

# 2024/2025 Annual Report

Over the past year, our collective journey at Humber River Health and Humber River Health Foundation has been defined by **transformative growth, change and innovation.**





# Contents

Message from Hospital Leadership	4
Message from Foundation Leadership	6
Hospital Statistics	8
Foundation Statistics	9
Highlights	10
Your Impact	24
Recognition	34
Financials	36
Our Leadership	38



# Message from Hospital Leadership

This past year has been extraordinary for Humber River Health (Humber) as we continue to serve our community as a fully integrated health system. Our commitment to doing healthcare differently remains steadfast, ensuring every patient receives compassionate, high-quality, and innovative care close to home.

Our network spans multiple locations across Northwest Toronto, offering a comprehensive range of healthcare services designed to address the diverse and evolving needs of our population. This includes our Wilson Hospital, the Schulich Family Medicine Teaching Unit, our Research Institute, and the Reactivation Care Centres located at our Finch and Church Campuses.

We have also focused on partnerships with healthcare and social service providers through the North Western Toronto Ontario Health Team. This collaboration enables us to deliver integrated, community-based care that provides meaningful and sustained support to our community. The opening of "The Hub@2115" located at our Finch Campus, spearheaded by the North Western Toronto Ontario Health Team, is a collaborative space that brings together healthcare and social service partners in one convenient location.

Innovation and high reliability care remain at the heart of our work. We are committed to investing in clinical excellence and enriching the education and training provided to our teams to enhance patient safety and outcomes. In fact, for the sixth consecutive year, Canadian Institute for Health Information data demonstrated Humber's safer care numbers at more than 60 per cent better than the average of all Ontario and Canadian hospitals. Our success is not only reflected in our metrics and accomplishments, but also our patient feedback, with 82 per cent of patients stating they would recommend Humber as a place to receive care.

The achievements of this past year, many of which have garnered national recognition, are a testament to the extraordinary dedication of our staff, physicians, volunteers, patients, families, partners, and donors.

We recognize and value the importance of engaging with patients, families, and community members to enhance quality and strengthen equity for our diverse patient population, such as through our Patient and Family Advisory Committee, which focuses on quality improvement at both the unit and corporate level. We also held a series of Anti-Black Racism listening sessions with our staff, physicians, volunteers, and with community members to gather firsthand experiences and valuable insights to tackle health disparities directly and foster long-term, meaningful changes that resonate across all levels of care.

As we continue to grow, our strategic direction remains guided by your insights and feedback, as well as by our four foundational pillars under our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan: promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion, empowering our staff and patients, delivering high-quality, accessible care close to home, and advancing innovation, research, and academic excellence. These pillars enable us to continue to deliver and build a blueprint for a health system that leads with purpose and inspires excellence locally, provincially, and nationally.

Our commitment to reimagining healthcare delivery distinguishes us. We are proud of the progress we have made and remain driven by our dedication to continuous improvement as we work toward our vision elements going forward:

- A state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization program to provide our patients with a full spectrum of cardiac emergency care closer to home.
- An acute behavioural assessment and management unit (ABAMU) to provide the right level of care in the right setting for elderly patients with expressive behaviours, supporting these patients and their families.
- A fully accessible urgent care clinic at our Finch Campus to address immediate health challenges for the residents in our community.

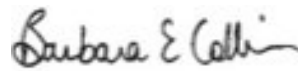


- A six-bed hospice at our Finch Campus, in partnership with Dorothy Ley Hospice, to increase access to hospice palliative care services for the Northwestern Toronto community.
- An expansion of our simulation lab to better bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world clinical practice to improve patient care and outcomes.
- A replacement of our diagnostic and digital systems to ensure state-of-the-art technology is available in our community.

We look forward to the achievements that lie ahead with hope, determination, and pride, and thank you for your continued support on this journey.



**Michael Iacovelli**  
Board Chair  
Humber River Health



**Barbara Collins**  
President & CEO  
Humber River Health



## Message from Foundation Leadership

This past year has been one of remarkable progress and bold new beginnings for Humber River Health Foundation. As we reflect on a year of transformational impact, we are proud to share the achievements made possible through the unwavering support of our donor community—and to look ahead with renewed purpose.

A defining milestone this year was the launch of Healthcare Lives, our most ambitious campaign since the hospital opened its doors. This campaign is a bold invitation to all Canadians: to join us in transforming healthcare through innovation, compassion, and collaboration. At Humber River Health Foundation, we believe that when healthcare lives—patients thrive, communities flourish, and the system is strengthened for everyone.

We've already seen the impact of this vision in action. Thanks to donor generosity, Humber performed its first pediatric robotic-assisted surgery—changing a young life and setting a new standard in care. Our HoLEP program completed 100 advanced procedures in its inaugural year. We celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Schulich Family Medicine Teaching Unit (FMTU), where more than 6,000 visits in the first year highlight the power of accessible, team-based primary care. A \$3 million commitment from Jack and Pat Kay is expanding advanced treatments for mental health and addiction. And the \$10 million gift from the Honey & Barry Sherman Legacy Foundation continues to bring life-changing care to the Finch Campus—one of Toronto's most underserved communities.

This progress is underscored by robust financial performance: total donations grew 10% year-over-year, while transfers to the hospital increased by 35%—reinforcing the tangible impact of our donors' generosity.

These milestones are a testament to the strength of our incredible donors, our Board of Directors, and the community that fuels this work with passion and purpose.

As we welcome Jennifer Stewart as the new President & CEO of the Foundation, we are excited to enter this next chapter of growth and innovation together. Jennifer brings a deep commitment to transforming healthcare, and we look forward to the continued impact that will come from her leadership.

Thank you for your belief in Humber River Health Foundation and your role in helping us redefine what is possible in Canadian healthcare.



**Nick Simone**  
Board Chair  
Humber River Health Foundation



**Jennifer Stewart**  
President & CEO  
Humber River Health Foundation





HEALTHCARE LIVES



# Hospital Statistics

Our teams are setting new standards in patient care and reshaping its future possibilities.



**729**

Active beds & bassinets



**850,000+**

Residents in our catchment area



**1,828,282**

Square foot facility opened in 2015



**46**

Client & support departments



**398,000**

Outpatient clinic visits



**133,000**

Emergency patients



**40,000**

Inpatient admissions



**13,000**

Medicine discharges



**44,000**

Outpatient surgeries



**8,500**

Inpatient surgeries



**4,600**

Newborns



**3,136**

Clinical staff members



**1,646**

Ancillary and support staff



**793**

Physicians across our team



**635**

Volunteers



# Foundation Statistics

Humber River Health Foundation is fueled by its mission to inspire the community to invest in innovative healthcare with no barriers. We are so grateful to have our community of donors by our side as we continue to reinvent systems of care and find a cure for healthcare.



**6,355**

Total Donors



**250**

Donations through Gifts  
of Gratitude, our grateful  
patient program



**550+**

Monthly Donors



**\$388,188**

Raised through our  
Awesome Invitational  
Golf Tournament



**\$694,604**

Raised through our  
Illuminate: A Diwali  
Celebration



**\$10,000,000**

Goal reached for  
the Robotic Surgery  
Expansion Campaign!



**\$10,306,473**

Total raised,  
including full value  
of pledges received  
during this period



**\$12,920,906**

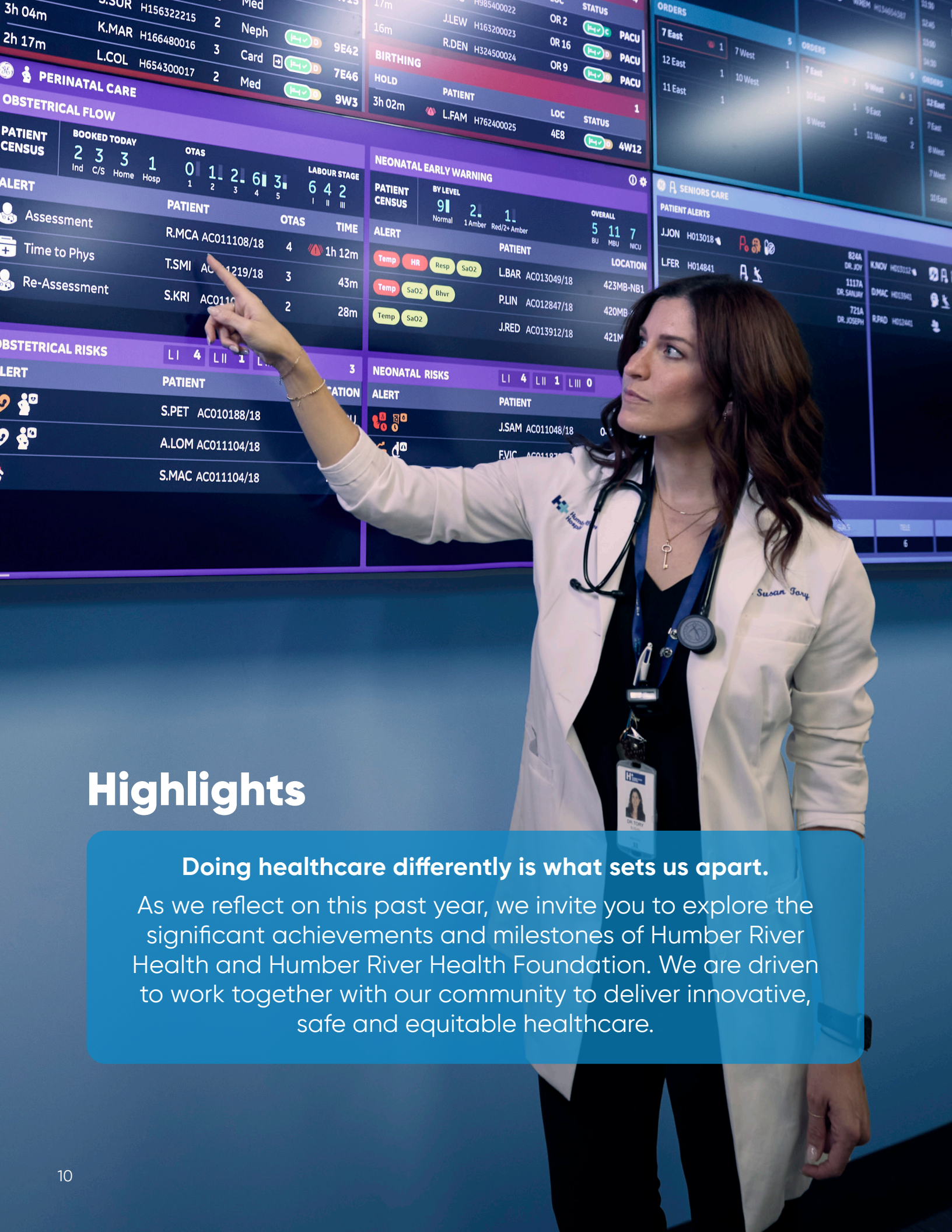
Total donations  
received



**\$7,915,607**

Total transferred to  
Humber River Health





# Highlights

**Doing healthcare differently is what sets us apart.**

As we reflect on this past year, we invite you to explore the significant achievements and milestones of Humber River Health and Humber River Health Foundation. We are driven to work together with our community to deliver innovative, safe and equitable healthcare.



