

YOU GIVE US THE COURAGE AND POWER TO BATTLE COVID-19.

YOUR COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Friend,

You've heard it, again and again.

"We take on some of the world's toughest health challenges."

"Can't," "Never" and "No Way" are not in our vocabulary."

"We are St. Michael's, and we Stop At Nothing."

These statements aren't just about St. Michael's courageous health-care teams. They also refer to our fierce community of donors and volunteers who go to the wall for St. Michael's day in and day out — especially when the stakes are high, as they are right now in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Take the St. Michael's Young Leaders (a.k.a. SMYL), a group of relentless young professionals who are stepping up to challenge others to give to St. Michael's. Among them is Peter Burkholder, who cycled 220 km over 13 hours at an average gradient of 10.5 per cent to conquer the equivalent elevation gain of Mt. Everest and a bit more — raising \$7,000 for the [Courage Fund](#) along the way.

Meanwhile, our new [Power Fund](#) is quickly gaining momentum, and has already helped launch five COVID-19 research projects.

In this week's episode of [Facts from the Frontlines](#), Dr. James Maskalyk offers this message: "Now is the time for us to lean into how to make our system stronger, and have public health heroes as esteemed as our hockey heroes to inspire them to greater acts of service."

That's what our donors and volunteers do when they support our frontline health-care workers and researchers in the face of this unprecedented challenge.

Thank you.

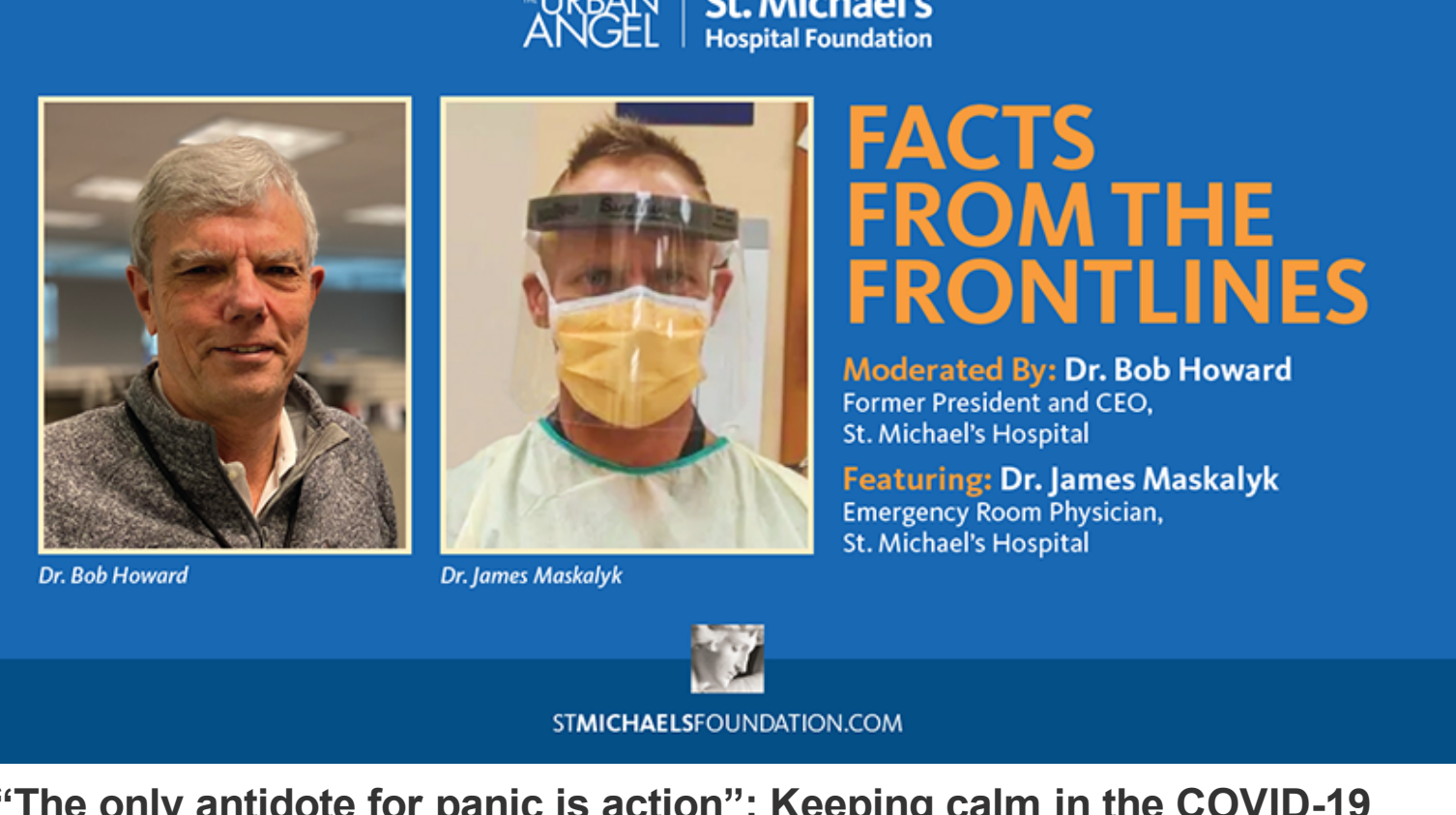
Lili Litwin
President, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Facts from the Frontlines

