

2024-2025 Annual Report

← Interventional Pain Clinic



inside:
**Dammy's
Journey**
with sickle cell disease

A Year of Breakthroughs.

St. Paul's Hospital and Providence Health Care have a legacy of groundbreaking innovations made possible by donors like you.

From developing research to treat the HIV/AIDS virus, to providing BC's only adult heart transplants, to ranking first in the world for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), donor support has played a vital role in making the impossible possible.

Breakthroughs in 2024/25:



Canada's first tooth in eye surgery at Mount Saint Joseph.



Researchers at the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation are the first to discover the cause of lung long-covid.



First adult congenital heart care clinic serving rural BC.



First non-cancer focused phase 1 clinical trials unit launched in Western Canada at Mount St. Joseph.



First publicly funded dementia care village launched in Comox, BC.



BC's first and only biobank committed to genetic kidney disease research.

DR. ERIN KENNY (LEFT) AND DR. JIM CHRISTENSON (RIGHT) PICTURED OUTSIDE THE TECK EMERGENCY CENTRE AT ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL.



With Gratitude

Each year, you make it possible to deliver **compassionate, innovative care** to tens of thousands of people - while advancing critical research that saves and improves lives throughout BC.

At St. Paul's Hospital and, more broadly, Providence Health Care, we see that people's lives are changed forever because of your support.

This year's cover features Dammy, one of the many patients whose life was saved thanks to the exceptional care provided by our physicians. His story is a testament to the healing that happens when care goes beyond medicine.

Your support makes this work possible. It's thanks to donors like you that we can provide the necessary equipment, training, and resources to enable the best possible research and treatment that saves lives.

When the new St. Paul's Hospital on the Jim Pattison Medical Campus opens in 2027, with the Clinical Support and Research Centre to follow, our physicians and researchers will have access to

a world-class research hub unlike anything else in Canada.

Thank you for sharing in our vision and for your dedication to a brighter, person-centred future in health care.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity, which is helping us to drive medical innovation, improve lives, and redefine the future of health care for British Columbians.



Sheila Biggers, *President & CEO*



Glenn Ives, *Board Chair*

““

I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for St. Paul's Hospital. They made this all possible.”

- Dammy,
grateful patient



Advancing life-saving treatment

Dammy's journey
with sickle cell
disease

Diagnosed with sickle cell disease when he was a baby, doctors predicted Dammy wouldn't live past his 18th birthday.

Dammy Ogunseitan is a lifelong soccer fan who recently fulfilled a dream: traveling across Europe to watch his favourite team play. It's a remarkable shift from the life he once knew—one dominated by hospital stays and chronic pain caused by sickle cell disease (SCD).

Diagnosed at six months old, Dammy received a grim prognosis: he wouldn't live past 18. But thanks to medical advancements and the care he received at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, he recently celebrated his 40th birthday.

SCD is a genetic disorder that causes red blood cells to become misshapen and block blood flow, leading to intense pain and an increased risk of serious complications like

strokes, blindness, and organ failure. Dammy describes the pain as relentless: “Imagine breaking your hand and shaking it nonstop. That’s the level of pain you’re in constantly.”

From waiting to die to actually living

Dr. Linda Vickars, a hematologist renowned for her work in SCD, offered Dammy a new perspective. “She was the first doctor to tell my mom, ‘Let’s not focus on death. Let’s focus on quality of life,’” Dammy recalls. Under her care, Dammy began to see a future beyond pain.