## Humber River Health embarks on \$100 million fundraising mission to cure healthcare

October 23, 2024

Canadians take great pride in their universal healthcare system, but with emergency rooms overwhelmed, a shortage of family doctors, an aging population, and hallway medicine at an all-time high, the system is at a critical crossroads. In response, today, Humber River Health Foundation (HRHF) launched Healthcare Lives, one of its most ambitious fundraising efforts since the opening of the new hospital in 2015, with the goal of raising \$100 million to reinvent systems of care, and find a cure for healthcare in Canada and around the world.

For decades, Humber River Health (HRH) has been at the forefront of innovations that enable them to treat more patients in less time and with better outcomes, including robotic surgical technologies. HRH uses a custom combination of technology and clinical expertise to rebuild elements of care, making technology work for staff and physicians, giving them more time to spend with patients. They are recognized globally for leveraging technology to deliver high-quality care.

Since opening its doors in 2015, HRH has acted as the Canadian incubator for 21st century models, leading to improved patient outcomes. Additional advancements include:

- The HRH Command Centre, a Canadian first that leverages AI and predictive analytics to monitor and manage patient flow and identify where in the hospital an issue is occurring so staff can take action in real time.
- HRH's advancements have contributed to a 66 per cent fewer cases of hospital harm than the provincial average, a 10 per cent year-over-year reduction in sepsis cases, a 40 per cent year-over-year decrease in code blues and a medication error rate of 0.0009 per cent.
- HRH's commitment to safety and quality care is further exemplified by its ranking among the top five Ontario hospitals in every category of the American College of Surgeons' 2023 National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP). HRH is the only hospital in the province to achieve this distinction.



- Over the past several years, HRH has invested in high-tech robots that enable physicians to conduct procedures without having to make large incisions. The integration of these innovations results in significant patient benefits, including less blood loss, reduced pain and swelling and shorter hospital stays.
- These technologies include the da Vinci Xi that allows for highly advanced robotic surgeries, the ROSA® Knee System for fully customized knee replacements and the Intellijoint HIP® used for total hip replacements, the Acesa ProVu® system for minimally invasive gynaecological surgeries, among many others.

"At Humber River Health, we're not just responding to the challenges of today—we're redefining the future of healthcare. Our mission is to harness innovation and technology to create a system that delivers better, faster, safer care for every Canadian," said Sandra Sualim, President & CEO, Humber River Health Foundation. "With the support of our community, we can transform healthcare and set a new standard of care that benefits all."

HRH encourages all Canadians to join the Healthcare Lives movement driving advancements that will help shape a more effective, sustainable healthcare system for all. All donations will support the blueprint for a new model of care in Canada and beyond.



## Powered by precision: First paediatric robotic surgery

*April 10, 2025 (published by Ontario Hospital Association)*

For months, Farima and Mike watched helplessly as their teenage son suffered through waves of excruciating pain, nausea, and relentless vomiting. Every seven to ten days, their son would be struck with cramps so severe that he would double over. His vomiting would last for 24 hours at a time, leaving him exhausted and dehydrated.

"We went to various hospitals and emergency rooms so many times," recalls Farima. "Everyone we encountered was hesitant to run tests or do ultrasounds. It was frustrating beyond words."

As the months dragged on, their son's episodes worsened. The vomiting was no longer sporadic – it was constant. "From morning to night, night to morning. He was just so sick. It was heartbreaking," says Mike.

Then, they finally got an answer. An ultrasound revealed a blockage in their son's kidney, a condition known as Ureteropelvic Junction (UPJ) Obstruction, where urine could not properly flow into the bladder. The damage had progressed to the point where his kidney function had dropped to just 25 per cent. Their paediatrician immediately referred them to Dr. Ravi Kumar, a Urologic Oncologist and Surgeon at Humber River Health (Humber).

The news that their son needed surgery was both devastating and a relief. "At least there was a solution," says Farima.

### Choosing robotic surgery

From early on, Farima and Mike understood that their son's case was unique. This was Humber River

Health's first paediatric robotic-assisted surgery – and one of the first in the city.

When they learned that their son would undergo this minimally invasive pyeloplasty using the da Vinci Xi Surgical System – the family did their research. "We definitely looked it up on YouTube," chuckles Mike. "Once we saw the level of precision and accuracy, we felt more confident. It was reassuring to know that this advanced technology would be used."

Dr. Kumar explained that while an open or laparoscopic surgery was an option, robotic surgery was beneficial. "The da Vinci Xi system allows for an enhanced 3D, high-definition view, precise movements, and a level of accuracy that minimizes complications," says Dr. Kumar. "For a case like this, it meant a smoother surgery and a quicker recovery."

While laparoscopic surgery is a well-established technique, the da Vinci Xi robotic system elevates procedures like pyeloplasty to a new level of confidence. "We can be more certain about the critical steps when we do it robotically," explains Dr. Luke Fazio, Head of Urology at Humber River Health. "Yes, we can do this laparoscopically, and we have, but the robot provides that extra level of confidence. When given the option, even highly skilled laparoscopic surgeons overwhelmingly prefer using the robot, as it ensures the best possible reconstructive process, setting patients up for long-term success."

One of the most significant advantages of Humber's robotic surgery program is its accessibility. Humber's community-based setting allows patients to receive specialized procedures closer to home.



"Patients don't always need to go to a downtown centre, especially when we have highly trained surgeons like Dr. Kumar who can perform these complex procedures right here," says Dr. Fazio. "Because of the support we have from the Humber River Health Foundation and our donors, we're able to provide these procedures, even if they are not cancer-related or do not always have strong funding support."

### A future without pain

"The night before his surgery, our son was extremely nervous," says Mike. "When we got there, though, everyone was so reassuring. The Child Life Specialist walked us through everything, answering all our son's questions. Then, Dr. Kumar, Dr. Fazio, and the anaesthesiologist all came to check in. They didn't rush us – they made sure we were comfortable."

Using the robotic system, Drs. Kumar and Fazio removed the blockage and reconstructed the ureter, allowing the kidney to drain properly again. The surgery was a success, and a temporary stent was placed to ensure optimal healing. After just two days in the hospital, their son was discharged. Within one week, he was back at school, and by the two-week mark, he was feeling completely normal again.

It has now been five months since the surgery, and the results are clear. "Before, he couldn't go more than a week without getting sick," says Mike. "Now, he hasn't had a single episode. No pain, no nausea. It's like he has a whole new life."

Though follow-up tests are still ongoing, the family is confident in the results. "He's back to playing sports,

he's excelling at school – he doesn't feel limited anymore," says Farima. "That's all we ever wanted."

### Looking ahead

While the hospital does not yet have a dedicated paediatric robotic surgery program, this successful case paves the way for more opportunities in the future. "There's a lot of potential," says Dr. Kumar. "The challenge is; most doctors don't even think of referring paediatric patients to Humber for robotic surgery – yet. But now that we have done it, hopefully more families can benefit from this technology."

For Humber to expand its robotic surgery program, additional donor support is essential. "Right now, we are using our robot five days a week," says Dr. Fazio. "If we had a second device, we could do even more cases like this."

For Farima and Mike, their biggest hope is that their story encourages other parents to speak up for their children. "If there's one thing I want people to take away from this, it's to advocate for the health of yourself and your family," says Farima. "We had to fight so hard to get our son the right diagnosis. I can't imagine how many other parents have been turned away."

Thanks to the dedication of their doctors, the generosity of donors, and the innovative health care at Humber, their son now has a future free of pain. By continuing to invest in advanced surgical technology and expanding access to specialized care, Humber River Health remains committed to curing health care – one patient at a time.



## North Western Toronto Ontario Health Team celebrates grand opening of innovative community hub

September 12, 2024

The North Western Toronto (NWT) Ontario Health Team (OHT) has officially launched The HUB@2115 at Humber's Finch Campus. The NWT OHT has brought together health and social care partners all in one place with the aim of improving access to services, with better coordination, shorter wait times, and improved outcomes. The grand opening represents a significant leap forward in delivering comprehensive, equitable, and accessible care to the residents of North Western Toronto. The HUB@2115 is designed to overcome historic barriers by providing a range of services that address both health and social challenges.

The ribbon cutting ceremony took place among key partners with the presence of distinguished guests, including Anthony Perruzza, Councillor for Ward 7, Humber River–Black Creek and key representatives from Ontario Health.

"We have created a space where health and social care come together under one roof, providing a centralized point of access for those who need it most," says Barb Collins, President and CEO of Humber River Health and Co-Chair of the Senior Executive Committee for the NWT OHT. "This Hub is the embodiment of our shared mission to make healthcare more accessible, more equitable, and more responsive to the unique needs of our community."

Compared to the rest of Ontario, The HUB@2115 serves a community with a greater prevalence of chronic conditions and a higher population of seniors aged 80 years and older, many of whom live alone. The community has poor access to mental healthcare, alongside having one of the highest needs for primary care in the province. By offering a centralized location for various equity-based health and social services, The HUB@2115 aims to improve accessibility for residents who might otherwise face challenges in obtaining the care they need.

"We know the population of North Western Toronto faces many barriers to health and social care," says Cheryl Prescod, Executive Director of Black Creek Community Health Centre,

and Co-Chair of the Senior Executive Committee for the NWT OHT. "The care navigators and providers working in this Hub, in close proximity to services across health and social sectors, are experts helping people get connected to the right services and supports, and reducing barriers."

The launch of The HUB@2115 was made possible through the dedicated collaboration of several key partners, including North Western Toronto Ontario Health Team, Humber River Health, Black Creek Community Health Centre, Working Women Community Health Centre, COSTI, The Jane/Finch Centre, Across Boundaries, Reconnect, and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).

Their collective efforts ensure that The HUB@2115 provides a wide range of services tailored to the diverse needs of the community, including settlement services, employment services, health and social care navigation, mental health and well-being supports, and diabetes education and counselling. Importantly, these services are available without the need for a valid health card, ensuring that support is accessible to everyone in the community.

