

# VGH+ Winter Impact Report

## Healthier lives for healthier communities in BC

When you choose to give to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, you are choosing to be part of a powerful community of donors shaping the future of health care in BC. You are joining forces with thousands of supporters around our province to empower a network of caregivers, scientists and programs that are pushing the boundaries of what's possible in health care.

It's a privilege to welcome you into this extraordinary community of donors — people whose generosity is making a real and lasting impact. In the pages ahead, you'll see examples of how supporters have come together with compassion and purpose to make a meaningful difference. You'll read about the growth and evolution of health care here in BC and feel the power of gratitude from patients, families and health care teams.

At VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, we're proud to be BC's leading charity investing in health care innovation. But it's your partnership that makes it all possible.

**Thank you for believing in better health care for everyone across BC.**

With gratitude,



**Angela Chapman**  
President & CEO  
VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation





## Building hope: Expanding surgical care for a healthier BC

Construction is underway on 15 new operating rooms and 38 perioperative patient bays at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), marking the start of Phase 2 of the multi-year plan to expand surgical capacity at VGH and UBC Hospital. The completion of this transformative project will provide faster, world-class surgical care — bringing renewed hope and healing to people in Vancouver and across BC.

The new rooms feature a universal design that focuses on accessibility and flexibility, enabling any type of surgery in any room. Enhanced layouts and advanced equipment will improve workflow, efficiency and safety, creating a better environment for staff and optimizing patient outcomes.

"Our new operating rooms at VGH will feature best-in-class technology and equipment, allowing us to provide safe, quality care to any patient in any room, regardless of the complexity or specialized nature of the care required," says Vivian Eliopoulos, President & CEO, Vancouver Coastal Health. "We're grateful for the incredible support of donors to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation and the Ministry of Health for helping us expand our surgical services to meet the needs of BC residents."

Phase 1 of the expansion was completed in May 2021 with the opening of the Phil and Jennie Gaglardi Surgical Centre, which offered 16 new operating rooms and 40 perioperative bays.

**Completion of both phases of the expansion is expected to increase the number of surgeries from 16,800 to more than 19,000 per year.**

Thanks to the support of donors, our health care teams will be able to meet the growing demand for surgeries, reduce wait times and improve access to world-class care.

## A new era in cancer care begins at VGH

Thanks to \$5 million in donor support, Vancouver Coastal Health has opened BC's first dedicated inpatient clinical trials unit for early testing of novel blood cancer therapies at VGH.

The new Hematology Research Unit (HRU) is a game-changer for patients with relapsed or treatment-resistant blood cancers. It offers access to cutting-edge treatments like CAR T-cell immunotherapy, right here at home. This bold leap in cancer care is transforming hope into reality — offering patients with complex diagnoses access to breakthrough therapies that were once out of reach.

Integrated into the Leukemia/Bone Marrow Transplant Program of BC, the unit is specially designed to support complex trials that require intensive monitoring and expert care. With three private rooms, it's equipped to host both industry-sponsored and investigator-led studies.

**"The HRU represents a critical step in expanding access to innovative cancer treatments for patients in BC,"** says Dr. Kevin Song, Director, Leukemia/BMT Program of BC. "It gives people with few remaining options a chance to benefit from the latest advances in therapy without having to leave the province."

This milestone was made possible by donors through VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation's *Greater Than Cancer* campaign. This is an example of how our donors help fuel medical breakthroughs and bring life-saving innovation to BC.

Learn more at [vghfoundation.ca/Phase2](https://vghfoundation.ca/Phase2)

Learn more at [vghfoundation.ca/HRU](https://vghfoundation.ca/HRU)





## A powerful swing toward better epilepsy care

Better care starts with better training.

The next generation of neurologists at VGH will receive just that, thanks to CIBC Real Estate's inaugural Charity Golf Open in support of VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

This special event brought together valued community partners, colleagues and friends for a meaningful day of golf and philanthropy, raising \$75,000 for the VGH Epilepsy Fellowship Program. These funds will advance specialist training for epilepsy fellows, foster innovative research and strengthen patient care.

Through this partnership, CIBC is helping shape better outcomes and brighter futures for the more than 50,000 people in BC living with epilepsy.

