

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Dear [NAME],

While we all look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with our loved ones this weekend, I know many of us have concerns about rising infection rates and the elevated risk when extended families gather together. To help ensure everyone's safety, our St. Michael's experts are advising us to hold the line on large gatherings and do our best to maintain social distancing, hand-washing and mask-wearing.

The good news is that COVID-19 tests are now available [by appointment only](#) at St. Michael's, which we are hoping will alleviate the long wait lines. And I'm happy to report that our Assessment Centre is now located in the Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower lobby, a bright and beautiful space with screening stations and plenty of room for physical distancing.

Here at the Foundation, our successes continue to amaze even us. Our first-ever Angels Den virtual edition registered more than 1,800 people, with over 3,000 viewers tuning in to watch St. Michael's top scientists compete for nearly \$500,000 in research funding. More than 3,600 voted for their favourite project to win the People's Choice award. If you missed it, watch it at [angelsden.ca](#).

Recently, nearly 200 viewers tuned into our latest Powerhouse speaker series, which took a critical look at Canada's patient care experience. How can more people get faster access to the specialists they need? Why do patients have to tell their stories over and over again to so many different health providers? And why does anyone have to wait hours in an Emergency department under debilitating circumstances? Our experts took on these questions, and they made a commitment: St. Michael's will reinvent Canada's care experience.

Coming up next is the annual Louis L. Odette Lecture on Tuesday, October 13. This year's speaker is Dr. Jim Withers, the amazing physician who has revolutionized health care for the homeless in Pittsburgh and across the world by pioneering the "street medicine" movement. [Register here](#).

As always, on behalf of everyone at the Foundation, thank you for your abiding support of St. Michael's Hospital. We couldn't accomplish any of these wonderful things without you, and we are grateful.

I wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving. And please don't forget to get the flu shot!

Yours sincerely,



Lili Litwin  
President, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation

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## EVENTS



### LOUIS L. ODETTE LECTURE - Tuesday, October 13, 1 P.M.

St. Michael's annual lecture, supported by the P and L Odette Foundation, has attracted the world's foremost thinkers and experts on the issue of homelessness. This year, we're honoured to have with us Dr. Jim Withers, a globally renowned pioneer of 'street medicine' and founder of Operation Safety Net. He'll discuss how he's turned the health care model on its head by caring for people living under bridges, in camps and along roadways where they are. In his view, everyone deserves access to care, no matter who or where they are. A panel discussion about homelessness and mental health care will follow, with St. Michael's Dr. Tom Ungar and Dr. Michaela Beder as well as Vancouver psychiatrist Dr. Steve Mathias and author Onika Dainty. The online event takes place Tuesday, October 13 at 1 P.M.

[REGISTER >>](#)



### ANGELS DEN 2020

On September 30, we watched six teams of St. Michael's scientists pitch their revolutionary ideas to judges and jurors in Canada's hottest medical research competition. Congratulations to Drs. Darren Yuen and Kieran McIntyre, who won the Keenan COVID-19 Research Award for Lung Life After COVID-19; Dr. Karen Cross, who won the Odette Innovative Health Award for SKIP Tech (Skin Imaging for Pressure Injuries); and Dr. Jane Batt, who took the People's Choice Award, presented by Canada Life, for Smart Garments: AI Therapy for Your Muscles. Thanks to our sponsors, judges, jurors and viewers who made this Angels Den such a success. If you missed it, you can watch by clicking the link below.

[WATCH >>](#)



### POWERHOUSE EXCLUSIVE SPEAKER SERIES

The latest Powerhouse webinar, on September 23, featured Dr. Irfan Dhalla, VP of Physician Quality and Director, Care Experience Institute at St. Michael's, and Dr. Carolyn Snider, Chief of Emergency Medicine at St. Michael's, speaking about the urgent need to reinvent the health-care experience for patients, and how St. Michael's new Care Experience Institute can help lead the way. Dr. Seema Marwaha, a St. Michael's physician and journalist, then led a panel discussion on this hot topic. If you missed it, you can watch the video below.

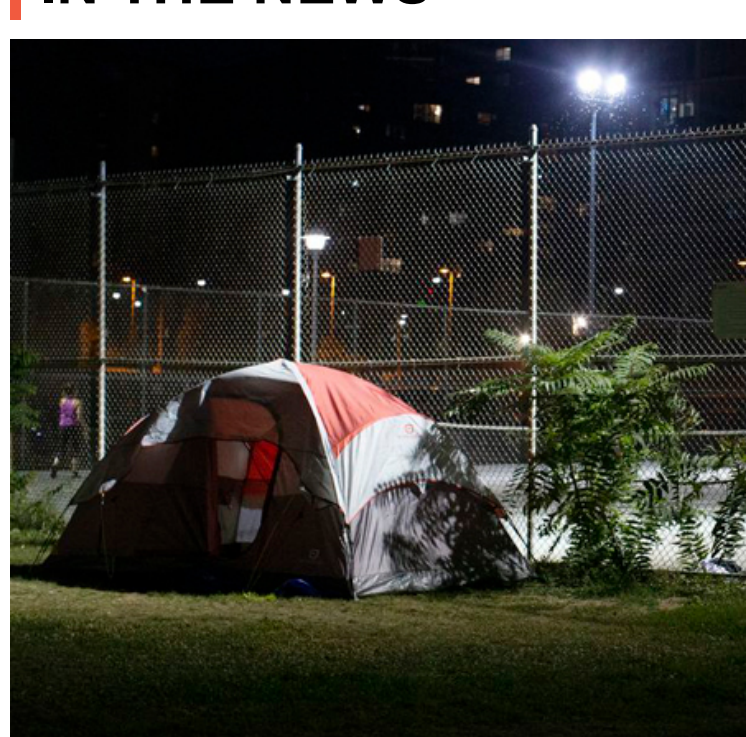
[WATCH >>](#)



### MUSICAL TREATS FOR FRONTLINE STAFF

On October 1, concert violinists Aaron Schwebel and Chan Lee performed a set of classical music for St. Michael's frontline workers to enjoy as they entered the hospital for their shifts. Schwebel and Lee are part of a Province of Quebec initiative that funds performances in Ontario and Quebec to raise morale during the COVID-19 pandemic.

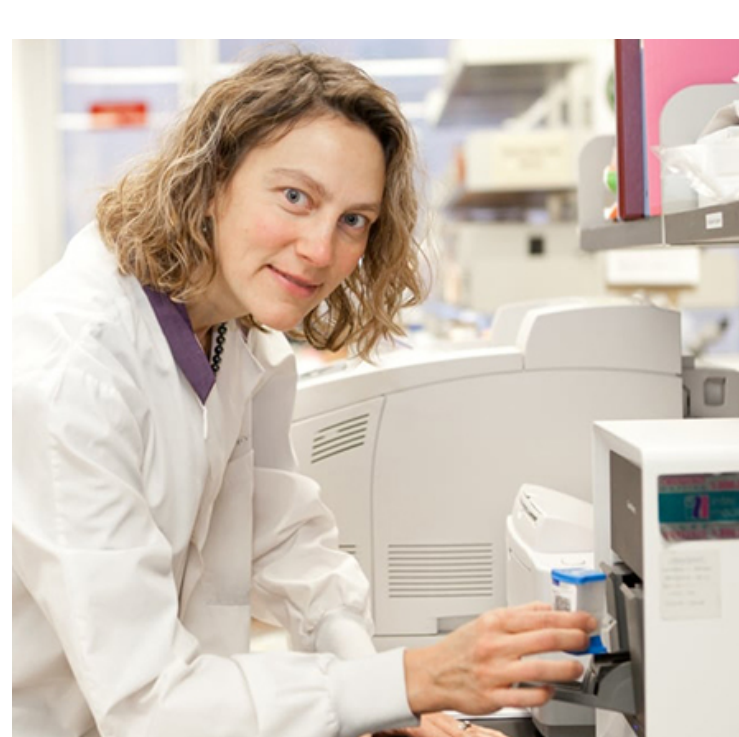
## IN THE NEWS



### We Can End Chronic Homelessness Now

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to confront the consequences of allowing homelessness to persist in our cities for far too long, writes Dr. Stephen Hwang, director of St. Michael's MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions. The time has come to move beyond short-term solutions and take action to end chronic homelessness.

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### Saliva Tests Won't Be a Silver Bullet for COVID-19

While new methods like saliva tests could help with the backlog in COVID-19 testing, they won't be enough to fully solve the problem. Dr. Larissa Matukas, head of microbiology at St. Michael's Hospital, says policy-makers need to understand where cases are multiplying and shut them down by moving resources, including testing, to those areas.

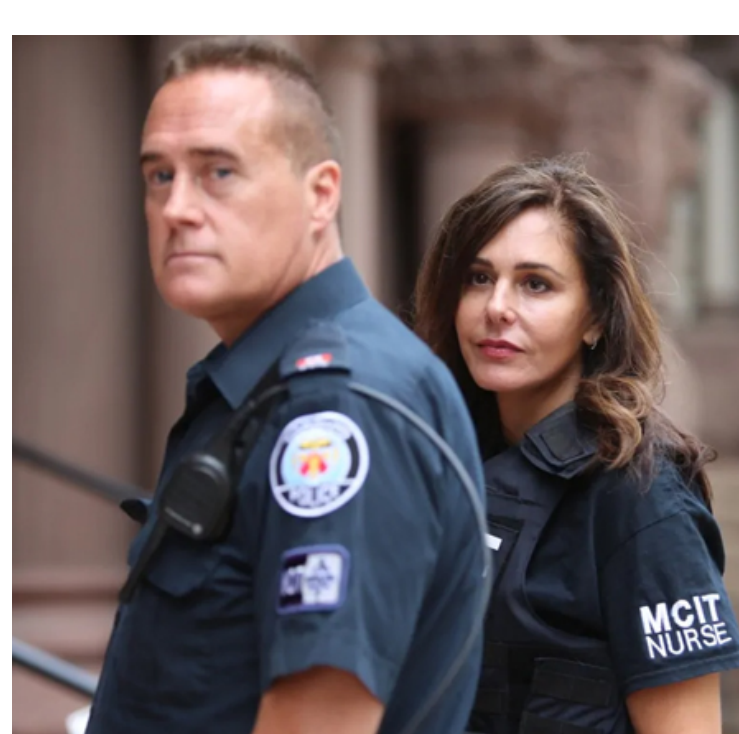
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### A COVID-19 Testing Site for Indigenous Torontonians

St. Michael's Well Living House has partnered with two community organizations to open a COVID-19 testing site for Indigenous people. Dr. Janet Smylie, director of Well Living House, says the new centre will eliminate barriers experienced by Indigenous people accessing health care, and offer referrals and health and social supports geared to their needs.

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### Helping Police Deal with Mental Health Crisis Calls

Sivi Joachim, a mental health nurse at St. Michael's Hospital, works with Toronto Police Services' Mobile Crisis Intervention Team to provide specialized training and help with mental-health crisis calls. COVID-19 has made the MCIT busier, she says, as people are feeling more stressed, fragmented, alone and suicidal.

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## 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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