

THE URBAN
ANGEL

St. Michael's
Hospital Foundation

OUR LIVES
HAVE CHANGED,
BUT NOT
TORONTO'S
RELENTLESS
SPIRIT OF
COMPASSION.

HELP US TACKLE COVID-19.



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SUPPORT ST. MICHAEL'S MOST URGENT COVID-19 PRIORITIES.

These are extraordinary times. In the face of COVID-19, Canada's health-care teams are being called upon like never before. And St. Michael's Hospital – a global powerhouse in medical research, education and patient care – is doing what it's renowned for: Tackling the toughest health-care challenge of our time.

We are perfectly positioned to do so.

Our frontline medical teams – Canada's elite force in critical care – are trained and prepared to take on the deluge that's to come.

Our scientists – a unique aggregation of pandemics experts – are leading international studies to find new treatments, design rapid drug screening strategies to disrupt the virus's spread, and develop early-warning systems. And, perhaps most importantly, we are home to the world's top two experts in mechanical ventilation, Drs. Art Slutsky and Laurent Brochard, whose research has fundamentally transformed clinical practice.

Our hospital leadership is marshalling resources to operate our COVID-19 Assessment Centre and ramp up the diagnostic capacity of our labs. And we are transforming the Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower – a brand new, state-of-the-art, operation-ready medical facility – into a COVID-19 treatment centre.

This unprecedented time calls for unprecedented measures. Now, we need your support – more than ever.

Please help us stop at nothing to tackle the most urgent global health challenge in our midst.

DONATE TO ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL TODAY.

“St. Michael's new patient care tower will become Toronto's answer to COVID-19.”

– Peter Gilgan, Canadian philanthropist

THE COURAGE FUND

St. Michael's Hospital is known as the Urban Angel, for good reason. Our world-class health-care teams are renowned for stopping at nothing to provide compassionate, accessible and equitable health care to everyone who walks through our doors – including those experiencing disadvantage.

Now, with the global pandemic at our doorstep, there is an urgent need for what most take for granted.

For our most vulnerable community members – and for those whose lives have been turned upside down because of layoffs – it's food vouchers, medication, clothing, toiletries, emergency shelter, and phones and data plans because connection to health-care and community support is crucial.

For patients in palliative care – it's tablets to keep them connected with loved ones who can no longer be by their side.

For St. Michael's frontline staff, who are working around the clock to care for our patients – it's food, a safe place to sleep and other essentials to keep them going.

And now, more than ever, we need to bolster our resources to handle the escalation in COVID-19 patients who will require hospitalization.

That means medical supplies and virtual health assessment kits, to minimize the risk of spread and ensure our teams can provide life-saving interventions to everyone who needs them.

It's diagnostic tests, specialized equipment and reagents to dramatically scale up assessments for the disease and all the ancillary testing required for COVID-19 patients.

It's fully outfitted critical care rooms in the Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower to treat seriously ill patients, expedite their recovery, and intervene when lives are on the line.

The pandemic is evolving at a fast pace. So are St. Michael's needs as we respond to it. The Courage Fund enables us to rapidly deploy resources to the areas in most critical need.

“I can't imagine going through this pandemic anywhere other than at St. Michael's Hospital. It's just such an incredible team.”

– Dr. Carolyn Snider, Chief of Emergency Medicine

THE POWER FUND

When a pandemic strikes, time is of the essence. We need to mobilize our research capacity. Accelerate discovery. And translate our findings into treatments as quickly as possible. Thanks to the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute and Keenan Research Centre for Biomedical Science, St. Michael's hallmark is bench-to-bedside translational research by some of the world's leading experts in areas directly applicable to a pandemic. Now, we are bringing our global research heft to bear on COVID-19.

In fact, our scientists are working on 77 research projects designed to tackle the pandemic head on – from improving ventilator technology and identifying new treatments for the virus's physical and mental impact to tracking and curtailing its spread as the pandemic surges. Their discoveries will equip the world to deal with COVID-19 now and get us ready for whatever comes next.

