



Between Friends

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MONCTON HOSPITAL FOUNDATION INC.

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SPRING 2018

Hospital's most vulnerable patients benefit from new Mobile Digital Radiology System

This makes a huge difference in our ability to quickly diagnose and treat these tiny, premature babies. *Dr. Rody Canning*

If you are admitted to The Moncton Hospital as an adult and you are in pain, an X-ray may be ordered.

If the doctor meets with you and tells you this is what is happening and in 20 to 30 minutes, he or she will have more insight into the exact source or nature of your pain, as an adult you understand and do your best to wait calmly.

But for many of the patients Dr. Rody Canning deals with, 20 minutes could be much longer than they have been alive. Even if they are 20 minutes old, these most vulnerable, premature babies would have to double their critical lifespan just to make it 20 more minutes.

Canning, chief of pediatrics at The Moncton Hospital, used that illustration to explain how important the new Mobile

Digital Radiology System is at that facility. The advanced imaging technology, purchased with the support of the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation at an investment of \$218,000, will save lives, he said.

Timely diagnosis is of the utmost

importance in the special care baby unit where newborns, mainly premature, experience life-threatening conditions within the first seconds and minutes of their lives.

The new equipment offers instant high-quality images so medical radiation technologists can see them immediately on their monitor without having to leave the floor. These same images are available in the tiny patient's

electronic imaging record within seconds, letting medical staff view them from any computer screen.

"This makes a huge difference in our ability to quickly diagnose and treat these tiny, premature babies. We can quickly determine the accurate placement of central lines (a special intravenous (IV) tube located in or near to the heart) and airways tube to keep airway open, for example, or

Dr. Canning said he personally worked with one premature baby shortly after the equipment was installed and he is convinced having it saved the baby's life. "The baby was very premature, and had a collapsed lung. I had to put a drain in the chest wall and expand the lung. I only had a few minutes to get an image and get it right as opposed to the 30 minutes before, which would have been too long. The baby is alive because of it."



Dr. Rody Canning

see the extent of their lung damage instantly. We can treat these little babies so much more efficiently. And that first hour is the golden hour. The more we can accomplish and stabilize them, the better chance they have," Canning explained.

Prior to the purchase of this new

**YOUR
GENEROSITY HAS
A HUGE IMPACT**

(Continued from Page 1)

technology, the doctors had to use an analog Mobile Radiology System in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NNICU) that was purchased in 1987. The technologists had to take the X-ray on a special plate, then leave the unit to return to the Imaging Department for processing and verification that the X-ray taken was adequate. Every step delayed diagnosis. If another image was required because the baby moved or it was low quality, the whole process had to be repeated, start to finish.

Canning said that most of the critical newborns need X-rays on the chest and abdomen with the most common issues being pneumonia, collapsed lung and damage to the airways. Many of the babies require multiple X-rays during their stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Neonatal radiation doses are generally low and even lower on the modern equipment, and it is essential that the mobile radiology equipment used in NNICU has dose reduction optimization capabilities to provide superior image quality and ensure that radiation doses



Janice Worden, medical radiation technologist (MRT) and Toni Despres, RN with the new Mobile Digital Radiology System

received by newborns are not higher than needed to obtain the required diagnostic information.

“We use this new technology every day,”

said Canning, noting that of the 450 admissions to the NNICU each year, about 200 are very premature babies.

People of The Moncton Hospital – Meet Doug

Right now, hundreds of people are walking into The Moncton Hospital. Some are patients, some are family members, some are medical professionals. But every one of them has a story.



“There seemed to be a cycle to it: I’d be in misery for three or four months and then get a little bit of relief. I could tell when it was coming on because I’d get a sore throat... then the testicle

pain would start. I lived like that for over 20 years.

The whole thing began back in 1979. I was up in the rafters of a church we were building when a crane knocked it down. I fell 16 feet. I had rods put in my back and developed prostate troubles. You see, when I fell, I landed on my feet, which drove urine from my bladder into my prostate gland. Chronic back pain was bad enough, but add chronic testicular pain on top of it – there were days I couldn’t get out of bed, I was sick to my stomach because I was in such intense pain. I would go days without sleep and then would sleep for 12 hours straight because I was just so exhausted.

These past five years have been the worst – just brutal, debilitating, terrible, terrible pain. I couldn’t leave my house. When I could, I would plan my days around the pain – I only had a small window of time to do anything before it got too bad. The new Urologist I was working with tried different treatments but with very little results. That’s when he referred me to Dr. Quartey at The Moncton Hospital. After discussing my history with Dr. Quartey and

having an MRI, he said, ‘I think I can help you.’ I picked him up and I hugged him.

I went in for surgery on a Friday. Dr. Quartey installed an implant among vertebrae near my tailbone. He also installed the generator that controls the implant in my side, just below the skin’s surface. On Saturday morning, we turned it on to test out the frequency – the goal was to reduce my pain by 50%. Instantly, the pain was gone. I didn’t even need post-op medication. I was running on a high from how good it felt to be pain-free. I think I still am. I can’t explain how that feels. There’s nothing like it. It’s made me very humble. If it weren’t for the rods in my back from the accident I’d do back flips.”

