



Front row: Wallace Snider, surrounded by his wife Barbara (left) and niece Lyndsay, is joined by LHSC's cardiac team, from left, Drs. Bob Kiaii, Pantelis Diamantouros, Rodrigo Bagur, Michael Chu, Patrick Teefy, Aashish Goela, Ian Chan, Daniel Bainbridge, and Vincenzo Giamb Bruno, who performed Canada's first transcaval TAVI.

## LHSC first in Canada to perform new approach for aortic valve implantation

The cardiac team at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) is the first in Canada to perform a new surgical technique available to the very few and complex patients whose arterial vessels are inaccessible due to calcified and narrowed arteries. Previously these conventional methods were too risky for these patients.

With the goal of restoring normal blood flow through the heart and the rest of the body and reducing leakage around the valve, Drs. Rodrigo Bagur, Michael Chu, Pantelis Diamantouros, Patrick Teefy, Dan Bainbridge, Luc Dubois and Bob Kiaii performed this new method for the first time in March 2016. This method of replacing the Aortic Valve through the vein is a breakthrough that will benefit many patients who would have had no other surgical options available to them.

"For some patients, the severity of their heart disease means there are limited treatment options available to them. This new catheter-based approach gives them an option they otherwise would not have," says Dr. Rodrigo Bagur, interventional cardiologist, LHSC.

William (Wallace) Snider, 78, from Sarnia Ontario, the first Canadian patient to undergo this new catheter-based technique had been suffering from shortness of breath and fatigue for a few years. A retired truck driver, his heart condition impeded his quality of life and limited his ability to play with his grandchildren or woodwork.

"We could not have performed the traditional approaches through Wallace's chest or peripheral vessels because his arteries were too calcified and narrowed and there was a concern that his lung capacity would have dangerously diminished due to his pre-existing lung condition," adds Dr. Michael Chu, cardiac surgeon, LHSC.

Up and walking the day after his surgery, Mr. Snider spent Easter Weekend at the hospital with visits from his wife, daughter and granddaughter and was discharged shortly after the long weekend and just before his birthday. "I'm looking forward to a bit of travelling with my wife, Barbara. I feel lucky and I'm grateful for the excellent care I've received." ■



# What is the Cardiac Care Program?

By Dr. James Brown, Cardiologist, Past Chair / Chief (July 2012-June 2016), Cardiology



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The Cardiac Care Program is a London Health Sciences Centre service that deals with the many complicated and challenging aspects of cardiovascular disease. The program is comprised of highly trained dedicated individuals, from various disciplines, including: cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, trainees, specialized nursing staff, administrative staff, and a variety specialized technologists with differing scopes of expertise.

As part of an academic health care centre, the team makes every effort to provide innovative clinical care to patients with rare cardiovascular problems.

Very closely linked to the provision of innovative clinical care is our academic mandate to be involved in research or the discovery of new knowledge, in all aspects of cardiovascular medicine and pass that on to the next generation of health care providers. For that reason, an important mandate of being a program in an academic health centre is our involvement in education and the teaching of all health care providers. ■



## Dr. Yee, Acting Chair/Chief of the Division of Cardiology, London Health Sciences Centre

London Health Sciences Foundation welcomes Dr. Raymond Yee to his new role as Acting Chair / Chief, Cardiology at LHSC. A medical graduate, with distinction, from the University of Alberta, Dr. Yee is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and a Fellow of the Heart Rhythm Society. His clinical expertise is in management of cardiac arrhythmias. He has published over 300 articles in peer-reviewed journals and books. His research has been published in a variety of renowned scientific journals. We look forward to working with Dr. Yee on the Cardiac Care Campaign. ■

# World-leading Robotic Surgery Program gets \$1 Million Boost



Dr. Bob Kiai, LHSC Chair Tom Gergely, Karen Crich, Jamie Crich, LHSF Cardiac Care Campaign Cabinet Chair John Schuct, and LHSF President & CEO John MacFarlane (left to right)

London's Crich family, owners of the Auburn Group of Companies, is backing a world-leading surgical program at LHSC with a \$1 million gift.

The funds, donated through London Health Sciences Foundation, will help finance the latest da Vinci Surgical Systems currently in use at the hospital's CSTAR program (Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics).

While the gift is the result of their experience with care received at LHSC, in particular with cardiac surgeons Dr. Bob Kiai and Dr. Neil McKenzie, family spokesperson Jamie Crich said the donation also follows his father's philosophy and example. This donation continues a long philanthropic tradition in the family

that includes supporting health care in London. The late Don Crich believed in building and investing in communities and his family is noted for their charitable contributions.

