



Health Sciences Centre  
FOUNDATION

# Foundation Connection

Delivering Tomorrow's Health Care, Today

SUMMER 2023



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## “There’s a Growth Inside Your Head”

Max Erenberg’s condition could have been fatal without HSC Neurosurgeon Dr. Anthony Kaufmann



Max Erenberg, 28 at the time of his medical crisis, is thankful for the care Dr. Anthony Kaufmann and other HSC personnel provided throughout his time at HSC.

Max Erenberg will never forget when his excruciating head pain began. It was in April 2021, the same weekend as the Masters Tournament, and the National Hockey League was amid a COVID-19-induced “bubble season.”

Working as the Manager of Research and Data Analysis for the Winnipeg Jets, Erenberg remembers that weekend being filled with three things: watching golf, working, and a killer headache.

Erenberg assumed the headache was stress-related. Work was busy, and with the pandemic hitting the world, a lot of life was still uncertain. So, he decided to push through.

Over a week later, Erenberg couldn’t handle the constant pain. His family had a history of migraines, so Erenberg’s doctor thought it might just be a particularly bad migraine. After that week of constant pain, and a bout of throwing up, Erenberg was sent for a CT scan. “I was on the bathroom floor at home when they called me with the results. The doctor’s exact words were: ‘It doesn’t look like a tumour, and no one is particularly alarmed yet, but there is a growth inside your head,’” says Erenberg.

If the pain got worse, Erenberg was told to go to HSC Winnipeg’s Emergency Department, which he did. He spent two days there before being admitted to the Neurosurgery Unit for a week. Those seven days were filled with MRIs, more CT scans, angiograms, and blood tests.

**“I was on the bathroom floor at home when they called me with the results. The doctor’s exact words were: ‘It doesn’t look like a tumour, and no one is particularly alarmed yet, but there is a growth inside your head.’”**

— Max Erenberg

“They knew it wasn’t a stroke or an aneurysm, but they didn’t know exactly what it was yet,” says Erenberg, who was told to monitor his symptoms and return for follow-up scans in June 2022.

Continued on next page...



Max Erenberg could barely get off the couch, and constantly had a heat pack pressed against his head to alleviate some of the pain.

After feeling better for a few weeks, Erenberg remembers waking up with a sense of vertigo on June 2. He got another CT scan that day, and this time the news was much more urgent—the growth had doubled in size, and it needed to be removed right away.

***“The care at HSC was phenomenal, even for my parents who couldn’t visit. They’d call hourly and were given a thorough report of how I was doing—the nurses and staff were great, especially my nurse Grace.”***

***— Max Erenberg***

Erenberg was immediately admitted to surgery. He was told he would have a craniotomy (surgery that temporarily removes a piece of the skull to access the brain) with Neurosurgeon Dr. Anthony Kaufmann. The surgery was a success, and after a biopsy was completed, Erenberg was told he had a pilocytic astrocytoma (low-grade tumour) that had bled into and inflated itself, which was unusual for that type of tumour.

If it had burst, Erenberg could have died or had serious brain damage.



Max Erenberg’s craniotomy was a success thanks to the skill of HSC Neurosurgeon Dr. Anthony Kaufmann.

“It was the worst experience of my life, but the staff were amazing,” says Erenberg. “The care at HSC was phenomenal, even for my parents who couldn’t visit. They’d call hourly and were given a thorough report of how I was doing—the nurses and staff were great, especially my nurse Grace.”

This experience changed Erenberg’s life. He has since left the Jets and now works in his family’s insurance business, R&D Insurance, which serves physicians, including some who took care of Erenberg in the hospital. He also uses his experience as motivation to give back to the brain tumour community as a volunteer.

“As terrible as my situation was, it was the best possible outcome. Dr. Kaufmann said I was one of the luckiest unlucky kids he had ever seen in his life,” says Erenberg.

Your gift today can help HSC continue to provide excellent health care to patients like Max Erenberg. To donate, please visit [hscfoundation.mb.ca/donate/](https://hscfoundation.mb.ca/donate/), or call 204-515-5612 or 1-800-679-8493 (toll-free).

# Honouring a Milestone Together

One hundred and fifty years of health care compassion, leadership, and innovation at HSC



L-R: A horse-drawn ambulance in 1889, a motor-driven ambulance in 1910, and the Paul Albrechtsen Heliport today.

This year, HSC Winnipeg marks 150 years of serving the community, thanks in large part to donors like you. HSC's history begins with the establishment of the Winnipeg General Hospital in 1872. In 1973, the Winnipeg General Hospital merged with Children's Hospital of Winnipeg and The Manitoba Rehabilitation Hospital—D.A. Stewart Centre (Respiratory Hospital) and became HSC Winnipeg.

