



The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.



Projet de la *Grande* Histoire
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

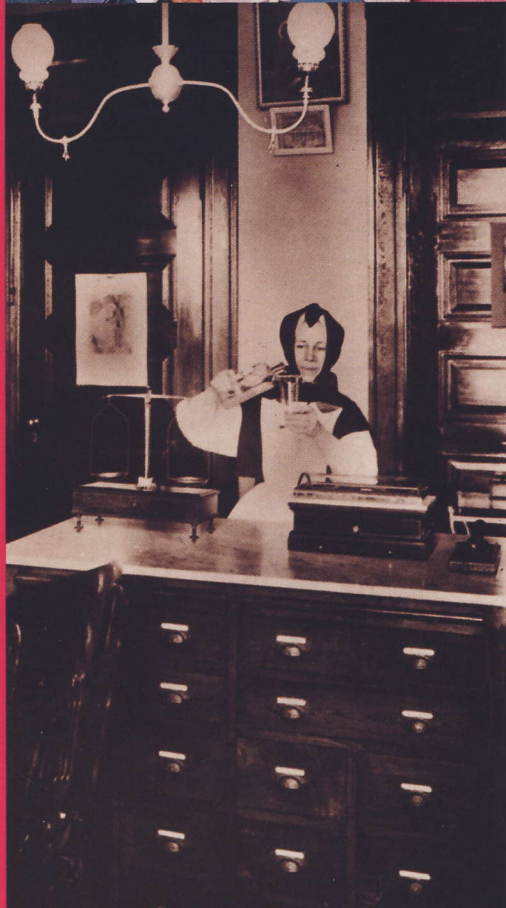
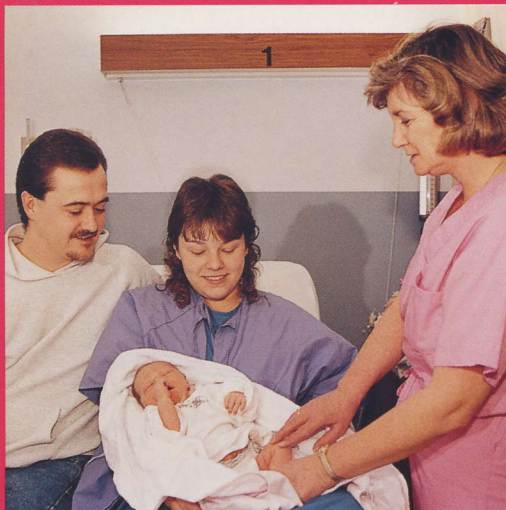
**Hôpital St. Boniface General Hospital
Winnipeg, Manitoba
125**

Notre chemin ensemble ~ Our Journey Together


Source: Catholic Health Alliance of Canada

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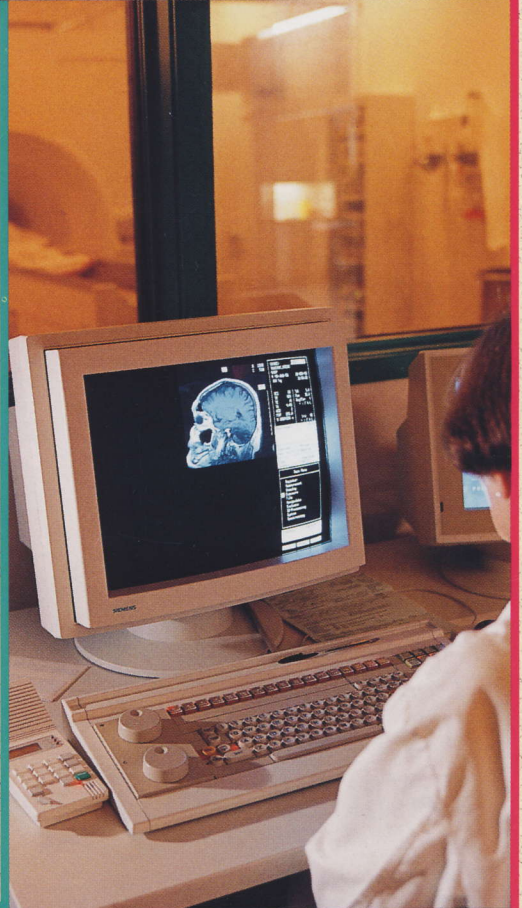


