



Lilibeth and Michael Schlater

## After Experiencing Epilepsy, Family Donates Brain Surgery Robot

Domino's Pizza of Canada Ltd. CEO Michael Schlater and his wife Lilibeth donated a half-million dollars to London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) towards the purchase of leading-edge technology for the hospital's Clinical Neurological Sciences program.

The Renishaw Neuromate® surgical robot – the first in Ontario – was first used at LHSC in April 2017 to perform a robotic-assisted procedure that maps epileptic activity and pinpoints the location of seizures prior to surgery. The robot enhances accuracy and safety while significantly cutting down on the time it takes to perform the procedure.

Originally from the United States and now settled in Leamington, Ontario, Michael underwent a similar surgery using older technology in March 2012 by Dr. David Steven, neurosurgeon and co-director of the epilepsy program

at LHSC. Michael suffered from seizures for more than five years prior to his surgery and Michael and Lilibeth's daughter also experienced epileptic seizures as a child. Being familiar with the challenges of the condition, the Schlaters have given tremendously to support work in the field of epilepsy in Canada.

"Lilibeth and I consider it a privilege to be able to support Dr. Steven's initiatives in delivering world-class medical services to his patients," says Michael. "We hope this surgical robot will enable the hospital to remain at the forefront of treating neurological disorders."

The Schlaters' cumulative donations of more than \$1 million to London Health Sciences Foundation (LHSC) through Domino's Pizza of Canada Ltd. have been recognized with the naming of a waiting room at University Hospital. ■

# Filling the Gap of Mental Health Services for Youth



The Cornerstone Counselling Team

This past spring, LHSC unveiled a donor-supported pilot project called Cornerstone Counselling aimed at improving the system of mental health and addictions care for transition age youth (16-25 years). Cornerstone Counselling is delivered at Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) in partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association – Middlesex, Addiction Services of Thames Valley and mindyourmind, an organization aimed at improving mental health care and wellness for youth and young adults.

The self-referral program provides access to a team of mental health professionals to youth transitioning out of the adolescent mental health program, or who are seeking support for the first time.

“Youth told us they wanted a service that was after hours, non-crisis and youth centred. They told us they wanted peer-support. They told us they wanted better integration of hospital and community services,” said Dr. Javeed Sukhera, LHSC Physician Lead, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. “We engaged and listened authentically to the voices of our community partners and most importantly, to youth themselves.”

The project is generously funded by the London Community Foundation, the LHSC Auxiliary, as well as Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life. ■

**A patient’s experience:** “Cornerstone Counselling is an amazing project. Without this available resource, I would not have been able to successfully complete my second year of university.

