUM



## **A FIGHTING CHANCE**

Life-saving care when seconds count

## **A FIRST FOR SASKATCHEWAN**

Robotic surgery, powered by donors

## **YOUR IMPACT**

Advancing heart care close to home

Spring 2026

# CEO'S MESSAGE

At RUH Foundation, we are proud to support Royal University Hospital, Saskatchewan's epicentre for specialized medical care, research and education.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are helping strengthen health care for people throughout Saskatchewan. Your support helps provide advanced technology, specialized equipment and the training our health-care teams need to deliver the best possible care when it matters most.

This is especially important in areas like orthopedic trauma care, where expertise and innovative tools come together to treat serious

injuries and help patients recover. Investments in fellowships, research and new technologies help attract and retain outstanding specialists so Saskatchewan can be a leader in patient care.

Through collaboration, innovation and community, we are building momentum. This publication takes its new name from what you've made possible: progress that doesn't stop at a single breakthrough but keeps health care in Saskatchewan moving forward.

With gratitude,

  
**Jennifer Molloy, CFRE**  
Chief Executive Officer



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026



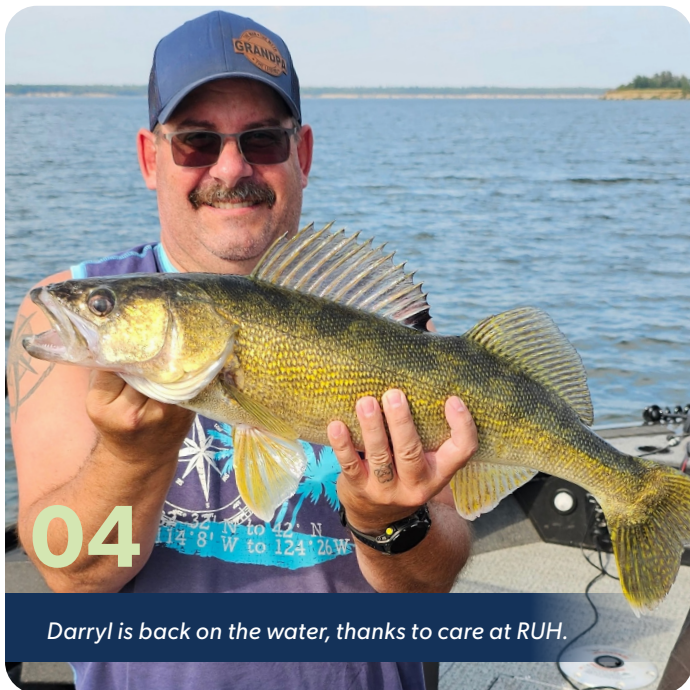
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# MOMENTUM

Spring 2026

Royal University Hospital Foundation supports the Royal University Hospital, the epicentre for Saskatchewan's medical care. Through collaboration, innovation and community, our goal is to improve health care for everyone in our province.

**On the Cover:** Dr. Elliott Pally,  
Orthopedic Trauma Surgeon



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*Darryl Gurbach enjoying time with his granddaughter.*

# A FIGHTING CHANCE

## Because Life-saving Care Depends on Life-saving Equipment

Darryl Gurbach lay on a cold gravel road. He heard sirens in the distance before everything faded to black.

He remembers fragments: an ambulance ride, in and out of consciousness, a helicopter, arrival at Royal University Hospital (RUH) in Saskatoon.

"I was like, okay I have a fighting chance. If I'm going to make it, this will be it," he recalls.

Gurbach arrived at RUH in April 2020, just weeks into the COVID-19 pandemic. His legs had been crushed by the heavy gate of a gravel truck on a rural road near Tisdale, and he'd waited hours before someone found him.

While the world had stopped all around the hospital, health-care teams were busier than ever. To survive, Gurbach focused on his wife and family. His daughter had just gotten engaged, and he thought about her upcoming wedding and the grandchildren he might have one day.

Gurbach endured the amputation of his left leg, kidney dialysis and more than a month in the Trauma ICU — his wife was only allowed to visit once, when his care team thought he wouldn't make it.

"After that I started realizing that I've fought this hard already, I've got to keep going," he says.

One of the people who helped Gurbach persevere was Dr. Elliott Pally, an orthopedic trauma surgeon (pictured on cover).

"People don't automatically associate broken bones with a life-changing event, but for most people going through it, it's a major life event. Some people are forever changed," says Pally.

Because RUH is the trauma centre for Central and Northern Saskatchewan, orthopedic trauma is one of the hospital's busiest services.