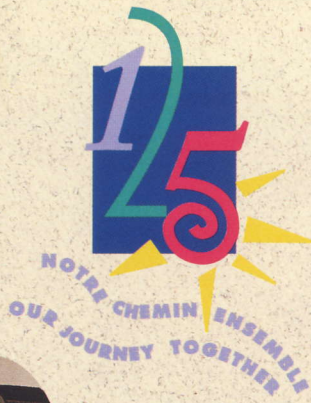
Hôpital général
St-Boniface
General Hospital



NOTRE CHEMIN ENSEMBLE
OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER

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THE HOSPITAL ON THE RED CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

It's no easy task reaching the age of 125 but as St. Boniface General Hospital celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, it shows no signs of slowing down. Its ongoing commitment to quality patient care and to the community remain strong, despite challenges to the facility and to health care in general.

take a lead role in health care through its involvement with others in providing high quality patient care, education and research.

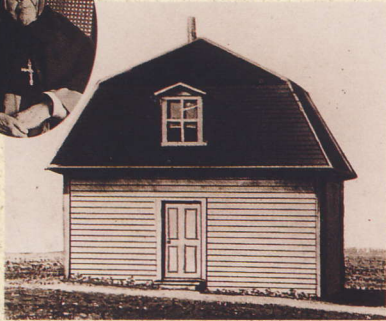
"We believe in working with others because we can't do it all our selves," explains Jack Litvack, President and Chief Executive Officer. "That's why we've been a leader and supporter of changes in health care delivery and are partners in the Manitoba Academic Medical Centres Consortium with the University of Manitoba and the Health Sciences Centre."

The first hospital in Western Canada, St. Boniface General Hospital was founded by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal "Grey Nuns" in 1871. Since then, it has evolved to meet the changing needs of the growing population it serves. It has kept pace with, and often takes the lead in advances in health care. But throughout its history, St. Boniface General Hospital has held onto and promoted the values practised by the first four Grey Nuns who arrived in St. Boniface by canoe in 1844.

"Members of our medical and hospital staff participate in the development of new health care initiatives such as the Urban Health Planning Partnership because we want to keep the focus on the patient. Patient-focused care is where we began and we're keeping to those traditions," he says.

As the first hospital in the west, St. Boniface General Hospital helped establish the foundations of health care in Manitoba. It continues to

"The pioneering spirit that brought the first Grey Nuns here continues



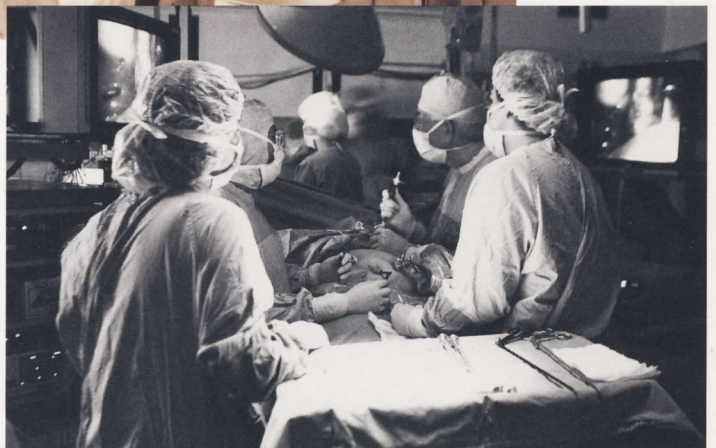
The first hospital in Western Canada, St. Boniface General Hospital was established in 1871 by Sr. Thérèse of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal "Grey Nuns".

