

# Inspirations

## An answer for cancer

Your impact on diagnoses & care

### FIXING THE PLUMBING

Urology team provides compassionate care

### CODE BLUE EMERGENCY

Saving lives when seconds count

### INSPIRED LEADERSHIP

Sandy So on philanthropy & new Acute Care Tower

### TARGETS IN SIGHT

Colon cancer screenings double with new equipment



RICHMOND HOSPITAL  
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Caring Together for Your Health



# New equipment will improve cancer Donors are helping Richmond Hospital take a big leap

**RICHMOND HOSPITAL'S PATHOLOGY LAB** is responsible for analyzing tissue samples and body fluids for cancerous cells. The lab has seen a 63 percent increase in testing of samples over the past five years.

When patients are faced with the possibility of cancer, it creates a lot of anxiety in many cases. Thanks to the new equipment, patients will get quicker results.

“The new equipment helps take away some uncertainties away to help us ensure the information is as complete and accurate as it can be. We can be a little bit more confident in our diagnoses as opposed to, ‘I’m not really sure—we have to go back and do a biopsy again,’” says Dr. Patrick Wong, a general pathologist at Richmond Hospital.

Delivering responsible turnaround times can be challenging with outdated equipment. But thanks to



a donation from Vancouver Diamond Lions Club & Lions Club International (pictured above), the lab is receiving three new pieces of equipment that will allow for increased volume, quicker results and improves accuracy.

“Technology has advanced so quickly,” says Dr. Wong. “The new equipment will make our way of handling specimen turnaround time much improved. We will be much more efficient in getting results out to patients.”



# care at Richmond Hospital forward

Dr. Patrick Wong is a pathologist at Richmond Hospital's Laboratory.

The new equipment includes:

- A new tissue stainer, replacing a 30-year-old model that was able to output only 60 slides an hour. The new stainer is 10 times faster and can produce 660 slides an hour. “Having a new stainer definitely increases our speed and delivery of results to other doctors, so they can make decisions right away,” says Dr. Wong.
- A cassette printer. All tissue samples received in the laboratory are first examined and placed into labeled and numbered plastic cassettes. “Right now we have very old technology that is essentially like a typewriter,” says Dr. Wong. The new unit provides laser-etched, bar-coded cassettes that can be scanned into the system and will improve patient safety, reduce the risk of errors and speed the work performed.
- Hematology cell counter, able to detect abnormal cells (such as cancer cells) in the blood and body fluids and send the specimen for glass slide staining immediately. “For the amount of volume we are seeing now and the growth in population in Richmond, the old machine is not able to keep up,” says Dr. Wong. “Medicine is much more complicated now. It takes a lot of time for technologists to manually look at the results coming out of the machine.” The new unit will keep a record and history of each patient from sample to sample so the lab can compare automatically.

Dr. Wong credits donors with helping Richmond Hospital meet its potential. “Donors can really help us improve care for Richmond’s citizens.”



Left to right: Dr. Ken Poon, Dr. Jennie Mickelson, Dr. Kiara Hennessey, Dr. Reza Hamidzadeh and Dr. Daniel Rapoport.

## Urology team provides first class care

### Minimally-invasive surgeries help patients get back on their feet more quickly

**AS A LONG-TIME CIVIC POLITICIAN**, Bill McNulty knows the importance of Richmond Hospital to the community. But recently, McNulty received a first-hand look at the hospital—as a patient.

After receiving some abnormal results from a urinalysis, McNulty was booked for a procedure to rule out whether bladder cancer could be a cause. Thanks to Richmond Hospital's urology team, McNulty was in good hands.

"The pre-admission was very thorough and informative. I was made to feel comfortable and relaxed. Everything from getting admitted to being discharged was first class," he says.

Urological diseases and conditions, which include prostate, kidney and bladder cancers, kidney stones, urinary tract infections as well as reconstructive surgeries that may be necessary, impact many people. Richmond Hospital's team of urologists includes five highly talented experts, Drs. Ken Poon, Dan Rapoport, Kiara Hennessey, Jennie Mickelson and Reza Hamidzadeh, who all have extensive sub-specialties and areas of interest. Drawn to a program established more than 30 years ago, today Richmond Hospital has attracted talented surgeons who are sought-after around the world, Dr. Poon says.

“We provide a wide range of procedures. Because of our size and our skilled surgeons, we can provide integrated, very personalized care,” says Dr. Poon.

Specialized surgeons require specialized tools and that’s an area where Richmond Hospital Foundation and its donors are making an impact. One of the newer items is an imaging table (\$660,000), which uses imaging and video systems to allow surgeons to perform complex, minimally-invasive surgeries with greater accuracy.

“With the image quality that we get, we can do surgeries with a higher margin of safety,” says Dr. Poon, who notes the table is in constant use several times a day every day of the week. “On behalf of our patients, we can’t put into words how grateful we are to have these tools. Donors not only allow us to continue to provide quality care, but to attract the best and the brightest to the hospital and the community.”

Dr. Poon notes how urologists have been pioneers at the forefront of minimally-invasive surgery, which provides significant benefits for patients including procedures that are less invasive, better results, faster recovery times.