The launch event for The HUB@2115 included a tour of the facility, offering attendees an opportunity to connect with partners and learn more about the incredible programs and services that will be offered. This hands-on experience highlighted the commitment to addressing community needs through collaborative efforts and innovative solutions.

The HUB@2115 is the result of extensive consultations with local service agencies and the formation of a community advisory committee. This collaborative effort ensures that the services provided are relevant and effectively address local needs. As The Hub@2115 continues to evolve, the NWT OHT is committed to adapting its offerings based on community feedback and needs. The focus remains on collaboration and ensuring that local voices drive the development of services and programs.





# Reclaiming independence with the MAKO Robotic System: Dana's Story

April 22, 2025

Hip replacement surgery can feel overwhelming and intimidating, but Dana knew it was necessary. Two long years of chronic pain and severely limited mobility had stripped away simple freedoms she'd once enjoyed, including walking effortlessly, navigating stairs, and even comfortably boarding a bus.

Dana's outlook changed dramatically, thanks to the expertise of her surgeon Dr. Sebastian Rodriguez-Elizade and the MAKO Robotic System (MAKO), the newest addition to Humber River Health's (Humber) suite of robotic surgical tools.

Dana was the first patient in the GTA to undergo hip replacement surgery with the MAKO and was shocked by how she felt post-surgery. "The moment that stood out was that, even the day of the surgery, I was encouraged to walk," says Dana. "Honestly, that's not what I expected."

Dana had mentally prepared herself for significant discomfort and a challenging recovery, but those fears never manifested. "Considering I had psyched myself up for severe pain, that pain level simply didn't materialize," Dana shares. "I had experienced chronic pain before, and this was nothing like that."

The MAKO's minimally invasive approach features smaller incisions and precise movements, drastically reducing postoperative pain and accelerates patient recovery.

Yet, Dana's experience at Humber went beyond physical healing. "The whole hospital is amazing," she notes. "Everything is digital and streamlined, from appointment reminders to aftercare arrangements. It took away a lot of stress during my recovery because everything was so organized."

Even Dana's husband, Bob, benefited from the hospital's transparent digital system, receiving real-time updates during her surgery. "He knew exactly when I went into surgery, when I was in recovery, and when he could come see me," Dana recalls. "It eased both our anxieties significantly."

Dana attributes much of her positive experience to the compassionate and professional care she received from the entire Humber River Health team. "Everyone introduced themselves personally, which put me at ease," Dana shares. "Knowing exactly who was caring for me gave me an extra sense of security. You just know you're in good hands,"

Less than a month post-surgery, Dana confidently moves through her daily routines unaided. Her walker is a distant memory, occasionally replaced by a cane that she often forgets altogether. Reflecting on her recovery, Dana emphasizes, "Robotic surgery isn't just a medical advancement, it's genuinely life changing."

Looking to the future, Dana is excited to enjoy the simple things in life. "I have four grandkids, aged seven, five, three, and one," she shares. "Before surgery, keeping up with them was challenging. Now I'm excited to enjoy walks and be active with them again."

Procedures using the MAKO are 100% donor funded and are expected to increase Humber's same-day discharge rate for hip and knee surgeries from 87% to 90%, freeing up two additional inpatient surgical beds each day.

Dana emphasizes the importance of ongoing donor support. "If you're able to help someone, this technology is an incredible way to do it," she says. "You're giving people a sense of mobility. Instead of relying on others, you're able to rely on yourself again, which is very motivating."





## Schulich FMTU: A conversation with Dr. Arthur Kushner and Dr. Kunuk Rhee

January 17, 2025

The Schulich Family Medicine Teaching Unit (Schulich FMTU) is revolutionizing family medicine in North West Toronto, demonstrating how donor support drives life-changing outcomes.

Dr. Arthur Kushner, the first Physician Site Lead of the Schulich FMTU and a long-standing Humber River Health (HRH) physician, reflects on the program's remarkable growth.

"We launched Schulich FMTU in record time—just two years. Starting with four residents in 2023, we've now grown to eleven in 2024. That growth reflects the strength of our team and the urgent need we are addressing."

Dr. Kunuk Rhee, Chief of the Department of Family & Community Medicine at HRH and current Physician Site Lead, adds, "This program is proof of what's possible when equity and excellence are prioritized in healthcare."

The Schulich FMTU serves patients underserved in our local catchment area, including those orphaned by retiring physicians, newcomers to Canada, and individuals relying on emergency departments for basic care.

"We are the only family practice in the area currently accepting new patients," Dr. Rhee explains. "Our relentless focus on equity prioritizes care for underserved communities, addressing what has long been a healthcare desert."

This equity-centered approach is paired with a collaborative teaching model. "Patients here get the best of both worlds," explains Dr. Kushner. "The

enthusiasm of a resident, combined with the depth and experience of a seasoned physician, creates life-changing outcomes."

The impact is undeniable. In just over a year, the Schulich FMTU has delivered care to over 2,000 patients, addressing critical healthcare disparities.

The program's ripple effects extend into the broader community, with at least one or two graduates planning to stay in the area. As Dr. Rhee proudly states, "The mantra here is, 'if you train them, you'll retain them'—and we're proving that true."

Thanks to our generous donors, Humber River Health has assembled what the University of Toronto calls the Schulich FMTU "Dream Team" of medical leaders and educators. These funds sustain innovative training and advanced tools, enhancing both patient care and medical education.

More than just numbers, it's the voices of patients that truly reflect Schulich FMTU's impact. At our recent Illuminate: A Diwali Celebration, patients Berta and Daniela shared their heartfelt journey of hope and healing, moving a room of over 600 attendees to tears. "You could hear a pin drop," recalls Dr. Rhee.

Every contribution brings us closer to a future where equitable healthcare is the norm—not the exception.

Thank you to our donors, for recognizing the value of this program early on and for your unwavering commitment to equitable healthcare. Together, we can build on this incredible momentum and transform even more lives in the years to come.



## \$3 million transformational gift for Humber River Health's mental health program

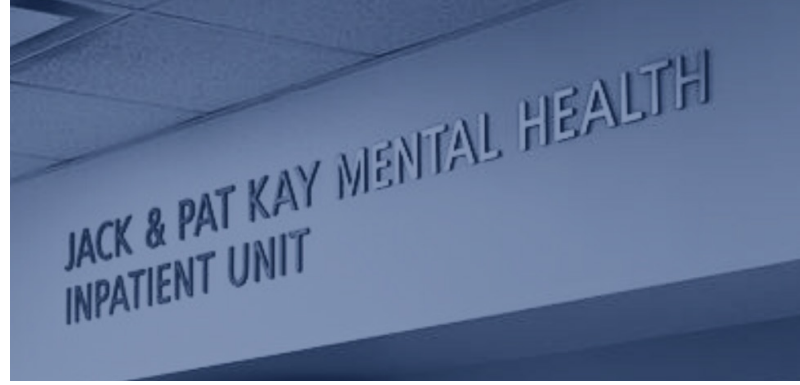
April 17, 2024

Mental health care is evolving—and Humber River Health is leading that evolution in Northwest Toronto. As one of the largest mental health & addictions programs in the Greater Toronto Area, we serve a diverse and growing population with complex needs. Yet, even with all the tools available today, many individuals still don't respond to traditional first- or second-line treatments. For these patients, innovation isn't optional—it's essential.

That's why we're proud to share a major milestone in our mission to redefine community-based mental health care.

Jack & Pat Kay have generously committed \$3 million to support Humber River Health's Mental Health & Addictions Program. Their gift, one of the most significant in the program's history, will empower us to develop and implement advanced treatment options that go beyond the conventional—treatments that hold real promise for patients who need more than standard approaches.

Over the next four years, this donation will support the launch of new interventions like ketamine-assisted treatment and advanced neurostimulation therapies like Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS). These approaches, which have been largely limited to private-sector settings, are now poised to become part of an accessible and inclusive model of care—one that meets patients where they are and offers new hope for healing.



"rTMS is currently out of reach for many patients. It's either available at private clinics, where patients pay out of pocket, or through limited research programs with strict eligibility criteria," says Dr. Steven Selchen, Chief of Psychiatry at Humber River Health. "Having donors step forward to support this kind of program makes it accessible to the people of our community in a way that it wasn't before."

The Kays' vision aligns perfectly with our commitment to personalize mental health treatment. At Humber River Health, we recognize that no two patients are the same—and our care should reflect that. By expanding our toolkit with evidence-based, cutting-edge therapies, we can address the unique needs of our community with the dignity and innovation they deserve.

This transformational gift is more than a donation—it's a catalyst. It will help us chart a path toward more responsive, effective, and compassionate care, ensuring that Humber River Health remains at the forefront of mental health innovation.

As we build the future of community mental health, we are deeply grateful for supporters like Jack & Pat Kay, whose generosity helps us push boundaries and deliver care that truly changes lives.

## Launched our Implantable Cardio-Defibrillator Clinic

February 26, 2025

In February 2025, Humber River Health successfully implanted our first Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD), a small electronic device connected to the heart, to help track and control specific cardiac problems.

Previously, patients in need of an ICD would have to travel to neighbouring hospitals in the GTA. Having ICDs as part of Humber's Device Clinic, alongside pacemakers, increases safety and convenience for our patients, providing equitable access to life-saving devices closer to home.

For example, Shirley, Humber's first patient to receive an ICD battery pack change, commuted to Toronto General Hospital for her ICD implant roughly ten years ago. Today, she was able to undergo her device pack change at Humber, 15 minutes from her home, which her family described as extremely accessible and convenient.

A key component of our vision for the future is creating an on-site cardiac catheterization laboratory to support the health needs of people in northwest Toronto. The opening of our ICD Clinic brings our Cardiology Program one step closer to achieving this vision.

## Transforming hospital experiences: Smilezone Space

May 27, 2024 (published by Hospital News)

Humber River Health and Smilezone Foundation made having to spend time at the hospital easier with the unveiling of bright, comforting and engaging Smilezone spaces where kids can forget about their treatment, and have fun by immersing themselves in activities. The new Smilezones spaces in the Hospital's Paediatric Outpatient Clinic, mark a significant milestone with the creation of the 400th Smilezone space.

Generously donated by Smilezone Foundation with support from longtime donor, The Slight Family Foundation these bright, fun Smilezones help improve the experience for children and families when they visit the hospital. Featuring themed murals, fresh paint, interactive technology such iPads and a sensory gaming table, and more. This renovation was done over three days in October. Having transformed hospitals across Canada, the Smilezone team understands patient care must continue without disruption to patients and hospital staff.