Front cover
(clockwise from upper left)

1. Over 4,000 babies a year are delivered in St. Boniface General Hospital.
2. The first hospital built in 1871 serves as storage after the construction of a new hospital in 1890. (Photo c.1895)
3. St. Boniface acquired the first magnetic resonance imaging scanner in Manitoba in 1991.
4. Nursery at St. Boniface, c. 1910
5. Aerial photo of St. Boniface General Hospital complex, 1994. (Photo Bill Peters)
6. In the early years the Grey Nuns worked in all areas of the hospital. (Pharmacy, c1905)



St. Boniface General Hospital was renowned for its surgical procedures as early as 1890.



Today physicians perform over 4,000 surgeries a year in some of the most modern and advanced operating rooms in North America.

Les caisses populaires
du Manitoba

At your service!



From 1915 -1918 over 7,700 soldiers are treated at the Hospital; finding care and compassion at the hands of the sisters.

Today, although surrounded by modern technology, patients continue to receive care and compassion at the hands of the staff.



today because there still are unmet needs to which we are called to respond," adds Sister Jacqueline St. Yves, Vice-President Mission and Community Services.

"That's what we're about as a group," she says of the Grey Nuns. "We are here for those who are not looked after and for those who have no one."

It's a principle dating back to the hospital's beginning when the Sisters provided care to anyone in need, regardless of religion or ability to pay. This fact was illustrated during a debate at the Manitoba Legislature about proposed government funding (\$500) for the hospital.

Attorney-General Clarke explained that (St. Boniface) was a public hospital, as persons of all creeds and nations were admitted and well taken care of by the Sisters in charge of the institution. The Sisters of Charity, said the Attorney-General, know no distinction. They never ask whether the poor sufferer is tortured by a Protestant pain or a Catholic fever that "racks" the tortured body of the poor human being. The sufferer always finds in them a careful, devoted friend and nurse. (The Weekly Manitoban and Herald of Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory, May 20, 1871.)

"More than 150 years ago, the Grey Nuns brought a dedication to people of all faiths and creeds in Manitoba. But they also had a pragmatism and flexibility that is reflected in how our hospital has evolved through its 125 year history," says Jack Litvack, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Today, the hospital's mission statement, echoing the mission of the Grey Nuns, is:

- to provide the highest quality care to its patients
- to be of service to the community
- to participate in the vital areas of education and research.

The first four Grey Nuns came to the banks of the Red River with a mission to teach, comfort and nurse the poor. That tradition lives on today in the hospital on the banks of the Red. Just as the river still flows past the hospital, the values of those early Grey Nuns continue to flow throughout the hospital.

St. Boniface General Hospital now looks ahead to the next 125 years of providing compassionate care to the sick and needy while seeking new and advanced ways to improve the quality of life for all.



The Grey Nuns' mission to promote excellence in patient care is the basis upon which the hospital has grown and upon which it seeks to respond to the needs of the people of its many communities.



The new Community IV Program allows patients on long or short term intravenous antibiotic therapy to receive care at home.



The curiosity and dedication of physicians and researchers at the hospital and Research Centre have led to new discoveries in the treatment of many diseases.

*Congratulations on your
125th Anniversary*



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Established in 1976, the International Award honours individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to health care and humanity. Dr. Jonas Salk, (1976), Dr. Christiaan Barnard (1977) and Mother Teresa (1982) are among those who have been honoured.



Money raised through the support of Manitobans has contributed to the development of health care research in Manitoba.

RESEARCH FOUNDATION LAUNCHES OUTSTANDING PROJECTS

St. Boniface General Hospital gave itself a unique 100th birthday present in 1971 — the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to fund research, patient care and education.

Through its many fundraising activities, the Research Foundation provides the seeds for tremendous growth in health sciences research opportunities.

"Without the Research Foundation, there would have been no (new) research space created in Manitoba," recalls Dr. John Foerster, Director of Research at the Research Centre. "The Foundation continues to support the Centre by providing start-up grants to researchers to launch their projects."