“People get back to their lives sooner,” Dr. Poon says. “Recovery, recuperation, pain and suffering are among the biggest unaccounted-for costs of illness.”



For Bill McNulty, he was in and out of the hospital within two hours. And within a few days, he received some good news: no trace of cancer.

“The calibre of Richmond Hospital’s health care providers is great. We want to keep it that way,” McNulty says.

## Defibrillators - the difference between life and death

### Donors fund 10 new units for Code Blue emergencies

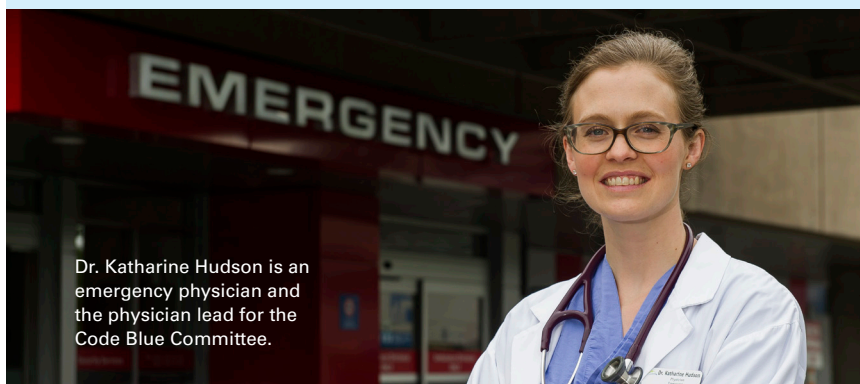
IT’S AN EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT you never want to hear in a hospital — “Code Blue” — broadcast over the hospital PA system when a patient has a cardiac arrest and urgently needs resuscitation. In Code Blue emergencies, a defibrillator is used to deliver an electric current through the heart, jolting it into beating normally to help save a life.

Dr. Katharine Hudson, an Emergency Department physician at Richmond Hospital and the physician lead for the Code Blue team, recalls speaking to a patient who came to the Emergency Department with chest pain and suddenly went into cardiac arrest. “In an instant he went from speaking to me as a healthy, vibrant man to being unconscious and pulseless, right in front of me.”

She pressed the Code Blue button and instantly members of the Code Blue team were pulled together to rush to the patient and revive him with a defibrillator.

“The impact that you can have on someone in cardiac arrest can be profound. You can bring someone back to life with a defibrillation that can take one second and then completely change that person’s life as well as the lives of the family,” Hudson says. “For that man’s children, it means the difference between losing your father as a young adult versus watching your own children grow up with their grandfather.”

Last year, donors helped fund 10 new defibrillators. “The ability to provide state-of-the-art care for patients is something we really appreciate,” says Dr. Hudson. “Our thanks to the many donors who made that a reality for us.”



Dr. Katharine Hudson is an emergency physician and the physician lead for the Code Blue Committee.

# Giving to inspire a community

## Sandy So on the need for a new Acute Care Tower

“IT IS TRULY A BLESSING to be able to give rather than receive,” says Sandy So, repeating an old Chinese proverb that guides her deeply held values on helping her community.

Having had a successful career as the owner-operator of Re/Max Sandy So Realty with more than 25 years of experience in the industry, Sandy is a dedicated and inspiring philanthropist and champion for quality health care. A Board member for Richmond Hospital Foundation, Sandy is also a generous donor, funding a portable ultrasound unit for Medical Imaging last year and most recently, making a \$500,000 commitment in support of a new Acute Care Tower for Richmond Hospital.

Sandy is passionate about rallying others around the need for a new Acute Care Tower for Richmond Hospital. At more than 50 years old, the original hospital tower is seismically unstable and is unable to meet the demands of Richmond’s dramatic population growth. “Our hospital is old and our population has more than quadrupled. We urgently need for a new tower NOW to help current and future growth.”

Donors Sandy So and Ron Benoit share a vision of building a better community.



Sandy was born and raised in Hong Kong, studied in both Hong Kong and Macau and later immigrated to Canada in 1989, marrying businessman Ron Benoit who shares the same community vision. While growing up in Hong Kong, Sandy was hospitalized for two-and-a-half years following major knee surgery. “Having experienced health challenges early in my life has

given me the strength and perspective to be a stronger person and give back to the community.”

“Life is a gift. It can be difficult and challenging at times. Be positive. Together we can make a difference to the people around you to help build a better community, a better world for everybody.”

## Picture perfect: Donor funded medical imaging equipment help provide diagnosis and care

Lifesaving medical and surgical care rely on having the very best, state-of-the-art medical imaging. From the Emergency Department, to the ICU, to the operating room to the bedside of the patient and the clinic before discharge, medical imaging technology is a vital component of every step of a patient’s journey through Richmond Hospital.

### Portable digital X-ray machine (\$200,000)

Whether it’s to examine broken bones, take an X-ray of an unconscious patient or acquire an image on the spot anywhere throughout the hospital, the portable unit is essential to provide necessary care and diagnosis.