This podcast series features St. Michael's world-leading experts who speak to us about the COVID-19 pandemic.



"The only antidote for panic is action": Keeping calm in the COVID-19 crisis

St. Michael's Emergency physician Dr. James Maskalyk worked on the frontlines of epidemics in Ethiopia and Sudan. In this episode, he tells us what it's like to battle COVID-19 at St. Michael's, from comforting patients despite masks and isolation to using meditation and meaningful action to help himself cope with stress.

[LISTEN TO EPISODE >>](#)

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

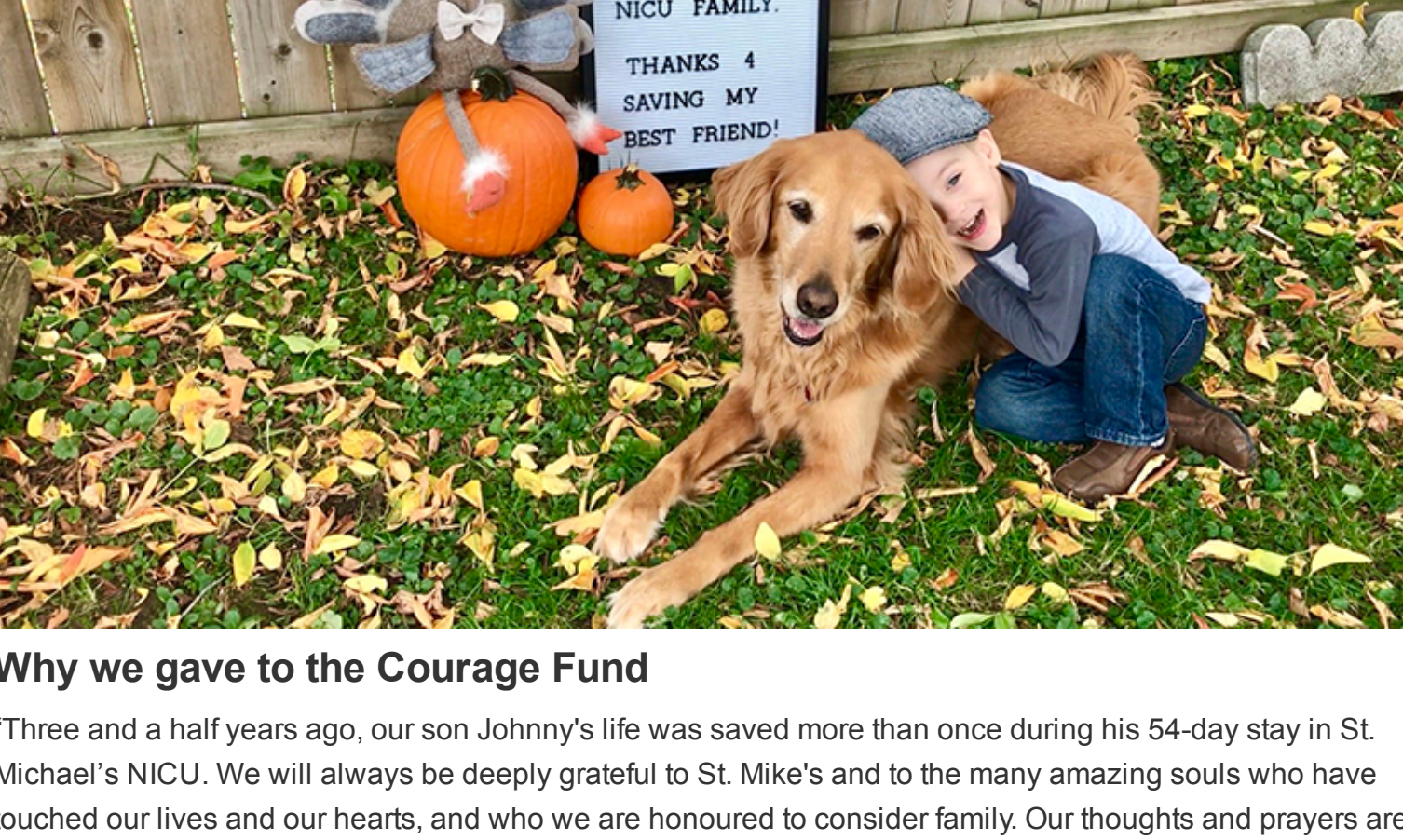
#THANKS4STMIKES



Lili Litwin, President of St. Michael's Hospital Foundation, Dr. Tim Rutledge, President and CEO of Unity Health Toronto, and John Barford, Chair of the Board of St. Michael's Hospital Foundation, say THANK YOU to our courageous health-care teams and relentless donors who stop at nothing to 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 >>](#)



Why we gave to the Courage Fund

"Three and a half years ago, our son Johnny's life was saved more than once during his 54-day stay in St. Michael's NICU. We will always be deeply grateful to St. Mike's and to the many amazing souls who have touched our lives and our hearts, and who we are honoured to consider family. Our thoughts and prayers are with hospitals and with every brave hero risking their life to help others during this unprecedented time. If our donation can help even the tiniest bit, it will make our hearts sleep better at night." — Dobrija, Chris, Johnny (and Sassie)

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IN THE NEWS



Overdoses spike in Toronto in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic

Dr. Dan Werb, Director of the Centre for Drug Policy Evaluation and a scientist at MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, discovers that Toronto's unregulated opioid supply is contaminated with lethal substances.

[READ MORE >>](#)



Can an existing HIV medication slow the spread of COVID-19?

St. Michael's Dr. Darrell Tan, an infectious disease physician and a scientist at MAP Centre for Urban Solutions, is leading a clinical trial to find out if a treatment that shows promise in its "cousin viruses" will impact COVID-19's spread as well.

[READ MORE >>](#)