"Today, as we celebrate the opening of our new Smilezones, we reaffirm our commitment to providing a comforting, family-friendly environment," shared Dr. Zaki Ahmed, Chief of staff at Humber River Health. "At Humber River Health, our goal has always been to ensure that our young patients and their families feel supported and at ease during their time with us, and I thank the Slight Family Foundation and the Smilezone Foundation for their generous support."

"The Humber River Health Foundation is unwaveringly committed to supporting this spirit of innovation and is grateful for partners like the Slight Family Foundation and Smilezone who make this transformative work



## Official release of RNAO's best practice guideline Clinical Practice in a Digital Health Environment

May 6, 2024



possible," said Sandra Sualim, President and CEO of the Humber River Health Foundation. "Your collaboration has brought to life this beautiful space for our young patients and their families."

Smilezone Foundation's vision is to help improve the lives of children receiving medical treatment at health facilities across Canada by creating fun and engaging Smilezones in existing healthcare spaces that harness the uplifting power of a smile for kids and their families. Uplifting and comforting spaces can calm nerves, decrease fear and anxiety, encourage, and strengthen, and provide opportunities for more meaningful social interaction.

"This is a proud moment for Smilezone Foundation, made possible by the longstanding support of donors like the Slight Family Foundation," said Scott Bachly, Smilezone Co-Founder. "Celebrating our 400th installation today at Humber River Health is incredibly meaningful. Since our foundation's inception, our focus has been to bring smiles to the faces of children and their families. We're honoured to be the only charity in Canada solely dedicated to transforming physical healthcare environments for the betterment of children and families receiving medical treatment."

"We know that spending time in a hospital can be stressful for children and their families," said Gary Slight, Slight Family Foundation. "Providing joyful, comforting, and interactive spaces for children receiving treatment makes their hospital experiences easier – Smilezone Foundation is dedicated to creating these positive, healing spaces. The Slight Family Foundation is proud to be a longtime supporter of Smilezone Foundation, and we congratulate them on their 400th installation at Humber River Health."





## One of the busiest emergency departments in Ontario also has some of the shortest wait times

October 12, 2024

(published by the Globe and Mail)

### Humber River Health's emergency department, Ontario's busiest, gets people into in-patient beds faster than other Toronto facilities

Shortly after he co-won the Nobel Prize in Physics this week for pioneering modern artificial intelligence, Geoffrey Hinton digressed from his well-known warnings about the dangers of AI to praise the technology's promise for medical care.

"I want to emphasize that AI is going to do tremendous good," the British-Canadian computer scientist told The Globe and Mail. "In areas like health care, it's going to be amazing."

One part of Canadian health care where AI could make a genuine difference is in reducing emergency-department waiting times, a perennial problem that has grown worse since the COVID-19 pandemic, according to hospital-level data that The Globe obtained through access to-information requests for its Secret Canada: Your Health project.

The project revealed that data on emergency-department waiting times is often incomplete or inaccessible, making it difficult for average Canadians to judge the performance of their local hospital.

Where The Globe got its hands on waiting times for individual facilities, it was able to identify the laggards and the standouts – including one Toronto hospital that already uses machine learning in a NASA-style command centre to get patients from the emergency department to an inpatient bed faster than any another hospital in the city.

At Humber River Health in northwest Toronto, emergency patients requiring admission have waited just more than 12 hours, on average, for a bed since the start of 2023, according to the administrative agency Ontario Health. That's notably shorter than the Ontario average of about 17 hours, and significantly shorter than Canada's worst-performing facilities, where patients can be stuck in emergency departments for two or three days.

Humber River achieved those results while running the busiest emergency department in Ontario.

Barb Collins, the chief executive officer of Humber River and a veteran nurse, credits the hospital's ER waiting times to the way staff work with advanced technology that was embedded across the Wilson Avenue site when it opened in 2015.

Rudimentary machine learning – a branch of artificial intelligence in which computers trained on mountains of data teach themselves to get better at tasks over time – was critical to the hospital's command centre from the beginning, she said.

An early goal was to improve "patient flow" so that sick people in the ER wouldn't be stuck waiting for beds to be vacated by longer-tenured patients who could have been discharged earlier.



## Hosted our First Annual Patient and Family Advisors Forum

June 19, 2024

In June 2024, we hosted our first Annual Patient and Family Advisors Forum to celebrate and highlight the continued partnerships with our Patient and Family Advisors, and their dedication to enhance quality and patient safety at Humber.

Patient and Family Advisors have been continuously supporting our commitment to maintain a patient-centred approach through consultation, involvement, partnership, and shared leadership. Patient and Family Advisors are a significant part of our organization's journey.

"One of the root problems in health care is this never-ending flow of patients," Ms. Collins said. "What you're always battling every day in your work environment is, who needs a bed? How quickly can I get them there?"

On a tour this week, Peter Voros, Humber River's vice-president of clinical programs, showed off how the command centre and its staff keep patients flowing. One of the big-screen TVs displayed how long patients had been sitting in the ER's "Ozone," where patients wait if they are expected to be examined and sent home. Experienced nurses known as clinical expeditors monitor the screens and intervene if a patient waits longer than the targeted time for their health complaint.

Another screen showed the length of stay for patients who came to Humber from nursing homes or complex-continuing care facilities. The numbers turned orange if patients were in danger of losing their long-term care beds for staying in hospital for more days than allowed under Ontario rules. The orange warning prompts staff to put extra effort into getting those patients discharged back to their nursing homes, if possible.

Many of the command centre's features use older digital technology, but recent upgrades rely on modern AI, including one feature that analyzes reams of data to predict when and where the hospital will need the most housekeepers and porters. If empty rooms aren't cleaned right away, or patients wait too long for a porter to bring them down for a CT scan, the hospital gets backed up.

Humber, in partnership with consulting firm Deloitte, is now preparing to roll out an AI-enabled tool to predict traffic into the ER and to allow patients not in need of immediate emergency care to reserve slots when the department is quiet. The plan is for patients to book those slots from a kiosk in the ER beginning in November, and from a smartphone by next March. The project is backed by a \$1.5-million investment from SCALE AI, a Canadian public-private AI accelerator.

"This really is the pure AI piece," Dr. Voros explained. "If we see it's really busy, and we throw on an extra physician, the AI will change that prediction, because it now knows there's another doc working. If there is an accident on the 401 and we have a large influx of ambulances from that accident, the AI knows that and will change the prediction."

Other emergency departments have found ways to use AI to see more patients and reduce physician burnout.

At Michael Garron Hospital in eastern Toronto, eight emergency physicians recently tested AI scribe services to automate their charting. With permission from their patients or next of kin, the doctors turned on a smartphone app to record their interactions. The scribe transformed their interactions into clinical notes that the doctors could check over and edit.

"People were convinced this could never work in the resuscitation room. It's too chaotic, too busy," said David Rosenstein, an emergency physician and IT lead for the department. "In fact, it's kind of the opposite, in the sense that the one time that you can't sit there taking notes is when you're actually with a very sick patient at the bedside."

Dr. Rosenstein found that the AI scribe gave him time to see two or three extra patients on every shift. His colleague, Kyle Vojdani, chief of the emergency department, said it saved him hours of time that he used to spend charting at the end of every shift. All 65 of the hospital's emergency physicians have decided to spring for the cost of an off-the-shelf AI scribe out of their own billings to improve the department's efficiency as they prepare for a surge of winter illnesses.

At Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, Devin Singh, an emergency physician and computer scientist, helped to create a platform called Hero AI that monitors the waiting room to ensure that high-risk patients aren't left in the queue dangerously long.

"For most people, a prolonged wait time is just an inconvenience, right – and it's a terrible inconvenience at that," Dr. Singh said. "But for some people, a prolonged wait time is literally the difference between life and death."

Promising as AI is in some ERs, most of these innovations are limited to pilot projects or to big-city hospitals for now.

For smaller emergency departments, especially in rural Canada, AI could help around the margins, but won't solve a fundamental shortage of staff and inpatient beds, said Alan Drummond, a veteran emergency doctor in Perth, a town of 6,500 in eastern Ontario. His hospital is perpetually full of elderly patients with multiple chronic illnesses who can't get into longterm care or get enough home care.

"So what" if AI can help predict ER traffic, Dr. Drummond asked. "Where are you going to put them? There are no beds."





## Humber River Health elevates orthopedic surgical care with PrecisionOS team training

June 12, 2024

Humber River Health (Humber) is proud to announce the integration of PrecisionOS®, a cutting-edge market leader virtual reality platform, into its orthopedic operating rooms to enhance safety and efficiency through comprehensive team training. Recognizing the critical role of nursing in delivering safe and effective care, Humber will leverage PrecisionOS to empower its entire surgical team with advanced skills and knowledge.

Orthopedic surgeries demand precision, coordination, and seamless teamwork. To ensure every member of the operating room (OR) team is equipped to excel in their roles, surgeons at Humber will lead the training of nurses using PrecisionOS. By immersing themselves in realistic surgical simulations, nurses will gain invaluable experience and confidence, ultimately contributing to smoother OR flow and improved patient outcomes.

Jhanvi Solanki, Vice President of Clinical Programs at Humber, expressed enthusiasm about the adoption of PrecisionOS, stating, "At Humber, our commitment to patient safety and excellence in care is unwavering. Integrating the unique capabilities of PrecisionOS into our orthopedic surgical workflows underscores our dedication to leveraging innovative technology to drive continuous improvement."

Orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Sebastian Rodriguez-Elizalde, specializing in hip and knee procedures at Humber, emphasized the significance of this initiative,

stating, "In complex surgeries, every member of the team plays a crucial role. By training together using PrecisionOS, we can refine our teamwork, communication, and technical skills, ultimately delivering better outcomes for our patients."

In aligning innovation and nursing education advancements, this follows the recent release of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario's Best Practice Guideline (BPG) entitled Clinical Practice in a Digital Health Environment, co-chaired by the late Dr. Vanessa Burkoski, RN, BScN, MScN, DHA, O. ONT, Former Chief Nursing Executive and Chief, People Strategy, Humber River Health and Maureen Charlebois, RN, BScN, MHA, CHE, Chief Nursing and Clinical Officer, Bayshore HealthCare.

This BPG delivers the framework for redefining nursing practice, professional growth and evidence-based learning in a digital setting (RNAO, 2024). The PrecisionOS platform will provide a proactive approach towards leveraging this BPG for an improved patient care outcome.

PrecisionOS has provided the groundwork needed to foster progressive learning experiences and environments to engage nursing skill training and advance the care of patients receiving orthopedic surgery. The mission is to build a changed learning environment that will deepen the collaboration and cohesive surgical team relationship to excel patient care within the surgical program.

Ashley Dindyal, Clinical Practice Leader-Operating Room at Humber, responsible for organizing the training sessions, highlighted the importance of comprehensive team training, saying, "As nurses, we are integral to the success of every surgery. PrecisionOS provides us with a unique opportunity to enhance our understanding of procedures and collaborate more effectively with our surgical colleagues, ensuring a smoother and safer patient experience."

Dr. Danny Goel, CEO of PrecisionOS, commented on the transformative impact of the software, stating, "We are thrilled to partner with Humber River Health in their mission to optimize OR efficiency and patient safety. Given our central focus on patient

care, education for the entire team from residents to nurses is a vital requirement from hospitals to ambulatory surgical centers around the world. This software offers a realistic, immersive collaborative training experience, enabling surgeons and surgical teams to hone their skills in a risk-free environment. By embracing PrecisionOS, Humber is investing in the future of orthopedic care."

The deployment of PrecisionOS at Humber River Health marks a significant step forward in the evolution of orthopedic surgical training and underscores the hospital's commitment to excellence in patient care.

## Vaporizing the path for women's health

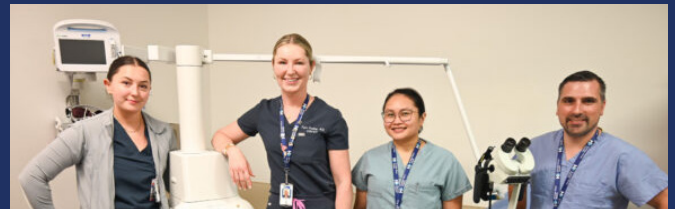
July 18, 2024

The Colposcopy Clinic at Humber River Health (Humber) recently acquired an UltraPulse® CO2 Laser by Lumenis, a minimally invasive tool to improve gynaecological care. This CO2 laser allows physicians to treat diseases of the lower genital tract, such as pre-cancers or various vulvar conditions, in ways that minimize bleeding and scarring for the patient.

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr. Lynn Sterling and Navdeep Badwal, Manager of Humber's Surgical Clinics, presented a proposal to acquire the laser at Humber's Inaugural Dragons Den in 2021 and were awarded the grand prize of \$100,000 in funding from generous donor Phil Evershed. However, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team experienced delays in bringing the laser into the Hospital – until now. On June 25, 2024, Dr. Sterling performed the first gynaecological procedure in Humber's Colposcopy Clinic using the UltraPulse® CO2 Laser.

### How it works

When treating various vulvar and gynaecological conditions, traditional practices often involve removing large amounts of tissue and a significant amount of cutting, bleeding, and scarring. For example, patients who suffer from genital warts may need to visit the Hospital multiple times to for successful chemical treatment to remove them. Similarly, patients with vulvar pre-cancers may need undergo excision of some surrounding normal tissue if a laser is not available. In other cases, patients with vulvar skin conditions may have scarring which prevents them from being able to have intercourse, and which can be difficult to open successfully with traditional surgical techniques. The laser, on the other hand, vaporizes cells, allowing the patient to experience less pain, bleeding, and scarring.



### Taking care of our community

"Having the UltraPulse® CO2 Laser allows us to take better care of our community near home," says Dr. Sterling. "Instead of inconveniencing patients by sending them to other centres to undergo these procedures, we are now able to treat them at Humber, usually within one or two visits."

For instance, abnormal Pap tests indicate pre-cancerous cells on the cervix which can progress to cancer if untreated. A loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) is traditionally used to remove those cells by excising a portion of the cervix. For certain patients planning future pregnancy, the UltraPulse® CO2 Laser can be instead used to remove a smaller portion of the cervix. The procedure itself is very quick and especially beneficial for patients who wish to bear children, as the cervix is an important component during pregnancy.

"With 14 trained colposcopists, Humber performs the majority of the colposcopies in our LHIN region," explains Dr. Sterling. "Being able to leverage these innovative practices helps us bring state-of-the-art care right to our patients, allowing Humber to become a centre of excellence in colposcopy care."

While this UltraPulse® CO2 Laser is dedicated to Humber's Colposcopy Clinic, Dr. Sterling hopes the hospital is able to acquire more lasers in the future to assist with treating additional women's health-related conditions, such as for endometriosis surgeries.



## Performed our 100th HoLEP case

November 30, 2024

Last November, Humber River Health (Humber) became the first hospital in the GTA to perform the HoLEP procedure to treat large benign prostate cases. 12 months later, Humber's Urology Program is proud to announce that they have successfully completed 100 HoLEP procedures for patients in our community.

Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), more commonly known as "enlarged prostates," is a problem that affects nearly all men in their lifetime. Traditionally, minimally invasive treatments in the GTA were only available for men with smaller prostates. Men with larger prostates had to undergo an open prostatectomy, which involved making a four-to-five-inch incision in the lower abdomen to remove the prostate and surrounding tissue. This type of open procedure often leads to increased medical risks, more blood loss, and longer hospital stays. But then along came HoLEP.

HoLEP, which stands for Holmium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate, is a minimally invasive procedure in which urologists use a laser to eliminate extra tissue from the prostate that may be blocking urine flow – this is known as 'enucleation.' They then use a piece of equipment called a Piranha Morcellator to remove the prostate tissue by breaking it down into smaller pieces and gently removing them through the urethra. Under the leadership of Urologists Dr. Olivier Heimrath, Dr. Jack Barkin, and Dr. Luke Fazio, Humber became the first hospital in the GTA to offer this approach to patients in November 2023.

The HoLEP procedure minimizes the impact on the patient – limits their bleeding, limits their risk of complications, limits their hospital stays – yet optimizes their outcomes and overall healthcare experience.

This innovative and technological approach further exemplifies that at Humber, innovation is not a luxury, but a necessity. We are transforming healthcare – and are just getting started.



## Integrated Officer Pilot Program launching at three Toronto hospitals, allowing officers to return to core service delivery

September 18, 2024

The Toronto Police Service (TPS) is launching a one-year pilot project in collaboration with University Health Network, Unity Health Toronto and Humber River Health, to expedite the transfer of care of patients and reduce wait times for frontline police officers, getting them back to their core policing duties.

Currently, sworn police officers who apprehend someone under the Mental Health Act must remain at the hospital with the apprehended person, often for several hours. Two TPS District Special Constables will now be embedded in the Emergency Rooms of each partner hospital as Integrated Hospital Officers (IHOs). The pilot will operate 18 hours a day, seven days a week.

Participating hospitals include Humber River Health in 31 Division, UHN's Toronto Western Hospital in 14 Division, and Unity Health Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital in 51 Division. Each hospital has allocated a designated space near the triage area to facilitate the work of the IHOs.

District Special Constable IHOs will assume the safe transfer of apprehended persons from police officers upon their arrival at the participating hospitals. This program will operate in the respective Emergency Departments and will be specific to mental health apprehensions.

"I'm pleased to collaborate with our hospital partners on this pilot project. We know the community wants police officers where they are needed most and this pilot supports our commitment to improving call response times to better serve our communities," said Chief of Police Myron Demkiw. "This pilot aims to return our frontline members to their core policing responsibilities faster, and reduce the time it takes to transition those experiencing mental health issues to the hospital's care."

"We look forward to working with our partners at the Toronto Police Service on this important initiative," said Marnie Escaf, Clinical Vice-President, UHN. "This project will allow for a better transition to hospital care in our Emergency Department, while also helping destigmatize the experience of patients living with mental illness."

"As an organization dedicated to continuous improvement, we are deeply committed to strengthening our collaboration with TPS to address both the stigmatization and criminalization of mental health," explains Dr. Peter Voros, Vice President of Clinical Programs at Humber River Health. "Taking part in this initiative allows us to further our commitment to using innovative practices to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone who walks through our doors."

"People experiencing mental health crises deserve compassion and care. We look forward to working with TPS on this initiative, and others, to reduce stress for members of our community who are in need of urgent mental health care," said Irfan Dhalla, VP of Clinical Programs, Quality, Equity and Medical Affairs at Unity Health Toronto.





## Your Impact

With your help, we're leading the way for innovative, patient-centered healthcare and look forward to helping even more families get back to the moments that matter.



## Bruno's Story

**Bruno's journey with HRH began unexpectedly last March, when a suspected ulcer revealed a far more serious diagnosis—stomach cancer.**

*November 26, 2024*

Bruno's journey with Humber River Health began unexpectedly last March, when a suspected ulcer revealed a far more serious diagnosis – stomach cancer. This shocking discovery left Bruno and his family reeling, as they suddenly found themselves in need of urgent specialized care.

Fortunately, Bruno's wife Cathy was no stranger to Humber. She had been treated for breast cancer by Dr. Laura Whiteacre and, during a follow-up appointment, shared her husband's diagnosis. Dr. Whiteacre immediately connected the family with Dr. Lazar Klein, lead surgeon of Humber's Robotics Surgery Program, and Dr. Sabrina Allegro, one of Humber's top oncologists. Within days, Bruno and the family met with the team, and together, they crafted a comprehensive treatment plan that would include both robotic surgery and chemotherapy.

Bruno's daughter, Angela, recalls that first meeting with the care team, "From the start, we felt confident and reassured. The way they explained every step, we felt like we were in good hands." Dr. Klein and Dr. Allegro's expertise and compassion instantly put the family at ease, allowing them to focus on Bruno's recovery. Outside the exceptional care provided by his doctors, every interaction the family experienced at Humber was incredibly positive. Whether it was scheduling prompt appointments or swiftly returning calls and messages, the commitment to patient care was evident at every step.

The team moved swiftly, coordinating consultations, chemotherapy sessions, and surgery. "With the type of cancer he had, he was so incredibly lucky it was caught early," shares Angela. "He was very fortunate that things moved so quickly and efficiently. It moved like clockwork. He commenced chemotherapy treatment, three weeks from the date of his diagnosis."

A key component of Bruno's treatment was access to the da Vinci Xi. Serving as the centerpiece of the Murphy and Helen Hull Robotics Centre, the da Vinci Xi is a state-of-the-art, surgeon-guided robot that offers greater accuracy and faster recovery times.

"Robotic surgery is the next step in advanced minimally invasive surgical oncology," Dr. Klein explains. "It increases the surgeon's ability to



complete the most difficult cancer operations in the most difficult anatomic locations. This is vitally important as we use enhanced robotic optics and remarkable precision to give our patients the best possible chance of permanent cure while avoiding damage to nearby vital structures."

