

Let's Transform Healthcare Together 20|20 24|25 impact report



Montreal General Hospital Foundation

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

# **A Year of Inspiration: Thank You!**

It's been an exciting year at the Montreal General Hospital Foundation (MGHF), with important investments in healthcare initiatives, a fresh look to reflect our mission and the launch of a collaborative fundraising campaign. Thank you to our dedicated team, our partners and to our many volunteers, and especially to the generosity of so many who make this possible.

We are delighted to see our renewed mission resonating throughout our community. Our mission is to inspire the philanthropic community to invest in transformative initiatives, conceived and guided by our medical leaders, which have a significant impact on patient lives. In doing so, we advance the pioneering spirit of the Montreal General Hospital, which joined forces with McGill University to form Canada's first teaching hospital.

Our pillars — which guide us every day — are to Support. Connect. Transform. Inspire. This is our commitment to you, as we transform healthcare together.

Indeed, we believe in the power of collaboration for greater impact and are proud to share stories of how your generosity makes an incredible difference! From giving our best in our Together Against Cancer Campaign to building the psychiatry of tomorrow and developing robotics to shape the future of surgery, your support brings to life these groundbreaking projects, among many others.

Thanks to your donations, we can invest in transformative initiatives that impact patients throughout Quebec, Canada, and beyond. Thank you for believing in the power of philanthropy, and for empowering medical leaders and researchers to innovate, improve outcomes, and ultimately save lives.



# Support Connect Transform Inspire

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Cover photo: Some ICU team members at the Montreal General Hospital (MGH) of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), from left to right: Joëlle Déziel, Assistant Nurse Manager, ICU; Wachun Tse, Respiratory Therapist; Dr. David Hornstein, Director of the Critical Illness Recovery Centre at the MGH-MUHC; Kathleen MacMillan, ICU nurse.



Your generosity inspires us every day! You have our deepest gratitude.

Stephanie F. Riddell

Stephanie Riddell President & CEO. Montreal General Hospital Foundation

# TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES

"I don't think I can stress enough how important community support and philanthropy are to help us carry on vital research. We strive for excellence in care and treatments for all our patients."

**Dr. Jonathan Cools-Lartigue,** Thoracic Surgeon, MGH-MUHC



# Together Against Cancer A Collaborative Campaign for Greater Impact

More than \$66M raised so far, thanks to your generosity!

**Together Against Cancer** is a unique collaboration between the Cedars Cancer Foundation and the Montreal General Hospital Foundation. Our goal is to raise \$100 million to support transformative projects that will improve the experience, quality of life, and outcomes of cancer patients.

Real People, Powerful Stories. The campaign's public phase features articles, videos, posters, social media, TV, and bus shelter ads highlighting the real faces of cancer care and research, and powerful stories of hope, dedication, and resilience. These real-life images of our medical teams and patients, who give their best every day against cancer, hopefully inspired you to give the best you can to help them.

Three main priorities, one shared goal: to change lives.

**Equal access to the best care and support:** so every patient, regardless of their situation, receives the treatment they need.

**Personalized, precision cancer care:** to tailor treatments to each patient's specific needs, using data and technology.

Life-changing innovation and research: such as surgical procedures to treat lymphedema, pioneering research aimed at preventing metastasis, and more.

### Imagine if We Could Stop Cancer From Metastasizing

Dr. Jonathan Cools-Lartigue is testing a new strategy to stop metastasis that examines what makes a person's immune system blind to cancer cells and allows a tumour to grow. Thanks to philanthropic support, the first phase of his project was fully funded this year! Showcasing the impact of donor support, these funds were used to support the hiring of a post-doctoral researcher and enable Dr. Cools-Lartigue to further this important work.



Thanks to you, we are making progress. Together, united against cancer.

Join us and give the best you can by visiting: **Togetheragainstcancer.ca** 



Together Against Cancer's powerful images of real-life patients and medical teams are featured on posters, bus shelters, TV, and social media. "With the support of the Montreal General Hospital Foundation,

the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) is home to talented experts who embrace an interdisciplinary approach to assure exceptional, compassionate patient care for our patients and their families, as well as vital research and teaching. To every donor, thank you for making Together Against Cancer a resounding success in collaboration with the Cedars Cancer Foundation."



Dr. Lucie Opatrny, President and **Executive Director, MUHC** 

# **Together Against Cancer Equalizing Access to Life-Saving Clinical Trials**

Dr. Jonathan Spicer aims to provide thoracic cancer patients throughout the province with equitable access to clinical trials — even those who live far from big-city teaching hospitals. Thanks to your support, this year Dr. Spicer increased access to clinical trials by hiring clinical research coordinators in two new regions of the province. The goal is to expand this initiative to hospitals in other regions. Dr. Spicer was also among the investigators of a groundbreaking worldwide study that successfully paired immunotherapy with chemotherapy before and after surgery resulting in a higher rate of overall survival for lung cancer patients with resectable disease.

"We see a huge opportunity to enable our network of referring hospitals to participate in these innovative trials and overcome postal code disparities, improving outcomes and advancing

scientific discovery."

Dr. Jonathan Spicer, Thoracic Surgeon, MUHC, Medical Director, McGill **Thoracic Oncology Network** 





Celebrating research with the MGHF's Soirée en or committee and MUHC thoracic surgery team.

# **Together Against Cancer** Soirée en or Raised \$500,000

The tropics came to the Four Seasons hotel on December 5, 2024, for Soirée en or, which raised nearly \$500,000 to support transformative research projects in thoracic cancers. Co-chaired by Heidi Hollinger and Dominic Costantini, our fundraiser supports cancer research of the MUHC's Division of Thoracic Surgery. Led by Dr. Lorenzo Ferri at the MGH, the department is

renowned for treating complex cancers of patients referred from more than 42 hospitals across the province. In the lab, Dr. Ferri and his team are developing personalized, precision treatments. Dr. Ferri's pan-cancer, pan-Canadian Precision Oncology Platform is a major initiative to develop these personalized treatments, also supported by our Together Against Cancer campaign.

# Shaping the Future of Surgery



Dr. Liane Feldman, Surgeon-in-Chief, MUHC, Chair of the Department of Surgery, McGill University

Thanks to MGHF support, Dr. Liane Feldman's ambitious Future of Surgery initiative is transforming surgery through innovative projects to make surgery safer, less invasive, and more precise — with shorter recovery times and better patient outcomes.

This year, the initiative has advanced in several ways, including using remote monitoring soft-

"Surgical results continue to improve because of less invasive techniques, but to keep up, we require new robotic equipment, new people with these skills, new approaches to training, and visionary research programs."

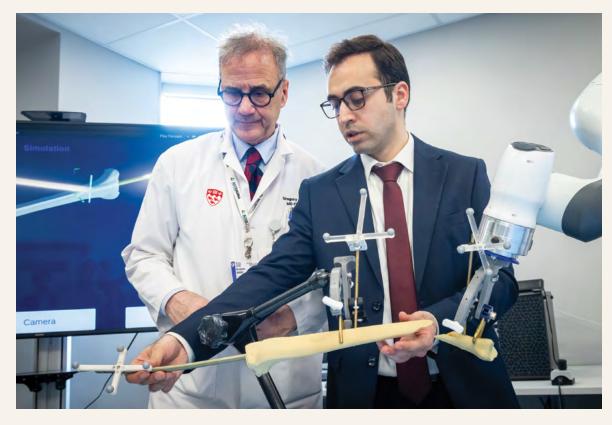
> ware to shorten post-surgical hospital stays and acquiring next-generation equipment to help doctors save more lives.

> A promising area this year has been integrating technologies such as robotics and AI, which are transforming the surgical experience and contributing to better outcomes before, during, and after surgery.

"We're working on surgical robotics to do very complex surgical cuts for cancer treatment. This year I used augmented reality in the operating room. The possibilities are endless."

> Dr. Ahmed Aoude, **Orthopedic Oncology** Surgeon, MUHC





Above: Dr. Gregory Berry, Orthopedic Surgeon, MUHC, and Hamidreza Khodashenas, Research Associate, SuPER, demonstrate surgical robotics technologies at the SuPER Centre.

# Here are a few projects made possible with your generosity through the Future of Surgery initiative.

### **A SuPER New Home!**

The Surgical Performance Enhancement and Robotics (SuPER) Centre moved into its new home within the Dr. Phil Gold Pavilion of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (The Institute) at the MGH. Directed by Amir Hooshiar, PhD, this futuristic research hub is bringing robotics and AI to many medical disciplines — from orthopedic, abdominal, head and neck, eye, maxillofacial, and spinal surgery to interventional cardiology and radiology — reimagining and redesigning medical procedures to make them less invasive, more personalized, safer, and more effective.