This year, the Foundation celebrates two anniversaries: its own 25th anniversary and the 20th anniversary of the International Award Dinner, a major fundraising event. The award honours individuals whose genius, talent and energy have made an outstanding contribution to health care and/or humanity.

"The award winners I've met have been humble, passionate people, like Dr. Andrei Sakharov who didn't know what all the fuss was about!" recalls Valerie Coward, Foundation Director.

"We are the enabler," explains Coward of the Foundation's role. "We provide grants to research or hospital projects that allow researchers to obtain funds from other sources, nationally and internationally."



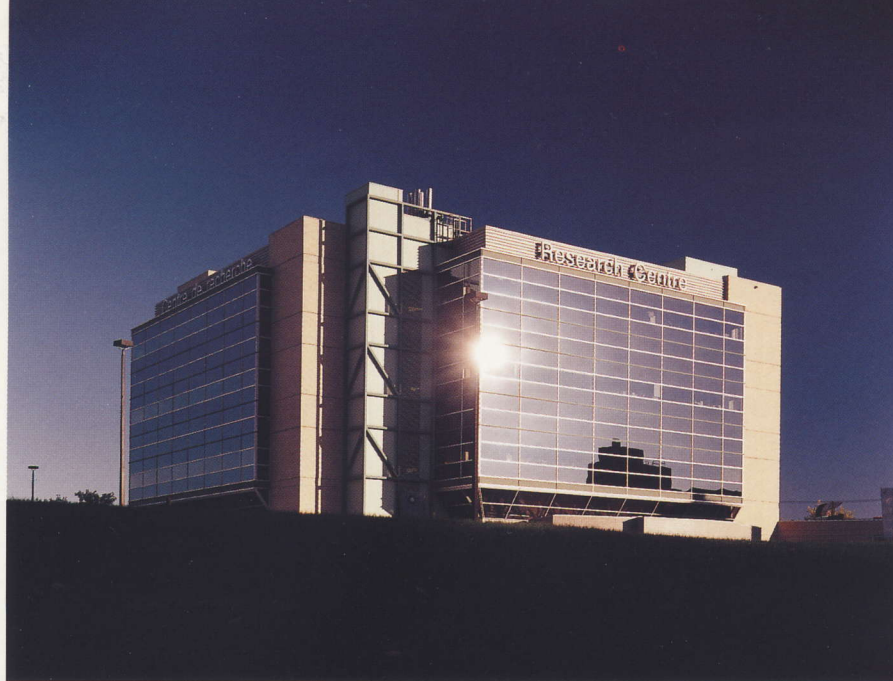
The magnetic resonance imaging scanner at St. Boniface is a major focus of research and patient care. "This unit helps diagnose and treat many diseases, such as tumours, diseases of the nervous system and peripheral joints," notes Dr. Blake McClarty, provincial Head of Neurosciences.



LEADING THE WAY TO DISCOVERY
VERS DE NOUVELLES DÉCOUVERTES

Here's to
125 years
of caring.





RESEARCH CENTRE CREATES HEALTH AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

In the modern building next to St. Boniface General Hospital, more than 170 researchers and support staff are involved in projects that will lead to improved health care services. The St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre, opened in 1987, is the first free-standing research facility in the country.

"When the hospital celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1971," recalls Jack Litvack, President and Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, "it rededicated its focus on education and research, establishing them as pivotal to the hospital's activities."

At that time, the Grey Nuns and the hospital established the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation. It has become the catalyst for the Research Centre, raising more than \$37 million over the past 25 years. Of this, \$13 million went to build the Research Centre.

"We now are seeing the fruits of that decision made 25 years ago," Litvack comments. "The Research Centre has helped establish St. Boniface General Hospital as a major academic facility in Manitoba, helping our relationship with the University of Manitoba blossom."