HSC was established on a strong foundation of compassion and innovation, and has grown to become one of the largest tertiary health care facilities in Canada—a referral, teaching, and research institution serving residents of Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario, and Nunavut.

“As I reflect on our history, I am proud of the buildings and clinical spaces that have been built and expanded to develop our over 36-acre campus. I am proud of advances in diagnostic imaging, research, and surgery. And I am proud of our community of donors and supporters who drive these health care innovations,” says Dr. Shawn Young, HSC's Chief Operating Officer.

Today, HSC is Manitoba's provincial centre for trauma, transplants, burns, neurosciences, complex cancer care, hospital-based pediatric care, and is the working home of thousands of staff and volunteers who continue to provide services to meet our evolving health care needs. For more than 100 years, dedicated doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals have delivered remarkable patient care, and have influenced the development of specialized services, the founding of training institutions, and the construction of countless modern health facilities. For many of those years, you have played an integral role in HSC's history and bringing these developments to life.

One example of how HSC Foundation donors have made history is the Paul Albrechtsen Heliport that

opened in November 2016. The heliport sits atop HSC's Diagnostic Centre of Excellence, and was the first hospital-based heliport in Manitoba. The ability to land an air ambulance directly at HSC shaves approximately 30 minutes off the previous ground ambulance service, bringing the sickest and most critically ill people to Manitoba's hospital quicker.

Further, the Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit is one of HSC's donor-funded spaces that stands as a shining example of what can be accomplished together with a community of very generous donors, passionate medical leadership, and deeply engaged volunteers who support innovation at HSC.



Thanks to donors to the Wilf Taillieu Thoracic Surgery Clinic and Endoscopy Unit campaign, all clinical assessment, diagnosis, staging, and treatment can be performed in one location—making the clinic the first of its kind in Canada.

“Whether it's funding new surgical techniques, clinical spaces, or research and education, HSC Foundation supporters have transformed care for patients of our past, present, and future,” says Dr. Young.

To learn more about HSC's milestone anniversary, please watch the hospital's 150th anniversary video at [hscfoundation.mb.ca](http://hscfoundation.mb.ca) or scan the QR code.



# 30 Years of Giving

Doris Kohinski made her first donation in 1993, and has been a monthly donor for 13 years—and counting



*Doris and Barry Kohinski have been proud supporters of the HSC Foundation since 1993.*

HSC Winnipeg is Manitoba's hospital, and proud Manitoban Doris Kohinski is glad to have supported it for 13 years and counting.

Doris Kohinski has lived her entire life in Western Manitoba. Born in Brandon, her family moved to the Glenella area when she was young, which is where Kohinski stayed after marrying her husband, Barry.

Being a stay-at-home mom to four kids, with her husband running the farm, Kohinski never had a lot of extra money, but she always had a generous heart. That's why, in 1993, Kohinski made her first donation to the HSC Foundation, which became a regular monthly donation in 2010.

"It was easier just to give \$10 a month than giving \$50 or \$100 once a year. Just to give a small amount like that every month, you didn't miss it, compared to the improved care we get back," says Kohinski. "If we can get enough people giving that much, it really adds up and can make a big difference."

Kohinski has continued her monthly giving to the HSC Foundation and has gone above and beyond that generosity. Donating in memory of late friends and family, supporting various HSC Foundation fundraising campaigns, and buying tickets for the two annual lotteries that support the HSC Foundation, Kohinski has shown that generosity doesn't need to come with a large cheque, but with a large heart.

One of the main reasons why Kohinski chose to start donating 30 years ago is because of the care her father and other members of her family received. Kohinski's father and brother both received treatment at HSC for aneurysms. Barry, too, required care in HSC's Plastic Surgery Clinic a few years ago after a quadding accident left him with a broken finger.

"Barry's injury really wasn't a big deal, but they treated him like it was as important as any major injury," says Kohinski.

One of Kohinski's daughters works in PsychHealth at HSC, which is another reason Kohinski supports the hospital. Kohinski encourages others to give to the HSC Foundation. She holds her German immigrant family's sentiment that it is amazing that we have publicly funded health care here in Manitoba, and it should be everyone's responsibility to give back somehow.



*Kohinski at her daughter's graduation from Brandon University after receiving her Bachelor's degree in nursing.*

"Tax dollars can only go so far to help pay for health care, and what's more important than our health? If we don't have our health, we don't have anything," says Kohinski.

Monthly gifts make a significant contribution to our efforts to innovate and enhance patient care. Twelve times a year, our monthly donors inspire us to do more and do better for our current and future patients.

