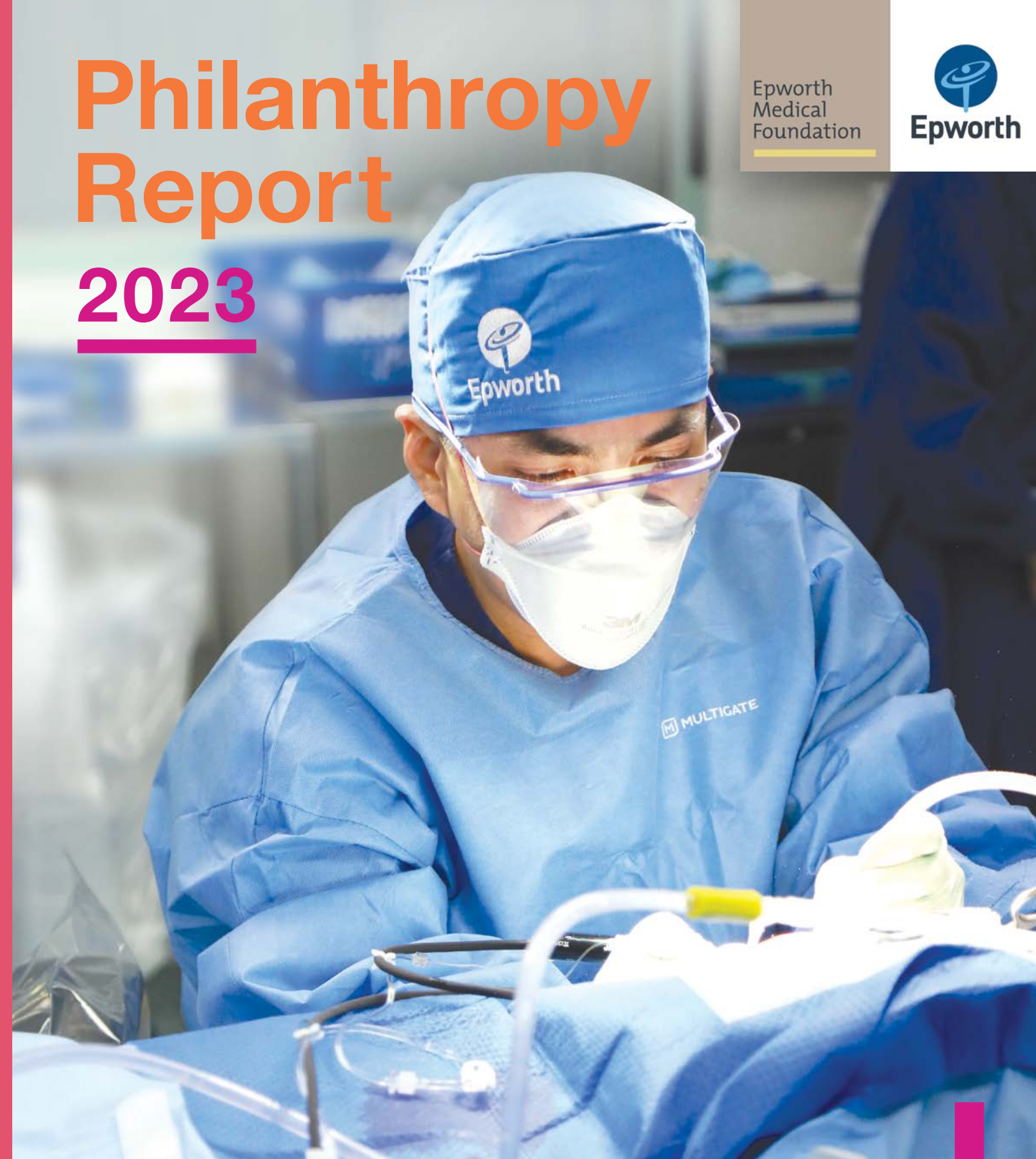


Philanthropy Report 2023

Epworth
Medical
Foundation



CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like to know more about the activities of Epworth Medical Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact us, as we are always happy to help.

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You make a difference every day



I want to thank you, and all of our supporters, for what you do and make possible for our patients, nurses, doctors and all of the EMF team, 365 days a year. From Melbourne to Geelong, each and every Epworth Hospital is a better place to be treated and cared for because of your generosity and commitment.

