
BACKGROUND

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Office of the Premier
VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation

ROBERT H.N. HO DONATION

Overview

A donation of \$15 million from retired executive Robert H.N. Ho will transform the face of Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and spark a new wave of health care research and innovations for British Columbians. The gift includes \$8.2 million for the construction of the building including equipment, personnel and various outfitting of the Robert H.N. Ho Research Centre, \$6 million for the Cardiac Investigation and Intervention Unit in the Jim Pattison Pavilion and \$800,000 for VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation's 'in it for life' Fund.

The Robert H.N. Ho Research Centre

The Robert H.N. Ho Research Centre at VGH is scheduled to begin construction in the summer of 2009 and will be completed in 2011. This seven-storey, 69,350 sq. ft. building located on Laurel Street at West 10th Avenue will be home to three internationally recognized research programs – the Vancouver Prostate Centre at VGH, the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility, and the Ovarian Cancer Research Initiative (OvCaRe). The Robert H.N. Ho Research Centre at VGH will be a hub for translational research where new research discoveries are brought from the laboratory bench to the patient's bedside. The proximity of this centre to VGH's clinical care ensures new observations from the patient's bedside about the nature and progression of a disease or injury can be used to stimulate new research initiatives.

The Vancouver Prostate Centre at VGH

Every year, more than 2,500 men are treated at the Vancouver Prostate Centre at VGH, Canada's foremost centre for prostate cancer treatment and research. For more than a decade, the surgeons and researchers at the Prostate Centre at VGH have developed and delivered optimized care to B.C. men, helping B.C. achieve the lowest prostate cancer mortality rate in the country.

The Vancouver Prostate Centre at VGH has played an essential role in the huge gains that have been made to date in the early detection and treatment of prostate cancer. However, many men still die when prostate cancer recurs in a treatment-resistant form and spreads to other parts of the body.

This resistance to treatment is the underlying reason for most cancer deaths, and is the focus of the innovative cancer research taking place here today.

Centre for Hip Health and Mobility

The Centre for Hip Health and Mobility is the first centre in the world focused on improving bone and joint health for people of all ages. The centre brings together a one-of-a-kind alliance of experts in a wide variety of fields – such as geriatric medicine, sports medicine, physiotherapy, orthopaedic surgery, population health, health economics, sociology, imaging science, kinesiology and biomedical engineering – all focused on addressing hip, knee, joint and musculoskeletal health and mobility issues.

Researchers at the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility work with patients of all ages and study bone and joint health from a number of angles and to find solutions that can quickly be introduced in operating rooms, family doctors' offices, residential care facilities, community centres, homes and schools around B.C. and across Canada. Another goal of the Centre for Hip Health & Mobility is to decrease hip fractures in Canada by 10 per cent, saving the Canadian health care system \$100 million annually.

Ovarian Cancer Research Initiative - OvCaRe

Six in ten women with ovarian cancer will die within five years of diagnosis. In 2000, a group of B.C. researchers and physicians came together as a team to find a cure. Led by Dr. Dianne Miller, a VGH gynecologic oncologist who specializes in ovarian cancer, this group formed the Ovarian Cancer Research initiative (OvCaRe).

Today, Canada's OvCaRe program is the leading ovarian cancer research program in Canada. The OvCaRe initiative has set new standards for multidisciplinary ovarian cancer research, leading to national and international collaborations and generating breakthroughs in the diagnosis and classification of ovarian cancer, such as the recent discovery that ovarian cancer is not a single disease, but five distinct diseases.

In recognition of OvCaRe's leadership in pioneering individualized treatment, British Columbia was chosen as a site for a clinical trial of an exciting new therapy for the most aggressive form of ovarian cancer. Work done at VGH has led to the hope that at least 60 per cent of women with this lethal malignancy may benefit from this new treatment.

Cardiac Investigation and Intervention Unit

The Cardiac Investigation and Intervention Unit at the Jim Pattison Pavilion at VGH provides care in B.C. for patients with conditions such as angina, cardiac rhythm problems, heart failure and heart disease. To provide the very best patient care for those with cardiovascular conditions and diseases, the cardiac team requires the latest technology for cardiac investigation and intervention and diagnostic imaging for minimally invasive and other procedures. This allows patients to live longer, heal faster, reduce their stay at the hospital and experience less pain. Mr. Ho's gift will enable the region to enhance its cardiac investigation and intervention unit, funding new equipment such as angiography and electrophysiology suites that will impact patient care for British Columbians and pioneer research to help patients in B.C. and around the world.

Background on Mr. Robert H.N. Ho

Born in Hong Kong in 1932, Robert H.N. Ho is the grandson of Sir Robert Ho Tung and Lady Clara Ho Tung, and the son of General Ho Shai Lai and Hesta Ho Hung Ki Fun. Mr. Ho was educated at Lingnan and Pui Ching Middle Schools in Hong Kong. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree at Colgate University and his Master of Science degree in Journalism at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University in the United States. Mr. Ho spent his business career in journalism and in managing his family's property and investment business. Since his retirement, he has focused on philanthropy, through personal gifts as well as through his Foundations, the Tung Lin Kok Yuen Canada Foundation and the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation.

Some of Mr. Ho's most recent charitable contributions include:

- 2008: \$5 million to Stanford University to establish the Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford University.
- 2006: \$10 million to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London England to establish the first permanent gallery of Buddhist art and sculptures in the United Kingdom.
- 2006: \$4 million to University of Toronto to create a network of international Buddhist Studies programs.
- 2006: \$4 million to UBC to establish North America's first Buddhism and Contemporary Society program.
- 2005: \$500,000 to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation for the purchase of Canada's first dedicated cardiac CT scanner.
- 2004: \$25 million to Colgate University in New York to establish the Robert Hung Ngai Ho Interdisciplinary Science Centre.
- 2000: \$15 million to Hong Kong University to finance the Centre of Buddhist Studies.

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