

SPRING 2021

vital

VGH+
UBC hospital
foundation

INSPIRING DONORS | TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE | SAVING LIVES



big data

**Artificial intelligence, machine learning
and the future of health care**

Make the most of
virtual health

A day in the life of
a contact tracer

Cancer survivor
fights back

INTRODUCING
VGH & UBC HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Join us in transforming health care and saving lives

We are the philanthropic engine for health care innovation and transformation in BC. By partnering with Vancouver Coastal Health we are advancing our understanding of disease and illness, and improving the health of individuals and our health care system, from hospital to home. It is only made possible because of the vital support of donors like you.

Patients across BC with the most complex health care needs are referred to the Vancouver Coastal Health sites we support:



Vancouver General Hospital



Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



GF Strong Rehab Centre



UBC Hospital



Vancouver Community Health Services

COVID-19 innovations powered by philanthropy

COVID-19 RECOVERY CLINICS

COVID-19 has proven it is not a short-term disease. The long-term ramifications are just starting to be understood, and new clinics have been launched to support patients in their recovery. New donor-supported recovery clinics will provide an opportunity for patients to receive personalized care and allow for specialists to further understand the long-term adverse effects of COVID-19. The clinics connect patients with a network of specialists and allied health professionals through a mix of on-site and telehealth-enabled appointments.

[Learn more: vghfoundation.ca/post-covid](https://vghfoundation.ca/post-covid)

PPE TESTING LAB

Donor support has established Canada's first accredited full-scale Personal Protective Equipment testing lab at VGH. Led by the VCH Infection Prevention and Control team, this lab will validate N95 respirators, procedural masks and gowns. Through collaboration with provincial and national partners, VCH's ultimate goal is to be the national leader in PPE-testing solutions, protecting patients and health care workers.

[Learn more: vghfoundation.ca/ppe-lab](https://vghfoundation.ca/ppe-lab)

Office: 190-855 West 12 Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9
604 875 4676 | vghfoundation.ca | info@vghfoundation.ca
Board of Directors: vghfoundation.ca/board

[@vghfdn](https://www.instagram.com/vghfdn) [@vghfdn](https://twitter.com/vghfdn) [@vgh and ubc hospital foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/vgh-and-ubc-hospital-foundation)
[vgh+ubc 医院基金会](https://www.wechat.com/channel/en/vgh+ubc) [@vghubchospitalfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/vghubchospitalfoundation)

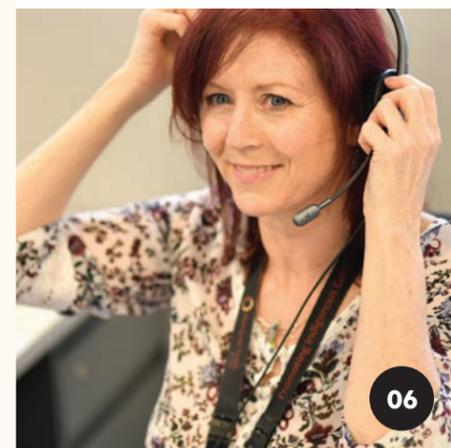
We acknowledge, with gratitude, that our Foundation offices are on the traditional unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-waututh) Nations.