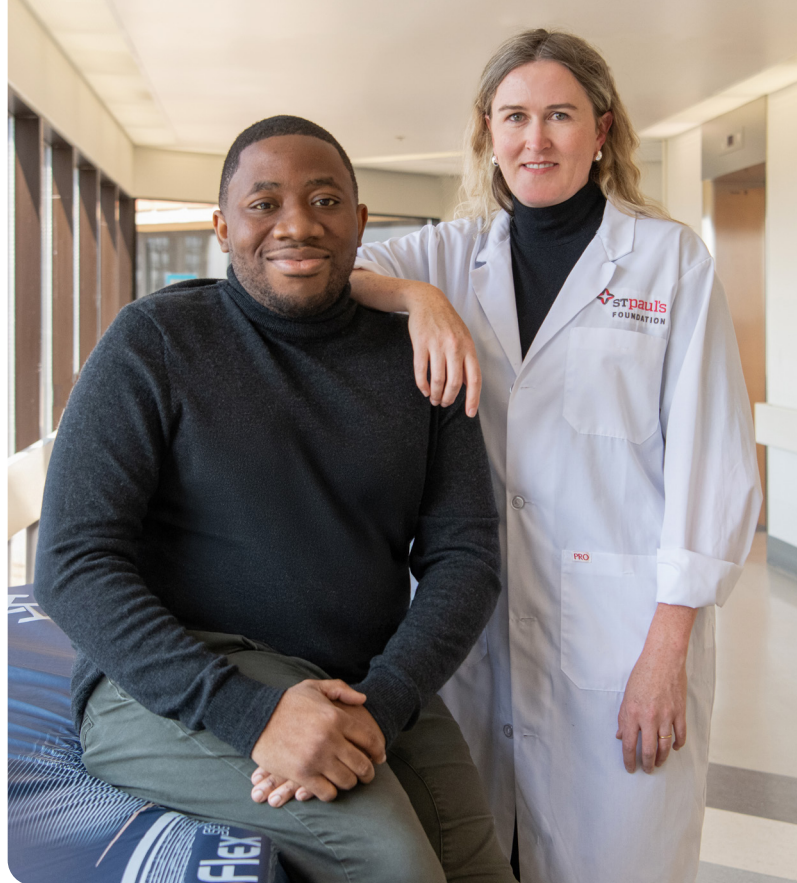
“It was a life-defining change,” Dammy says. “I’ve gone from someone who was just waiting to die to someone who is actually living.”

Over the years, a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, and specialists at St. Paul’s Hospital have supported Dammy through every stage of his journey. Because SCD affects multiple systems in the body, he receives regular checkups with various specialists. When he needs emergency care, the team is ready with a personalized pain management plan. They even helped him prepare for fatherhood by adjusting his medications.

Although Dr. Vickars passed away in 2014, her legacy lives on through patients like Dammy and the Naiman-Vickars fellowship, which trains new physicians in classical hematology.

Today, Dammy is under the care of Dr. Hayley Merkeley. Thanks to continued advancements and a tailored treatment plan, his pain episodes have dropped to once every couple of years.

“Giving people like me a chance to survive wouldn’t happen without the dedicated individuals at St. Paul’s Hospital,” Dammy says.



Giving back to St. Paul’s Hospital and St. Paul’s Foundation

Dammy is currently living life to the fullest. One of his favourite activities is playing soccer with his son, who just started the second grade.

“We’re in a good place. I’m very lucky to have the life I have now and be able to take care of my family,” he says.

As a member of St. Paul’s Foundation’s Ambassadors, an engaged committee of young professionals who volunteer their time to raising awareness for St. Paul’s Foundation, Dammy wants to ensure that everyone has access to high quality care now, and well into the future at the new St. Paul’s Hospital on the Jim Pattison Medical Campus.

“It’s about making sure that the hospital is here for generations to come,” he says. “The people who came before us made sure it was here for us. That’s why I’m still here and alive.”

Your impact.

Your generosity has made it possible to provide **exceptional patient care** throughout this past year and is helping to build one of the **most advanced hospital campuses** in Canada.

CAPITAL



Celebrating year four of construction on the new St. Paul's Hospital on the Jim Pattison Medical Campus.

Progress is steady and spirits are high as the hospital moves closer to completion, powered by the efforts of construction teams and the support of people like you who share in our vision. Crews are working on exterior façade finishes, interior finishes, landscaping, and road work.

Construction began on the Clinical Support and Research Centre (CSRC). Integrated with the new St. Paul's Hospital via skybridge, the CSRC will connect physicians and scientists to seamlessly integrate research and patient care.



Construction will be completed in 2026 and the hospital will be open to the public in 2027.



Putting pain on ice

How cryoneurolysis is changing pain management without the use of opioids

Cryoneurolysis is a transformative, drug-free pain management technique now being pioneered at St. Paul’s Hospital. Using extreme cold to temporarily block nerve signals, this treatment offers weeks to months of relief without the risks of opioids.

