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ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

report on giving

New Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit Opens

For patients, the quality of life-saving cardiac care they receive is only as good as the access they have to it.

Thanks to Foundation donors, that access has just improved with the opening of the new Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU) at Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) on January 21, 2008.

The CSICU is where patients receive highly specialized critical care 24 to 48 hours immediately following open-heart surgery. The new 3,000-sq.-ft. cardiac unit, double the size of the old one, takes over the space vacated by the relocated Intensive Care Unit after it opened in June 2007. The new CSICU accommodates eight beds, an increase of two, in two four-bed pods, with access to two nearby private rooms if needed. It is based on an innovative design concept and features state-of-the-art equipment to help patients recover faster and with reduced complications.

The new space will enable RCH, the only hospital in the Fraser Health region to perform open-heart surgery, to care for more cardiac patients. As of January 2008, RCH had performed 583 cardiac surgeries in the fiscal year with an anticipated total of 770 by the end of March 2008.



Donor-funded equipment helps provide the best cardiac care at RCH for patients across the Fraser Health region.

"The program had grown with increasing demand for care, but the space had not," says Mehmud Karmali, RCH director of acute programs. "That limited our ability to provide...the quality of care we're used to providing. This enables us...to do that even better."

Thanks to donor support, the vision for this new unit has become a reality. The RCH Foundation is raising \$2 million for the Heart to Heart campaign to fund equipment for the new unit.

"This project is another wonderful example of how the RCH Foundation can work with the community and Fraser Health to build on provincial government funding to improve access and provide the best cardiac care at RCH." says Adrienne Bakker, RCH Foundation president and CEO.

Innovative Cardiac Care

- Each bed has a movable ceiling-mounted boom that holds highly sophisticated patient care equipment. This ergonomic design saves space, enhances care and improves safety for staff and patients.
- State-of-the-art beds enable patients to progress more quickly and smoothly from surgery to recovery.
- Heart monitors in each pod enable nursing staff to monitor what is happening with other patients in the unit.
- Two private air exchange-controlled rooms can act as isolation rooms to prevent transmitting infection.

RCH Cardiac Staff Grateful for New CSICU

Moving day can evoke feelings of sadness, as we recall fond memories of the place we are leaving.

Not so for the staff of the Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (CSICU).

"The staff team is so excited about this new unit; we could hardly wait to get out of the old one," says Dianne Obal, with a huge smile across her face.

Obal is the CSICU health services manager, and has worked in the CSICU at Royal Columbian Hospital since 1999. She, along with Renee Kinnear, patient care coordinator, have spent a significant amount of time planning the set up of the new unit right down to the intimate details of what is contained in each drawer.

"RCH Cardiac staff are grateful for the new CSICU because it will enable them to care for more cardiac patients and provide a better working environment where specialty staff and physicians will choose to work," says Gillian Harwood,



RCH Foundation donors are helping raise \$2 million to fund the new CSICU.

executive director of RCH. "It also helps to further establish our cardiac program as one of the best in the country."

RCH became the heart centre for the region in 1991 when the first open-heart surgery was performed at the hospital. The original four-bed CSICU handled approximately 250 surgeries each year. But over the last 15 years, as the demand for critical cardiac care has increased to approximately 700 open-heart surgeries

each year, resources at the hospital have been stretched to the limit. Two additional CSICU beds were added in an adjacent unit to help meet demand, but this split-unit configuration posed many challenges for the CSICU staff, and provided a less than optimal environment for patients and their families.

"We needed a place where patients could be nursed back to health with incredible staff and support and now we have it," says Dr. Robert Hayden. He is the director of Cardiac Surgery at RCH, and performed the first open-heart surgery at RCH back in 1991.

The new unit centralizes the CSICU in one area to ensure critical equipment is always readily available, patients are always in close contact with their nurse, and nursing staff can work as an integrated team. Staff members were deeply involved in the design of their new space to ensure it would meet the highly specialized needs of their patients.

"The new unit boosts morale for all that work here," states Hayden. "The new unit comes as a result of hard work and generosity of a lot of people. Without the generosity of the RCH Foundation, this unit wouldn't have happened."



Dianne Obal, Renee Kinnear and Marnie Killingsworth celebrate the CSICU Grand Opening.