

Wing Cheung's Story

I know that you, like myself, care deeply about health care at Richmond Hospital and all of the individuals who rely on our services. I know that you care about our community and the health of family members, friends and neighbours.

I know how much you care because you have shown such great support already to Richmond Hospital Foundation. Your past generosity has helped the doctors and nurses do everything we can to save the lives of patients—people from Richmond who require expert care to survive life-threatening illnesses and injuries.

I have been a doctor in the Intensive Care Unit—the ICU—at Richmond Hospital for more than six years, and in that time, I have seen countless patients come through our doors, needing vital life-saving support. The ICU is here for Richmond's most seriously ill patients who require constant monitoring and highly specialized equipment around the clock. I remember clearly the day that Wing Cheung, a longtime Richmond resident, became one of those patients.



Lucia and Wing Cheung, ICU Patient

I'm writing to you today to tell you Wing's story and ask you to help support patients just like him in the future.

When he arrived in the Emergency Department last April, he was quickly assessed and immediately rushed into the Operating Room for surgery. It was obvious to the entire team he was extremely sick—he had a perforated colon and infection was spreading quickly throughout his body. His blood pressure had dropped, his lungs were failing and his brain was no longer functioning properly. He was unable to think or even speak clearly.

Wing's situation was serious and life-threatening, and if the Emergency Department team and surgeons hadn't acted as quickly as they did, he could easily have died that day.

Thankfully, his surgery was successful and for a brief time, he seemed to be improving. Shortly after the surgery however, he started getting progressively sicker and sicker. His infection had tragically continued to spread into his blood, resulting in a severe case of sepsis, a dangerous blood infection. We immediately brought him into the Intensive Care Unit, where he was monitored closely on life-support for the next three weeks.

The ICU is where our most vulnerable patients come when they require close monitoring and constant care for emergencies such as sepsis, kidney failure,

cardiac arrest or respiratory failure. The work we do in the ICU requires an extraordinary amount of medical technology, extensive specialized training and a large team of doctors and nurses. It truly is team-based care, dedicated to working together to best suit the needs of the patient. I can say with experience that Richmond Hospital is home to an outstanding team of medical specialists, providing compassionate, life-saving care.

I am writing to you to ask you to support our work at Richmond Hospital with your donation today. The vital and life-saving care we provide is greatly improved with the help of our donors—your generosity directly impacts the lives of people right here in Richmond.

I see everyday how frightening it can be for a family when their loved one is on life-support. I hope you have never been in that situation. To help families and patients deal with their distress, we are available to both our patients and their families 24 hours a day. We're here to respond to emergencies, answer questions, and help both the patient and the family get through this emotional and challenging time.

Wing spent two months at Richmond Hospital, working incredibly hard to recover his health and his strength, and his family was with him every step of the way. Initially, we had him on a ventilator, when he was unable to breathe on his own. His kidneys were the slowest to recover, but thankfully today he is off the dialysis machine permanently.

He made a truly miraculous recovery.



ICU Team, Richmond Hospital

I am so happy to have been able to help the Cheung family during this difficult time and I am thankful to donors just like you, who provide the funds we need to offer this level of care that's so essential while recovering.

Wing's daughter, Colleen, told me many times how cared for the whole family felt and how grateful they all are.

As the ICU Department Head, I'm grateful to the staff as well - it takes a team to be able to save lives every single day.

We want our patients and their families to feel cared for when their lives suddenly take a distressing turn, and it's because of the generosity of donors that we are able to do this.

Donors help us fund urgently needed medical equipment so we can provide the best possible care for our patients in emergencies when seconds count.

Your gift allows us to be able to offer the very best specialized care in the ICU, ensuring we have the latest, most advanced medical equipment to help us save the lives of loved ones right here in Richmond.

Please give generously today, so we can provide the very best care for critically ill patients, just like Wing Cheung. You can donate by returning the enclosed form, by phone at 604-244-5252, or by visiting our website at richmondhospitalfoundation.com.

Sincerely,



Dr. Greg Haljan

Intensive Care Unit Department Head
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