St. Michael's pediatrician receives Fast Grant for COVID-19 research project

Dr. Jonathon Maguire, a scientist with the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, is launching a study of 1,000 families to get better data about the risks of infection among children — and from children to adults — to inform government decisions on when to reopen schools and daycare centres.

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CBC heralds a St. Michael's "frontline hero"

CBC names Joan Seeram, an environmental services worker at St. Michael's Hospital, as one of its frontline heroes as she "continues to do this hard work with a smile and grace — even with the added fear that COVID-19 brings."

[READ MORE >>](#)

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Right now, our scientists are working on over 80 COVID-19 research projects.

We are developing drugs that target the virus with laser precision.

We are testing existing antivirals to prevent high-risk people from contracting COVID-19.

We are leading international research to use antibodies from recovered patients to neutralize the virus.

We are designing a province-wide model to treat long-term care residents and protect our most vulnerable.

We are equipping women with tools to stay safe amid dangerously high levels of domestic abuse.

[Donate to St. Michael's Power Fund to support urgently needed research.](#)

[DONATE >>](#)

Cazona Chamber Players Concert for Courage

Juno Award nominated cellist Winona Zelenka performs Bach's Suite Number Five in C Minor and other beloved works. This performance will be the first of a series of COVID-19 "Courage Fund" solo benefit live-streamed recitals for St. Michael's Hospital Foundation on May 3 at 2 pm.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

FUNDRAISE YOUR WAY FOR COURAGE



Quaranteam for Courage

When St. Michael's MS patient and rugby star James Gwatkin joined St. Michael's Hospital Foundation, little did he suspect he would soon be captaining his own squad of 14 relentless colleagues, whose personal fundraisers have so far brought in \$11,000 for the hospital's top COVID-19 priorities.

Want to show your solidarity with St. Michael's courageous frontline health-care teams during COVID-19? Fundraise your way 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.

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