Research at the hospital dates back at least to the late 1920s when a lab-

oratory was set up for research purposes. Today, some of the most advanced health research in the world, primarily in the field of basic heart research and diagnostic technology, is done at our Research Centre. Research is also linked to the clinical departments of the Hospital: infectious diseases, respiratory medicine, nephrology, cardiology, clinical nursing and cancer care. It's an important link because the research projects ultimately, and sometimes quickly, benefit patients receiving care in these areas.

"From the public's perspective, the Research Centre has a two-fold benefit," Litvack continues. "First, it allows us to attract and retain leaders of excellence in health disciplines to do research and academic work. Secondly, the activities at the Centre are building the keys to tomorrow's medical breakthroughs that will provide even better care and greater opportunities for treatment for all Manitobans."

The Centre's activities also reward Manitoba economically. Research projects create employment opportunities and demand for products and services from Manitoba suppliers. The results of the research and the economic spinoffs together contribute to improved health for all Manitobans.



Thanks to the contributions of former chairmen such as Senator Gildas Molgat, Sam Cohen and Cam MacLean, the Research Foundation has raised over \$37 million for health care research in its 25-year history.



In 1959, Dr. Morley Cohen and Dr. Richard Burrell performed the first open-heart surgery in Manitoba. The early work of these specialists is mirrored in the dedication and innovations of heart researchers and specialists such as Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, Head of the Cardiovascular Sciences Program at the Research Centre.

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A major expansion in the 1950's culminated in the blessing of the cross that stands above the hospital to this day, calling to all those in need.



Throughout its long history the hospital has benefitted from the support and commitment of its many volunteers.

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Providing Hotel Quality Support Services
to Health Care Settings

Congratulations St. Boniface Hospital
on reaching your 125th anniversary
of providing care to Humanity

CARING FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

For 125 years, St. Boniface General Hospital has strived to meet more than just the physical needs of its patients. Through its Pastoral Care Department it serves the spiritual, mental and emotional needs of patients and family members.

The Grey Nuns enhance pastoral care funding as a practical expression of their commitment to caring for the whole person and as part of the mission of the hospital.

"We take into consideration what people are living," explains Sr. Jacqueline St-Yves, Vice-President, Mission and Community Services. "The Grey Nuns tend to be very practical and meet people in their daily life."

Pastoral care associates support patients working through issues arising from illnesses and transitions in life caused by disease.

As one example, pastoral care associates accompany the elderly through the experience of loss and transition as they are moved to a nursing home," says Tim Frymire,

acting head, Pastoral Care Department. "Another way we support families is in assisting them with the death of a loved one."

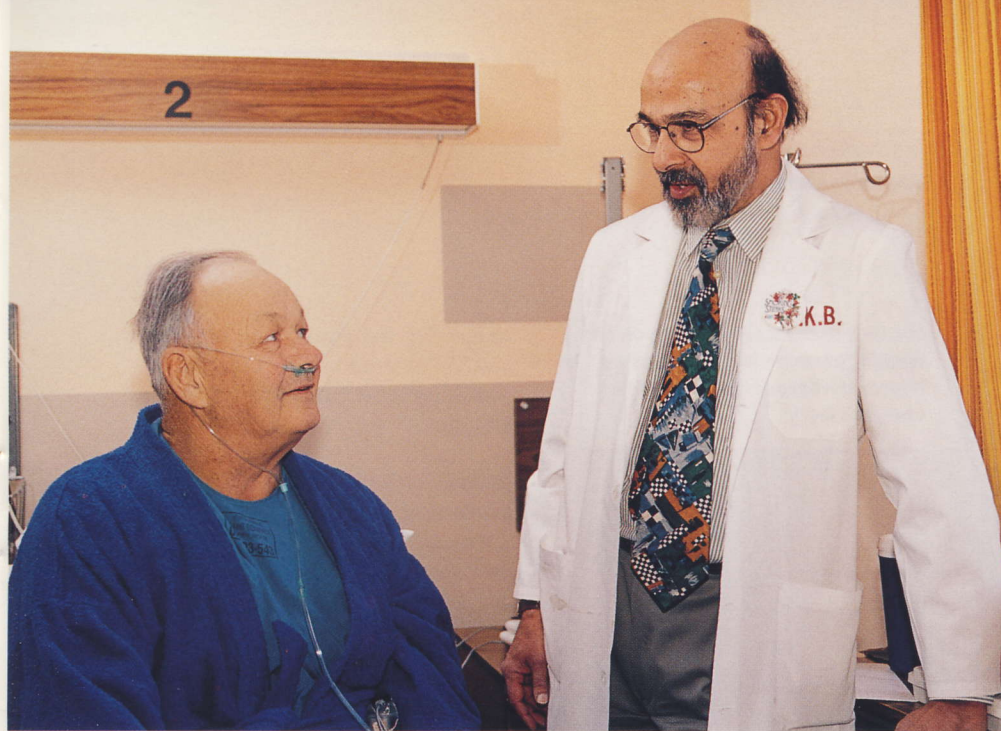
In keeping with the different faiths and cultures of patients, pastoral care associates come from a variety of denominational backgrounds, both ordained and non-ordained. There are Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Mennonites and others. Arrangements also are made for visiting clergy to minister to their people.

