



## You help provide life-saving tools

When Grant Park started seeing a new doctor, she ordered a myriad of tests.

While sending him for tests for his aortic valve, they also identified an aneurysm in his aorta; the aorta being the largest blood vessel in the body, which runs from the heart down through the chest and abdomen.

So she sent him to see Dr. Mehta, a vascular surgeon at Windsor Regional Hospital.

Dr. Mehta discovered that Grant had an abdominal aortic aneurysm, meaning an enlarged area — or bulge — in the lower part of the aorta. A rupture would cause enough internal bleeding to be life threatening.

What was originally scheduled as a four hour surgery turned into seven. Plaque had travelled down into both legs, and needed repair.

After the surgery, Grant was having trouble with one of his feet — he had lost all feeling in it.

Dr. Mehta realized it was related to the aorta issue. Some plaque had shifted down the femoral artery, and surgery was needed quickly on his right leg.

Grant was in the hospital for 21 days after his surgery.

*“In the ICU, there was always someone nearby. Any time I was moving they would be right there, asking me if I had any problems.”*

*There were three different nurses who took turns making sure they were with me any time when I was walking. They would encourage me, “Well, let’s go a little further today,” but at the same time made sure I didn’t overdo it.”*

Grant’s wife, Joan, remembers ...

*“In ICU, immediately after this surgery, the care was excellent. One of the nurses noticed quickly that the pulse in one foot was not right. A quick ultrasound revealed a huge blood clot. Surgery was urgent, and occurred that night.”*

Dr. Mehta visited every day during the week after surgery. Once Grant was discharged, he came back regularly for check-ups.



Joan and Grant Park

*“He kept looking after me constantly. He would make sure that I was comfortable and things were still working well.”*

Grant and his wife saw first-hand how important the support of donors is in everything that happens at the hospital. Joan encourages everyone to learn more about how their donations cover life-saving diagnostic tools, like the ultrasound that revealed her husband’s blood clot. And as for Grant, he sends a message of thanks to all the hospital’s supporters...

*“Their donations help get things for patients that are there. It also helps them know that there are people outside the hospital who want to make sure patients are well taken care of.”*

# Interview with the Doctors



Dr. Maher Sabalbal and Dr. Sowmil Mehta

Dr. Sowmil Mehta is passionate about improving patient care by providing opportunities for minimally-invasive surgeries wherever possible.

That's one of the reasons why he and fellow vascular surgeon, Dr. Maher Sabalbal, are spearheading the development of the Endovascular Aneurysm Repair Program (EVAR program, for short).

An aneurysm is a bulge in the wall of an artery. It can cause pain, dizziness, nausea, rapid heart rate, low blood pressure and shock. Certain types can be dangerous, even life-threatening. Here's what Dr. Mehta and Dr. Sabalbal have to say about how the EVAR Program can transform care for patients with aneurysms.

**Interviewer:** "Tell us how minimally-invasive surgeries help the patient."

**Dr. Mehta:** "It's about better patient outcomes, and far less time spent in hospital. Our goal is to repair an aneurysm with less stress to our patients. We've had

special equipment for minimally-invasive surgeries in other areas, but it's been very difficult until now to do it for aneurysms."

**Interviewer:** "What equipment does the EVAR program need to deliver these surgeries?"

**Dr. Mehta:** "The two main things we need are a floating surgical table, and a piece of specialized equipment called a mobile C-Arm. The C-Arm is a type of X-ray imaging device that has a unique C shape. This means that we can use it flexibly on many different areas — we can move it around any way we need in order to get the best images of the patient we are operating on. Having the C-Arm and the surgical table will enable us to deliver stents for aneurysms and blockages in any other artery. The entire vascular team including the nurses and physicians are very important to the success of the program."

**Interviewer:** "What other benefits will the EVAR Program bring to patients here?"

**Dr. Sabalbal:** "EVAR is the standard of care across the international community when it comes to management of aortic aneurysms. Vascular surgery today cannot exist without the benefit of an endovascular approach to managing complex vascular diseases. EVAR is associated with lower mortality, lower post-operative complications and shorter hospital stays. It allows patients to return back to their normal day-to-day lives quicker. Specifically in Windsor, it will allow patients to remain closer to home and to their loved ones and will align our Vascular program here with the standard of care that is expected for our patients."

## Thank you for supporting Men's Health!

A huge shout out to our donors for supporting important programs in men's health.

In particular, Dr. Marzouk, MD, Department Head of Urology, offers his thanks for donor support of the Urology team.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to our patients, friends and our community for continuing to support our work. The Urology team looks forward to continuing to acquire new equipment, and work towards a state-of-the-art acute care Hospital where we can continue to work to improve the lives of our patients."

