



News Release

Wyrzykowski family makes \$1 million donation to St-Boniface Hospital Foundation **St-Boniface Hospital Foundation establishes the** **Evelyn Wyrzykowski Family Research Chair in Cardiology Endowment Fund**

February 8, 2012 (WINNIPEG, MB) – St-Boniface Hospital Foundation (STBHF) today announced a \$1 million donation from Conrad Wyrzykowski and his family to establish the Evelyn Wyrzykowski Family Research Chair in Cardiology Endowment Fund. The fund will support education and research opportunities at St-Boniface Hospital and the University of Manitoba (U of M).

“The Wyrzykowski family exemplifies the definition of philanthropy. Conrad gives selflessly, both of his time and resources. He has dedicated his life to serving his community, and we are so fortunate to count him among our generous donors,” says Chuck LaFlèche, President & CEO, St-Boniface Hospital Foundation. “The establishment of the Evelyn Wyrzykowski Family Research Chair in Cardiology Endowment Fund will serve as a tribute to his late wife and a lasting legacy of those things that she valued most in life.”

The Wyrzykowski family has a long history of philanthropy, having supported STBHF for more than 20 years. Past donations include the establishment of the Conrad & Evelyn Wyrzykowski Fund to support cancer and cardiovascular research, the Wyrzykowski Family Studentship to support undergraduate research initiatives, and the creation of an education and consultation room at SBH’s Bergen Cardiac Care Centre. The Wyrzykowski family is also a significant and ongoing supporter of St. Paul’s College, the University of Manitoba.

“I believe that medical research and education are the two most important areas of service needed today and I am proud to be able to support both of these needs,” says Wyrzykowski. “I’ve made donations to important charitable purposes all my life. For many, many years I have wanted to make a substantial gift like this, and am happy to be at the point in my life where I can.”

Establishment of the Evelyn Wyrzykowski Family Research Chair in Cardiology Endowment Fund is part of a \$3 million partnership between SBH and the U of M to establish Manitoba’s first Endowed Chair in cardiac research. Both partners are committed to raising \$1.5 million, with the U of M’s Department of Internal Medicine also generously committing \$1 million to the project.

“Endowed Chairs are the hallmark of a great academic and medical program, and represent a unique opportunity for leaders to contribute to, and help shape the future of their communities,” says Dr. Michel Tétréault, President & CEO, St-Boniface Hospital. “These elite faculty positions are highly prized and critical in the effort to attract and retain world-class researchers and clinicians. St-Boniface Hospital, the University of Manitoba and the Province of Manitoba will all benefit from this important initiative.”

The establishment of the Evelyn Wyrzykowski Family Research Chair in Cardiology Endowed Fund will support excellence in research and development in cardiac sciences at St-Boniface Hospital (SBH) and the U of M, by providing a mechanism by which esteemed medical scientists can pursue their research initiatives while continuing their clinical practice. The Chair will be selected by a steering committee of SBH and U of M representatives. Once appointed, the Chair will contribute significantly to the body of research in the field of cardiology.

“The partnership between the University of Manitoba and St-Boniface Hospital enables our institutions to work together to achieve the highest level of excellence in cardiovascular research,” says David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba. “Research conducted thanks to our partnership is already contributing to cardiovascular discoveries that enable early detection of several heart conditions, as well as improved diagnosis and treatment. This Research Chair will allow us to continue making discoveries that will bring us closer to ending cardiovascular disease.”

St-Boniface Hospital is home to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority’s (WRHA) Cardiac Sciences Program. Established in 2004, the program integrates cardiac surgery, cardiology, cardiac anesthesia, cardiac intensive care and cardiac rehabilitation resources under one umbrella to improve the delivery of cardiac services to Manitobans. The program also supports research into the prevention, care and treatment of heart problems.

“The strength of a program is in its people. Since 2004, we have recruited more than 25 physician specialists to our team,” says Dr. Alan Menkis, Medical Director of the WRHA’s Cardiac Sciences Program, based at St-Boniface Hospital. “Establishing Research Chairs will help retain our talented cardiac specialists and attract other promising young physicians and researchers to Manitoba.”

St-Boniface Hospital Foundation was founded in 1971 and is the primary fundraising organization for St-Boniface Hospital. The Foundation is dedicated to making possible the many innovations in health research and patient care taking place at the Hospital. St-Boniface Hospital is a leader in innovative, proficient patient care delivered with genuine compassion. Research at St-Boniface Hospital is where opportunities for health innovation and discovery are created; where discovery is translated into practice to improve human health; where today’s best minds are helping to shape tomorrow’s.

The University of Manitoba is the province’s only research-intensive university, educating the majority of professionals in Manitoba. The University of Manitoba is a trailblazer in many areas of learning, research and discovery, including the search for a vaccine against the spread of HIV/AIDS. Visit us at: umanitoba.ca

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