“Many patients in this hospital are unable to come to the Medical Imaging Department on their own. This allows the X-ray machine to go to the patient,” says Dr. John Bining, a radiologist at Richmond Hospital.

The new unit’s digital technology allows for instantaneous images and uses lower doses of radiation than older models.

Last year Kusum and Manmohan Vij donated \$100,000 to help fund a brand new portable digital X-ray machine. Left to right are Sharon Kennedy, Campaign Director, Richmond Hospital Foundation, Vikram Vij, internationally acclaimed chef and son of Kusum and Manmohan Vij, Dr. John Bining, Radiologist, Richmond Hospital, Dr. Ian Wong, Head, Medical Imaging, Richmond Hospital, Kusum and Manmohan Vij, and Russell MacKay, Treasurer & Chair, Finance, Richmond Hospital Foundation Board of Directors.

### Portable Ultrasound Unit (\$100,000)

Imagine being a patient with cancer and needing chemotherapy, blood transfusions, medicines or fluids to be administered over extended periods of time. This specialized unit spares patients from being repeatedly jabbed with needles each and every time to deliver whatever is required, by allowing staff to insert central catheters or PICC lines in a patient’s arm. Ultrasound guidance allows these lines to be inserted accurately, reducing the risk of complications and pain while increasing patient safety.

### Ultrasound software (\$65,000) Cardiac Echo Ultrasound software upgrades (\$25,000)

Keeping pace with the latest generation of software has allowed Richmond Hospital to improve speed, ease of use and quality of images to provide greater clarity for two general ultrasound units and a cardiac echo ultrasound unit for state-of-the-art images of the heart.



# Colon cancer screening saves lives

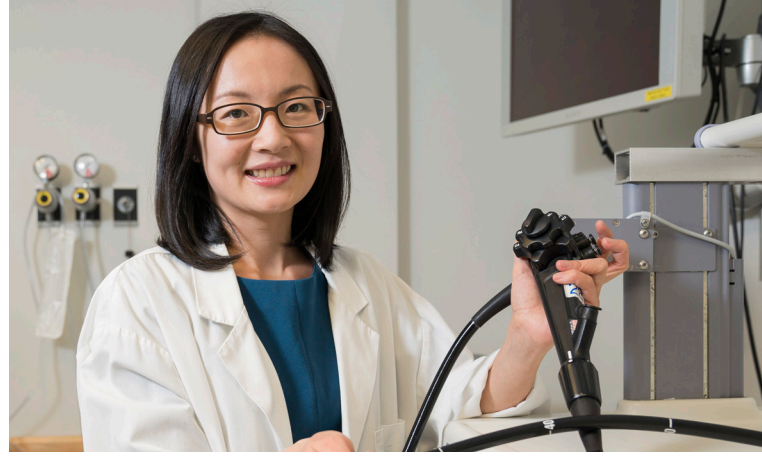
## Donor-funded equipment helps Richmond Hospital double number of colonoscopies performed

**INCREASED COLON CANCER SCREENING** is a provincial priority across British Columbia, and donors have helped Richmond Hospital double the size of its colon cancer screening program.

Colorectal cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in Canada, a deadly disease, but very treatable if caught early. It is recommended anyone 50 and older receive screening.

Donors have funded 7 brand new state-of-the-art colonoscopes that help physicians view the colon and remove polyps, if present, on the spot before they grow into life-threatening tumours.

“Screening is done to identify polyps and remove them so they don’t develop into cancer,” says Dr. Nancy Fu, one of the experienced gastroenterologists at Richmond Hospital. “People don’t usually have symptoms until they



Dr. Nancy Fu is a gastroenterologist helping screen patients for colon cancer.

are in a more advanced stage of the disease. Early detection is key.”

Colorectal screening can reduce mortality by 60 to 70 per cent. Richmond Hospital performs about 20 colonoscopies a day.

Donor funding has enabled Richmond Hospital to purchase the latest generation of colonoscopes that renders high definition images.

“Crisp images from these colonoscopes allow us to detect subtle polyps,” Dr. Fu says. “The colon is like an accordion. There are many folds. With better equipment, we are able to clearly see every inch of the colon.”

## Message from Board Chair & President

From its very inception more than a half century ago, Richmond Hospital has been a story of vision, drive and unity led by champions and supporters who care passionately about the health of their loved ones and their community.

Today, Richmond Hospital is recognized as an exemplary community hospital where talented medical and surgical teams provide compassionate care.

Our health care teams tell us each day how your donations towards equipment, patient care programs and facilities are essential to help improve the calibre of care they deliver.

Richmond’s population is growing exponentially and the city also has the fastest growing population of seniors in the province. As demands for more complex patient care escalate, so does the need for new facilities and equipment.

For all of us, universal local health care is a cherished Canadian value and we thank you for your commitment to ensure we have the best care possible for you, your family, friends, colleagues and community.

Your donations are making a huge impact to help transform health care and save lives. Thank you for making local health care a priority here in Richmond.



*Natalie*

**Natalie D. Meixner**  
President & CEO  
Richmond Hospital Foundation



*Kyle*

**Kyle Shury**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Richmond Hospital Foundation

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**RICHMOND HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION**

**列治文醫院基金會**

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