The government is providing emergency research funding for a number of projects. In fact, St. Michael's received 10 per cent of the first round allocated across the country. But many more of St. Michael's top scientists are at the starting gate. Here are just five of the projects your support can accelerate.

Improving ventilation of COVID-19 patients. Approximately 5-10 per cent of COVID-19 patients will develop acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and require breathing support from a mechanical ventilator. While mechanical ventilation is essential for survival, there is a risk that it could further damage lungs. Harnessing St. Michael's world-class research strength in mechanical ventilation, we are embarking on an international clinical trial to improve ventilation methods, and personalize them to the individual patient. The findings will benefit not only COVID-19 patients now, but patients who are impacted by infectious diseases and pneumonia.

Leads: Drs. Laurent Brochard, Art Slutsky and Peter Juni

“St. Michael's is one of the best places in the world for mechanical ventilation and acute lung injury research, which will improve patient care here and elsewhere. If someone is on a ventilator here, it means they are going to have the best people in the world to help them.”

– Dr. Bob Howard, Former President and CEO, St. Michael's Hospital

Developing new therapies for COVID-19 infection. While the majority of COVID-19 research is focused on a vaccine or antiviral, neither of these accounts for how the body responds when tissue is injured. Blood vessels can weaken, resulting in vascular leakage, and finding a treatment may improve survival rates from COVID-19. Our top experts in viral infections and drug screening are developing models to test for new therapies that either inhibit the virus or strengthen the body. One of these potential treatments has already been patented by St. Michael's for its efficacy against influenza.

Lead: Dr. Warren Lee

Getting the most promising new therapies for COVID-19 to patients more quickly. St. Michael's clinical trials experts have already developed a new way to test treatments for community acquired pneumonia in an expedited time frame and on a global scale. Now they are collaborating with colleagues at health-care centres around the world and with the World Health Organization to adapt this clinical trial platform for COVID-19. They will test multiple therapies simultaneously on thousands of patients around the world to see what works and what is safe, and then expedite approvals and deploy the most promising ones.

Lead: Dr. John Marshall

Reducing the spread of COVID-19 in disadvantaged, low-income populations. Physical distancing, the primary containment strategy for COVID-19, can be especially difficult for people whose income is insecure or low. Simply, they need to work to ensure a minimum standard of living. A study by our top experts in the social determinants of health will assess whether providing individuals who are experiencing disadvantage with a small amount of financial support will help them adhere to physical distancing protocols and reduce the chance of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

Leads: Drs. Nav Persaud, Stephen Hwang and Andrew Pinto

Monitoring Canadians' knowledge of COVID-19 to address gaps. As the pandemic changes hour by hour, we need to ascertain what Canadians know and care about in real-time so that our leaders can address concerns and misinformation, and make informed policy decisions. That's the aim of the Canada Health Check COVID-19 Monitor. It will continually survey Canadians and provide timely and hard data to identify gaps in knowledge, gauge changes in attitudes and behaviour, and assess the public's level of adherence to and confidence in COVID-19 policies and containment measures.

Leads: Drs. Dan Werb and Darrell Tan

THANK YOU

FOR STANDING WITH ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL
DURING THIS GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS.

YOU ARE A VITAL PARTNER

IN OUR EFFORTS TO TAKE ON THE
TOUGHEST HEALTH CHALLENGES.
AND WE WILL TACKLE THIS ONE, AND GET
THROUGH IT – STRONGER, TOGETHER.

We are St. Michael's, and we

STOP AT NOTHING.

DONATE TO

[STMICHAELSFUNDATION.COM/COVID19](https://stmichaelsfoundation.com/covid19)

To learn more, or to discuss other high-priority funding opportunities,
please contact Justyna Jonca, Director of Campaigns, JoncaJ@smh.ca
or Ashley Downey, Director of Principal Gifts, DowneyA@smh.ca

Funds raised will support St. Michael's Hospital's highest-priority needs.