Dr. Klein successfully removed 26 lymph nodes from Bruno's stomach; significantly more than what would have been possible in a traditional procedure. "Of the 26 lymph nodes removed, the cancer was only found in the first regional 3 lymph nodes," Angela recalls, notably relieved. "The rest were all clear, which goes to show the importance of quick and prompt diagnosis and treatment."

Angela describes how invaluable the robotic surgery was for her father, saying, "It is a life-saving surgery." The result was nothing short of miraculous, as Bruno was cleared to return home just 3 days post-surgery.

Humber's Robotics Surgery Program, which was essential for Bruno's treatment, is primarily donor-funded. Grateful for the program that saved Bruno's life, the family is determined to spread the word, "None of us were even aware of this robotic surgery," Cathy said, emphasizing, "It's so important for people to know it exists."

Today, Bruno's scans are clear and he's completed his last round of chemotherapy, just in time to celebrate his and Cathy's 45th wedding anniversary. Reflecting on his journey, Bruno shares his gratitude, "I have more time to be a grandfather and to be a father, and that wouldn't be possible without this surgery."

At Humber, "Healthcare Lives" is more than a slogan; it's a commitment to delivering cutting-edge, compassionate care. Bruno's story exemplifies the extraordinary impact of donor support, which enables Humber to offer this life-saving surgery. As Angela states, "My dad is here because of this program." Bruno's care has inspired him and his family to fundraise in support of Humber River Health.



## Georgios' Story

**Georgios' journey to HRH began with a pre-existing knee condition that plagued him for over two decades**

*July 16, 2024*

Georgios' journey to Humber River Health began with a pre-existing knee condition that plagued him for over two decades.

"In 2001, I had arthroscopic surgery on my right knee due to an injury from playing professional soccer," says Georgios. Unfortunately, the surgery led to a staph infection, resulting in eight follow-up surgeries and the removal of his meniscus and cartilage.

During this time, Georgios spent one month in the hospital, and was given a significant amount of morphine. Shortly after, Georgios became addicted to it and was subsequently put on oxycodone.

Georgios mentioned at the peak of his substance abuse, he was taking approximately 30 – 35 Percocet's within three hours on a daily basis for over a year. It had come to the point in his substance abuse journey where Georgios' needed to make a change.

After completely cutting off his substance use, Georgios went through severe withdrawals. "My stomach was cramping," says Georgios. "I was shaking, I was sweating, and I would wake up in the middle of the night. It was like I was going through hell." Although he overcame his substance abuse, his knee condition worsened.

Georgios and his wife began researching potential solutions. They discovered the benefits of robotic-assisted knee replacement surgery, which promised a longer-lasting solution than traditional methods.

Georgios learned that at Humber River Health, the majority of our knee replacement procedures use the ROSA® Knee System. By using 3D imaging and

real-time data, the ROSA® Knee System allows surgeons to tailor procedures to each patient's unique anatomy, ensuring optimal alignment and placement of the knee implant. This innovative approach not only reduces the likelihood of complications but also enhances the overall patient experience.

"We found that robotic surgery could give me more years out of my knee replacement," says Georgios. "When it came to deciding where to go, my family doctor recommended I see Dr. Sebastian Rodriguez-Elizalde at Humber River Health."

On the day of his surgery, Georgios was both anxious and hopeful. He arrived at the hospital early in the morning, underwent preparation, and met the surgical team. "I was surprised at how quickly everything went. The surgery itself took about an hour and a half," says Georgios.

Despite his initial concerns about infection, Dr. Rodriguez-Elizalde reassured Georgios that being home would be more comfortable than staying in the hospital. By mid-afternoon, Georgios was on his way home, ready to start his recovery.

Georgios believes the customized knee replacement procedure using the ROSA® Knee System has contributed to his successful recovery. The personalized approach and quicker recovery time were significant factors in his decision to opt for robotic-assisted surgery.

"My recovery has been remarkable," says Georgios. "Eighty to ninety per cent of my pain is gone!" Just three months post-surgery, he is already experiencing significant improvements.

While he still has some swelling and minor pain, Georgios' is optimistic about his future mobility. His dedication to his physical therapy and exercises has played a crucial role in his recovery.

One of the most impactful aspects of Georgios' experience was the personal care he received from Dr. Rodriguez-Elizalde and the hospital staff. "I never felt like a number. Dr. Rodriguez-Elizalde and his team made me feel like family," says Georgios. This personal touch, combined with the high level of professionalism, left a lasting impression on Georgios.

Georgios is forever grateful to Dr. Rodriguez-Elizalde and the Orthopaedic team at Humber for the support he received throughout his journey, from enduring chronic pain to embracing a new lease on life. "If anyone needs knee or hip surgery, Humber River Health is the place to be," says Georgios.



## Priya's Story

**For years, Priya had been struggling with severe abnormal uterine bleeding and pelvic pain due to adenomyosis and fibroids**

*September 13, 2024*

For years, Priya had been struggling with severe abnormal uterine bleeding and pelvic pain due to adenomyosis and fibroids. The persistence of the bleeding had raised her gynecologist's concern about uterine cancer. After trying various treatments, including medications and a uterine ablation, she finally decided to pursue a hysterectomy in 2023.

During Priya's operation, the surgeons discovered extensive pelvic scarring, making it too risky to proceed. The pelvic adhesions had caused major organs to be stuck together. As a result, they had to halt the procedure without completing it. Due to the nature of the procedure, this led to months of painful recovery. Priya had to recover from major abdominal surgery, and the existing uterine abnormalities continued to persist.

Feeling discouraged but determined to find a solution, Priya was referred to Dr. André LaRoche at Humber River Health. Dr. LaRoche specializes in complex gynecological surgeries using the da Vinci Xi robotic system. During their consultation, he took the time to thoroughly explain the procedure and address all of Priya's concerns.

"I absolutely adored him," Priya recalls. "I felt so reassured and confident in what he was presenting to me. He's incredibly kind, patient, and attentive. He really listens carefully to people's questions and takes his time answering so that you're not left worried about anything."

In May 2024, Priya underwent robotic-assisted hysterectomy surgery at Humber using the da Vinci Xi robot. The procedure took nearly four hours due to the extensive adhesions, but was ultimately successful. Dr. LaRoche was able to safely remove Priya's uterus, fallopian tubes, cervix, and one ovary that was severely compromised.

Compared to her previous abdominal surgery, Priya found her recovery from the robotic procedure to be much smoother. While the first few weeks were challenging, she noticed a dramatic improvement in her mobility and energy levels much sooner than expected.

"My recovery last year was so much more difficult. It took me about four months to feel somewhat normal again," Priya explained. "This time around, although the first few weeks were hard, it's like someone pressed



a button and it switched. Because it's less invasive, I felt I was able to get back on my feet much quicker."

Thankfully, Priya's pathology reports had shown no signs of cancer.

Now only a few months post-surgery, Priya is doing well and grateful for the care she received. "I can't thank Dr. LaRoche and the team at Humber enough," she says. "If the da Vinci Xi didn't exist, I would still be suffering. I think every hysterectomy should be performed using the da Vinci Xi surgical robot!"

Priya's experience highlights the life-changing impact of advanced surgical technologies like the da Vinci Xi robotic system. For complex cases like hers, robotic surgery can offer improved precision and faster recovery times compared to traditional methods.

"Dr. LaRoche explained to me that because of the robotic arm, it can do what the human eyes and human hands cannot do," says Priya. "It can turn 360 degrees with such precision. I feel that in terms of people's recovery time and how soon they're able to get back up on their feet, it's remarkable."

Priya's story also underscores the importance of compassionate, patient-centered care. From her pre-op appointment through to discharge, she felt supported by the attentive and caring staff at Humber. "Thank you to everyone who supported me at Humber, from my pre-op appointment to the day of the surgery to discharge. Everybody was incredibly attentive and really caring," says Priya. "There was incredible kindness and genuine caring. It put me at ease as a patient."

Thanks to the skill of her surgical team and the advanced da Vinci Xi robotic technology available at Humber River Health, Priya is looking forward to improved quality of life without the constant worry of cancer and her previous uterine abnormalities.

"I feel really great now," says Priya. "I'm happy that all of this is behind me. It's been life-changing!"

Priya's journey is just one example of how innovative medical technologies, combined with exceptional care, can transform patients' lives.



## Kaelan's Story

**When Kaelan first joined Humber's Mental Health Transitional Day Program, he felt overwhelmed—weighed down by anxiety, making the idea of attending high school feel impossible.**

*November 13, 2024*

When Kaelan first joined Humber's Mental Health Transitional Day Program, he felt overwhelmed—weighed down by anxiety, making the idea of attending high school feel impossible.

The pandemic had only intensified Kaelan's struggles, isolating him and adding increased social and academic pressures. His family, feeling lost, didn't know where to turn. Sean, Kaelan's father, recalls those early days:

"In the beginning, there was a feeling of helplessness. Not knowing what to do, not knowing who to talk to. It was incredibly challenging."

Fortunately, Kaelan's school councilor referred him to Humber's Mental Health Transitional Day Program. Kaelan finally found the structure and support he needed to focus on his academics and mental health.

With individualized attention, one-on-one interactions and the opportunity to earn his high school credits, Kaelan began to see a path forward. Reflecting on the early days in the program, Kaelan shared,

"The first couple of weeks were a bit difficult, but as I kept going, I got used to it and it felt comfortable. It felt better than my old school. I liked it and started to love it."

One of Kaelan's favorite places to spend time was the patient patio—a peaceful outdoor area with gardens, basketball hoops, and other activities woven into the student's day.

The extended 12-week program allowed Kaelan to progress steadily. Sean shares:

"They were great at putting him at ease, getting him to come inside, getting him to participate at his own pace. They seemed to know him very well—the things that he liked, the things that he didn't like. They were very personable."

The program also provided Kaelan's family with insights and tools to better support him. Sean explained:

"An unexpected benefit of this time spent at Humber was how helpful it was for my wife and I. We learned a lot about how to better manage our behaviours, our expectations, and how to communicate better. We have a better understanding of everybody's mental health."

As Kaelan begins his final year of high school, he does so with a renewed sense of calm, rediscovering simple joys, like playing Minecraft and bonding with his kitten.

Sean reflected, "I'm very optimistic seeing how much Kaelan's improved, seeing him smiling again. As a parent, that's the best feeling."

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, Kaelan's story is just one of many that show how this program transforms lives. Sean expressed his gratitude, saying, "Being able to go to Humber and receive the care that we did—the consistent quality of care, to feel welcome and not be rushed. We're incredibly grateful that this exists as a resource."



