

Donor Gifts: Saving and Improving Lives

A Legacy of Hope

Al Owen is widely respected as a visionary and a successful business man with a long history of community support. Much of that support has significantly helped to advance patient care and research at the University of Alberta Hospital.

Al's leadership gift of \$2.5 million a decade ago has led to tremendous progress in life-saving research and new treatments to reduce the disabling effects of stroke for patients and their families. This gift was instrumental in the development of the Allan H. Owen and Family Stroke Prevention Clinic, as well as the Allan H. Owen and Family Stroke Observation Unit. Funds were also used to create an endowed fund which continues to support the Stroke Program.

In addition, this donation provided seed funding to leverage many millions of dollars that supported the development of the Peter S. Allen MR Research Centre. This world-class facility is pivotal in attracting the brightest and the best researchers and advancing our understanding and treatment of neurological disorders.

Much of this research is made possible by the 4.7 Tesla Magnet that enables clinicians to see deep brain structures that they are unable to see with other magnetic imaging technology. On June 12th, 2009, the University Hospital Foundation was pleased to recognize Al Owen's outstanding contribution through the naming of the 4.7 Tesla Magnet in his honour.



Above: Al Owen and his daughter, Donna Owen, at the dedication and naming event for the Allan H. Owen and Family 4.7 T MR Research Spectrometer.

“The 4.7 Tesla Magnet has a huge magnetic field. As someone said, it’s like the Hubble telescope of MRIs. It helps us push the vision further in order to make diagnoses more insightful. We are seeing with new eyes. We can see things we haven’t seen before. New information. New answers, which can lead to better diagnosis and treatment.”

DR. PETER S. ALLEN
FORMER SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR EMERITUS
PETER S. ALLEN MR RESEARCH CENTRE

Medical Research: Exploring New Therapies

Medical research is driven by vision and hope and is the foundation of discovery. We thank our many donors who, through their support for research, are helping to ensure that patients benefit from new knowledge and treatments that will help save lives and reduce the impact of illness.

A Diverse Team – A Common Goal

One in 100 Albertans will develop schizophrenia in their lifetime. This illness often strikes young people in the prime of their lives – impacting their ability to work, study, raise their families or even live independently.

Under the leadership of Dr. Scot Purdon, a multi-disciplinary team of professionals has come together in a three-part study funded by the Foundation's Team Research Grant to look for answers to this puzzling and often devastating illness. The project examines the

This past year, donor gifts enabled the Foundation to fund over \$1.5 million in research through the Medical Research Competition, Team Research Grants and Endowed Funds to help launch and sustain promising research projects covering a broad spectrum of initiatives.

pathways a person takes while seeking appropriate care during their first episode of psychosis. It is also implementing and documenting a school-based education program to increase awareness and reduce stigma. In addition, researchers are examining the biological and psychological markers of the disease. This research is vital to determining the cause of schizophrenia and ensuring accurate assessment and treatment is provided as soon as possible, reducing the personal, social and financial impacts of this illness.



Project lead, Dr. Scot Purdon (centre left) and Co-lead, Dr. Cam Wild (centre right) with members of their multi-disciplinary team from the Bebenssee Schizophrenia Research Unit (BSRU) of the Department of Psychiatry. Areas represented:

- Alberta Hospital Edmonton (AHE) Neuropsychology
- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) at the Peter S. Allen MR Centre
- Edmonton Early-Psychosis Intervention Clinic (EEPIC)
- Medical Genetics and Public Policy

“There is a synergy on this project that is truly remarkable, and we would not be able to come together to share our combined expertise without the generous support of the University Hospital Foundation donors and the Team Research Grant.”

DR. SCOT PURDON
NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST AT ALBERTA HOSPITAL EDMONTON
AND CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA