

Victoria Hospitals Foundation Launches Campaign for Neurology and Rehabilitation

April 26, 2017

For Immediate Release

Victoria, BC – The Victoria Hospitals Foundation announced today the focus of its latest campaign: Neurology and Rehabilitation at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals. The Foundation aims to raise \$405,000 to fund 23 pieces of leading-edge equipment that will help patients with a variety of neurological conditions, including stroke, epilepsy, MS, Parkinson’s disease, and Alzheimer’s disease.

Victoria Hospitals Foundation board director Steve McKerrell spoke about the need for the new equipment. “Every year, the Neurology and Rehabilitation divisions at Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals diagnose and treat thousands of patients affected by life-changing conditions that require sophisticated care. We are asking our community to help ensure our medical teams have the best possible tools to ensure patients can reach their highest level of function.”

McKerrell was joined by Dr. Kristen Attwell-Pope, Division Head of Neurology for Island Health and Paul Thompson, a former stroke patient from Victoria. “Victoria General Hospital is the neuroscience referral centre for all of Vancouver Island. Our job is to quickly diagnose people and provide the best course of treatment. Since we treat such a wide variety of conditions, we rely on state-of-the-art equipment. Whether someone has suffered a stroke or is living with chronic pain, having the best tools at our disposal makes all the difference to patient outcomes,” says Attwell-Pope.

Former patient Paul Thompson credits Dr. Attwell-Pope and her team with saving his life when he suffered a stroke. “Knowing our local hospital is well-equipped to provide emergency care to people like me who have a stroke is very reassuring. With timely treatment using the best tools, a complete recovery is possible. I am incredibly grateful for the care I received during and after my stroke, and for the equipment that was available to diagnose me.”

The equipment will also provide support for the Rehabilitation teams. Dr. Paul Winston, Medical Director of Rehab and Transitions for Island Health, spoke of the role of his team in helping patients redefine what is possible in their day-to-day lives. “In all the care we provide, we have the same goal: to maximize potential and restore function. We want patients to regain movement and function, and leave us in the best condition possible.”

Some of the 23 pieces of Neurology and Rehabilitation equipment that will be funded through this campaign are:

- New swallow and voice imaging systems used by speech pathologists to assess patients who suffer from functional voice disorders (two needed at \$77,300 each);
- A radio frequency ablation machine used by pain specialists to reduce back and neck pain in people who experience chronic pain resistant to treatment (one needed at \$50,000);
- An electrocardiogram (ECG) software upgrade that helps neurologists quickly diagnose the source and severity of a stroke (one needed at \$75,000).

Contributions can be made by donating online at www.victoriahf.ca/redefiningpossible, calling 250-519-1750 or mailing to Wilson Block, 1952 Bay Street, Victoria BC, V8R 1J8.

This Spring campaign is one of many annual initiatives used by the Victoria Hospitals Foundation to raise funds for Royal Jubilee and Victoria General hospitals.

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About the Victoria Hospitals Foundation

The Victoria Hospitals Foundation works in partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to enable donations to Vancouver Island's two largest and most comprehensive hospitals: the Royal Jubilee and the Victoria General. Last year, we raised nearly \$7 million for urgently needed medical equipment and special projects that help these two hospitals provide care to all 765,000 residents of Vancouver Island. Since 1989, the Victoria Hospitals Foundation has raised more than \$121 million to benefit our hospitals. For more information, call the Foundation at 250-519-1750 or visit www.victoriahf.ca.