

working miracles

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QEII Foundation Announces Digital Echocardiography Network

Halifax, NS - February is Heart & Stroke Awareness Month, and the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre Foundation (QEII Foundation) marked the occasion by announcing the successful fundraising for a Digital Echocardiography Network (D.E.N.) to support the Division of Cardiology and the Heart Health Clinical Program in the District. The purchase of the new equipment funded through donations of \$400,000 from the Sobey Foundation, \$300,000 from Servier Canada Inc. and the remainder from other contributions will enable the establishment of a Digital Echocardiography Network. The acquisition of a Digital Echocardiography Network is one of numerous health care announcements that have been made possible by the QEII Foundation's Working Miracles capital campaign.

Fred Fountain, Chair of the QEII Foundation's Working Miracles capital campaign told the enthusiastic crowd, "As we continue to celebrate the outcomes of the Working Miracles capital campaign, today is a further testimony that outstanding accomplishments can be attained when we bring together those committed to the betterment of health care in Atlantic Canada. On behalf of all Atlantic Canadians who will benefit from this improvement in health care delivery, we extend our sincere thanks to the Sobey Foundation and Servier Canada."

Dr. Blair O'Neill, Head of the Division of Cardiology at the QEII Health Sciences Centre explained the benefits of the new Digital Echocardiography Network. "Not only will it take health care delivery to a new level for our patients, but it will also help us to recruit top cardiologists to work in the area of echocardiography here at Capital Health and perform new procedures such as stress echoes to better diagnose our patients. Capital District Health Authority is the first health district in the Atlantic Region to have a Digital Echocardiography Network."

"The Sobey Foundation is proud to have the opportunity to support the Working Miracles campaign," said David F. Sobey, Chairman, The Sobey Foundation, "and to know that our gift will enhance the quality and level of care that can be offered at the QEII Health Sciences Centre."

"We are extremely proud to be associated, as an innovative pharmaceutical research company, with the QEII Foundation Working Miracles Campaign" said Michael Sumpter, Chief Executive Officer of Servier Canada Inc. "Our contribution aims to provide specialists and acutely ill patients timely access and support to a leading edge technology in the field of cardiac care."

The echocardiogram has been described as the most informative non-invasive test, and it is the most common imaging procedure utilized in cardiology. The echocardiogram is a vital diagnostic technique for acutely ill patients, and by upgrading from the current videotape-based system to a truly digital setup, allows for the archival storage and centralized reading of echocardiographic studies as well as marked improvement in the image quality. Cardiologists expect to see marked improvement in the various aspects of care that they provide. The Digital Echocardiography Network will be initially set up in Capital District Health Authority, and as other district health authorities develop their digital platforms, there is the potential for them to link into the network which will result in an integrated provincial resource. The Division of Cardiology at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre provides tertiary care to all of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island representing a population of approximately 1.2 million. Over 8,000 echocardiograms are conducted annually.

About the Partners

QEII Foundation

The QEII Foundation's **Working Miracles** is the most ambitious capital campaign for health care this region has ever known. Its \$42.5 million success will invest in the community through innovative health care programs. Working Miracles will ensure an unprecedented infusion of state-of-the-art medical equipment, and with the establishment of Endowed Research Chairs, in collaboration with Dalhousie University, Working Miracles guarantees a renewed commitment to medical research, education, and continued excellence.

Sobey Foundation

The Sobey Foundation, established in 1982 by the Sobey family of Stellarton, Nova Scotia, is a private foundation. It uses endowed funds to support charitable organizations whose focus and activities directly relate to education, culture, and health - with emphasis on infrastructure and equipment.

Servier Canada Inc.

Servier Canada Inc. (www.servier.ca) is a pharmaceutical company, based in Laval (Quebec), that focuses on the development of therapies to treat cardiovascular, metabolic and central nervous system diseases. It is the Canadian subsidiary of the Servier Research Group, the leading French-based independent (private) pharmaceutical company, which is present in 140 countries around the world.

The Servier Research Research Group distinguishes itself by investing 25 per cent of its income in research and development which is approximately double the industry average. This enables the advancement of scientific knowledge and the discovery of therapeutic innovations leading to improved patient care and treatment outcomes.

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