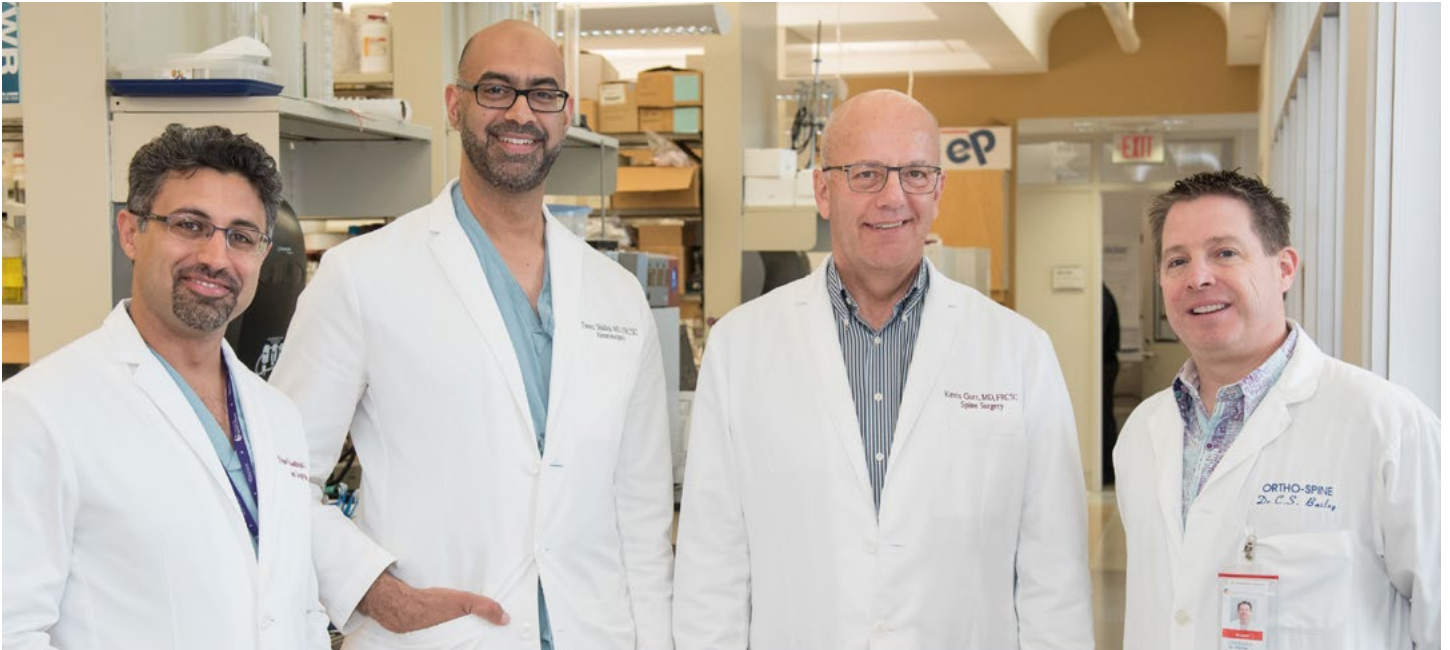
At the beginning of my second year, I was diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder tendencies. My doctor recommended this service along with medication, which was convenient in both time and location. It was always very easy to make an appointment that suited my availability as a full-time student. I felt supported and understood by my social worker, who quickly developed a

support plan to suit my needs. We used meditation, focused on improving my negative thought process using cognitive behavioural therapy, and developed strategies for dealing with panic attacks.

Through persistent trial and error, I was able to develop effective strategies to manage my anxiety and build my confidence. It was an amazing feeling to have someone to confide in who would listen without judgment and who was able to help me work through my daily struggles. I hope that other students and youth struggling will be able to have the opportunities that I did with Cornerstone Counselling.”

- A grateful patient

# Philanthropy Facilitates the Creation of a Spine Biomechanics Research Lab



Members of LHSC Ortho Spine team (left to right), Dr. Parham Rasoulinejad, Dr. Fawaz Siddiqi, Dr. Kevin Gurr and Dr. Chris Bailey

LHSC is the only spine centre in Southwestern Ontario that provides advanced surgical treatment and care for spine trauma, degenerative disorders and oncological spine conditions. In order to continue to advance surgical innovation and improve patient care for spine conditions through biomechanics (the study of the muscular, joint and skeletal actions of the body during a certain task), LHSC created a new Spine Biomechanics Research Laboratory located at Victoria Hospital.

Researchers will design, test, commercialize and acquire new technologies and instrumentation to improve patient care, advance discovery and attract top international spine surgery experts and research trainees to London.

“Our close collaborations with Western University and industry partners have allowed us to develop a state-of-the-art laboratory for bio-mechanical testing. Without funding donated by generous philanthropists, this project would not have been possible so far,” Dr. Parham Rasoulinejad, Orthopaedic Surgeon, LHSC, says. ■



Sharon Doward and her dog Melly

## A patient's experience:

“I was in the worst pain of my life before I had surgery to remove a cyst on my spine and free the pinched nerves.