"When it comes to emergent care, I don't think there's many places in the world that have better care than we do here in Saskatoon. People here can provide as good of care as anywhere in the world — if we have the equipment to facilitate that," says Pally.

**"If it wasn't for the hospital, and the equipment that they have, I probably wouldn't be here. I just don't know how you can't support a place like that."**

**—Darryl Gurbach**

Pally and his team used every tool available to repair Gurbach's pulverized right leg. He has had more than a dozen surgeries since his accident, but he has never given up. He recovered enough to walk his daughter down the aisle, returned to

work five years later and most importantly, he can play with his grandchildren.

"We have a big list of patients like Darryl. The faster we can help them, the better," says Dr. Pally.

**Your gift to Royal University Hospital Foundation will help purchase new orthopedic trauma equipment — making care safer and more efficient for Saskatchewan patients.**



*Darryl shares time with his family after his accident.*

# A FIRST FOR SASKATCHEWAN

## Driven by Donor-funded Innovation

Thanks to a \$1.2 million fundraising campaign — anchored by a \$700,000 gift from Saskatoon philanthropist Merlis Belsher and Family — neurosurgeon Dr. Amit Persad and his team at RUH have completed Saskatchewan's first robotic epilepsy surgery.

Using the donor-funded stereotactic robot, the team can now precisely map and treat drug-resistant epilepsy right here at home,

ending the need for patients to travel out of province for this life-changing care.

We are deeply grateful to Merlis Belsher and Family and every donor who made this possible.



Dr. Amit Persad performing the first robotic epilepsy surgery in Saskatchewan.

**"I have seen firsthand what this can mean for people: patients who went from daily seizures to finishing university degrees, starting careers, getting their driver's licenses back. I am so proud to offer that level of care right here in Saskatchewan, and grateful for the support of the donors who made it possible."** —Dr. Amit Persad



The medical team proudly poses with the robot used in the first robotic epilepsy surgery.



The new stereotactic robot, affectionately named "ERIN", honours Merlis Belsher's granddaughter.

# HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHT

## A Win for Emergency Nurses



Emergency Department nurses at Royal University Hospital take part in Rapid Response training to strengthen critical care skills.

For the nurses working in Royal University Hospital's (RUH) Emergency Department, every opportunity to learn is one worth celebrating.

**Thanks to donor funding, 20 RUH emergency nurses took part in the Rapid Response training in Saskatoon** — a course designed to help nurses recognize when a patient's condition is deteriorating and learn how to respond.

"The acuity and intensity of the problems seen at RUH make it all the more critical that we encourage this culture of learning," says Nicole Marchand, an Emergency Nurse Clinician at RUH.

The course was a resounding success. Most attendees rated it good or excellent, and 93 per cent said the skills learned would improve

care in the emergency department. It drew a mix of newer and more experienced nurses, and the feedback was enthusiastic.

"I found it very interesting that six hours prior to a code, you can start to anticipate that it is going to happen based on trends of vital signs. I am definitely going to relay this information to my peers," says one attendee.

Another nurse expressed her gratitude to the donors who made this training possible.

"Overall, it was an excellent course! Thank you for funding myself and my coworkers."

For Marchand, education opportunities like this go beyond skills — they strengthen morale and help retain talented nurses in Saskatchewan's busiest emergency department.

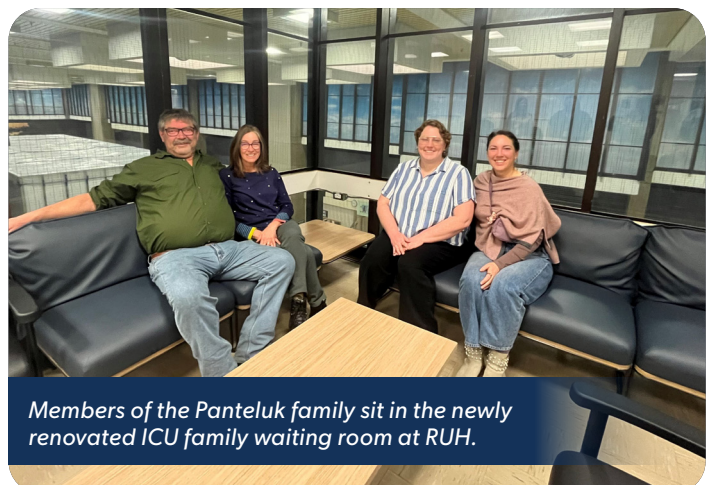
Because of donors like you, RUH's emergency team is better equipped to deliver life-saving care when it matters most.