Charitable registration number 13217 3063 RR 0001

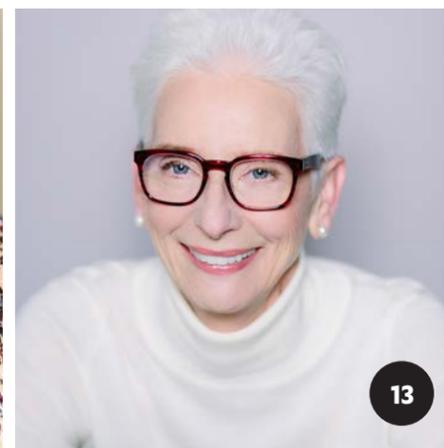


DRS. ALINE TALHOUK, GILLIAN HANLEY, AND JANICE KWON
PHOTO BY WILLIAM ORSUA

09



06



13

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 05 Research you make possible**
Donor-funded research projects are improving lives in BC.
- 06 A day in the life**
Nicola Harte provides insight into her role as a COVID-19 contact tracer.
- 08 Health check**
Dr. Ho provides advice so you can get the most out of virtual health.
- 09 Big Data: Artificial intelligence, machine learning and the future of health care**
Big data is empowering researchers to answer big questions, leading to new and improved treatments for all.
- 12 Gifts of securities**
Learn about the tax benefits of this increasingly popular way to give.
- 13 Cancer survivor gives back to transform care**
Nancy McKinstry's fight against ovarian cancer inspired her to give back to the team that saved her life.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Breakthroughs to a healthier future

ANGELA CHAPMAN (SECOND FROM RIGHT), HER HUSBAND MOHAMMED (FAR LEFT) AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN: (LEFT TO RIGHT) ALTHEA, JOHAR AND NATHAN.

When my mother was pregnant with me, I was diagnosed with Rhesus Hemolytic Disease. It is a condition where antibodies in my mother’s blood were destroying my own blood cells. At that time in 1967, it was known to lead to brain damage or even death.

But I had one thing on my side — incredible medical care. The specialists who cared for my mother and I transfused my blood while in the womb, and again when I was born. Luckily, I had no further complications from this disease.

A year later, a medical breakthrough would resolve this problem.

I was one of the last children born in Canada who had to face down the potential impacts of this disease. Medical research and innovation uncovered first how to treat and manage hemolytic disease, then ultimately how to eliminate it, freeing hundreds of thousands of parents from ever having to fear its consequences.

That is what people like you, our vital donors, make possible. Every year, I am astonished at what we accomplish together. **Medical breakthroughs make what previously seemed impossible, possible.** They turn unimaginable difficulties into lessons of the past. And this is what we are celebrating in this issue of *Vital*.

Medical breakthroughs are often the result of researchers standing on the shoulders of those who came before them. In January of this year, Dr. Dianne Miller retired after

a remarkable career as Division Head of Gynecological Oncology. As a co-founder of OVCARE (read about their work on pg. 15), she helped fundamentally transform the world’s understanding of ovarian cancer, how to prevent and treat it. Dianne was recognized by the Foundation with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Innovation in 2019. Her legacy continues in the work of OVCARE and the Gynecological Cancer Initiative featured in this issue and through physicians and nurses she has trained and mentored in Canada, Uganda, and around the world.

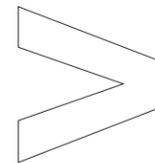
Elsewhere in this issue we looked into the day-to-day life of one of 2020’s most talked about jobs — a COVID-19 contact tracer - and we share stories of the incredible philanthropists who empower our health care heroes to do their jobs.

The impact of your donations is on display throughout the issue. It is only with your support that we are able to take strides towards a better, healthier future, together.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Vital* as much as we enjoyed putting it together. If you have thoughts or feedback please visit vghfoundation.ca/contact and get in touch.

Warmest Regards,

Angela Chapman
President & CEO, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation



Research you make possible

Your donations support vital research and help jumpstart new initiatives across Vancouver Coastal Health. Here are some highlights of the projects currently underway that are made possible by donor support.

[Learn more: vghfoundation.ca/research](http://vghfoundation.ca/research)



IMPROVING OPIOID THERAPY

Vancouver is the epicentre of an overdose crisis that claimed 1500 lives in 2020 alone and continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in BC. Opioid agonist therapy (alternative ingestives to reduce cravings) has been proven to reduce mortality, but few patients stay on the medication. With the support of donor funding, researchers aim to answer why this is, with the goal of discovering new and improved ways to increase retention and positive outcomes.



REANIMATING LIMBS AFTER NEUROTRAUMA

Patients who have suffered nerve or spinal cord injury sometimes face the devastating reality of losing arm function. But new research offers hope. With a new surgical technique called “nerve transfer”, surgeons could reanimate a paralyzed arm. This donor-funded research is seeking to better understand what happens to the nervous system after an injury, and to improve diagnosis and treatment of these injuries.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENTS

Dr. Jacqueline Quandt, a neuropathologist at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, published a paper showing how lowering levels of the ARNT2 gene can help promote neuronal cell growth and increase production of myelin. Scientists believe that myelin damage can cause diseases like MS. This donor-funded breakthrough may help discover new therapies to treat or slow down the progression of MS in the future.