Many generous donors and some very fun events helped raise the funds for vital equipment in Urology and other areas of our Men's Health Program.

Our thanks to supporters of the Golf Tournament and Sail into Summer '21 – Home Edition. Your support helped purchase vital equipment in Urology and other departments. This equipment will really help with prostate diagnoses, but can also treat both men and women with urological pathologies.

**Thank you for helping keep our community healthy!**



## Gifts of Stock or Shares: A GREAT WAY TO GIVE

Anne Safranyos has lived in Windsor for 68 years. And she has been a supporter of the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation for nearly 20 years.

The reasons behind her long-term support are multi-fold — a deep caring for her community, a respect for the hard work of Windsor Regional Hospital staff and volunteers, and gratitude for the help her own family has received at the hospital.

*“My family, like most families, has been taken care of many times by the hospital. Four of my five grandchildren were born at Windsor Regional Hospital.”*

Anne understands that the hospital relies on the community’s support and the work of volunteers to provide their compassionate, quality patient care.

*“Our hospital needs our help. No hospital can afford to buy all they need to provide the equipment and services they would like for their patients.”*

A Certified Financial Planner since 1987, Anne knew that a gift of stock could make a valuable donation for the hospital foundation — and be a very tax-effective way to give for donors like her.

*“When a person donates shares or stocks that have grown in value, you get a tax deduction for the amount you donated, and you do not pay tax on the capital gain.”*

Anne is hoping that her gift will encourage others to consider this way of giving.

*“My own family, and most families in our community, have benefitted from supporters’ generosity. I hope that I can encourage everyone to donate according to their means. Every bit helps... and each of us can make a difference.”*

If you are interested in making a gift of stock to Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation, please contact Gisele Seguin at **519-987-3160** or [Gisele.Seguin@wrh.on.ca](mailto:Gisele.Seguin@wrh.on.ca).

## Your Gifts Support Essential Equipment!

Your gift to the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation helps your hospital to provide the best possible care for our patients.

### Syringe Pumps

Provide safe, accurate medication to patients.

Operating Room

**Costs: \$5,000 each  
(28 are needed)**



### Aquarius LT Urodynamic System

Used to diagnose and treat patients with bladder issues and cancer.

Urology Program  
**Costs: \$37,300**



### Mobile C-Arm

Allows surgeons to get the best images of patients undergoing aneurysm repairs.

Vascular Program

**Costs: \$250,000 for  
the C-Arm**



Please fill out the reply form enclosed if you wish to make a special gift or go online at [wrhfoundation.ca](http://wrhfoundation.ca).

# A huge thank you for 88 years of dedication

Since May 16, 1934, the Windsor Regional Hospital Auxiliary has supported the hospital and its patients — and this year we are celebrating 88 years of their tremendous service to our community.

Fundraising in the early years focused on the annual tea, bridge parties, rummage sales, musical comedy nights, and the sale of jams and jellies. Funds were used for books and pictures for the children's ward, and then the purchase of a Bronchoscope, which was also loaned out to other hospitals in the city.

With World War II and food shortages, the Auxiliary members collected salvageable materials like tinfoil and glass, which they sold to continue their support of the hospital.

When the School of Nursing opened in 1949, significant contributions were made by the Auxiliary. By the Auxiliary's 25th anniversary in 1959 they were contributing over \$80,000 each year.

The 1960s saw the arrival of the hospital cart service and gift shop, becoming the most important source of funding for the Auxiliary.

In the 1970s they were able to increase their services — purchasing essential equipment like heart telemetry monitoring units.

We thank each and every member of the Auxiliary — past and present. Countless of us have benefitted from their hard work in times when we've needed help the most.

As Fae Gillespie, Current President of the WRH Auxiliary, says,

*"I've been involved for 33 years — so I've been able to see how the hospital has changed, with new treatments for patients. The gift*

shop now provides a welcome break for patients and staff to come and visit. Since the Auxiliary began, we've given over \$4 million to the hospital.



The last year the gift shop was open was 2020, when we were able to contribute \$100,000 for different equipment. We were thrilled to re-open the gift shop this May."

Please take time to pay a visit to the Gift Shop the next time you're at the hospital. There's a great selection of gifts, as well as all the essentials our patients may need. And please join us in thanking the tireless volunteers of the WRH Auxiliary who you will meet there!

## Your support of our lottery makes a difference



Thoracic Scope

Thank you to everyone who supported Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation's Spring Mega Money 50/50 Draw. Proceeds from the draw support the purchase of vital medical equipment at Windsor Regional Hospital, like a thoracic scope that was urgently needed in the Ouellette Campus Operating Room at a cost of \$23,250.



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