– Doug

To read more inspiring stories in our People of The Moncton Hospital series, please visit our Friends of The Moncton Hospital Facebook page or view on Instagram (peopleofmh)



New technology benefits patients getting knee replacement surgery



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Dr. Will Allanach, orthopedic surgeon and Amanda Hunt, Nurse Manager for the OR, stand proudly with the new Computer Navigation System for knee replacement.

A new Computer Navigation System for knee replacement at The Moncton Hospital is helping surgeons perform total knee replacements with amazing accuracy and excellent results.

The \$194,000 system, made possible with the support of donors through the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation, replaces a decade-old one that had become outdated and less reliable, said Dr. Will Allanach, orthopedic surgeon.

He explained the importance of proper alignment during knee surgery. "It is important to lessen premature wear and tear and reduce the requirement for revision surgery (second occurrence of knee replacement surgery)," said Allanach.

Total knee replacement is one of the most successful procedures in orthopedic medicine, enabling most people to live richer, more active and pain-free lives. Each year, there are about 200 knee replacement surgeries completed at The Moncton Hospital using computer navigation. The goal of this surgery is to resurface the parts of the knee joint that have been damaged and to relieve knee pain that cannot be controlled by other treatments.

Knee replacement surgery is most common in people over the age of 65, although on a national level, there is a growing demand for it among the 45 to 64-year-old population

because of an increase in occurrences of osteoarthritis, the primary reason the surgery is needed. Other factors that can contribute to joint disease include genetics, developmental abnormalities, repetitive injuries and obesity.

The procedure results in a decrease in pain, increased mobility, improvements in activities of daily living and an enhanced quality of life. "With our enhanced system, we are not only able to have greater precision in the alignment of the artificial knee joint, but it may be used in other complex surgeries," Allanach explained. "For example, it also has an impact in some complex orthopedic surgery such as when patients have had plates, rods and screws to repair bones in the thigh or shin. The navigation unit will allow the total knee replacement to be performed in these complex situations more easily, accurately and with less trauma than with conventional methods.

"With this new technology, once we enter points into the computer, it enables us to make our bone cuts more accurately. We can see everything on the computer in real time as we work. We can see what happens to the alignment and range of motion when we straighten the leg or bend it; it gives us a good idea what to expect after surgery." Allanach said that research conducted over the past few years indicates a trend towards improved patient outcomes. As well, in-patients who are

younger than 65 and who are overweight; they are less likely to need a second surgery within eight years following their knee replacement.

Amanda Hunt, Nurse Manager of the Operating Room at The Moncton Hospital, said patient benefits are reflected with the use of the new technology. "The surgeon is able to obtain more precise measurements and accuracy for implantable prosthesis, which provides for better patient care and better outcomes."

Patients receiving knee surgery at The Moncton Hospital come from both north and south parts of New Brunswick as well as Prince Edward Island and northern Nova Scotia.

IN MEMORY

"I am so grateful for the care my wife received in her final days."



Doreen Dykeman

Dr. Winston Dykeman's wife of 49 years passed away earlier this winter after a long battle with a terminal illness. The retired doctor (family practice) who lives in Hillsborough, practiced medicine for over 42 years. He knows all too well the importance of caring for patients and was quick to share how pleased he was for how well his wife was looked after in her final days.

"I am so grateful for the care that she

received from the wonderful staff in the palliative care unit at The Moncton Hospital. Although it was a difficult time for our family, the caring and thoughtful staff was a great source of comfort to Doreen and myself," says Dr. Dykeman.

As a way to give back for the exceptional care, Dr. Dykeman asked friends and family to make a donation to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation in Doreen's memory. He also gave a generous donation to go towards staff education for the palliative care team.

"It is what Doreen would have wanted."



Radiothon Surpasses Goal

June Leger and her son Jayden who has Torticollis (a twist in his neck) chat with C103 announcer Brady Chamberlain about their medical journey and how grateful they are for the excellent care they have received.

The 7th Annual C103 and New Country 96.9 Radiothon for The Moncton Hospital held on February 9th raised more than \$55,000, surpassing the goal of \$50,000. The total included a \$10,000 matching gift from the Sandra Schmirler Foundation.

On-air personalities from both radio stations broadcasted live from the hospital lobby with over 21 interviews conducted with patients, medical professionals, and donors.

Calendar of Events

Swing Into Spring Gala

Saturday, May 12 at Casino NB
Tickets: \$200
Contact Marianne @860.2374

NB Docs Cycling Against Cancer

Week of June 25th
Contact Katherine @870.2447

Taylor Ford Hit It Fore Health Golf Tournament

Wednesday, September 12th, 12PM
Royal Oaks – Player \$400, Team of 5 \$2000
Contact Julie @870.2699

Annual Donor Dinner

Recognition of donors who have given over \$10,000 cumulatively
Monday, December 3rd
Hospital Cafeteria

To view a complete list of events, visit:

www.FriendsFoundation.ca/Events

RIGHT NOW, WE NEED YOUR DONATION.



DONATION FORM

Yes, I want to touch lives



and enhance patient care



Tel: 506.857.5488

FriendsFoundation.ca/donate

I would like to contribute a **one-time gift** of \$35 \$50 \$100 I prefer to give: _____

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I would like to join the **Faithful Friends Club** and give a **monthly amount** of \$20 \$35 \$50 I prefer to give: _____

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