



# SEPTEMBER 2011

Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation

# Newsletter

## Appeal for new life saving ventilator for ICU

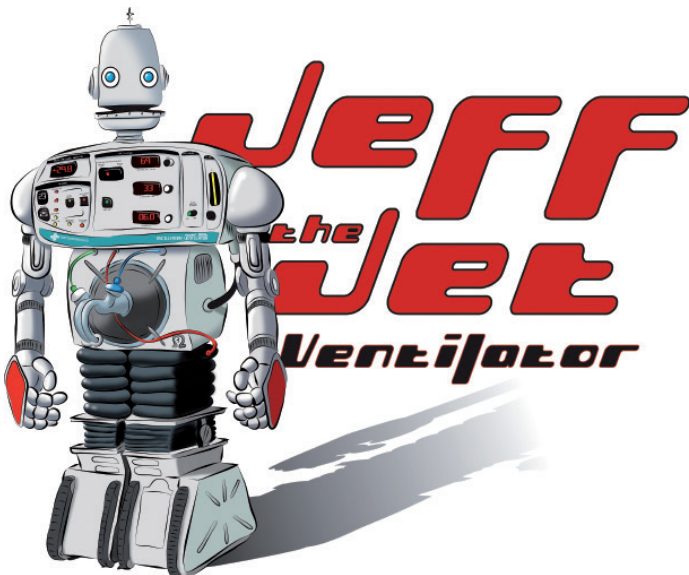
Patients are admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) for a wide range of critical conditions. Some are battling to survive devastating injuries while others are affected by life threatening diseases. Many will need help to keep them breathing and others may even need to go onto 'heart lung bypass' therapy.

While the standard ventilators the ICU team have on hand are 'state of the art', the addition of a new High Frequency Oscillatory Ventilator would

be able to help support patients with less risk than they might face with more complicated and invasive bypass therapy.

Over the last few years, an alarming number of otherwise healthy people have been admitted to the ICU with respiratory failure caused by complications arising from influenza. In response, the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Intensive Care Unit has become the state's leading centre for advanced respiratory support, to manage the increasing numbers of patients admitted with severe respiratory failure. The Department of Intensive Care, led by Dr Brad Power, has an active research program and has provided significant contributions to recent studies on severe respiratory failure, particularly influenza. The SCGH Intensive Care Unit had the largest cohort of patients with influenza who were pregnant during the recent H1N1 outbreak and data that was collected is now being shared worldwide.

An appeal to raise the \$150,000 needed to purchase this life saving equipment will be launched with a barbeque in the Hospital grounds on 12th October.



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# Thank you Charlies

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We asked you to tell us why you gave and in such an emphatic way you have told us. As a Foundation, and representing the Hospital, we are humbled and will be doing all that we can to continue to live up to your expectations. So many people responded that we could not mention even a fraction of them but here is a selection of responses...

*"...attended over the last 20 years...all my health problems can be linked together under one roof."*

*"PS: please pass on to all the staff who attended me my thanks and gratitude." Couple in their mid eighties.*

*"...so my story about Charlies is one of gratitude."*

*"Doctors and Nurses were just fantastic...we are doing well and will be forever grateful."*

*"Flown there in 1999 after a heart attack...Still going at 84 years."*

*"We greatly value the Public hospital system and believe it is essential in an equitable, democratic Society. Long may the Hospital (and the Public system) thrive and strengthen."*

*"I am always excited to hear about new discoveries in medicine that go a long way to improving the Human condition."*

*"I have a lovely young doctor friend who sometimes works there and obviously loves what he does."*

*"Charlies saved my life and I am now living a normal life...I would like to chat with the researchers who are doing great work."*

*"Please thank the surgeons who have given me a new Femur, I know that the rod can be removed but I want it to remain as it is so strong now. Grateful to all concerned."*

*"PS: I do not need thanks (for my donation) – just hope new discoveries will help following family members."*

*"My life with Charlies started in 1992...I have been very happy with my treatment, the doctors and nursing staff have been excellent."*

*"I think I have the best treatment from your hospital. I couldn't get any better. I am a POM and I wouldn't get better in England."*

*"The medicine is excellent, the care is terrific... I like to support SCGRF Research."*

*"It was an amazing experience to see the high level of care, attention and professionalism right through (my treatment) from the neurosurgeons to the nurses and service staff. I will never forget the caring way in which I was looked after – that really made a difference to me."*

*"It was my first job when I came to WA when the hospital was built. I am now retired aged 96 years."*

*"I will support Charlies as long as I am able."*

*"Through the years of attending Charlies I have found the support of the doctors and nurses exceptional. If I was rich I would donate a lot more as Charlies is the best."*

*"My treatment at Charlies has been wonderful and has given me an extra few years of quality time."*

So you told us and we are grateful for your support of the Research Foundation and its significant work in supporting research here at Charlies. All those who responded will get an invitation to come and have a coffee, or tea, and see some of the researchers, and possibly see their laboratories, to get to know a little more of the wonderful work they are involved in.