Host your own fundraising event at [vghfoundation.ca/community-events](https://vghfoundation.ca/community-events)



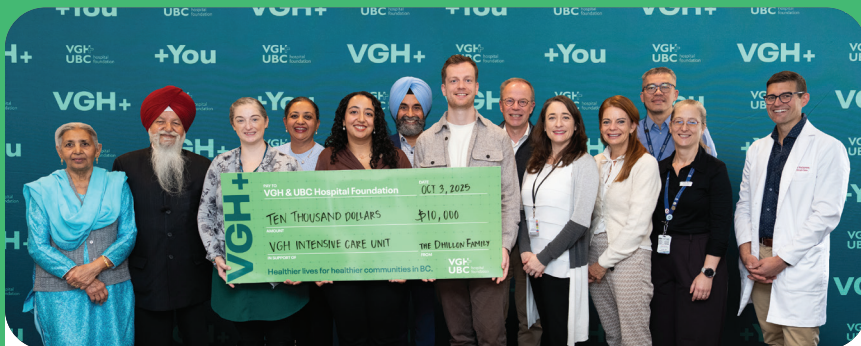
## Lifting emergency care to new heights

Every day, the VGH Emergency Department (ED) treats some of the sickest and most critically injured patients from across BC. The second annual LiftED fundraising event, presented by RBC, raised \$508,000 to ensure the ED has the tools and training needed to continue delivering world-class emergency care.

Led by event Chair & Founder, and Foundation Board Director Naz Panahi, LiftED was a vibrant blend of celebration, gratitude and reflection, with inspirational remarks from emergency physicians and researchers.

As one of BC's premier Level 1 Adult Trauma Centres, the VGH ED sees over 90,000 patients a year, many in life-threatening situations. Thanks to our generous donors, we're lifting care to new heights and saving lives every day.

Learn more at [vghfoundation.ca/liftED25](https://vghfoundation.ca/liftED25)



## A decade of gratitude: Gazal's remarkable recovery

Ten years ago, Gazal received a life-threatening diagnosis: Anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis, a rare autoimmune disease. At that time, very little was known about the condition and her health declined rapidly, leading to a nearly four-month medically-induced coma.

For her parents, Preet and Raman, those months were filled with fear — but also hope. That hope came from the compassionate care provided by VGH's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and neurology teams, led by Dr. Chantelle Hrazdil. The family felt embraced by Gazal's care team and supported every step of the way.

Against all odds, Gazal made a full recovery with no residual effects from her illness or coma. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of this incredible milestone, her family donated \$10,000 to the ICU in heartfelt gratitude.

**"We will forever remain grateful to VGH for giving us our daughter back," says Preet. "What we witnessed was not just medicine, it was humanity at its very best."**

Read other stories of hope at [vghfoundation.ca/news](https://vghfoundation.ca/news)



## Our donors help people across BC live healthier, happier lives

Every day, our health care teams are doing extraordinary work — caring for patients, solving complex medical challenges and delivering hope to patients from every corner of BC. Each step forward — breakthroughs, thoughtful enhancements in care, and bold innovations — has been strengthened by the generosity of donors.

We hope the examples of donor impact in this report inspire you to support health care innovation with VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. With you by our side, we are building the path forward and helping patients and families find their way to brighter, healthier futures.

Donate today at [vghfoundation.ca/makeanimpact](https://vghfoundation.ca/makeanimpact)



+Vancouver  
General Hospital



+UBC  
Hospital



+VCH Research  
Institute



+G.F. Strong  
Rehabilitation  
Centre



+Vancouver  
Community  
Health Services

### About VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation

#### +Forefront of Medical Research

We catalyze the medicine of tomorrow, funding pioneering research and cutting-edge developments that shape the future of health care in BC and beyond.

#### +Exceptional Health Care Teams

We empower world-class health care teams and researchers to drive excellence in patient care.

#### +Direct Patient Impact

Donations directly fuel life-saving treatments and programs for the most serious conditions and complex cases from across BC.

#### +Community-Centred

We actively engage with communities, funding accessible, equitable care for all.

VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation is the leading charity investing in health care innovation in BC. As Vancouver Coastal Health's primary philanthropic partner, the Foundation raises essential funds for VGH, UBC Hospital, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre and Vancouver Community Health Services.

### CONTACT US

Individual Giving  
[giving@vghfoundation.ca](mailto:giving@vghfoundation.ca)

Events & Volunteering  
[events@vghfoundation.ca](mailto:events@vghfoundation.ca)

\*Leaving a Gift in Your Will  
[lisa.shearer@vghfoundation.ca](mailto:lisa.shearer@vghfoundation.ca)

190-855 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9  
604 875 4676 or 1 877 875 4676

[info@vghfoundation.ca](mailto:info@vghfoundation.ca)  
[vghfoundation.ca](https://vghfoundation.ca)  
Charity number: 13217 3063 RR0001

**VGH**  
**UBC** hospital  
foundation