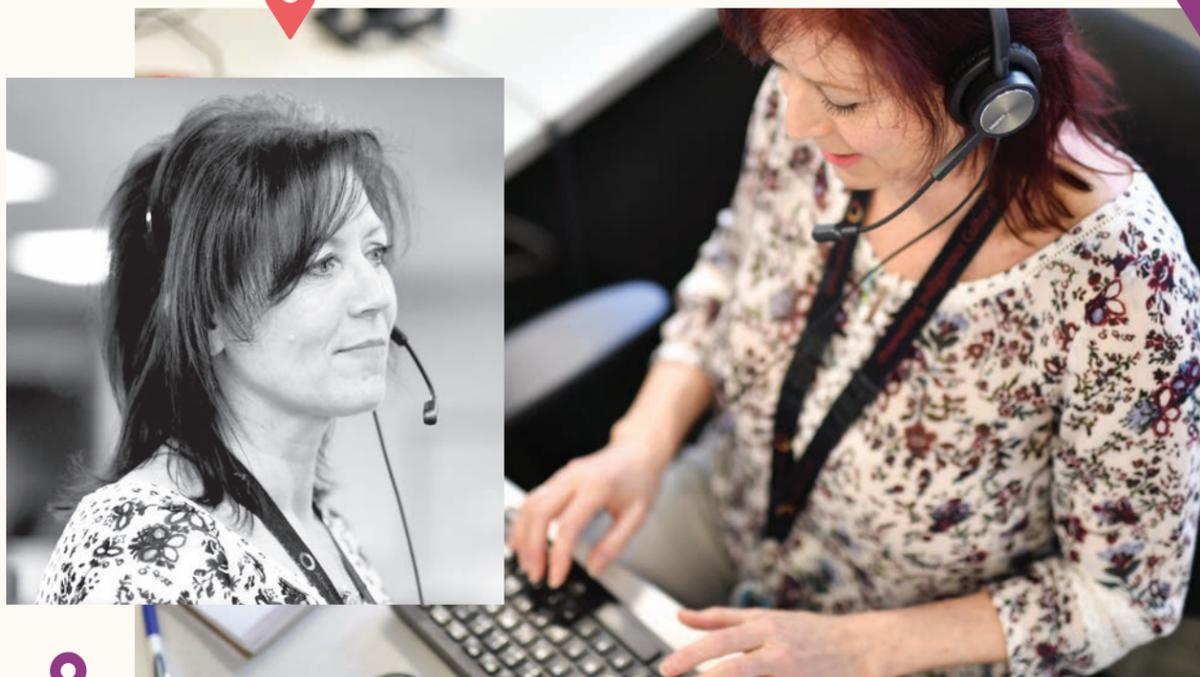
Donate monthly
Support vital health care year round

[Learn more: vghfoundation.ca/monthly](http://vghfoundation.ca/monthly)

Monthly giving is an easy and affordable option that provides a steady and predictable source of funding to support the most urgent needs of our hospitals and health care centres.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

The COVID-19 Contact Tracer



NICOLA HARTE, REGISTERED NURSE, CASE AND CONTACT TRACER

Nicola Harte has been a nurse since she graduated from BCIT in 2002. “Contact tracing is like detective work,” she says. “You start with a lead, and from there it snowballs until you’ve got a full file on an individual with intimate details about their life. It’s fascinating, yet difficult and must be handled with compassion and discernment.”

Contact tracing isn’t new. It’s a well-established practice in health care systems around the world to track and prevent the spread of everything from measles to tuberculosis. Before the pandemic struck, Nicola was working as a public health nurse, primarily working with families and young children.

Everything changed when the first lockdown happened. Nicola took an emergency reassignment to do COVID-19 testing in a long-term care facility, and saw firsthand the impact this disease was having on our elders.

