

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Dear Friend,

It's been a particularly difficult last few weeks through the third wave and I hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and safe. In the meantime, [here's](#) a fascinating discussion about COVID-19's impact on the South Asian community.

To commemorate Brain Cancer Awareness Month, we're sharing two touching stories about our patients' journeys and their gratitude to St. Michael's. I hope they inspire you as much as they did me.

I'm thrilled to tell you I had a tour of the BARLO MS Centre this week and it's spectacular. The BARLO MS Centre will open in the new Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower in July, thanks to our incredible community of donors. It will be a world-leading centre for MS research, treatment and education, a space where MS patients will receive care for their bodies, minds and lives — all in one location. To mark World MS Day later this month, we are holding a special [MS Education Webinar](#), with our top specialists.

Meanwhile, in honour of Mother's Day, we've launched a special edition of our [Life-Changing Gift Guide](#) to support St. Michael's NICU. With a gift for your mom, you'll also provide essential supplies to NICU moms and babies experiencing disadvantage — and many gifts are being matched by a generous donor.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there.

Sincerely,



Lili Litwin,  
President, St. Michael's Foundation

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### ST. MIKE'S EXPERTS RESPOND TO THE SOUTH ASIAN HEALTH CRISIS



St. Michael's experts join up with a pioneering philanthropist to explain why all health is global health, and how they're working to help the GTA's South Asian community get informed—and vaccinated.

[READ MORE](#)

## BRAIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

### "EVERY TIME DR. CUSIMANO GOES INTO MY BRAIN, MY LIFE GETS BETTER."

Bernardo Scalisi is grateful to St. Michael's Dr. Michael Cusimano for performing two life-saving brain cancer surgeries, the second one using a cutting-edge robotic guidance system funded by our donors.

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### GRATITUDE 10 RAISES OVER \$70K FOR BRAIN CANCER RESEARCH AT ST. MICHAEL'S

On April 1 singer-songwriter Hawksley Workman performed a concert to benefit the Gratitude 10 Festival, created by grateful patient Jane Brean [to support brain cancer research](#) at St. Michael's. The show included a video featuring St. Mike's neurologist Dr. Sunit Das, calls from Jane's family and friends and a Tragically Hip cover in honour of Gord Downie, who died of brain cancer in 2017. Through ticket sales and online donations, Jane and Hawksley raised over \$71,000, "This personal concert was a dream come true for me, and proof that if you ask for what you want, you just might get it. I'll never stop dreaming big and acting on my ideas. That's what truly living means to me," Jane says.



"It was an honour to partner with Gratitude 10 and the St. Michael's Foundation. I'm inspired by Jane's journey and look to the philosophy of Gratitude 10 as a guiding principle in my own life — "how to be a human being, instead of a human doing." — Hawksley Workman

### DID YOU KNOW?

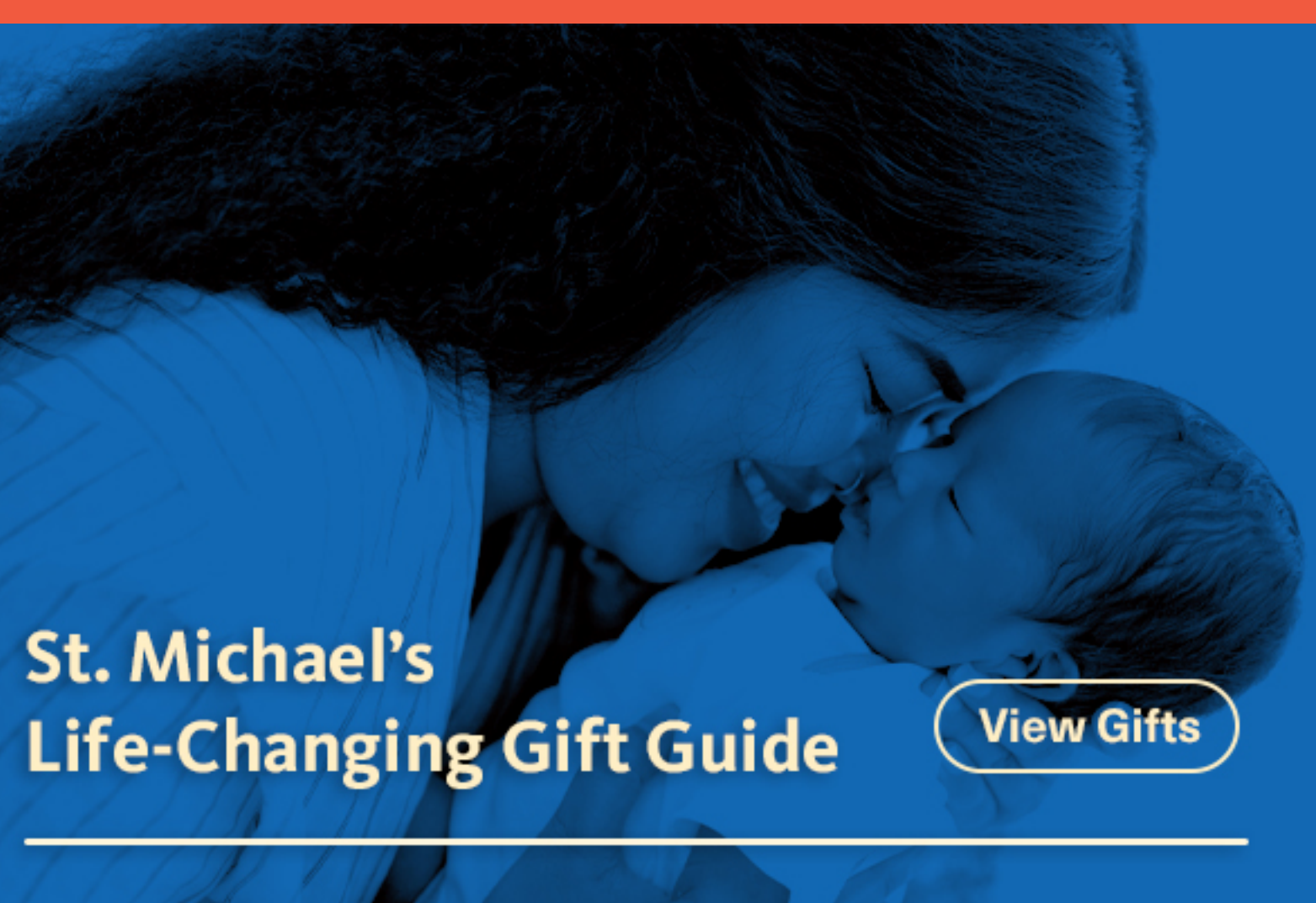
1. St. Michael's has performed at least 60 'awake craniotomies' where the neurosurgery team stimulates the brain before removing a tumour.
2. St. Michael's was the first Toronto hospital to perform brain surgery using an amino acid that lights up brain tumours in bright fuchsia to make them easier to see and remove.
3. St. Michael's was the first hospital in the world to remove tumours by bi-nasal endoscopy, now the international standard in brain surgery.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MS PATIENT EDUCATION EVENT

Join us online or by phone on Wednesday May 26 at 4:30 P.M. for a sneak preview of our new BARLO MS Centre, which opens later this summer. Discover how our world-renowned experts will partner with patients to treat mind, body and soul at every stage of their MS journey.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## 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.



STMICHAELSFUNDATION.COM

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