## Rita's Story

**75-year-old Rita has been dealing with heart issues since 2004, when she had double bypass surgery and had a stent put in.**

*December 11, 2024*

75-year-old Rita has been dealing with heart issues since 2004, when she had double bypass surgery and had a stent put in. Recently, Rita found herself back at Humber River Health's Apotex Emergency Department, grappling with a recurrence of her heart problems. "I wasn't feeling well, so my family doctor recommended I go to Humber," says Rita.

During her visit to the Apotex ED, Rita was seen by the head cardiologist, who determined that she required an angioplasty. However, since Humber lacks an on-site Cath Lab necessary for this procedure, Rita had to be transferred to another Hospital.

A Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, or Cath Lab, is a specialized facility where doctors perform procedures to diagnose and treat heart and blood vessel problems. These procedures are usually minimally invasive, using imaging techniques to guide tools through blood vessels to the heart. Unfortunately, without a Cath Lab, Humber's Cardiology Program is unable to treat patients like Rita on site.

The absence of a Cath Lab not only caused Rita physical discomfort but also emotional strain. "It's scary because you're vulnerable, and you don't know what's going to happen when you arrive at the Hospital," says Rita. The emotional and physical toll of such an ordeal is something no patient should have to endure.

After being transferred to another Hospital in the morning, Rita had to wait alone for her surgery late into the evening, without any family by her side. Her husband was unwell, and her relatives were busy with work and travel. "I was by myself," says Rita. "My family couldn't be with me due to their work schedules and my husband was unwell."

Being the last person to go in for surgery that day, Rita felt the weight of the long wait times. Moreover, as a diabetic, she couldn't eat anything while waiting, adding to her physical discomfort. Rita ended up spending a total of four days in the hospital, three of those in recovery after being sent back to Humber.

Reflecting on her experience, Rita believes having a Cath Lab at Humber would have made a significant difference. "It's less time waiting, and it helps you feel better overall. You don't want to put your heart under any stress or high emotions," says Rita. "You feel safe."

While the support from Humber's staff was commendable, the need for better resources is evident. "My treatment was very nice at Humber," says Rita, "but if the procedure could have been done right when I needed it, my experience would have been so much better."

At Humber, everything we strive for is about improving patient care and safety for our community. A Cath Lab at Humber means less stress from transfers and long waits for our patients, something most community hospitals can already deliver on.

Rita's story resonates deeply with our mission: we aim to provide the best possible care for our patients, and acquiring a Cath Lab is a significant step toward that goal. As Rita poignantly expressed, "We would all be very grateful."



## Jennifer's Story

**Jennifer's journey to motherhood began in 2019. After trying to conceive for two years, she turned to in vitro fertilization (IVF), a process where an egg is fertilized by sperm outside the body and then implanted in the uterus.**

*February 5, 2025*

Jennifer's journey to motherhood began in 2019. After trying to conceive for two years, she turned to in vitro fertilization (IVF), a process where an egg is fertilized by sperm outside the body and then implanted in the uterus. Her first child, Sophia, was born as a result, with her second child, Max following some years later using the same process.

Unfortunately, complications arose with her third pregnancy and her OB/GYN, Dr. André LaRoche, referred Jennifer to the Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic (MFM) where she worked with MFM Specialist, Dr. Howard Berger and Medical Director of Nephrology, Dr. Laura Berall.

At 22 weeks, Jennifer was diagnosed with preeclampsia – a pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure and signs of damage to another organ (often the kidneys). If she did not act quickly, Jennifer would be faced with the devastating choice between terminating the pregnancy of her daughter Alessia or risking losing her own life. Sadly, the final decision was to terminate the pregnancy. "Losing Alessia was the most traumatic experience of my life," says Jennifer. "The grief was overwhelming, and it left a deep void in my heart."

Reflecting on her journey, Jennifer cannot imagine what would have happened without the support of the MFM Clinic. "The initial meeting to discuss terminating Alessia's pregnancy was one of the toughest moments I've ever faced," says Jennifer. "However, the approach taken by the hospital staff was exemplary. They made sure we had all the information we needed, answering every question patiently and without any rush."

One of the standout aspects of her experience was the accessibility and support from the doctors and staff. "Humber's commitment to patient care is exceptional," says Jennifer. "The regular appointments and the ability to quickly address any concerns were vital in easing my worries."

Despite her trauma, Jennifer remained resolute in her desire to grow her family. Five months after losing



Alessia's, Jennifer decided to try again. In August 2023, with the approval and support of her team at Humber River Health, she embarked on another round of IVF. The process was fraught with anxiety and fear, but the MFM Clinic provided unwavering support.

"They wanted to make sure I was mentally okay to go ahead and get pregnant again. The check-ins and support from the team were invaluable," says Jennifer.

Regular appointments and the availability of the doctors eased her anxiety. Even during moments of intense fear, like suspecting preeclampsia, the team responded swiftly and thoroughly, reassuring her that everything was okay.

"I can't even imagine what would have happened if we didn't have access to the MFM Clinic, and the support from Dr. Berger, Dr. Berall, Dr. LaRoche and the rest of the team. They made us feel at ease during such an uncertain time," says Jennifer. "Their proactive approach and continuous support made all the difference."

The delivery of her fourth baby, Anthony, was a culmination of careful monitoring and the dedicated support of Jennifer's medical team. Despite the challenges, and her overwhelming emotions, the preparation and presence of a fully equipped medical team ensured a smooth delivery.

Jennifer is filled with gratitude for the team at Humber. Their support was not just medical but deeply personal, forming a bond that forged the path to growing her family. "It wasn't just medical appointments. We talked and laughed, forming a relationship," says Jennifer. "When I brought Anthony to show the team, it was a proud moment for my husband and me. Dr. Berall even came in on her day off to see Anthony. We are very grateful for our medical team at Humber—we have our family because of them."

The support that Jennifer received throughout her journey inspired her to make a donation in honour of the MFM Clinic. She also hopes to contribute to developing support systems within Humber, ensuring that other women have access to the same level of care and compassion that she received.





## Kateryna's Story

**When Kateryna immigrated to Canada from Ukraine in 1997, she brought with her a deep commitment to empowering others.**

*January 27, 2025*

When Kateryna immigrated to Canada from Ukraine in 1997, she brought with her a deep commitment to empowering others. Since joining COSTI Immigrant Services as a teacher in 1998, she has spent decades guiding newcomers through the challenges of building a life in a new country.

Last year, Kateryna accompanied a group of women to Humber River Health's Breast Health Clinic at the Wilson Campus for a breast cancer prevention workshop. For many participants, it was their first introduction to the life-saving importance of regular screening.

"These women come from places where their health is often overlooked," Kateryna shared. "Many don't realize how much can be prevented with early testing."

During the workshop, women were invited to volunteer for a mammogram. When hesitation gripped the group, Kateryna stepped forward. "I said, 'Okay, I'll go first.' And then the others followed."

What began as a moment of leadership took an unexpected turn. Kateryna's results were abnormal and required an urgent follow-up. The thought that it could be cancer was deeply unsettling, as Kateryna shared "I was 26 when I lost my mother to breast cancer. I was really scared."

The Humber team responded immediately, scheduling her biopsy before the clinic officially opened. "I believe the whole team came in early just to treat me," Kateryna recalled. "They were so kind, so gentle. I will carry their kindness with me forever."

Despite her anxiety, the team encouraged her to continue with her planned summer trip to Portugal.

"They told me, 'Go, enjoy your time. Even if there's something, we have the best surgeons in Toronto. Just relax and rely on us.'"

While exploring the Azores Islands, Kateryna visited the renowned chapel, Our Lady of Hope Convent. As she stepped outside the chapel, her phone buzzed with her results: benign. "Standing on the porch of that church, hearing that news—it felt like a spiritual moment. I was so relieved!"

Kateryna's journey reinforced her belief in the power of early detection but also exposed the barriers many women face in accessing care.

"There are women who are afraid to tell their husbands they need to go. Some are scared to take the bus. Others rely on friends for rides but can't ask them to cover parking fees. So, they just don't go," Kateryna explained. "Isn't that heartbreaking? To risk your life because of a parking fee?"

These barriers highlight deep inequities in our healthcare system. "Every woman deserves the same chance to be treated," she said. "Women are persons—individuals who deserve care. I want women to know they are worthy of prioritizing their health."

Equitable access to healthcare isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. Kateryna's story reflects the compassionate, proactive care Humber River Health provides every day. But it also shines a light on the gaps that still exist.

Plans to expand essential services at Humber's Finch Campus are one way to bridge these gaps—ensuring that financial or cultural barriers don't stand in the way of life-saving care.

These initiatives are only possible through the generosity of donors who believe in keeping universal healthcare alive and is a promise worth keeping—and who choose to act on that belief.

## Kishwar's Story

**In 2015, Kishwar's life took an unexpected turn when he noticed an unusual amount of foam in his urine.**

*October 22, 2024*

In 2015, Kishwar's life took an unexpected turn when he noticed an unusual amount of foam in his urine. This seemingly minor observation led to a life-altering diagnosis: IgA nephropathy (also known as Berger disease), an autoimmune condition that affects the kidneys. This sobering prognosis meant that within a few years, his kidneys could fail and he would require dialysis – a treatment that removes excess waste and toxins from the blood when the kidneys can no longer do so.

In 2018, after moving to Canada with his family, Kishwar was referred to Dr. Harold Borenstein at Humber River Health. It was during this time that Kishwar received the devastating news that his kidney function was rapidly declining, and he would likely need to start dialysis within the year. This was understandably difficult for Kishwar and his family to process, but the support they received from Humber River Health made a significant difference.

Initially, Kishwar was placed on peritoneal dialysis, a process that involves filtering the blood through the lining of the abdomen. However, when this treatment proved ineffective, it was recommended that Kishwar transition to hemodialysis. Hemodialysis uses a machine with a filter called a dialyzer, which acts as an artificial kidney to filter the blood.

Unfortunately, hemodialysis typically requires three clinic visits per week, with each session lasting 3–4 hours. This can be incredibly taxing on patients, leaving patients feeling exhausted and requiring strict control over diet and fluid intake. Although life-saving, this treatment can significantly impact a person's quality of life.

Fortunately for Kishwar, Humber River Health offers a nocturnal home hemodialysis program, which was pioneered and developed by Humber's very own, the late great Dr. Andreas Pierratos. This internationally recognized program involves a three-month training course for eligible patients and their families to learn how to perform dialysis at home. Training takes place at Humber River Health's Church Campus, within specially designed rooms that emulate a typical home setup.

