

JUNE IS STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

Dear [NAME],

As we look forward to summer and COVID-19 finally starts to recede, we are marking Stroke Awareness Month by sharing some of the amazing work our health-care teams are doing to advance stroke care and save lives at St. Michael's Hospital.

Read on to find out how we're transforming the care experience for stroke patients and why we're so excited about the work of our brain and heart experts at St. Michael's new Schroeder BRAIN&HEART Centre. Visit our [Foundation website](#) to support their game-changing efforts and complete our new Centre.

Sincerely,



Lili Litwin,
President, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation

SAVING LIVES WITH ROBOTIC SURGERY

Time is of the essence when it comes to stroke treatment. World-leading endovascular neurosurgeon Dr. Vitor Pereira — a pioneer in minimally invasive robotic surgery who joined St. Michael's in April — wants to use remote robotics technology to save lives in communities that lack fast access to stroke treatment. Watch the video below to hear about Dr. Pereira's first-in-North-America initiative.



TRANSFORMING STROKE CARE

Dr. Atif Zafar, medical director of the Stroke Program at St. Michael's Hospital, shares his vision for stroke research and treatment breakthroughs at the [Schroeder BRAIN&HEART Centre](#).



How will you advance stroke care at the Schroeder BRAIN&HEART Centre?

The brain-heart collaboration is a natural fit, so we're launching an initiative where the stroke program will work with the cardiac group. The most common complications for patients getting cardiac procedures is stroke. We're going to create a cerebrovascular perioperative program and be involved in those patients' journeys before, during and after their procedures to minimize stroke risk. If we can bring the brain and heart experts together with the goal to improve outcomes for patients, it's a winner.

What else will you do to improve care?

We have two priority areas. First, we'll make patient transitions from one phase of care to the next as efficient as possible. We'll have dedicated spaces to care for stroke patients in the Emergency Department and the ICU to improve the patient's experience. And second, we'll approach stroke care in a precision-based way, so every patient is cared for based on their individual needs. We'll collect blood samples from patients and create the Stroke and Cerebrovascular Biobank, which will help us analyze the hematological, chemical and genetic factors in those patients and design individualized treatment plans. That's something we're well positioned to do, with our new Schroeder BRAIN&HEART Centre, one of the world's best AI programs and a robust endovascular program. We'll apply innovation to world-class patient care.

How does health equity fit into the plan?

The more disadvantaged the patients, the less access they have to care — or information. I emphasize equity because it aligns with St. Michael's goals and the patients we serve. Providing high-quality care to every one of our patients is the number one priority. So we're launching a stroke equity clinic for patients with lots of social and other issues impacting the care experience. We'll take extra steps to reach them, educate them and provide the right care that works for them. We'll offer information in different languages and deliver medicines to them if they don't have an address. We're treating people based on their life circumstances, because it's the right thing to do. [Click HERE](#) to support Dr. Zafar's vision for the future of stroke care.

THE WARNING SIGNS OF STROKE

"FAST: Face Drooping, Arm Weakness, Speech Changes. TIME. Time is crucial. Timely care is critical to stroke outcome, so come to Emergency right away." — Dr. Atif Zafar

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Michael's is the only hospital in the Americas performing robotic neurointervention for strokes.

ANOTHER ST. MICHAEL'S FIRST

On May 6, St. Michael's Drs. Vitor Pereira, Tom Marotta and Julian Spears performed a first-in-North America brain surgery using the latest innovation in aneurysm treatment, the Pipeline Vantage flow diverting stent. The procedure was a success and the patient was discharged two days later. Dr. Pereira and clinical research technologist Nicole Cancelliere's experiments in the RADIS lab at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute contributed to the development of the stent, and the RADIS lab will be the leading centre worldwide for training in the new surgical procedure.

ANGEL BALL 2021



Click [HERE](#) to join us for St. Michael's Angel Ball gala on October 2, 2021 and support game-changing stroke care at our new Schroeder BRAIN&HEART Centre, a hub where brain and heart experts work together on some of the toughest neuro and cardiac cases.

STAY CONNECTED

Visit our [COVID-19 information page](#) for regular updates on how St. Michael's is responding to COVID-19, and follow our social channels below.



Inspired by the work at St. Michael's Hospital? [Please donate](#) and help us take on the toughest challenges of our times.



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