



MEDIA RELEASE

W.J. Henderson Centre for Patient-Oriented Research ushers in new era of health research in Kingston

Centre provides space for researchers to partner with patients on groundbreaking studies that enhance prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease

Kingston, ON – September 11, 2017 – Home to one of the country's top 40 research hospitals and a world-renowned university, Kingston has long been recognized as an important centre for health research in Canada.

That reputation is reaching new heights with the opening of the W.J. Henderson Centre for Patient-Oriented Research. The new centre positions Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC), Queen's University and the KGH Research Institute (KGHRI) as international leaders in partnering with patients to improve health knowledge and outcomes.

The state-of-the-art centre brings together for the first time the facilities, equipment and research projects that require direct patient involvement into a single space. Located within KHSC's Kingston General Hospital site and adjacent to the Queen's University campus, the facility is ideally situated to give clinician-scientists, researchers, and research volunteers a safe and accessible environment where patients can be consulted, assessed and monitored as they take part in research studies.

"This centre is the realization of our commitment to patient-oriented research," says Dr. Roger Deeley, Vice-President of Health Sciences Research at KHSC and President of the KGHRI. "It expands opportunities for patients to take part in the discovery process, and it provides a stimulating environment for collaboration. This will lead to innovation, better treatments and improved outcomes for patients and their families. It also provides the ideal environment for multi-disciplinary approaches to research and a solid training ground for future clinician-scientists and researchers."

At 10,000 square feet, the centre increases research space at the KGH site by 25 per cent. Facilities include shared research labs and work spaces, patient examination and procedure rooms, comfortable waiting areas for patients and their families, a biohazard Level 2 preparation area, as well as the capability to conduct early stage clinical trials, which are crucial steps in the development of new drug and device treatments and therapies.

"This represents a significant milestone in health research at KHSC. The centre will become a major hub for clinical research as we further integrate research between Queen's and our academic hospital partners," says Dr. Richard Reznick, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University.

“Ultimately, the work of the centre will translate into improved patient outcomes in our community. It will help us to both educate future scientists and recruit leading researchers from around the world.”

Constructed at a cost of \$4.2 million, the centre’s creation was made possible through generous gifts from more than 150 donors, including \$1 million from the W.J. Henderson Foundation and \$1.2 million in funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, awarded to Dr. Stephen Vanner, (Gastrointestinal Diseases Research Unit) and Dr. Douglas Munoz (Centre for Neuroscience Studies).

“It’s exciting to see a facility like this come to life,” says Denise Cumming, President and CEO of the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation. “So many donors supported this project and I’m very pleased that our community has recognized the importance of patient-focused research.”

It’s a sentiment echoed by the research community at both the hospital and university.

“This facility reflects a significant commitment by individuals and organizations, including the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Ontario Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science, clinician-scientists and researchers, and donors including the W.J. Henderson Foundation. Their support made this centre possible, and we are profoundly grateful to them,” says Deeley.

For more information on the W.J. Henderson Centre for Patient Oriented Research, visit www.kgh.on.ca/research.

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ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

“This centre is a perfect example of how the extraordinary research being done in this country can directly impact everyday Canadians. To actually involve patients in the research process, to engage them in the improvement of their own health care is a remarkable feat and one that the Canada Foundation for Innovation is proud to support,” - **Dr. Roseann Runte, President and CEO - Canada Foundation for Innovation**

“Any improvement in the ability to access integrated research is a great thing for patient outcomes and for the system to provide more efficient care. It’s an honour to be part of an organization that supports research in patient-oriented care,” - **Dr. David Pattenden – W.J. Henderson Foundation**

“Research has become an increasingly collaborative pursuit that not only requires clinician-scientists from partner institutions to work more closely together, but also for researchers and patients to become more deeply involved in the discovery process. This new centre will strengthen the collective efforts of Queen’s and Kingston’s world-class scientific community and ultimately provide patients with improved health care and quality of life.” – **John Fisher - Interim Vice-Principal (Research), Queen’s University**

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