## GIVING BACK

## Providing Comfort and Care in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at RUH

Thanks to the generosity of Kelly Panteluk Construction Ltd. (KPCL Dirt Movers) and the Panteluk family, the newly renovated ICU family waiting room at RUH now includes sleep chairs, lounge seating, side tables and accessible electrical outlets — practical details that allow loved ones to remain close, rest and stay connected during incredibly difficult moments.

This gift is made in memory of their nephew and cousin, Tanner, whose caring spirit continues to inspire acts of kindness. Guided by their own experiences and a belief in strong, well-supported communities, KPCL and the Panteluk family invested in a space that offers comfort, dignity and compassion when families need it most.



Members of the Panteluk family sit in the newly renovated ICU family waiting room at RUH.

# WOMEN LEADING PHILANTHROPY

ICU Innovation



Women Leading PHILANTHROPY



*Dr. Sabira Valiani was awarded the 2025 Women Leading Philanthropy \$100,000 Grant.*

Read more about WLP at [ruh.org/women-leading-philanthropy](https://ruh.org/women-leading-philanthropy) or scan the QR code.



Dr. Sabira Valiani started shaking when she heard her name called as the successful grant recipient at the September 2025 Women Leading Philanthropy (WLP) meeting.

“It was incredible. It was one of the most incredible things that’s happened to me,” says Dr. Valiani a critical care physician at RUH.

**Dr. Valiani’s project, Connect-ICU — Using Human-Centred Design to Transform Patient and Family-Centred Care in the ICU, aims to improve communication between health-care teams and patients and their families.**

Receiving the \$100,000 grant strengthened her resolve to make lasting changes for families and ICU staff alike.

“Our goal is to make everything easier,” says Dr. Valiani.

She plans to complete the first phase of the project in year one — developing the evidence-based, locally customized communication toolkit — and move to testing its sustainability and impact in year two.

The project is a testament to what becomes possible when donors invest in innovation. WLP members are showing the power of philanthropy to drive real improvements in care, and for researchers like Dr. Valiani, that support means everything.

# YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION

## A Heart for Saskatchewan: Cardiology Upgrade Complete

You did it, and Saskatchewan patients are better for it.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors, RUH Foundation has invested \$5.5 million into the newly renovated Walter and Margaret McNabb Interventional Cardiology Suite at Royal University Hospital, a state-of-the-art space where specialists diagnose and treat life-threatening heart conditions.

The renovations, completed at the end of 2025, modernize both the cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology labs, replacing aging infrastructure with advanced technology designed to improve patient outcomes. Before the upgrades, the team was already doing incredible work, but the

space wasn't keeping pace with the complexity and innovation of the procedures being performed. That's where donor support changed everything.

**Today, RUH has the ability to offer every level of cardiac care available anywhere in the world, right here in Saskatchewan — thanks to donor support.** From diagnostics and ablations to pacemaker implantations, the upgraded labs have expanded what's possible, keeping more patients close to home and closer to the people they love.

With up to 20 procedures performed per day and more than 4,000 procedures performed each year, the impact of your generosity is felt every single day.

Because of you, this space was reimagined around the people inside it — both the patients and the care teams. And with your continued support, we can keep pushing the boundaries of what's possible for Saskatchewan patients.



Dr. Jason Orvold stands in the newly renovated Cardiac Electrophysiology (EP) Lab.

**“To our donors, thank you. Your generosity didn't just upgrade a space, it enhanced cardiac care for all the patients and clinicians in the province.”**

**—Dr. Jason Orvold**

# LEGACY GIVING

## The Power of Estate Giving

When people think about supporting health care, annual donations and campaign gifts often come to mind. But one of the most powerful ways to strengthen care at Royal University Hospital happens quietly — through estate gifts.

Estate gifts, made through a Will, trust, or beneficiary designation, often begin with gratitude: for a nurse who went above and beyond, a physician who never gave up, a breakthrough that offered hope.

These gifts give RUH Foundation the freedom to think boldly and plan for the long term, helping to:

- Fund medical research and advance new treatments
- Bring life-saving technologies to patients
- Ensure compassionate care for future generations

If you've been touched by care received at RUH, consider making it part of your legacy. For a confidential, obligation-free conversation, contact Candace Boersma at 306.655.6501 or [candace.boersma@ruhf.org](mailto:candace.boersma@ruhf.org).

Your generosity creates a lasting impact.

Learn more about planned giving at [ruhf.org/planned-giving](https://ruhf.org/planned-giving) or scan the QR code.



# FELLOWSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Dr. Victoria Tian



*Dr. Victoria Tian is grateful to receive fellowship support.*

RUH Foundation supports advanced fellowship training for physicians who pursue specialized training after residency, bringing vital expertise back to Saskatchewan. Through donor support, these opportunities help attract and retain highly skilled specialists, ensuring patients can access leading-edge care close to home. In this Q&A, meet Dr. Victoria Tian and learn more about her journey, motivations and plans for the future.

### Name:

Dr. Victoria Tian, MD, FRCPC. Specialist in General Internal Medicine, Addiction Medicine, and current Pain Medicine fellow, supported by Royal University Hospital Foundation.

### Hometown:

Though I began in Edmonton, I fell in love with Saskatoon during my training — and it's been home since.

### What area of medicine are you studying?

I'm immersed in Pain Medicine at McGill University in Montreal, QC, where I'm expanding my scope of care.

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## Why did you want to pursue advanced training in this area?

I'm deeply committed to helping patients with chronic pain, whose needs overlap with the complex conditions I've treated in Internal and Addiction Medicine. I want to bring cutting-edge, multidisciplinary pain management back home.

## What are your plans after finishing fellowship?

I'm excited to return to Saskatoon, where I plan to blend General Internal Medicine, Addiction, and Pain Medicine into my practice.

With donor support, physicians like Dr. Tian are gaining the expertise needed to advance care in Saskatchewan—ensuring patients receive the specialized treatment they deserve, close to home.

**Learn more about the Fellowship program and support training today. Visit [ruhf.org/fellowship-funding](http://ruhf.org/fellowship-funding) or scan the QR code. ↵**



# SPECIAL GIFTS

A gift In Honour commemorates a loved one or friend, marks a milestone or celebrates a special occasion. A gift In Memory is a lasting tribute to someone who was respected and loved. We thank family and friends who honoured the following individuals between August 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026, through donations in their names.

## IN HONOUR OF

- Adebayo A. Adeniyi
- Dr. Kaitlin Adey
- Dr. Rashpal Basran
- Drs. Rudradeo C. and Angela Bowen
- Cardiology Unit
- Cath Lab Team
- CCU
- Lorna Clarke
- Dr. Kelly Coverett
- Donald N. David
- Joan Mae Anne Dietz
- Brennon Dulle
- Alain J. Gaucher
- Megan Haddad
- Tony Haddad
- Dr. Luke Hnenny
- John Hodd
- Cliff Hope
- Voight Houseman
- ICU
- David Josephson
- Dr. Michael Kelly
- Dr. Abbas Khani-Hanjani
- Robert G. Klombies
- Dr. James MacMillan
- Dr. Kotoo Meguro
- Barbara Moroz
- Dr. Maurice Ogaick
- Oncology Department
- OR Team
- Palliative Care Team
- Ellen Parchomchuk
- Dr. Colin Pearce
- Koleen Pillipow
- Neil Speidel
- Leslie Thome
- Timothy Thompson
- David Turk
- Unit 6300
- Dr. Mark Wahba
- Dr. Stephan Wardell
- Rod Wilson
- Dr. Adam S. Wu
- Chris Yuen

## IN MEMORY OF

- David Abraham
- Thomas G. Airey
- Ken Arnold
- Monty Austin
- Terry Bayda
- Ingrid Benning
- Klaas and Pieternella Boersma
- MarieAnne M. Borsa
- Jené C. Breaux
- Jeremy Chenier
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- Agnes Corriveau
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- Eugene Dziadyk
- Lorraine and Elmer Frie
- Darlene Genereux
- Benjamin R. Gerbrandt
- Noella and Pat Giblin
- Ivan Gidluck
- Jason Gogal
- Joyce Grandberg
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- Walter Hunchak
- Bill Hydomako
- Robert Isinger
- Erwin Janzen
- George T. Jarman
- Rose Jarman
- L. K. Jenkins
- Edward Juzyniec
- Dr. Roger G. Keith
- Lillian Kelln
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- Daniel Kirchgesner
- Zenon G. Kotelko
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- Jan P. Lahti
- Jean Laing
- Lorne and Muriel Leonhard
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- Harvey D. Sweeney
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- Dianne Thiemann
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- Carmelle Toner
- Joshua Volk
- Michael D. Walker
- Ronald Walsh
- Keith Walters
- Joyce C. Wilson
- Marie Wipf
- Bryan Woods
- John T. Wright and Greta Sleeva (Wright)
- Errol Young
- Anna Zilkowsky
- Matthew Zip

*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](http://ruhf.org).*



**Ready  
when it  
matters  
most.**  
Give today.



Scan to donate towards trauma orthopedic equipment or visit [ruhf.org/donate](http://ruhf.org/donate).

*Dr. Elliott Pally, Orthopedic Trauma Surgeon*

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