"The pastoral approach is often about being part of a community in every facet of our life, be it in celebration of life, accompanying in time of grief or in work-related issues," says St-Yves. "We also strive to meet employee needs."

Whether supporting patients or staff members, the pastoral care department at St. Boniface General Hospital gives the facility a unique approach to care giving. Its a way of caring that began 125 years ago and will continue to be a fundamental part of the hospital in years to come.



Pastoral care associates such as Sr. Tina Winter, s.g.m., help patients deal with illness and the transitions in life caused by disease.



Health care ethics at St. Boniface helps professionals provide care in a way that respects the dignity of the patient as a human being.

CARE DECISIONS BASED ON MEDICAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Today's health care personnel face potentially difficult choices in patient care. Although many decisions are relatively simple, choices can become more difficult as circumstances become more complex. New medical technology and treatments take ethical decision-making into a grey area where questions must be asked about what promotes the human good in a particular situation.

Like other health care facilities, St. Boniface General Hospital follows some basic ethical guidelines. St. Boniface's ethical framework is based on Christian Catholic traditions and the teachings of Marguerite d'Youville. These help staff in making choices with the patient and family about treatment and other needs.

"There are ethics of the ordinary," comments Pat Murphy, Co-ordinator, Health Care Ethics Services at the hospital. "For example, telling the truth to a patient, protecting a patient's privacy and confidentiality."

"Sometimes one 'good' may be in conflict with another," Murphy says, "so the problem is deciding which is the 'most good'. It's not so

much that we have a set of ethical rules but we are trying to encourage ethical reflection."

In practical terms, the hospital's Health Care Ethics Services department promotes moral reflection through education and consultation. It has as a reference the Catholic Health Association of Canada's Health Care Ethics Guide to help work through the more complex situations. This resource outlines basic ethical principles: recognizing the dignity of the person, the social nature of the person (we can't live or reach our potential all alone), the right to life and the principle of the common good.

Ultimately, health care decision-making involves both medical judgements and judgements of ethical value or what best promotes the total good of the patient.

"Health care ethics is not simply about following rules, rather, it is a matter of 'right' relationship," Murphy emphasizes. "It is activity focused on helping to promote the human dignity of all partners in health care - patients, families and care-givers."



Saint Marguerite d'Youville founder of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal "Grey Nuns"



Decision-making is more complex today because of advances in medical technology.