Recently I met with Dr Yee Chan and his theatre-team at Epworth Freemasons, while they were installing the new BK Ultrasound machine that had been funded by donations. Dr Chan was thrilled to have access to this technology, which has made a tremendous difference to the way the team is able to both diagnose and treat prostate cancer. The machine is in use multiple times a day, and I have no doubt that it has already helped to save lives.

Over in Geelong, Maxillofacial surgeon Dr Chris McGrath has been using our new, donor-funded 'Piezomed' ultrasound technology to perform bone-graft procedures, and at Epworth Richmond, we had an exciting event earlier this year when ENT surgeon Mr Guillermo Hurtado, who performed the first Bone Conduction Hearing Implant at Epworth nine years ago, performed another first, using a cutting-edge, donor-funded cochlear drill to perform a cochlear implant on a 77-year-old patient.

You'll be able to read more about these stories - and many more - in this newsletter, and I hope you find them as inspirational as I do. When we combine the skill of our medical team with the generosity and foresight of our supporters, I feel extraordinarily optimistic about the future of our hospital and the care and outcomes our patients will continue to receive.

It's that optimism that makes me genuinely happy to wake up and go to work every day, and that inspires me and my family to get involved in other ways with all the great work that Epworth does.

This month I'm measuring my daily steps as part of 'Walk 4 Rita', a step-challenge hosted by Viridian Advisory to raise funds for the Jreissati Pancreatic Cancer Centre.

The Centre is dedicated to finding new and better ways to treat this deadly cancer. I'd be grateful if you would sponsor me in this challenge, and have attached a form in the back of this newsletter if you can help.

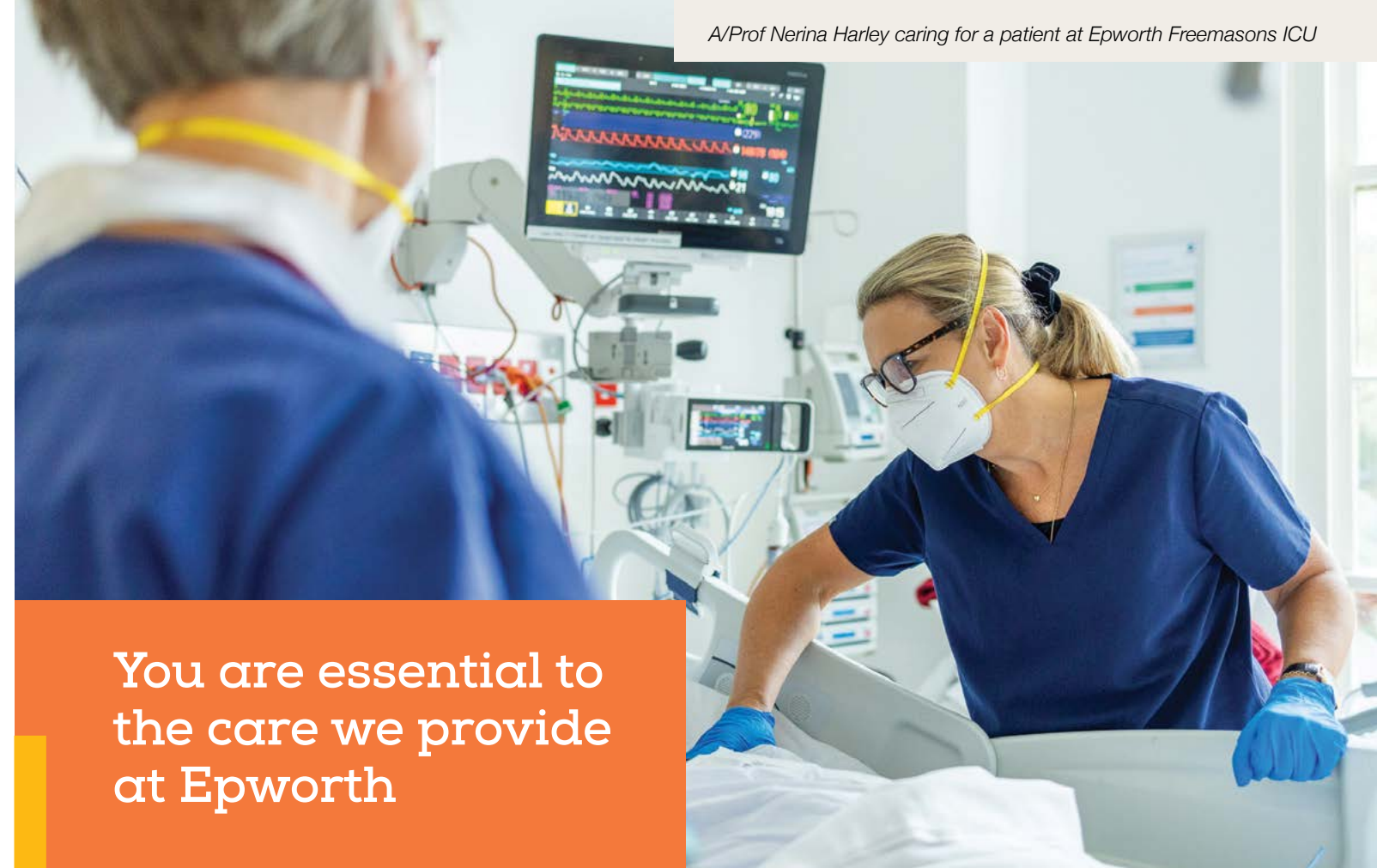
And next year I intend to walk even further, when I travel with a team of like-minded Epworth supporters to make the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Portugal and Spain, to raise funds for pancreatic cancer research. There is still room on this trip if you would like to join us. I've never walked the Camino but, from my past experience on many an Epworth trip, I can guarantee it will be filled with laughter, friendship, adventure, and all in a great cause. We'd love to have you along!