### **Remote Monitoring for Smooth Recovery**

To reduce hospital stays and improve patient experience, your generosity supported a virtual patient interface so surgery patients can go home sooner. Led by Dr. Larry Lee at the MGH, the post-discharge remote monitoring project was piloted with bariatric, thoracic, colorectal, and joint replacement surgeries. Thanks to its effectiveness, this solution is now being rolled out to surgical departments across the MUHC.

### TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES



Left to right: Wallace Denver, Stephanie Riddell, Dr. Judith Marcoux, Louise Toupin, Ann Birks, Susan Nichol representing Michael Boyd, Audrey Scott, Dr. David Hornstein, Gina Steszyn, Absent: Beverly Lun.

### **New Technology to Save Lives**

Your support purchased a Medtronic StealthStation S8 neuro navigation unit for the MGH Intensive Care Unit, so neurosurgeons can quickly and non-invasively map out a life-saving procedure called a ventricular drain (EVD). The result? This new equipment helps neurosurgeons optimally perform this procedure every time, therefore reducing the risk of new brain injuries and improving outcomes for traumatic brain injury patients.

"It's my role as a neurosurgeon to measure the pressure in the brain and treat it when it is too high. Making space for the brain to heal is vital. This neuro navigation unit helps us do that with more precision than ever and can mean higher Dr. Judith Marcoux, Neurogurgeon Medical Director

chances of recovery for patients."

Dr. Judith Marcoux, Neurogurgeon, Medical Director of the MUHC's Neurotrauma Program based at the MGH

### **Bringing AI to Surgery**

The Future of Surgery initiative is now benefiting from using a revolutionary new platform called Theator. This technology allows surgeons to more easily record and review operations and applies AI analytics for educational and improvement purposes. This data is an incredible resource for training, quality improvement and research, and is already being used to review and improve surgical techniques, train and coach residents, and in research projects. A major step forward for excellence in care, thanks to you!



Thanks to your support, surgeons at the MGH were among the first in North America to start using Theator.

"We're trying to figure out the immune landscape in the uterus at the time the embryo wants to implant. What is different between patients that have normal fertility and patients that are infertile or miscarry? The eventual goal of this research is to have a blood test to diagnose and treat an immune problem before patients have recurrent miscarriages or repeated in-vitro fertilization failures."





### Dr. Geneviève Genest,

Immunologist, allergologist, and founder of Canada's first Reproductive Immunology Clinic, housed at the MGH and supported by the MGHF

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Above: Dr. Ahmed Aoude with PhD student (to the left); Naghmeh Bandari, PhD; Amir Hooshiar, PhD; Louise Fast.

# **Celebrating Research at Our Impact & Innovation Evening**

# **SOIRÉE** IMPACT & INNOVATION EVENING

Approximately half our Foundation's funding goes to research and innovation! This year, we invested \$9.1 million in research, amounting to 51% of our philanthropic support.

Showcasing the impact of this support, visionary researchers, generous philanthropists, and medical leaders filled Montreal's Maison Alcan

on October 23, 2024, for the MGHF's inaugural Impact & Innovation Evening.

This event also celebrated the 67 recipients of this year's MGHF Research Awards. Thanks to our donors, award recipients collectively benefited from \$2M in funding, advancing projects ranging from personalized cancer care to brain and mental health, medicine, surgery, healthy living, and more. In addition, the evening featured health-tech startups supported by our Impact Investment Program, a partnership with the Clinical Innovation Platform (CLIP) — a unique incubator at the heart of the MGH and The Institute.

"At The Institute, our vision is to advance precision health across the life course. By integrating cuttingedge research with collaborative innovation, our scientists are transforming healthcare to improve quality of life. Philanthropy is essential for this innovation. It accelerates discovery, enables bold ideas, and empowers researchers to turn potential into progress. We are deeply grateful for your generous support."

## Accelerating Healthcare Innovation, One Investment at a Time

On July 25, 2024, donors, doctors, investors, researchers, entrepreneurs, and guests gathered at the CLIP to hear pitches from six health-tech startups. Selected from more than 20 applicants, these startups were vying for funding through the MGHF's Impact Investment Program.

### Supporting the next generation of innovation.

This unique program offers convertible loans for startups wanting to scale their healthcare innovations to the benefit of patients in Quebec and Canada.

Since successfully pitching at this event, Juno Technologies (developing a wearable device to relieve menstrual pain) and Ora Medical (creating innovative remote rehabilitation solutions) received funding through our program.