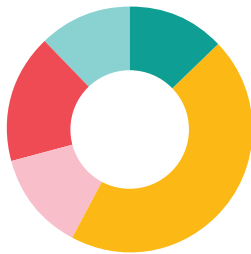
Dr. Michael Jew, who leads the hospital’s cryoneurolysis program, is applying this technology in a novel way: to manage acute surgical pain. His team’s work represents some of the first

documented cases in medical literature, with promising outcomes that could transform pain treatment practices.

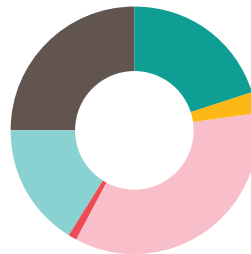
Unlike traditional medications that affect the entire body, cryoneurolysis precisely targets pain at its source, preserving nerve structure while allowing natural regeneration. This precision is especially vital in the context of Canada’s opioid crisis, where nearly 10% of opioid users report problematic use.

Your support is helping this innovation expand—offering safer, smarter pain relief to more patients, with the potential to reduce reliance on opioids nationwide.

Financials



Total Donations:
\$80,609,194



Total Disbursements:
\$44,384,973

DONATIONS	AMOUNT	F2025	F2024
Corporate	\$10,248,269	13%	15%
Foundations	\$36,080,883	45%	48%
Government	\$10,337,248	13%	7%
Individual	\$13,776,456	17%	20%
Other	\$10,166,338	12%	10%

DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	F2025	F2024
Research	\$8,986,187	20%	27%
Equipment	\$1,189,494	3%	5%
Education	\$15,607,657	35%	29%
Enhanced Patient Care	\$558,746	1%	1%
Other	\$7,129,844	16%	12%
Capital Projects	\$10,913,045	25%	26%

Your gifts to St. Paul’s Foundation support PHC’s hospitals, long-term care homes, and community services:

ST. PAUL’S HOSPITAL / MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL / HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL / YOUVILLE RESIDENCE / ST. VINCENT’S: LANGARA / ST. VINCENT’S: HONORIA CONWAY / ST. VINCENT’S: BROCK FAHRNI / THE VIEWS AT ST. JOSEPH (COMOX) / PROVIDENCE CROSSTOWN CLINIC / COMMUNITY DIALYSIS UNITS

“

I am so grateful to our donors. Your support allows us to fulfill our ultimate mission of providing ‘exceptional care through exceptional science’ for British Columbians with heart and lung disorders.

- Dr. Don Sin, Director and De Lazzari Family Chair in Heart Lung Innovation at HLI: Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in COPD



RESEARCH



Research at St. Paul’s Hospital uncovers cause of lung long COVID

New research from the Centre for Heart Lung Innovation (HLI) at St. Paul’s Hospital has identified inflammation in the lungs’ smallest airways as the cause of pulmonary long COVID.

A research team led by HLI Director, Dr. Don Sin, used xenon MRI, an advanced imaging technology, and single-cell sequencing of lung samples, supported by the HLI’s biobank team, to uncover the underlying mechanism behind persistent respiratory symptoms in long COVID patients. These findings were published in three articles in the European Respiratory Journal.

The HLI research team focused on identifying the cause of pulmonary long COVID, which presents with persistent lung symptoms and accounts for approximately one-third of long COVID cases.

St. Paul’s Hospital is home to one of Canada’s first Post-COVID-19 Recovery Clinics.



NICU simulation training builds life-saving teamwork



In the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St. Paul's Hospital, every second counts. When a pregnant woman in distress arrives at the Teck Emergency Centre, multiple teams converge to save mother and baby – anesthesia, respirology, maternity and NICU – and they need to coordinate their actions rapidly.

Simulation training is critical to successful cooperation among team members when high-risk, low-frequency events arise, and donor support helps to make this training possible.