Once training is complete, equipment and supplies are delivered to the patient's home, with the first dialysis treatment overseen by a member of the Humber team, at no cost to the patient. The patient will continue to receive support from Humber's dialysis team throughout their treatment. Despite the lengthy training process, Kishwar was motivated by the prospect of maintaining his independence.

"My nurses kept telling me that they wanted me to go back home, to live a normal life," says Kishwar. "If I learned how to perform hemodialysis at home, I wouldn't have to come to the hospital three times a week. So, I swallowed my fear and gradually got used to it."





Now, Kishwar successfully completes nocturnal hemodialysis four nights a week from the comfort of his own home. This arrangement allows him to maintain a full-time job, care for his three children (the youngest of whom was born while Kishwar was starting dialysis), and even travel. Recently, Kishwar visited Lions Camp Dorset—a unique resort that provides vacation opportunities for dialysis patients and their families. Kishwar hopes to take his family on a cross-Canada trip, with support from his Humber care team, who are currently helping to locate hemodialysis clinics along the way.

Kishwar is immensely grateful for the home hemodialysis program, stating “This program has allowed me tend to my family and lead a normal life, which I don’t think I would have been able to otherwise,” says Kishwar. “It’s amazing that we have access to this life-changing service.”

Though Kishwar is on the waiting list for a kidney donor – a process that could take five to six years – he remains positive and active. “I’m not tired at all!” says Kishwar. “Thanks to home dialysis and the training I received, the wait for a transplant is manageable.”

Kishwar is deeply thankful to Dr. Borenstein, the Humber River Health dialysis program, and the Humber’s donors whose continuous support has made all of this possible.

“If I wasn’t referred to Dr. Borenstein and introduced to the home dialysis program at Humber, I probably wouldn’t have known about this at all,” says Kishwar.

Although he lives in Bowmanville, Kishwar insists on staying with the Humber dialysis program, stating “It’s too valuable! I have to stay with it.”

## ICU’s Story

**When the pandemic first hit, our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) quickly filled up the entire 6th floor of HRH’s Wilson Site, accommodating 48 beds—one of the largest ICUs in the province.**

*May 16, 2024*

When the pandemic first hit, our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) quickly filled up the entire 6th floor of Humber River Health’s Wilson Site, accommodating 48 beds – one of the largest ICUs in the province. Yet, the demand for intensive care continued to outpace our capacity. In response to this pressing need, Humber took action. Our goal was to bolster our ICU capacity and ensure that we could meet the growing needs of our community for critical care.

We are proud to announce the opening of 12 additional ICU beds on Level 8. These beds are not a temporary fix; they are a permanent addition to our healthcare infrastructure. This expansion represents Humber’s commitment to the long-term health and well-being of our community.

With these new beds in place, we can provide intensive care to more patients, right here in our own neighborhood. This means fewer people will have to travel long distances to receive the critical care they need. It also means that we are better equipped to handle future challenges, whether they come in the form of another pandemic or other medical emergencies.

We are incredibly grateful to our donors whose generosity made this expansion possible. Their support has enabled us to enhance our ability to care for those who need it most. As we look to the future, we are confident that these additional ICU beds will play a vital role in ensuring the health and safety of our community for years to come.



# Recognition



## Volunteer cheque presentation

Our Volunteer Association presented the Hospital with a cheque for \$150,000 as their first installment toward their 2024 to 2025 pledge of \$400,000 for capital equipment. This incredible contribution is a direct result of the dedication and hard work of our volunteers.



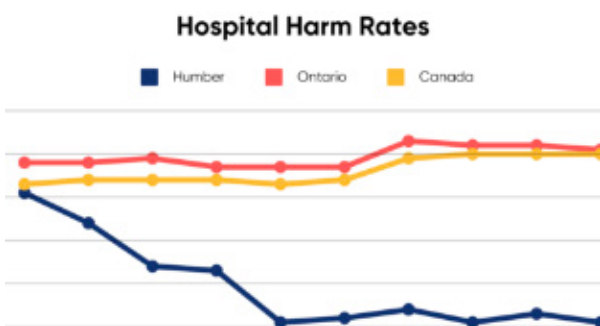
## PrescribeIT

Humber has become the first MEDITECH hospital to incorporate PrescribeIT into its expansive hospital information system. This strategic partnership marks a significant step forward in enhancing the prescription process, improving patient safety, and streamlining communication between prescribers and pharmacies.



## Stryker Gold Medal

Humber was presented with The Stryker Environmental Excellence Award in Gold for our outstanding performance in environmental sustainability and improving overall hospital quality through medical device remanufacturing and reprocessing. This past year, we have achieved 900 lbs. in waste avoidance and \$300,000 in savings, more than any other hospital operating room (OR) in Ontario.



## Prioritizing patient safety

New 2023-2024 data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) showcased Humber's safer care numbers at more than 60 per cent better than the average of all Ontario and Canadian hospitals. Humber has maintained this every year for the past six years.



## Top radiology award

Humber was recognized by Healthcare Business Review as a Top Radiology Services Provider in Canada. Our Radiology Department continues to excel through adopting innovative techniques to simplify tasks to help orchestrate seamless patient care!





## IPAC Hub's community impact

Our IPAC Hub works diligently across the community to strengthen infection prevention practices in every setting we serve, which includes 1,500 onsite visits, 1,700 virtual consultations, 2,000 staff members trained and re-trained, 95 organizations supported and 180 Communities of Practice established.



## Stroke unit award

Our Stroke Unit Working Group at Humber received the 2024-2025 Designated Best Practice Stroke Unit Award from the Toronto Stroke Network. To receive the award, the criteria was to meet 60 per cent of the CorHealth Ontario Stroke Unit definition components.



## Surgical Quality Excellence Awards

Humber ranked among the top five Ontario hospitals for every category of the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) 2023 National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP). Our Surgical Program was also awarded Excellence in Quality Improvement Implementation from the Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network (ON-SQIN).



## Newsweek Top CEO

Barb Collins, President & CEO, was recognized as a Top CEO for 2024/2025 and received an invitation to join Newsweek's Top CEO Network.



## Released Care Close to Home Magazine

We released our Care Closer to Home magazine, which highlights our status as a leader in innovation and captures how we are bringing the community together, one helping hand at a time.





# Financials

A bright and healthy future for our community depends on the generosity and dedication of people like you. Our pledge to you is to always inspire trust and confidence as valued members of our community. We demonstrate this each year with financial statements that show our commitment to accountability and making sure your contributions directly support the Hospital's growth and innovation for years to come.



Visit our [Annual Report website](#) to view Hospital and Foundation financials as well as our [Operations Highlights](#)



# Our Leadership

## Humber River Health (as of March 31, 2025)

### Board of Directors

Michael Iacovelli  
*Chair*

Bruce Levitt  
*Vice Chair*

Carole Malo

Paul Pellegrini

Joan Smart

Bruce Teron

Margaret Beatty

Gary Teelucksingh

Joseph Quarin

Serge Gattesco

Celeste Iacobelli

Ingrid Wilson

Jennifer Laidlaw

Dr. Danielle Martin

### **Ex Officio Members**

Barbara Collins  
*President & CEO*

Dr. S. Zaki Ahmed  
*Chief of Staff*

Dr. Prab Jhaji  
*President, Medical Staff Association*

### Executive Team

Barbara Collins  
*President & CEO*

Dr. S. Zaki Ahmed  
*Chief of Staff*

Carol Hatcher  
*Executive Vice President, Chief Nursing  
Executive and Chief of Clinical Programs*

Faith Forbes  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Peter Bak  
*Chief Information Officer*

Jennifer Yoon  
*Deputy CNE, Vice President, Quality, Professional  
Practice and Risk*

Jhanvi Solanki  
*Vice President Clinical Programs*

Dr. Peter Voros  
*Vice President Clinical Programs*

Beatrise Edelstein  
*Vice President, Post Acute Care and Health  
System Partnerships*

Maria-Cristina Cavicchia  
*Vice President, Human Resources and  
Employment Legal Counsel*

Dr. Justin Grant  
*Vice President of Research and Innovation*



# Humber River Health Foundation (as of March 31, 2025)

## Board of Directors

Nick Simone (Chair)

*President & CEO*

*PACE Law Firm*

Jay Bhutani (Treasurer)

*President*

*Raintree Wealth Management*

### Directors

Kofi Achampong

*Lawyer, Government Affairs, Anti-Racism,  
Socio-Economic Advancement*

Alison Chick

*Senior Vice-President*

*Possibilities, Lumino Health*

Nick Creatura

*President & CEO*

*CNA Canada*

Tarek Elgammal

*Founder & CEO*

*Base Foods Inc.*

Enrico De Pasquale

*Principal*

*Entra Investments Inc.*

Nico Fidani

*Principal*

*ONPoint Strategy Group*

Sabrina Fiorellino

*Chief Executive Officer*

*Fero International*

Fausto Gaudio

*President & CEO*

*IC Savings*

Alicia Gouveia

*Director of Corporate Development*

*Spire Group Limited*

Lucia Iacovelli

*Canadian Managing Partner*

*Tax & Legal, KPMG*

Wolfgang Klein

*Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management*

Irv Kleiner

*Partner, Employment & Labour Group*

*Torkin Manes LLP*

Sherry Larjani

*Founder & CEO*

*Spotlight Communications*

Rose Mantella

Ronald Sedran

*Managing Director*

*Canadian Equity Capital Markets*

*Canaccord Genuity*

Alan Spergel

*Senior Managing Partner*

*msi Spergel*

Mark Veneziano

*Partner*

*Lenczner Slaght LLP*

### Ex Officio Members

Barbara Collins

*President & CEO*

*Humber River Health*

Michael Iacovelli

*Chair*

*Humber River Health Board of Directors*

Dr. Jamie Spiegelman

*President Medical Staff Association*

*Humber River Health*

### Governors


Rose Allison

Eddy Battiston

Lisa Ritchie

Roy Scaini

Pamela Wing



1235 Wilson Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
M3M 0B2

(416) 242-1000  
[communications@hrh.ca](mailto:communications@hrh.ca)  
[foundation@hrh.ca](mailto:foundation@hrh.ca)

[www.hrh.ca](http://www.hrh.ca)  
[www.hrhfoundation.ca](http://www.hrhfoundation.ca)



**Humber River  
Health**



**Humber River  
Health Foundation**



**Help us innovate to  
keep healthcare alive.**

Scan the QR code or donate at [HealthcareLives.ca](http://HealthcareLives.ca)