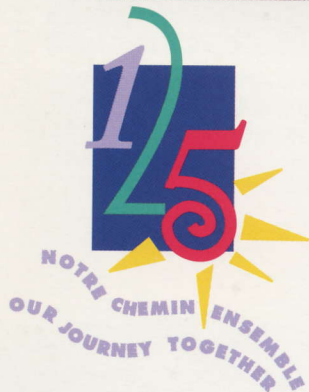
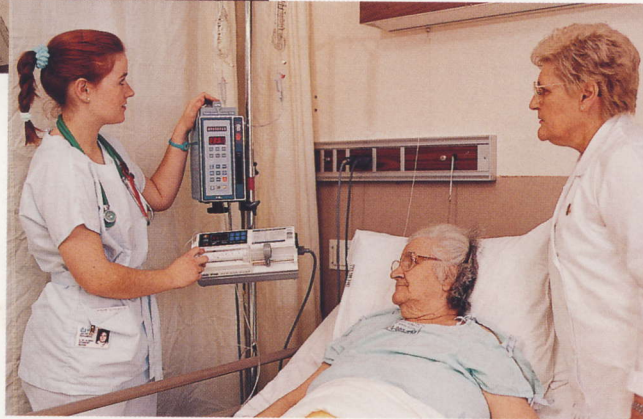
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D'ARCY & DEACON
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS



Nurse with patient 1940

The Grey Nuns recognized early on that teaching future professionals was an important responsibility, one which continues today.



ST. BONIFACE GENERAL HOSPITAL WORKS WITH OTHERS TO TRAIN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Patient care may be the link that most Manitobans will have with St. Boniface General Hospital, but its research and education activities ultimately benefit them as well. Through research and education, health care itself is moved forward, allowing care providers to offer patients the best available services.

Since the late 19th century, the hospital has worked with the University of Manitoba to provide health sciences education that combines the academic strengths of the university with the health care services and unique philosophy of the hospital. An arrangement with the Medical College in 1893, for example, gave medical teachers and students "free access to the public wards of the Hospital."

The first recorded nursing student began her education at the hospital. In 1897, the School of Nursing was established, the first in Manitoba. Recently, a new agreement was

reached in which nursing students enrolled at the university can do their practical activities at St. Boniface General Hospital or the Health Sciences Centre. The hospital's diploma program, dating back to the first School of Nursing, is being phased out in favour of a four-year program.

Another new agreement between St. Boniface General Hospital, the Health Sciences Centre and the University of Manitoba will enhance medical education and patient care. Called the Manitoba Academic Medical Centres Consortium, the agreement emphasizes St. Boniface's role as an academic health centre. It also demonstrates its importance to the University in health science education and research.

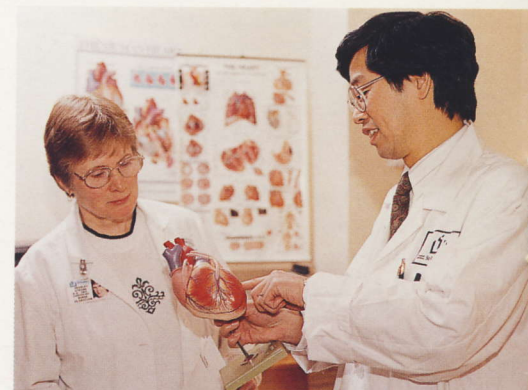
"From an early stage in the hospital's development, the Grey Nuns recognized that teaching future health care professionals was an integral responsibility of a quality health care institution. A partner-

ship with the University was a natural," comments Jack Litvack, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Instead of duplicating programs at both teaching hospitals, one program with a common clinical leadership is now being offered at the two facilities. The programs will work as if taking place in one institution but the boards of the three partners have control over what occurs within their walls and under their aegis. This means that the values, traditions and culture of each organization will remain, but within an integrated program approach.

Although the hospital's collaboration with the University of Manitoba is primarily in the fields of medicine and nursing, the hospital also participates in a number of other health sciences training programs for physiotherapists, occupational therapists, registered dietitians, pharmacists, and social workers.

St. Boniface General Hospital's 125 years of commitment to education will continue as it trains tomorrow's health professionals to provide quality patient care.



The hospital's collaboration with the University of Manitoba provides opportunities for specialists such as Dr. Puki Cheung, Interventional Cardiologist at St. Boniface and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Cheung works with the coronary arteries of the heart, attempting to find solutions to blockages.