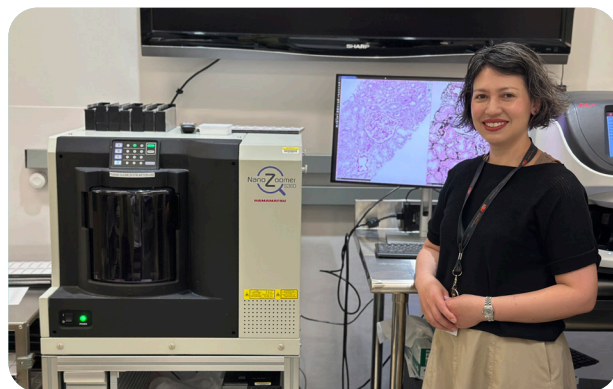
Every month, an interdisciplinary team—including educators from maternity, NICU, obstetrics, and pediatrics—collaborates to deliver themed simulation sessions. These hands-on scenarios bring together obstetricians, family physicians, midwives, nurses, and residents to practice responding to complex perinatal emergencies in a safe, supportive environment.

These sessions mirror real-life emergencies, such as a mother experiencing placental abruption requiring an emergency C-section and neonatal resuscitation.

The impact of this training is clear, says Alaine Vijandre, nurse lead for the NICU team: a stronger, confident, connected team. By practicing in a safe, controlled environment, they can respond effectively when every second counts.



High-speed scanners empower faster, more accurate diagnoses



Kidney patients across BC are now benefiting from faster, more accurate diagnoses through digital pathology, thanks to the purchase of a high-speed NanoZoomer digital slide scanner, made possible through donor generosity.

The new digital system significantly reduces the time between biopsy and diagnosis by making it possible for nephrologists throughout the province to rapidly share high-resolution biopsy images.

For patients with complex conditions like lupus nephritis or those undergoing kidney transplants, this speed is critical. Digital access to multiple biopsies allows for efficient comparison and more informed treatment decisions.

Dr. MeiLin Bissonnette, Director of the Provincial Renal Pathology Laboratory at St. Paul's Hospital, expressed her deep gratitude on behalf of the entire pathology team. "Your support was the catalyst for a cascade of innovation," she shared. "It allowed us to digitize the entire provincial renal biopsy service and build the IT infrastructure needed to support province-wide diagnostic collaboration."

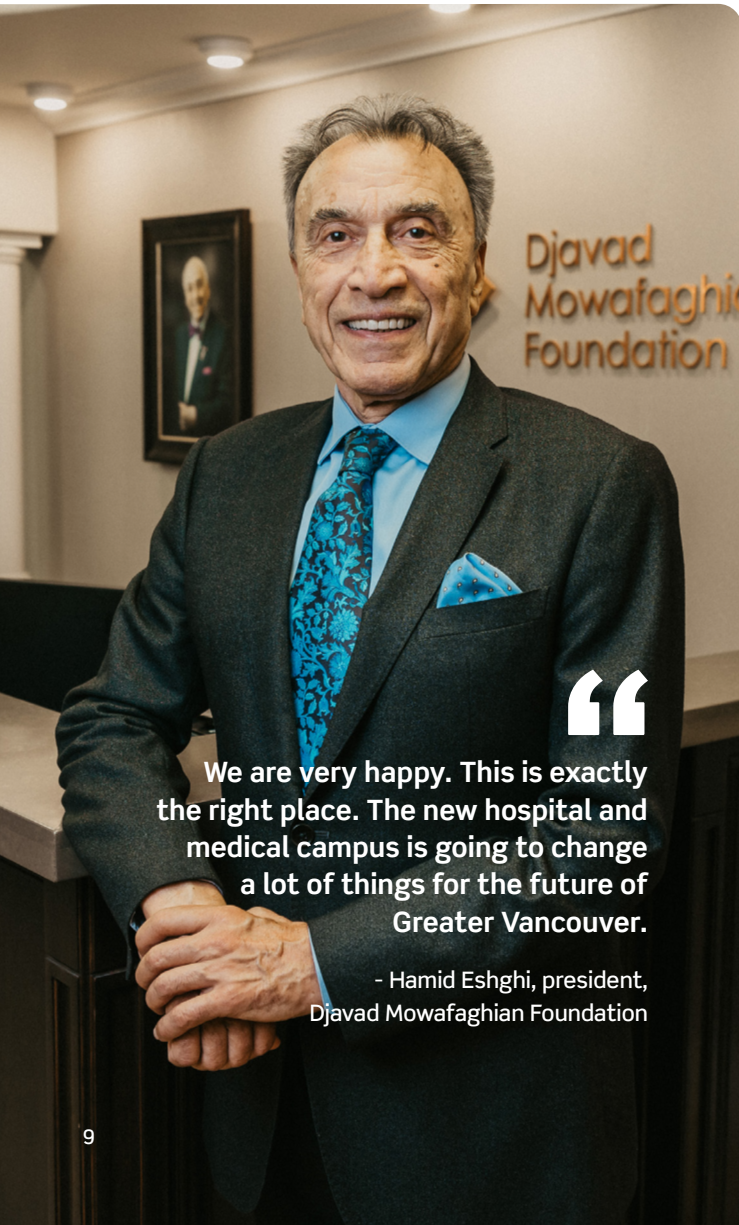
Now the lab team can ensure patients receive timely, expert-informed diagnoses no matter where they live.