*If you wish to set up a monthly gift, please contact Shayna Ferens directly at 204-410-4942, toll-free at 1-800-679-8493, [sferens@hscfoundation.mb.ca](mailto:sferens@hscfoundation.mb.ca), or donate on our website at [hscfoundation.mb.ca/donate](http://hscfoundation.mb.ca/donate).*

# New Donor-funded Technology Arrives at HSC

Operation Excellence campaign ushers in a new era of surgical innovation at Manitoba's hospital

HSC Foundation donors have been keeping delivery drivers busy as the transformational Operation Excellence campaign advances toward the finish line.

“There has been a steady flow of new equipment arriving,” says Jonathon Lyon, President and CEO of the HSC Foundation. “This campaign was designed to help HSC deliver the best care possible by acquiring the latest generation of minimally invasive surgical technology, and that is exactly what we are seeing. Our donors understand the role they can play in upgrading Manitoba's hospital and improving patient outcomes. We're very grateful.”

Operation Excellence was launched in June 2022 as a \$100 million campaign to revitalize and refocus HSC as a surgical centre of excellence and innovation. The campaign, seeded by \$50 million in provincial government funding, is the largest in the history of the HSC Foundation.

Some of the technology acquired to date includes: an advanced navigational system for neurosurgery that allows surgeons to pinpoint the location of even the smallest, deepest abnormalities in the brain; a new urology tower and flexible scopes equipped



with cameras, allowing surgeons to find and remove  
*Thanks to Operation Excellence donors, HSC has a facial nerve monitor that provides precise, real-time information to surgeons so that permanent nerve damage can be avoided during sensitive facial surgery.*



*“This campaign was designed to help HSC deliver the best care possible by acquiring the latest generation of minimally invasive surgical technology, and that is exactly what we are seeing. Our donors understand the role they can play in upgrading Manitoba's hospital and improving patient outcomes. We're very grateful,” says Jonathon Lyon, President and CEO of the HSC Foundation.*

problematic tissue through the smallest incisions possible; a facial nerve monitor that provides precise, real-time information to surgeons so that permanent nerve damage can be avoided during sensitive facial surgery, and others.

Beyond technology, the campaign is also enabling the expansion of HSC's Pain Clinic, the development of new operating rooms at the former Women's Hospital on Notre Dame Ave., and other critical renovations to deliver optimal care.

“This campaign isn't over, but we are already seeing an impact on the patient experience and also on the staff experience. Having the best possible spaces and the latest equipment is a key to attracting and retaining excellent personnel,” says Dr. Shawn Young, HSC's Chief Operating Officer. “Operation Excellence is a shining example of the hospital and the Foundation working together for benefit of Manitobans. This campaign will have a profound and lasting impact on how we deliver care.”

*To learn more about the six-year, \$100 million Operation Excellence campaign, and to make an online donation, visit [OperationExcellence.ca](https://OperationExcellence.ca).*

# Exchange Income Corporation Donates Historic \$1M to Manitoba Urologic Centre

Largest gift in company's history to help ensure equitable health care for all Manitobans

On February 17, 2023, the HSC Foundation received a transformational \$1 million donation from the Exchange Income Corporation (EIC) for the Manitoba Urologic Centre at HSC. This gift—the largest in EIC's nearly 20-year history—was made in support of a new, world-class urologic centre that will provide leading-edge patient care for over 10,000 Manitobans annually.

“EIC's support is a vital investment in powerful technology and improved access to timely urologic care,” says Jonathon Lyon, HSC Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer. “As Manitoba's hospital, HSC must focus on ensuring equitable health care for all Manitobans no matter where they live. EIC's contribution helps us take a giant leap forward.”

“Supporting the Manitoba Urologic Centre is a way for us to take action towards ensuring that First Nation, northern, and rural communities—communities in which we operate and serve—receive better, quicker access to care,” says Michael Pyle, CEO of EIC. “Improved access to health care is essential as we pursue reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. At EIC, we care deeply about making progress toward reconciliation and closing the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.”

The Manitoba Urologic Centre will provide timely, leading-edge care to patients requiring transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP), kidney stone removal, treatment for certain types of bladder cancer, among other conditions. Wait times are expected to drop from up to a year to weeks and days for many procedures.



L-R: Dr. Manon Pelletier, Site Medical Officer, HSC Winnipeg; Michael Pyle, CEO, Exchange Income Corporation; Grand Chief Garrison Settee, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak; Jonathon Lyon, President & CEO, HSC Foundation

“First Nation communities, rural, and northern Manitobans are particularly challenged by proper access to health care,” says Grand Chief Garrison Settee of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, which represents 26 First Nations who are signatories to Treaties 4, 5, 6, and 10. “Investments that improve access to reliable care are extremely important to Indigenous peoples and all Manitobans. I'm pleased to support EIC's exceptional investment and HSC's vision for this transformational project.”

“Under the status quo, patients from First Nation, northern, and rural communities often have to make several trips over many months to get the complete care they need,” says Dr. Manon Pelletier, HSC's Site Medical Lead. “With new technology in a new space, we will be able to remove procedures from conventional operating rooms and therefore treat patients sooner than we can now. We will absolutely see better outcomes for all patients because of the support of EIC and other donors.”