This year, we also granted impact investment





Dr. Rhian Touyz, **Executive Director and Chief** Scientific Officer, Research Institute of the MUHC (The Institute)

- funding to two other startups, selected for the program in 2023:
- AFX Medical is an AI-assisted, neuro-oncology software company.
- Hepius Medical is developing smart cardiac catheter technology to assist surgeons in delivering effective ablation therapy.
- When philanthropy fuels the future.
- Thanks to our generous community, startups supported through the MGHF's Impact Investment Program have the funding they need to develop amazing ideas to improve healthcare and change lives! Together, we are changing medicine.
- This program is possible thanks to the generous support of National Bank, the John Dobson Foundation, Birks Family Foundation, and many others.

### **RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

"Thanks to MGHF support, we've put all our resources to work to create synergies and partnerships to build this database. Now, researchers will be able to use the data

to develop algorithms and predictive methods to start transforming the concept of precision psychiatry into a reality in the next few years."

Dr. Simon Ducharme, Neuropsychiatrist, MUHC



# **Collaboration and Open Science: Building the Psychiatry of Tomorrow**

Our Foundation is pleased to support the Centre for Precision Psychiatry - Quebec (CPP-Q), whose new open-source biobank project, Solutions for Psychiatric AI Research & Knowledge (SPARK) shared its first data release this year. Founded and led by neuropsychiatrist Dr. Simon Ducharme, the CPP-Q aims to improve the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders by advancing precision psychiatry and research.

SPARK's goal is to gather clinical, biological, and neuroimaging data of 1,000 psychiatry patients, mainly from the MUHC Mental Health Mission, who will be followed for 10 years. In addition to working at the MUHC, Dr. Ducharme is now

collaborating with the Douglas Mental Health University Institute to recruit patients for the biobank. The CPP-Q uses infrastructure at The Institute to process, store, and analyze data and biological samples, and the MGH MRI Research Platform for neuroimaging, a core service of The Institute.

"Thank you to the MGHF for their support. Thank you for giving researchers a chance to really change the way we do things, so that in 2050, when I retire, I'll be able to say, 'I don't recognize the way we treat mental illnesses, because things have changed so much, and for the better!"

# Interviews: **Taking the Pulse**

### Meet the people reinventing healthcare.

Tune into our Taking the Pulse series and discover bold ideas and research projects that are innovating medicine today and tomorrow. Thanks to your generosity, we are giving a voice to leaders in the medical field who are challenging established approaches, and improving the lives of patients.

Each interview provides an opportunity to address current health issues, highlight new discoveries, and shine a light on initiatives and research led by experts supported by the MGHF.

Season 3 of Taking the Pulse delved into topics including What is Cancer? What is Precision Psychiatry? Get up close and personal with the medical leaders behind these innovations.

Get inspired: Takingthepulse.ca



Top: Noémi's Story – Surviving Sarcoma. Middle: Journalist Annie DeMelt and Dr. Janius Tsang, Anesthesiologist, Co-Director, MGH-MUHC Prehabilitation Clinic. Bottom: Behind the scenes with Dr. Robert Turcotte, Orthopedic Surgeon, MGH-MUHC.











# Honouring an Icon: The New **Dr. Phil Gold Pavilion**



Above: Stephanie Riddell, Dr. Phil Gold, Dr. Louise Pilote, who at the time of this event, was Deputy Director of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre.

What's in a name? Plenty, in the case of Dr. Phil Gold. Last June, in collaboration with The Institute, we announced the naming of the pavilion that houses The Institute at the MGH: the Dr. Phil Gold Pavilion.

In his 60-year career at the MGH, the incomparable Dr. Gold made an incredible impact on countless patients, clinicians, and researchers. A collaborator, friend, and mentor of the Foundation and many medical leaders we support, Dr. Gold is a renowned clinician-scientist who, in 1965, along with Dr. Samuel Freedman, discovered the first biomarker for cancer. (In fact, in the 1970s, the pavilion that now bears Dr. Gold's name was first built using funds he donated from the sale of this blood test to detect cancer.)

"The Dr. Phil Gold Pavilion will stand as a testament to his legacy of discovery, innovation, and care. Dr. Gold is not only a brilliant researcher and an exceptional leader, but above all, an unmatched mentor. Everyone he has trained can attest to this, and that's why his name truly belongs on this building."