Our Donors

We are grateful to our generous donors who make innovative, compassionate care possible. Your support is improving lives throughout BC.

Building for the Future

DJAVAD MOWAFAGHIAN FOUNDATION'S \$2.5 MILLION DONATION TO FUND RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AT THE NEW ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL.



We are very happy. This is exactly the right place. The new hospital and medical campus is going to change a lot of things for the future of Greater Vancouver.

- Hamid Eshghi, president,
Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation

Transforming the future of health care for people living in BC is no mean feat. But thanks to a \$2.5 million donation from the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation, St. Paul's Foundation is one significant step closer to achieving this ambitious goal.

This generous gift will support the acceleration of research and innovation at the Clinical Support and Research Centre (CSRC), which is being built adjacent to the new St. Paul's Hospital as part of the Jim Pattison Medical Campus. The CSRC is designed to expedite groundbreaking findings from the laboratory bench to the patient's bedside, ushering in a new age of impactful medical discoveries and treatments that offer hope to patients in need across BC and beyond.

The Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation is a pillar of giving in this province. It has created a remarkable legacy that has touched countless lives, and truly made the world a better place.

Hamid Eshghi, president of the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation, expressed his excitement at working with St. Paul's Foundation and supporting what he expects will become "one of the most advanced medical campuses in Canada."



The sky is the limit

Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) at just three months old, Andrew Brownell raised money to support the CF Mental Health Fund

In June, 2025, Andrew achieved an ambitious journey to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest peak. While training for the climb, he raised nearly \$5,000 in support of the Adult Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Clinic at St. Paul’s Hospital, specifically for the CF Mental Health Fund.

Diagnosed with CF at just three months old, Andrew faced serious health challenges early in life, including a collapsed lung and chronic infections. Despite being told he might not live past 17, he remained active, committed to treatments, and excelled in sports. By age 12, hospitalizations became an annual occurrence, and complications like liver cirrhosis, diabetes, and lung bleeds followed.

Once Andrew reached 18, he transitioned from BC Children’s Hospital to the care of St. Paul’s Hospital, a national leader in CF treatment and research. At 37, he underwent a life-saving double lung transplant.

The lung transplant took a significant physical and mental toll. A year later, a motorcycle accident left him with multiple fractures and titanium implants. Yet he says that nothing compares to the emotional weight of



The Adult CF Clinic [at St. Paul’s] has been a constant in my adult life and will be for the rest of it. This was a way for me to show my gratitude.

- Andrew Brownell, grateful patient, pictured with his wife, Terri

the transplant experience. Andrew credits the CF team at St. Paul’s as instrumental in providing the support and assurance he needed to prepare for and recover from the surgery.

“Having the knowledge of your mortality at a young age and going through life threatening events plays in your mind over time and it affects you, and those around you,” says Andrew. Having received critical mental health support from the CF team, he wants to ensure that help continues to be there for others.

Thank you!

Your gifts make a profound and lasting difference to every patient, resident, family, and caregiver. We are grateful for your trust and generosity.

For 130 years, St. Paul's Hospital has been providing care for those who need it most. And for just as long, donors have been tirelessly supporting this work. Your gifts fund life-saving equipment, vital research, pioneering treatments, and excellence in long-term care.



St. Paul's Foundation
Suite 178 – 1081 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1Y6

St. Paul's Foundation acknowledges with gratitude that it is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x̱m̱əθḵ'əy̱əm (Musqueam), S̱kw̱x̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), and Səḻílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

helpstpauls.com

Charitable Registration Number:
11925 7939 RR0001