When I met with Dr. Parham Rasoulinejad, he immediately put my

mind at ease with his expertise and his genuine bedside manner. When I woke up from surgery, I was relieved and grateful to discover the excruciating nerve pain was gone.

Within just a few weeks of the surgery, I was outside walking my dog again. It's the highlight of my day and something I took for granted before my back issues started. Now I cherish every second of it. That's why I'm a grateful patient.” -Sharon Doward



# Transforming Women's and Children's Care through Simulation Training



Dr. Cynthia Chan, Physician Lead for Women's Simulation Education, demonstrates the functions of a simulation mannequin to Simulation Centre donors at the centre's grand opening

The Michael Gunning Simulation Centre opened this past June and has already proven to be a busy facility where nurses, physicians and other care providers can master their skills in obstetrics, gynecology and newborn care in a virtual environment. Simulation training involves using replicated clinical settings and mannequins of different patients to practice team communication and clarify roles in a supportive, risk-free environment.

Since it opened, more than 300 care providers have trained in the new centre and simulation training has become part of LHSC's nursing curriculum.

The Simulation Centre was funded thanks to generous donations, including a \$500,000 donation from TD Bank Group through LHSF and a donation from the Gunning Estate through Children's Health Foundation. ■

## Fiddler on the Moose Supports Women's Care

An event highlight this year was Fiddler on the Moose at the Victoria Playhouse in Petrolia. Local fiddling favourite Jesse Grandmount (pictured here with two young audience members) led the audience on a fun-filled celebration of Canada's vast musical landscape. This patriotic performance charmed attendees and raised almost \$26,000 for women's care. ■



## Donors Support the Future of Telesurgery

Thanks to remarkable donor support, Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic's (FKSMC) vision to enhance its orthopaedic surgical program through TeleSurgery has become a reality. TeleSurgery is a remote surgical collaboration that offers many opportunities to advance education, share knowledge and support new and complex surgical procedures and techniques.

FKSMC provides surgical care at LHSC's University Hospital to more than 1,500 patients per year. Since acquiring the InTouch Vantage TeleSurgery system, the team has been able to demonstrate and teach new techniques in real time to surgeons across the country and around the



world. Health care providers and medical research companies pay to view the Telesurgery demonstrations and those funds support FKSMC's innovative research program – an incredible return on investment and an opportunity to attract and mentor new sport medicine specialists. ■

# New Continence Clinic Cuts Wait Times and Improves Quality of Life



Martha Gleason, Nurse Continence Advisor, LHSC

Millions of Canadian women experience some form of urinary incontinence and it can deeply affect their quality of life. For those who do seek help, they often face long wait times to see physicians specialized in urogynecology –

the clinical study of pelvic floor disorders – and as such, are unable to access education and treatment that could significantly enhance their lives and general well-being in a timely fashion.

Through the support of donors and a significant gift from Shoppers Drug Mart, LHSC opened a new nurse-led Continence Clinic at Victoria Hospital this past November. The clinic has allowed the hospital to significantly decrease wait times for women to receive an initial assessment and facilitates quicker access to a urogynecologist for those patients requiring surgery. For those patients who can be helped with a more conservative, non-operative treatment plan, the introduction of this nurse-led clinic provides them with much faster access to critical education and care.

“By introducing this clinic, we are getting women the help they need faster and are often able to quickly eliminate many of the obstacles and feelings that were negatively impacting their lives,” Martha Gleason, Nurse Continence Advisor, LHSC, says. ■

**CTV Medical Marvels: Learn more about LHSC’s Continence Clinic at [lhsf.ca/continencecare](http://lhsf.ca/continencecare)**



## Stop the Leak Raises Funds for Continence Care

Stop the Leak is a new event for the Women’s Urogynecology program at LHSC, held this past October at Dark Horse Winery in Grand Bend. Not only was there great wine and unique live and silent auctions, guests also enjoyed a fashion show featuring chic and comfortable fashions from Sharon’s of Hyde Park worn by philanthropic leaders in our community such as Terry Zavitz (pictured here), Chair of London Health Sciences Foundation’s Women’s Care Campaign Cabinet. The event raised more than \$45,000 for the urogynecology program, which includes a portion of Sharon’s of Hyde Park’s sales from the month of October. ■





# Double the Impact of Your Gift: Baines Challenge Advances Cancer Research

In December 2016, The Gerald C. Baines Foundation announced a \$1.5 million commitment in hopes of inspiring the public to reach the \$3 million needed to expand the capabilities of the Gerald C. Baines Centre for Translational Cancer Research at Lawson Health Research Institute.