> Stephanie Riddell, President & CEO, MGHF

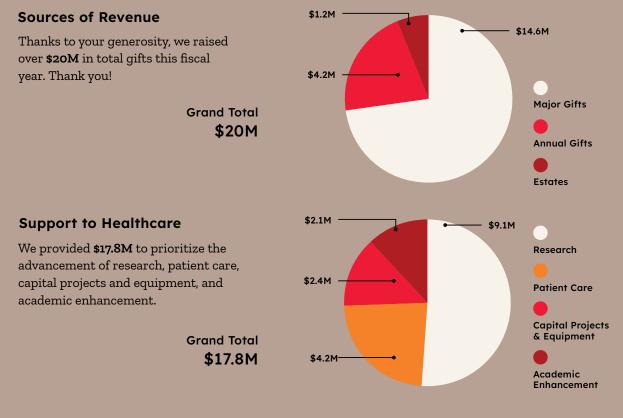
"It's an honour to serve as Chair of the Foundation's Board. Each of our dedicated members truly believes in our mission and brings their unique perspective and passion to the work we do. When we welcome new Board members. as we have this year, I often say they'll learn as much volunteering with us as they do in their careers — if not more. Your support creates lasting impact and inspires our community — from generous donors to medical leaders, and patients and families whose lives are transformed by your generosity. Thank you."

Elise Nesbitt, Chair, MGHF Boar of Directors

YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR IMPACT

# Your Philanthropy in Numbers

Throughout this year, our Foundation has been thankful to be able to count on your unwavering financial support. Your generosity fuels our growth and has tangible impact on every program and research lab we support, as well as on countless patients and families.



"Thanks to our prudent and strategic investments, all our administration expenses this fiscal year were covered by investment income, while each and and every donation was used to advance our mission and fund healthcare innovation, research, education, and patient care."

Julie Denis.

# **Create Your Legacy: Planned Giving**



"My brother Gerald had the philosophy, 'If you have the means, you don't keep it to yourself you give it away.' My sister-in-law left most of her estate to charity — including the MGHF. Gerald felt just as strongly about helping others — and named the Foundation in his will. That's something for the son of a shoeshine boy who came to Canada alone at eight years old. Our parents taught us about helping others from the time we were young."



Legacy of Hope Circle

If you wish to learn more about Planned Giving and our Legacy of Hope Circle, visit mghfoundation.com/planned-giving

### **Healthy Aging: Advice You Can Trust**

On November 7, 2024, we invited an intimate group of guests and donors, including members of our new Legacy of Hope Circle, launched to recognize our Planned Giving donors, to the Janet E. Hutchinson Lectureship on healthy aging. This talk was delivered by Dr. José Morais, Director, Division of Geriatric Medicine, MUHC, and kinesiologist Guy Hajj Boutros, PhD. Please see photo above.

Our administrative expenditures to revenue ratio of 12.6%, reflects our efficient management, positioning us ahead of industry standards in the philanthropic community. Your donation dollars are directed where needed.

| Fundraising Cost                      | \$2.9M | 7.0%  |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Management and<br>Administration      | \$1.9M | 4.6%  |
| Investment<br>Management Fees         | \$0.4M | 1.0%  |
| Administrative<br>Expenditures Ratio* | \$5.2M | 12.6% |

\* Based on the Canada Revenue Agency T3010 rules



Planned Giving is a simple way to build a legacy and join a generous community that is a beacon of hope and vitality. Your gifts help advance healthcare for future generations and impact patient lives. This year, we launched the new Legacy of Hope Circle to recognize our Planned Giving donors.

Left: Kinesiologist Guy Hajj Boutros, PhD, answers audience questions at our Healthy Aging: Advice You Can Trust lecture, as keynote speaker Dr. José Morais, Director, Division of Geriatric Medicine, MUHC, looks on.



**Paul Daoussis** on his brother Gerald's legacy

# How You Can Make a Difference

Everything we do is possible thanks to you. Every act of support counts! You have the power to create change and bring hope to countless patients and families by supporting the Foundation. Behind every breakthrough are generous, compassionate people like you. There are many ways to support the Foundation and fuel our mission, whether by making a one-time gift, becoming a monthly donor, honour-ing your Star, or organizing a community fundraiser for a cause close to your heart. You can make a real difference. Thank you for your generosity!

### Honour Your Star: A Gesture That Shines



Did someone at the MGH improve your experience or that of a loved one? **Do what almost 200 patients and families did this year — make that** 

person your Star. Our Foundation's Star Recognition Program invites you to thank a staff member who improved your hospital experience by making a gift in their honour! For all donations over \$50, your honouree will receive your message of gratitude and a Star pin.



Volunteers from the McGill-HEC Montréal EMBA 2025 cohort assemble Comfort Kits.