“I was really struck by the vulnerability of these seniors given the lockdown,” says Nicola, “and how alone they were. It felt really good to be able to go in there and help them, to try and reassure them. Even though we were doing something very unpleasant, we did it in the most compassionate and gentle way possible. But I had this desire to be more front and centre, to be able to help with this pandemic. COVID-19 contact tracing seemed like something I could really sink my teeth into and feel like I was making a difference.”

“It’s really important to hear people and sympathize, to be human. I’m not here to judge – I’m just here to help.”

DIGGING DEEP

Nicola’s day starts with an update from the pod leaders with the latest news on any outbreaks, a summary of cases and a recap of the prior day’s events.

“Then we move onto ‘ADM’, Active Daily Monitoring,” says Nicola. “These are the cases that have already been recorded. We monitor their health and do check-ins, providing support as needed.”

Afterwards comes the big piece — the “CRF”, or Case Referral Form. This is a new COVID-19 case, and where the bulk of Nicola’s work falls into.

“This is the full contact tracing piece you could say,” says Nicola. “It is a full, very long, detailed interview. These can last anywhere from half an hour to an hour and a half or more. This is where I ask where they have been, what they were doing, who they saw, when symptoms started, and working around that information.”

It’s a lot of detail from people that goes into the minutiae of their lives.

“It can feel quite invasive,” says Nicola. “But this is one of the things I do like about contact tracing, because

I get to interact with people and help guide them through an incredibly stressful moment in their lives. In the end, most people are very grateful; they thank us for the work we are doing.”

This piece is incredibly important in order to suppress the spread of COVID-19. Knowing what an infected individual did throughout their time, pinpointing potential spreading events — mapping a person’s life, essentially — in order to intelligently curb the impact is vital to saving lives. On top of all this, Nicola is also navigating the individual’s emotions.

“It’s a science and an art,” adds Nicola. “It’s really important to hear people and sympathize, to be human. I’m not here to judge — I’m just here to help.”

At the end of the day, Nicola feels drained yet fulfilled.

“I’m very grateful for our team of contact tracers and our health care teams everywhere,” says Nicola. “I know some nurses who have come out of retirement to help out. There’s this collective effort to do whatever we can in whatever way we can, and it’s been amazing.”

“I can’t wait for this to all be over,” adds Nicola. “I can’t wait to hug people again!”



Donate in honour

Through thick and thin they have our backs. Now we can have theirs.

Honour a physician, nurse or health care team by giving a gift that gives back to BC health care.

Learn more:
vghfoundation.ca/give-in-honour

HEALTH CHECK

How to make the most of virtual care



Dr. Kendall Ho is a VGH physician and the Research Lead for the Digital Emergency Medicine department at UBC. His work allowed our hospitals and health care centres to continue safely and securely offering world-class care in the midst of a global pandemic. The accelerated use of telehealth, utilizing donor-supported tools, will only continue to grow and help provide care that is more accessible than ever to patients across BC.



GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PHONE

Phone applications (apps) are able to deliver all manner of vital information between a health care provider and their patient. VGH is already using various apps and secure messaging services to help with emergency department safety during COVID-19, as well as helping patients track their personal health in and out of hospital to further personalize care.

Getting comfortable using these apps and secure messaging will help keep you informed of important information such as wait times, directions to care and health tracking information you can pull up any time.



USE AT-HOME SERVICES

In certain cases, patients are able to use monitoring devices at home that share vital information back to their health care provider including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, blood sugars and more. This data is shared during check-ups, and allows patients to provide fulsome data to help improve their care. If you're interested, ask your doctor if you could benefit!



BOOK VIDEO CHECK-UPS

Video call technology is growing leaps and bounds with improved image, sound and connection quality allowing for meaningful check-ups from the comfort of your home. Improving access, especially for those who have challenges leaving home, can have a profoundly positive impact on a patient's quality of life, as it allows for them to be able to receive vital health care without stepping outside.

Booking these meetings can often be done online or with a simple phone call. Ask your doctor or health care provider.



PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Patient input is key in developing these technologies and helping to ensure that these tools are both useful and easily understood. So feel free to be honest and offer your feedback with your health care provider — it only gets better when you do!

Watch more with Dr. Kendall Ho: vghfoundation.ca/digital-video



FEATURE STORY

Big Data: Artificial intelligence, machine learning and the future of health care

DRS. ALINE TALHOUK, GILLIAN HANLEY AND JANICE KWON ARE UTILIZING BIG DATA, AI AND MACHINE LEARNING TO IMPROVE CANCER CARE IN BC.

When a clinician is treating a patient, they are focused on the individual in front of them. They ask: 'How are you feeling?', 'What brought you in today?', and 'How can I help?'. The patient is then given examinations and further tests as required. From here on, they are put on a treatment path deemed to be most effective.

While this method of practice works well and is necessary, there is a host of information being gathered and communicated during these interactions that, until recently, was simply not fully captured nor utilized.

As the clinician is focused on patients in front of them, there is a larger picture unfolding which can only be seen by taking a step back and looking at everyone's data at the same time; complex patterns emerge and tell their own stories.

Today with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning these stories are starting to unfold, enabling different perspectives which will ultimately lead to new kinds of care never before conceived.

This is the future of health care.

Big data is transforming cancer care in BC

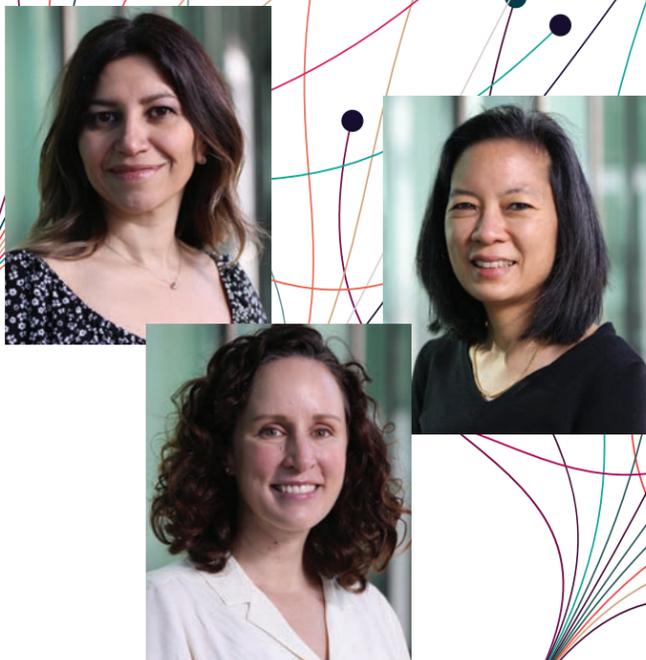
Adjacent to the Blusson building at VGH, in a space generously provided by the Women's Health Research Institute, sits the Big Data Solutions Lab. While the building is inconspicuous on the outside, what is happening inside is transforming gynaecologic cancer care for all British Columbians.

Three principal investigators with Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OVCARE) and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at UBC are leading the charge in what will likely become a primary driver in medical advancements for gynaecologic cancer patients. Dr. Aline Talhouk studies digital health and clinical predictive models. Dr. Gillian Hanley's work harnesses the information that is available in population-based administrative datasets, and Dr. Janice Kwon, a gynaecologic oncologist, models the cost-effectiveness of many different gynaecological cancer interventions.

"Today, we have started tapping into big data and analyzing it to get answers to important questions we never could before, both for prevention and precision medicine," says Dr. Talhouk. "We are using AI and machine learning to identify patterns from complex health data to develop and deploy predictive tools that optimize decision making for prevention, therapies and management of ovarian and other gynaecological cancers."

This information is directly improving gynaecological cancer care in BC and around the world. By analyzing data from a multitude of health sites, Dr. Talhouk and her colleagues in the Big Data Solutions Lab are playing a pivotal role in reaching the Gynecologic Cancer Initiative's goal of reducing the incidence, death and suffering from gynaecological cancers by 50 per cent by 2034.

"This work will not only improve our understanding of disease, but also allow us to personalize our approach to each individual patient to achieve the best possible outcome,"
says Dr. Talhouk.



