



# Vital Links



An update from

The Ottawa Hospital  
Foundation | La Fondation  
de l'Hôpital  
d'Ottawa

**December 2009**

## **Breaking All Records: 2009 President's Breakfast is a Resounding Success!**

It is with true delight that we share with you the final result of the 2009 President's Breakfast.

In just one hour, guests who attended the September 9, 2009 event donated more than **\$900,000** in support of The Ottawa Hospital! We are surprised and humbled by the support shown during this year's event.

This tremendous achievement is due to the incredible group of volunteers who worked tirelessly in the recent months. From our Breakfast Cabinet, headed by co-chairs Jim Durrell and Sandra Goldberg, to our 57 Table Captains who invited their peers to attend this unique fundraising event, everyone played such an important role and we thank them for making this year another incredible success.

## **Medical Advancements at OHRI in the news**

The research of Dr. Michael Rudnicki, Senior Scientist and Director of the Regenerative Medicine Program at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute has recently been published in [Orthopedics Today](#).

Dr. Rudnicki and his team discovered a powerful new way to stimulate muscle regeneration, paving the way for new treatments for debilitating conditions such as muscular dystrophy.

Dr. Rudnicki's team found that the Wnt7a protein, when introduced into mouse muscle tissue, significantly increased the population of these satellite stem cells and fueled the regeneration process, creating bigger and stronger muscles. Muscle tissue mass was increased by nearly 20 per cent in the study.

"This discovery shows us that by targeting stem cells to boost their numbers, we can improve the body's ability to repair muscle tissue," says Dr. Michael Rudnicki.

## **Building a Better Hospital**

Some important improvements that will have a positive effect on patient care are currently underway at The Ottawa Hospital.

The Emergency Department at the General Campus which provides 24-hour emergency diagnostics, assessment and care services to approximately 170 patients a day is currently undergoing expansion.

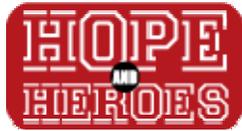
Once complete, the space will triple in size to accommodate 60,000 - 65,000 patients annually. These improvements will help doctors and nurses provide the very best urgent care to thousands more patients every year.

As well, The Ottawa Hospital Foundation recently launched a fundraising initiative to start a brand new program in women's health research at The Ottawa Hospital's Shirley E. Greenberg

Women's Health Centre. The program will enable The Ottawa Hospital to conduct advanced clinical trials that will directly benefit women in Ottawa. It will also build on the strong foundation that already exists at the Centre, which provides an advanced care program for over 30,000 women in Ottawa each year.

"Ottawa is leading the way in women's health but there remains an enormous gap in knowledge about how certain diseases and treatments affect women differently than men," says Dr. Jolly, Medical Director of the Shirley E. Greenberg Women's Health Centre. "My vision for the future of women's health is simple – let's create a world class research program for women's health in Ottawa, right now."

## Mark your calendar!



### HOPE AND HEROES

HOPE & HEROES is one of Ottawa's most entertaining and high-profile events, which raises funds to support The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre.

This year's event features a performance by [Ron James](#), Canada's #1 selling comedian. For more information visit [www.ohfoundation.ca](http://www.ohfoundation.ca) or 613-798-5555, ext. 19821.

### Building a Better Hospital

[www.ohfoundation.ca](http://www.ohfoundation.ca)



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