Next month I will be turning 50, and I'm more excited than ever about the opportunities at Epworth to do really great things for our patients. Many things have changed during the past 11 years that I have worked at Epworth, but the importance of our donors to make change and provide exceptional patient care remain constant.

I am truly grateful for your generosity, care and compassion.

Scott Bulger
Executive Director, Epworth Medical Foundation

To register or learn more about the Camino de Santiago walk, scan the QR code or contact Scott on 03 9426 6133, 0407 446 000 or email scott.bulger@epworth.org.au



You are essential to the care we provide at Epworth

Being part of the Epworth community is a privilege. There is nothing quite like this great organisation.

I've been connected to Epworth for more than 25 years, initially starting at the Intensive Care Unit at Epworth Richmond, and now, as the Director of the Epworth Geelong and Epworth Freemasons Intensive Care Units, inaugural Critical Care Institute Director, Chair of the Intensive Care Council and as an Epworth HealthCare Board Member.

I say that it's a privilege to be part of this hospital because of the quality of care we deliver. It's what connects me to Epworth, and I know it is what draws world-class specialists to bring their patients here in order to provide the very best treatment. It is remarkable to work with colleagues of such high calibre and together provide extraordinary patient care.

It's not just about the doctors and surgeons working at the pointy end of medicine though. It's the whole medical team, nurses and allied health professionals as well as the supporting services including governance, administrative, education, environmental and maintenance teams. It really is an extraordinary community of people all focussed on one thing – making sure that every patient receives the very best care.

None of us could do the work that we do without each person playing their role. The surgeon can't operate in theatre without the technician ensuring the equipment is working, the environmental staff support patient care on our ward, the conversation the food services team have with patients at the bedside means so much. All of this contributes to the best patient care, best patient and family experience and the best outcomes. But it is more than an organisation or community, I'd go so far as saying it feels like a big family.

And donors are such an integral part of our community, our family. There is no doubt that the generosity of you, our valued supporters, helps Epworth innovate, to attract the very best team who I know for many of you, have provided you personally or a loved one with care when you've needed it.

You are fundamental to what we do as a hospital group, and how we stay at the cutting edge of medical care. I have seen first-hand the difference you make and getting to know so many of you over the years is a great privilege.

Epworth is my hospital, I know for many of you it is your hospital too. Thank you for all that you make possible!

A/Prof Nerina Harley AM
AM MBBS MD FRACP FCICM AFRACMA

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BK Ultrasound enabling world-class, innovative treatment

The BK Ultrasound has been installed and put to immediate use at Epworth Freemasons, enabling urological surgeons to assess the presence of prostate cancer, and deliver innovative, world-class treatment.

On average, the BK Ultrasound is used by urological surgeons at Epworth Freemasons multiple times per day to perform a transperitoneal biopsy. The biopsy is performed following the diagnosis of an elevated prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level by a patient's GP, combined with an MRI which indicates an abnormality which needs to be explored further.