OLD PROBLEMS, NEW SOLUTIONS

This technology isn't just identifying new patterns, Dr. Gillian Hanley is also using it to reexamine long-standing medical mysteries.

"For example, we've known for a long time that the oral contraceptive pill reduces the risk of developing ovarian cancer, but we don't know the biological reasons," says Dr. Hanley. "What we're able to do now is go into these databases, identify women who have had exposure to oral contraceptives, have had surgery, and then we can access those tissues to further research the biological reasons why this pill is effective. This doesn't burden any patient, and by finding these answers we can possibly make more effective treatments."

By bridging together data points from previously siloed sources such as tissue banks, molecular data sets, hospitals and patient accounts, the researchers at the Big Data Solutions Lab are able to create novel observations that ultimately move forward the understanding of gynaecological cancers.

"What can be achieved by leveraging data may sound like science fiction, but it's not — this is happening. This is going to be the way of the future," says Dr. Talhouk. "If I were to do a prediction of the future, data is at the centre of it."

And this is only the beginning.

Data-based research and its impact beyond cancer care

The expanded utilization of big data has the potential to improve patient outcomes across countless areas of our health care system.

RESEARCH-BASED COMMUNITY CARE

The Withdrawal Management Centre (WMC), which will offer life-saving recoveries and ongoing wellness for clients hopes to bring this approach to community health. Dr. Ronald Joe, Medical Director of Substance Use Services at Vancouver Community, Vancouver Coastal Health, sees an opportunity to use data to help their clients reach recovery.

"Scientific research has really focused on short-term outcomes so far," says Dr. Joe. "But in medicine, I think the best type of research has to do with long-term outcomes."

The new WMC will bring research and care together under one roof. Dr. Joe is excited about the integration of research at the WMC and the opportunities it holds for more personalized client care.

USING AI AND BIG DATA TO BATTLE COVID-19

AI and data analytics has and continues to play a key role in our understanding and treatment of COVID-19.

At VGH and UBC Hospital radiologists have led an international study to better predict the presence of COVID-19 based on CT scans. By utilizing AI, they are able to predict the presence, severity and complications of COVID-19.

Dr. Artem Cherkasov of the Vancouver Prostate Centre is also using a powerful AI-augmented technology to screen more than a billion known chemical compounds to help identify a shortlist of likely candidates that could lead to improved treatments.

Philanthropy is what empowers medical breakthroughs

The research and work being done in the Big Data Solutions Lab is only in its infancy. With additional philanthropic support the incredible team will be able to continue their work in answering previously impossible questions in order to create more effective, personalized medicine.

"Donations play a critical role for our work, particularly in the infrastructure," says Dr. Talhouk. "We need database developers, we need machinery, disc drivers, computer clusters, and places to save all the data we're collecting. **The need here is great, and every donation matters.**"

 For more information please visit vghfoundation.ca/bigdata

Make a lasting impact

Gifts of securities

Charlene Taylor, Director, Gift & Estate Planning



No matter where you are in BC, if you or a loved one has complex health needs, you want to receive the best care possible. In order to treat the most complex cases in the province, health care teams in Vancouver need to be equipped with the latest tools and technology. This is where philanthropic support of VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation can make a tremendous difference for patients across BC.

Charitable gifts do not need to be cash based. An increasingly popular alternative is gifting publicly traded securities such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds. These gifts can be any size, given immediately or left to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation in your will.

The impact of this type of gift can create a lasting legacy for our health care system. Our Foundation's Director of Gift & Estate Planning, Charlene Taylor, outlines reasons why gifting in this way is beneficial to you and all British Columbians.



TAX-EFFECTIVE

Gifts of securities to a registered charity is one of the most tax-effective ways to give. You can benefit from a donation tax credit and the elimination of the capital gains tax that you would pay if you sold the same shares and donated the proceeds. Your estate can also see these same benefits if you choose to leave a gift of securities in your will.



SIMPLE TO DO

Most securities are held electronically and can be easily transferred from your brokerage account to a brokerage account held by VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. Upon request, this can be arranged by your Financial Advisor.