# Our Nurses. Our Future.

In honour of National Nursing Week this past May, we recognized and celebrated some of the hardworking, passionate, and caring nurses that we are fortunate to have at HSC Winnipeg.



Jason Douglas, RN, Manager of Patient Care,  
Inpatient Neurosurgery Unit



Heather Chapko, RN, BN, Nurse Clinician,  
RR4 Plastic Surgery Clinic



Brysen Guenther, RN, BN, Perioperative Nurse,  
Adult Surgery Program

*“Donations have given us the opportunity to get technologies and create areas where we can look after patients more efficiently, more effectively, and more safely.”*

*“Your donations are making a difference. They are making things better, and they are helping people.”*

*“A nurse is someone who wears all the hats. We are kind of like the glue to health care, keeping it all together.”*

To read the stories of Jason Douglas, Heather Chapko, and Brysen Guenther, please visit [hscfoundation.mb.ca/stories/national-nursing-week-2023/](https://hscfoundation.mb.ca/stories/national-nursing-week-2023/) or scan the QR code.



## Your Ongoing Support Continues to Shine

Annual Innovation HSC campaign **exceeds** target

Your generosity continues to exceed our Innovation HSC fundraising goals! Thanks to your support, Innovation HSC, our annual campaign for health care excellence, exceeded its 2022–2023 goal of **\$2,809,856**. In total, your support raised **over \$3 million** for HSC Winnipeg.



Thanks to you, the Innovation HSC 2022–2023 campaign raised over \$3 million for HSC Winnipeg.

“The support you have shown for Innovation HSC has a significant impact on the lives of all Manitobans,” says Jonathon Lyon, President and CEO of the HSC Foundation. “HSC provides care for hundreds of thousands of Manitobans every year. Because of your support, HSC can better adapt to the ever-changing health care needs of people in our province.”

Your gift to the HSC Foundation helps the hospital embrace innovation and achieve new levels of care. For every patient recovering from a life-saving surgery; for every patient able to now walk, eat, and breathe on their own—your support changes lives. Our work could not be possible without you, and for that we are grateful. To continue making an impact on health care in Manitoba, please look for our Innovation HSC 2023–2024 campaign.

*“Because of your support, HSC can better adapt to the ever-changing health care needs of people in our province.”*

# Record-breaking \$938,000 Raised at Sold-out Savour Ireland

Savour: Wine & Food Experience was back in full swing for our first in-person gala since 2020



*Savour Ireland attendees filled the dance floor thanks to the incredible performance of the Big City All Star Band.*

On February 25, over 730 guests brought their generosity and inner Irish spirit to the HSC Foundation's Savour Ireland: Wine & Food Experience, presented by Jones & Company Wine Merchants.

Attendees enjoyed hearty Irish stew and sipped fine whiskies, beers, and wines, thanks to Manitoba Liquor Marts, Tasting Experience Partner, before sitting down for a family-style Irish feast.

After dinner, the bidding action was underway for the live and online auction prizes, and people couldn't get their raffle tickets fast enough. The event raised a record-breaking total of over \$938,000, including over \$350,000 for a suite of minimally invasive endoscopic spine surgery equipment through our Fund-A-Need auction.

This equipment will allow surgeons to reduce the impact of spine surgery on patients and preserve as much of the patient's range of motion as possible.

Thanks to Entertainment Partner, TD Bank Group, the night ended off with the musical brilliance of The Specialists—a band that includes three HSC physicians—and the Big City All Star Band, who had guests dancing late into the night.

Savour Ireland would not have been possible without the generous support of our Key Event Partner SkipTheDishes and our Print Media Partner Winnipeg Free Press.



*Jonathon Lyon, President and CEO, HSC Foundation, and Tina Jones, O.M., Board Chair, HSC Foundation, and Chair, Savour Committee.*

"I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Savour supporters," says Tina Jones, O.M., Chair, HSC Foundation Board of Directors and Chair of the Savour Committee. "We couldn't be more grateful to those who continue to support the HSC Foundation's goal of bringing tomorrow's health care today to HSC Winnipeg. THANK YOU and we'll see you next year on February 24, 2024, as we take a trip to Greece!"



*Guests of Savour Ireland were all smiles in support of patient care at HSC Winnipeg.*

To make your donation today, visit [hscfoundation.mb.ca](https://hscfoundation.mb.ca)  
or call 204-515-5612 or 1-800-679-8493 (toll-free).

**At the HSC Foundation, we prioritize reducing our environmental footprint. To receive our newsletter in your inbox instead of your mailbox, please email [info@hscfoundation.mb.ca](mailto:info@hscfoundation.mb.ca).**

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