The Baines Centre is a unique facility in Canada where cancer researchers and care providers work side by side to translate new findings in cancer imaging and treatment directly to patient care, removing the traditional separation between lab and clinic.

Recent donations have supported major international clinical trials that are helping improve cancer treatment, imaging software that enhances the precision of cancer scans and much-needed research positions. The Baines Centre is currently recruiting for two of these positions, with plans to attract a world-class Research Fellow in Precision Radiation Oncology and a Research Chair in Translational Cancer Imaging by July 2018.

"Public support through donations helped create the Baines Centre, which opened in 2010 and has become a game changer for improved cancer treatments and better patient outcomes," says Kirk Baines, Chair, Gerald C. Baines



LHSC Chair/Chief of Oncology Dr. Glenn Bauman, Medical Oncologist Dr. Steven Welch, Imaging Research Scientist Dr. Aaron Ward and Radiation Oncologist Dr. David Palma at the announcement for the Baines Challenge

Foundation. "We've committed to matching the public's donations to help the Centre reach and expand its research capabilities."

**The Gerald C. Baines Foundation will match all donations made to the Baines Centre until December 31, 2017. ■**

**CTV Medical Marvels: Learn more about the Gerald C. Baines Centre for Translational Cancer Research at [lhsf.ca/baineschallenge](http://lhsf.ca/baineschallenge)**



## Helping Cancer Patients Get Quality Care



Dr. David Palma signs a book for LHSF's Pamela Taylor, Director of Major Giving

LHSC radiation oncologist Dr. David Palma released a book this year advocating on behalf of cancer patients everywhere. *Taking Charge of Cancer: What You Need to*

*Know to Get the Best Treatment* is the first "how-to" manual that shows patients how to obtain and understand their medical records, verify their doctors' recommendations and ensure they are getting top-notch radiation, surgery or chemotherapy.

Dr. Palma is directing all royalties from his book to LHSF's Cancer Care Campaign.

"In the past decade, cancer research has led to major innovations – providing better treatment options for patients diagnosed with cancer," Dr. Palma says. "The efforts of LHSF have led to major improvements in health care by funding research in London. Donating the royalties from this book will help to move research forward for future generations."

Dr. Palma's book is available on [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca), [chapters.com](http://chapters.com), [indigo.ca](http://indigo.ca) and in Chapters and Indigo stores in London and other select stores across Canada. ■

# A Legacy of Love



Mary and John Knight

Leaving a legacy to the Translational Ovarian Cancer Research Team was a very personal and heartfelt decision by John Knight. In 2008, John lost Mary, his vibrant wife of 34 years, to ovarian cancer. She was just 55 years old.

In 2015, after John was diagnosed with colon cancer, he met with researchers at LHSC and made arrangements to contribute the bulk of his \$5.5 million estate to the advancement of ovarian cancer research in memory of his beloved wife Mary. His dream was to improve the outcomes of this disease that causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system.

In recognition of this tremendous gift, London Regional Cancer Program's (LRCP) atrium is named in honour of John and Mary Knight. Fittingly, this gift was announced last Valentine's Day at LRCP by Bob Merrifield, John and Mary's close friend and Estate Executor.

