

COVID-19

YOUR COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your overwhelming support of the [Courage Fund](#). Many donors have stepped up to ensure St. Michael's has what it needs to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. For your steadfast support, we – and the entire St. Michael's Hospital team – are grateful.

Because of you, we've raised over \$9 million, and our fundraising efforts are still going strong.

To fast-track high-potential COVID-19 research, we've now launched the [Power Fund](#). Our discoveries will equip the world to deal with COVID-19 now and get us ready for whatever comes next. As Dr. Ori Rotstein, our Vice-President of Research and Innovation, says, "Every single dollar will support COVID-19 research. Money is tight, and we need resources to invest. We're focused and we know what we need to do."

In a fast-moving pandemic, time is of the essence. We need to mobilize our global research heft to accelerate discovery and translate our findings into treatments as quickly as possible. Right now, our scientists are working on 80 research projects to tackle the pandemic head on – from improving ventilator technology and identifying new treatments to tracking and curtailing the virus's spread.

As I've shared with you, the hospital has been gearing up to treat the anticipated influx of COVID-19 cases. In addition to ramping up our Assessment Centre, St. Michael's has now dedicated two floors of the yet to open [Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower to patients with COVID-19](#). We are so fortunate to have this brand new high-tech critical care facility to help us through the crisis. In the words of its transformational benefactor, Peter Gilgan, "The tower is becoming the city's answer to COVID-19."

Dr. Tim Rutledge, President and CEO of Unity Health Toronto, sends this message: "With the current pressures on the hospital as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the opening of critical care beds will bring much-needed relief to our health-care system and the City of Toronto. The opening of the Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower will allow us to care for more critically ill patients in single patient rooms that were specifically designed with infection control measures in mind. And it's only possible because of our generous donors."

With your support, we are battling the pandemic. On behalf of everyone at the Foundation, I wish you, your family and everyone in your community a safe and healthy weekend.

Sincerely,

Lili Litwin
President, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Facts from the Frontlines

Facts from the Frontlines is a podcast series featuring St. Michael's world-leading experts who speak to us about the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are the latest episodes.



THE GLOBAL RESEARCH RACE TO END COVID-19

Dr. Ori Rotstein
VP of Research and Innovation and the Keenan Chair in Research Leadership, St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Ori Rotstein, VP of Research and Innovation and the Keenan Chair in Research Leadership, St. Michael's Hospital, explains how St. Michael's is positioning itself as an international research force in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.

[LISTEN TO PODCAST >>](#)



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COVID-19 NURSE

Fergus Cabbage
RN, Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit, St. Michael's Hospital

Fergus Cabbage, a St. Michael's nurse, tells us how he and his colleagues are coping during the COVID-19 pandemic. He shares a typical day in the ICU, which includes protocols for donning and doffing their PPE, and ends with an uplifting story.

[LISTEN TO PODCAST >>](#)

[LISTEN TO ALL FACTS FROM THE FRONTLINES PODCASTS >>](#)

#THANKS4STMIKES



Dave Ayres, St. Michael's kidney transplant patient and the emergency goalie who made NHL history this year, says THANK YOU to our courageous health-care teams who stop at nothing to care for us as they tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

Want to show your appreciation? Send us a smartphone video with your words of encouragement and we'll pass it on. Email Andrea Smith at SmithAnd@smh.ca or tag us on social #Thanks4StMikes.

[WATCH VIDEO >>](#)

SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT



St. Michael's scientist leading international research on COVID-19.

Dr. Mario Ostrowski will use antibodies from recovered patients to neutralize the virus.

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IN THE NEWS



Why data on socioeconomic factors is crucial during a pandemic.

Dr. Andrew Pinto, explains why it's important to study socioeconomic factors that affect health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Raising the alarm about COVID-19 risk in the homeless community.

Dr. Stephen Hwang, director of St. Michael's MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, explains why Toronto's homeless population is highly vulnerable to COVID-19 infection, and its most serious complications.

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How racism affects COVID-19 risk for Indigenous people.

Dr. Janet Smylie, a St. Michael's researcher and expert on Indigenous health care, on the health inequities experienced by Indigenous people and the importance of developing health-care services designed to meet their needs.

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It's too early to restore normal health care.

Dr. Matthew Muller, Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control at St. Michael's Hospital, says the eventual relaxing of social distancing measures should be approached with caution and strictly controlled.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP



DONATE TO THE POWER FUND

While our relentless frontline health-care workers are battling COVID-19, our internationally renowned scientists are racing to end it.

Right now, we have 80 COVID-19 research projects underway. That's because St. Michael's Hospital is a global research powerhouse, home to the top experts in infectious diseases and ventilation technology.

[DONATE TODAY TO ST. MICHAEL'S POWER FUND AND END THIS PANDEMIC.](#)

[DONATE >>](#)



Fundraise your way for Courage.

Peter wanted to support St. Michael's courageous frontline workers. Inspired by the physicians who cycled the Alps in an epic journey for trauma survivors, Peter plans to tackle Everest in an indoor cycling challenge, climbing one metre on his bike for every dollar donated.

Have your own idea for how you can show solidarity with our frontline health-care teams who are working relentlessly to care for us during COVID-19? Set up your own fundraiser for St. Michael's Hospital's Courage Fund.

[CREATE YOUR OWN FUNDRAISER >>](#)

STAY UPDATED

Follow our social channels ([@stmichaelsfdn](#)) and visit our [COVID-19 information page](#) and [unityhealth.to](#) for regular updates on how St. Michael's is responding to COVID-19.

[CONTACT US >>](#)



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