"Because our family has been touched by the wonderful caregivers at London Health Sciences Centre, most particularly Dr. Kiai and Dr. McKenzie, we are making a commitment today to ensure that patients will continue to experience the exemplary care made possible when skilled and caring surgeons have access to the latest and most innovative technology," says Jamie Crich. ■

## Grateful patient

"I want to thank the whole cardiac team at London's University Hospital for what can only be described as a very positive experience from start to discharge. You have a remarkable team and the strong commitment to patient care was obvious at every stage of my experience. You should be very proud of the warm, confident way your team delivers life-changing care to concerned and scared patients."

Stephen Tisdall

Grateful patient Stephen Tisdall in his letter to Lorinda Hallam, Manager, Cardiac Care Arrhythmia, following his pulmonary ablation surgery.



# A Gift from – and to – the Heart

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 18th, 2015, Gary and Mary Margaret Koreen decided to donate \$50,000 in support of the Cardiac Care Program at LHSC.

Gary, who underwent surgery under the care of the Cardiac Care team in 1997 and 2010, currently volunteers on London Health Sciences Foundation's Cardiac Care Campaign Cabinet. Thanks to his time on the Cardiac Care Campaign Cabinet, Gary decided to have their generous gift support one of the major fundraising priorities of the Cardiac Care Campaign:

the Cardiac Catheterization Labs. Known as the Cath Labs, these specialized examination rooms will use state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging equipment to visualize the arteries and chambers of the heart and help treat any issues or abnormalities found. ■



Gary and Mary Margaret Koreen

# Windsor Clinic and Cardiac Hybrid OR



## A Gift from the Heart for Windsor & Essex – Cardiac Care Clinic

In an effort to improve patient care and eliminate the need for countless hours of travel between London and Windsor for patients and their families, members of LHSC's Cardiac Care team have started travelling to Windsor.

"I think the primary reason why we're sacrificing our hours and travelling is we think that this will potentially provide better care for the patients," Dr. Bob Kiaii, Chair/Chief, Cardiac Surgery, LHSC, told the Windsor Star.

Located at Windsor Regional Hospital's Ouellette campus, the Cardiac Care clinic will be staffed by five LHSC surgeons, who'll be taking turns travelling to Windsor, as approximately 30 per cent of LHSC's heart surgery patients are from Windsor and Essex County. While the actual surgeries will still take place at LHSC, up to 400 patients per year will be able stay closer to home for their appointments before and after surgery.

Beyond the benefit to patients and families, the new Cardiac Care clinic – which officially opened on June 29, 2016 – will also improve the collaboration and communication between LHSC surgeons and the Windsor Regional cardiologists who care for local heart patients and refer patients to LHSC for surgery.

"All this will be a combined effort to try to improve the patients' experience, before and after the operation," says Dr. Kiaii.

We also need to make sure that when they come to LHSC for more complex procedures, they are served with the best possible care, by the best teams, and with the best possible technology. We are seeking support from all the communities we serve to build a new, state-of-the-art Cardiac Hybrid OR.

The Hybrid OR is the ideal setting for high-risk minimally invasive cardiovascular procedures that require advanced imaging and that may necessitate transitioning to open surgery, and is changing the way surgeons approach complex heart procedures.

## Windsor event

On November 8, 2016, London Health Sciences Foundation, along with Cardiac Campaign volunteer Renu Saggar, will host a Cardiac Care Campaign awareness event in Windsor. The inspiration for this special event is the treatment and recovery of Renu's husband Anoop Saggar following his heart attack. Anoop was a prime candidate for minimally invasive, robotic-assisted surgery performed through very small incisions in his chest. This type of surgery, performed by Dr. Kiaii and the cardiac team at LHSC, meant that Anoop's recovery was shorter and more comfortable than conventional surgery. The Saggars are grateful for the care available and with community support, patients will continue to benefit from this advanced technology. ■

# Thank You for Your Support

## Thank you for your investment in health care excellence for Cardiac Care patients and families in London and Southwestern Ontario!

London Health Sciences Centre's Cardiac Care Program is one of the leading health care programs of its kind in the world. The program offers a wide variety of resources and surgical services to treat diseases and conditions including abnormal

heart rhythm, angina, congestive heart failure, and coronary artery disease, blockage of arteries, deteriorated heart valves and abnormal electrical function of the heart.

At our Foundation, we're accountable to our donors, stewarding with respect, integrity and transparency. Please take a moment to view our 2016 Report to the Community at: [www.lhsf.ca/report](http://www.lhsf.ca/report) ■

## A Message from the Chair of the Cardiac Care Campaign Cabinet

"For many years, I have been a great believer in giving back to one's community, be it through a donation or active participation in fundraising for our health care system. Add to that a variety of personal health issues that have been addressed over the years and you will know why I take on this fundraising challenge with enthusiasm."

- John Schucht



## We'd Be Happy to Hear from You!

Please contact us if you have any questions about the Cardiac Care Campaign in support of the Cardiac Care Program at LHSC. Whether you want to know more about the program and its fundraising priorities or how philanthropic support is helping to create world-class cardiac care right here in London, we are more than happy to help.



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