LASTING IMPACT

Whether you donate now, or leave a gift in your will you will have a vital impact on health care in BC. Donor funds support groundbreaking research, new tools and technology, and ongoing support for our health care workers.

For more information, please contact:
Charlene Taylor, Director, Gift & Estate Planning
 604 875 4917 | charlene.taylor@vghfoundation.ca
vghfoundation.ca/securities

On the next page, meet Nancy McKinstry. After her life was saved by the OVCARE team she opted to support their work with a gift of securities and a future gift in her will.

The information above is not intended as legal or financial advice. We encourage you to consult a qualified Financial Advisor.

Cancer survivor gives back to transform care



Nancy McKinstry is the definition of self-made success.

As a financial professional, Nancy spent years building her career and helping investment firm Odlum Brown reach great heights as a powerhouse portfolio manager, director and partner.

Nancy was never one to back down from a challenge. So when she retired early at 55 years old, and faced an ovarian cancer diagnosis just one year later, Nancy once again held her head high and pushed into it head-on.

FIGHTING BACK

"Ovarian cancer was new to me and my family," says Nancy. "No friends or relatives have had it. I felt quite alone when I headed in to receive care. And how lucky was I that I received care from OVCARE, one of the top ovarian cancer clinical-research centres in the world."

Nancy underwent three months of chemotherapy followed by 35 radiation treatments and a total hysterectomy to remove the cancer. She spent 18 months recovering, but through it all she was so impressed with the knowledge and support of the OVCARE team, she knew she wanted to give back.

THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

Now in remission, Nancy has explored different ways to support the research that saved her life, along with countless others.

"The seed was sown at OVCARE," says Nancy. "I have given back in a few ways including a gift in my will and through gifts of securities. **These are important to me so that advancements keep happening even when I'm not around.**"

Nancy has also given back with her knowledge and expertise. Her professional guidance has been instrumental in helping form the Gynaecologic Cancer Initiative, which is building bridges between gynaecological cancer experts across the province to empower and improve their resources and research, ultimately transforming patient experiences and saving lives.

"I am proud of what I could bring to help those who have helped countless others," says Nancy. "I will always be here to support this amazing team."

Learn more about how the Gynaecologic Cancer Initiative is using big data to better treat and prevent cancer on page 9.



Accelerate Innovation

Virtual Event – May 6 at 5pm

Register today: vghfoundation.ca/innovation

Join the 2021 Innovators' Challenge. Three of BC's up-and-coming medical researchers will present their latest projects. YOU will vote to award vital funding to help accelerate their work. With the power of philanthropy, you can spark the greatest push for health care innovation ever seen in BC.

Your Impact



Joan Guthrie
Spinal surgery patient

"Following a skiing accident, I was transferred from Whistler to Dr. Kwon at VGH for spinal surgery. Months later, I am skiing, golfing and realizing a full life again. Without the expertise, research and knowledge of Dr. Kwon and his wonderful team this could never have happened. Forever thankful and grateful."



Dana Fedor
Registered Nurse

"It makes me so proud to live in BC and know that we're all in this together. Thank you to everyone who has shown support to all of us on the front lines."

Dr. David Wood

Head, VCH Division of Cardiology

"I am thrilled to be the inaugural Director of the CCI, an inclusive academic research centre representing over 60 investigators from across BC with a mandate to advance cardiovascular innovation and care both nationally and internationally. To all of you I say a heartfelt thank you!"



Alice Chung
Board Member and Donor

"Choosing to donate to a hospital which provides a full range of basic and highly specialized emergency health care and trauma services, not just for Vancouver, but for all residents of British Columbia is a priority for our family."

Yik Fung Au-Yeung
Donor

"Our family would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated VGH Emergency Department staff. We know their work is challenging, and are comforted by their compassion and empathy, as well as their willingness to communicate in an honest yet sensitive manner with patients and their families."