*"John and Mary were kindred spirits and life partners in the true sense of those words. And so on this Valentine's Day 2017, as a final gift of love in tribute to his wife Mary, I'm pleased to announce this legacy donation."*  
- Mr. Merrifield

This gift was humbly accepted by the co-leads of the Translational Ovarian Cancer Research Team, Dr. Gabriel DiMattia and Dr. Trevor Shepherd.

"John's generous gift provides foundational support that will propel our efforts of exploring innovative ways of battling ovarian cancer," Dr. DiMattia said. "This legacy will honour his wife Mary by bringing our translational ovarian cancer research to the bedside, bettering the care of ovarian cancer patients everywhere." ■

## Run for Ovarian Reaches New Milestone

The London Run for Ovarian Cancer celebrated its 15th year on Mother's Day and raised more than \$234,500 for ovarian cancer research, raising its cumulative total to over \$1.85 million.

The Run for Ovarian Cancer started with a group of fitness friends and a discussion over coffee in 2002. One of the friends, Ann Crowley, had recently been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and, though devastated by the news, she and her friends were inspired to take action by raising money to improve the outcomes of the disease.

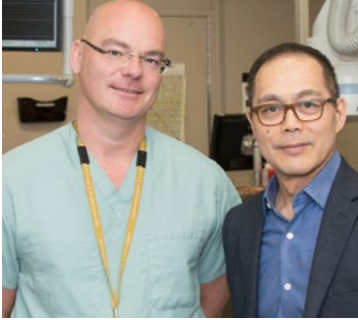
The first run in 2003 was a resounding financial success. Ann passed away two months after inspiring runners and their families to support research in this field. Her friends, along with hundreds of others affected by the disease, continue to run to raise money for this important cause. ■



Jocelyne Bower, ovarian cancer survivor, with her daughter, Elysha Bower, at the 2017 Run for Ovarian Cancer



# New Cardiac Labs Help Thousands of Heart Patients



Dr. Terry McPherson, Interventional Cardiology, and Dr. Raymond Yee, Interim Chair/Chief Division of Cardiology in a cardiac catheterization lab

In a typical year, the world-renowned Cardiac Care Program at LHSC performs more than 110,000 diagnostic tests, 1,400 cardiac surgeries and 3,900 cardiac catheterizations. A cardiac catheterization takes place in a specialized examination room (referred to as a cath lab)

with diagnostic imaging equipment used to visualize the arteries and chambers of the heart and help treat any issues or abnormalities found.

The fluoroscopy units – which use X-rays to obtain real-time moving images – in the cath labs are in critical need of replacement, as they are subject to frequent repairs and downtimes that affect the cost of operations, patient scheduling, and patient care.

Donors to LHSF have helped to begin the process of replacing the fluoroscopy equipment. Their generous support will improve patient care by providing higher-quality diagnostic images, keep LHSC staff and physicians safe by meeting current standards for radiation exposure, and make the entire process faster and more efficient. ■

# Knocking out Disease



Dr. Faisal Rehman surprises guests by taking to the ring at Showdown in the Downtown 2017

Heckles were called and punches were thrown, but it was all in the name of philanthropy. Showdown in the Downtown, a gala dinner and kickboxing event, took place on September 23 and raised its cumulative total to nearly \$1.8 million over the years for various causes including kidney research, transplant studies and the First Episode Mood and Anxiety Program (FEMAP) at LHSC, as well as other London charities.

Dr. Faisal Rehman, a nephrologist at LHSC, started the event in 2009 as a way of channelling his love of boxing into a way of helping others. Since then, he has secured the support of major donors, including Domino's Pizza, which has committed \$100,000 per year for the next 10 years.

"Physical fitness helps prevent so many conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and poor mental health that are often precursors for more illness," Dr. Rehman says. "So using a sport to raise money in support of research and care for these diseases is quite excellent." ■

## We'd Be Happy to Hear from You!

Please contact us if you have any questions about London Health Sciences Foundation's fundraising campaign for London Health Sciences Centre or how philanthropic support is helping to create world-class care right here in London.



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