### **Offer a Comfort Kit**

Small gesture, big impact: Our Foundation is proud to make it easy for you to purchase Comfort Kits, which are offered to MGH patients. Each kit is stocked with toiletries and essentials to make hospital stays more comfortable. Thanks to your generosity, this year, our Comfort Kits helped hundreds of patients and inspired incredible gestures of community support.

During the holiday season, a very special group of students from the McGill-HEC Montréal EMBA 2025 cohort matched every comfort kit purchased by donating a second one. They came to the MGH to assemble the kits and put their hearts into this initiative. With \$11,247 donated for Comfort Kits, their efforts are an inspiring example of the impact we can have together! To learn more or offer Comfort Kits to patients in need, please visit: mghfoundation.com/comfort-kits



# Community Connections: \$395,000 Raised for IBD Care

Magic and mind games reigned at A Night of Magic! Every year, the McGill IBD Research Group Committee of volunteers (Matthew Stotland and Ryan Abrams are committee co-presidents), collaborates with our Foundation for a fundraiser taking place in November, Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month.

Dr. Alain Bitton, previous Director of the McGill Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and one of the forces behind the MUHC's IBD Centre at the MGH, received the Dr. Ernest Seidman Award in IBD Excellence. Thanks to



**Pharmaprix Run for Women.** Together, we raised over \$180,000 to support mental health services at the MUHC at this fun-filled annual event.



Star recipient Dr. Martin Bernier with a CardioInsight  $^{\rm TM}$  Mapping Vest, an initiative supported by the MGHF.

our donors, this year's event raised \$395,000 for patient care at the IBD clinics of three McGill teaching hospitals, including the Montreal General Hospital, Montreal Children's Hospital, and Jewish General Hospital. Some of these funds were used to support the Bruce Kaufman Chair in Inflammatory Bowel Disease, a multi-institutional endowed chair position held by esteemed clinician Dr. Matthieu Allez, newly recruited to Montreal.

Above, from left to right: Dr. Peter Lakatos, Ryan Abrams, Marcy Seidman, Matthew Stotland, Stephanie Riddell, Dr. Alain Bitton.



**The 45th Annual Golf Classic.** This collaboration between the MGHF and the Cedars Cancer Foundation raised \$601,500 for MUHC cancer research and patient care.

# **Meet Our Board of Directors**

Leadership and commitment at the heart of our mission.



"The MGHF's mission matters to me because it champions innovation and collaboration for better patient care. I'm committed to raising funds that support medical excellence and help patients receive world-class care when they need it most."

Kim Anderson, MGHF Board member, Chief Executive Officer, Hewitt Foundation

"As a former MGHF Connexion Circle member who now serves on the Board, I've seen how vital access to quality healthcare can be — especially in underserved communities. Watching my father battle diabetes underscored the importance of medical advancement and compassionate care, and my mother was an MGH nurse for 35 years. Supporting the Foundation's mission allows me to honour their legacy and ensure others have access to care and innovation."



Nathaniel Thomas, MGHF Board member, President, Senior Talent Manager, Vantage Sports Agency



### Connexion Circle Montreal General Hospital Foundation



This year, we welcomed five new members to our Board of Directors, and named a new Chair, Ms. Elise Nesbitt. We are honoured to have these esteemed leaders at the helm of our community, bringing their valued expertise to our Foundation. They help lead our vision, establish our direction, and guide us on our journey to transform healthcare together.

From left to right, standing: Kim Anderson, Nathaniel Thomas, Dominic M. Costantini, Yvon Roy, Jean-Guy Gourdeau (Board Emeritus), Jean-Christophe Bédos (Vice-Chair), Elise Nesbitt (Chair), Dr. Liane S. Feldman, Sophie Cousineau, Peter F. Trent, Sébastien Vilder, Julie Denis (Treasurer). From left to right, seated: Daniel Baer, Sharon Stern, Stephanie Riddell (President and CEO of the Foundation), Ann Lynch, Cristina Birks, Jonathan Elkas (Secretary). Not pictured: Adam Adamakakis, Gail Adelson-Marcovitz, Patrice Ouimet, Andrée Pinard, Niki Zaphiratos. Thank YOU! Your support makes all the difference. Whether you make a one-time gift, become a monthly donor, or support the Foundation's initiatives in another way that matters to you, everything we do is possible thanks to you. A special thank you to all our Governors.\*

> \*Donors whose annual contributions reach \$250 or more in a year earn the title of Governor and are listed on our website: mghfoundation.com/governors





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