VITAL SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY



BONNIE HENRY WHISKEY SAUCE

Chef Ann Kirsebom created Dr. Henry Gourmet Whiskey Sauce to honour the Provincial Health Officer and raise funds for front line health care staff. Sales are ongoing at The Gourmet Warehouse, over \$11,000 has already been raised!



TAVISHA'S HELPING HANDS

15 year old Tavisha has been selling hand-made masks and doing bottle drives, donating 100% of proceeds. She has raised \$1,000 so far for our COVID-19 Research fund. She set up her own charity organization when she was 11 and has been raising money through fundraising ever since.

STIKEMAN ELLIOTT LLP

The Foundation is going through a major information systems upgrade and we couldn't have done it without the expertise provided pro bono by Stikeman Elliott LLP. Former VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation Board of Directors Chairman, Noordin Nanji, and his colleagues at Stikeman Elliott, Vanessa Johnson and Wesley Ng, provided invaluable legal and contract negotiation advice and skill to assist the Foundation. These advanced information systems will help the Foundation continue to inspire philanthropy that transforms health care and saves lives. Thank you Stikeman Elliott LLP!

Medical breakthroughs

Philanthropy plays a vital role in accelerating discoveries, enabling medical breakthroughs which have the power to transform health care and save lives. Join us as we take a look back at several of these breakthroughs made possible thanks to donors.



OVCARE'S WORLD-CHANGING DISCOVERIES OF GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCERS

The OVCARE program at VGH has made several groundbreaking and transformative discoveries, including that ovarian cancer is not a single disease, but five distinct subtypes that should be treated differently. They also introduced Opportunistic Salpingectomies, removing fallopian tubes during related surgeries in order to prevent the disease. The work has decreased ovarian cancer rates and set a new standard of care worldwide.



DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION (DBS) GIVES SECOND CHANCE TO PARKINSON'S PATIENTS

DBS is an operation wherein an electrode is surgically implanted in the brain. It is then connected to a neural stimulator — which sits on the patient's chest like a pacemaker — and switched on. Inside of a few seconds, the patient's tremors stop. Notably, Dr. Christopher Honey is the only neurosurgeon in BC able to perform DBS, and does so proudly out of VGH and UBC Hospital.



PERSONALIZED MEDICINE IMPROVING CANCER TREATMENTS

The My Precision Oncology Program (MyPOP) collects and analyzes blood samples to reveal circulating tumour DNA and tumour genetics. Tumour mutations can result in drug treatments becoming less effective. By monitoring for changes in real time, doctors can give each patient the right drug at the right time, resulting in more effective prostate, kidney and bladder cancer treatments.



TRANSFORMING HEART CARE WITH INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Dr. David Wood leads a team at the new Centre for Cardiovascular Innovation that is transforming the care of patients with failing heart valves and severe blockages in their heart arteries. Patients no longer require open heart surgery and recovery time has been reduced from months to a few hours. Philanthropic support has helped the team refine their pioneering techniques.



MORE EFFICIENT LUNG CANCER SCREENING

The Early Lung Cancer Screening Pilot Program at VGH launched in 2016. Led by Dr. Stephen Lam, the innovative trial used risk modelling to improve outcomes by detecting cancer earlier.



COVID-19: DISCOVERING NEW TREATMENTS, PREDICTIVE PATIENT PATHS AND MORE

VGH and UBC Hospital's research and medical teams have played a vital role in understanding COVID-19. Whether it's groundbreaking research, improved treatments, or innovative technologies to keep staff and patients safe, donor funding has played an integral role in empowering these teams to save and improve lives across the province.



**PHIL & JENNIE
GAGLARDI
SURGICAL
CENTRE**

AT VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Future of Surgery is here.

**The Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Surgical Centre opens at
Vancouver General Hospital this spring.**

As part of a \$125 million revitalization of surgical spaces at VGH and UBC Hospital, this centre hosts 16 new state-of-the-art operating rooms and a new 40-bed perioperative care unit.

Thank you for supporting this campaign. Patients from across BC will benefit from the *Future of Surgery* as together we reduce wait times, optimize recoveries, and equip health care staff with groundbreaking technology.

vghfoundation.ca/surgery

VGH 
UBC hospital
foundation