As Dr Yee Chan explains, the biopsy takes just 20 minutes, and is the best way of obtaining information to assess the presence of cancer as accurately as possible, and with the best care for the patient.

"The probe is inserted into the rectum and includes a grid which overlays the images presented on the screen of the BK Ultrasound."

"We direct a needle through the perineum, the skin between the scrotum and the rectum, and using the guidance of the grid, take a sample of the prostate which is later assessed to determine the presence of cancer."

"We want our patients to have the best experience, and having access to amazing equipment such as the BK Ultrasound is critical. We are really appreciative and very thankful to everyone who donated. We're excited to be able to use it!"

- Amber Stanley, Epworth Freemasons, Acting Associate Director of Perioperative Services

This information guides the treatment options available to patients, and for prostate cancer deemed low grade or not aggressive, the BK Ultrasound continues to play a critical role.

In this case I would start active surveillance, and essentially see how the disease progresses using images obtained via the BK Ultrasound and repeat PSA testing and MRIs. With major surgery, such as robotic prostatectomies or traditional radiation treatment, there is a risk of side effects. This is reduced through active surveillance.

Epworth is also leading trials into new treatment options for men with prostate cancer, including brachytherapy, which cannot be performed effectively without the BK Ultrasound.

Brachytherapy delivers radiation therapy from within the body.

"It is a highly targeted treatment that involves implanting small radioactive seeds directly into the cancerous area of the prostate to destroy the cancer over a short period of time."

"We use the BK Ultrasound to help identify where the seeds need to be placed and guide the implantation."

"This is such an important piece of equipment that can be used throughout a patient's prostate cancer journey."

The journey to the surgical theatre

They often say that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Like so many moments in Epworth's history, we could only take the first step towards purchasing the BK Ultrasound with thanks to the generosity of our donor community.

Here, Amber Stanley, Acting Associate Director of Perioperative Services at Epworth Freemasons describes what it takes to get the BK Ultrasound into theatre and importantly, ready to treat and care for patients.

1. We were so fortunate to receive funds from our donor community to fund a BK Ultrasound. As soon as Scott Bulger emailed to say the money had been raised, we put in the order to purchase the equipment.



2. It arrived here at Epworth Freemasons, was wheeled through our loading dock and to the biomed department.



3. The equipment is incredibly specialised and delicate, so it was assembled by a trained consultant from BK Medical.



4. Technology is constantly changing, so our theatre staff, including surgeons, went through extensive training on how to use the equipment, how to sterilise it in Central Sterile Supply Department and showcase the new features available in this upgraded model.



5. It was welcomed into theatre by Jane Archagraison, Dr Yee Chan, Amber Stanley and Hazel Zhu.

6. It is now in theatre and being used to diagnose and treat prostate cancer every single day.

100% donor funded

Equipping our neurosurgeons with essential tools

When asked to describe the importance of the new Midas Drills, Epworth Richmond's Professor Paul D'Urso said "It's like a neurosurgeon's knife and fork – it's an essential tool to provide exceptional neurosurgical care!"

With thanks to our donor community, four new Midas Drills are now available in our surgical theatres, and are used in nearly every brain and spinal surgery.

“

This equipment has come a long way. More than three decades ago, these drills were powered by gas, but now this highly precise, electrical drill makes surgery faster, more accurate and safer for the patient.

”

- Professor Paul D'Urso, Epworth Neurosurgeon

"They really remind me of a dentist's drill. They're high speed and light, so I can hold the drill in one hand and other surgical tools in the opposite hand comfortably."

Precision is paramount when operating within the brain and spine.

"Just this week I had a patient in his 70s who had a trapped spinal cord. I was able to use the drill to free the spinal cord from surrounding bone in his neck which ultimately, reduced the risk of him becoming a quadriplegic."



Neurosurgical nurses welcome the arrival of the Midas Drills.

"It's such a simple instrument, but its impact can be life-changing."

"I have no doubt that Epworth has one of the busiest spinal services in the country, and having high-quality instruments, funded by the Epworth Medical Foundation community, is so valuable to me. It might not seem particularly glamorous, but please know it is absolutely essential and I'm so grateful to you all!"

100% donor funded

Developing surgical care with millimetre accuracy

As an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Dr Chris McGrath has mastered the use of the Piezomed, an essential device supporting significant intra oral and jaw surgery.

Used in a range of facial surgeries, including osteotomies (jaw realignment surgery) and bone graft surgery, Dr McGrath shares that "the Piezomed uses ultrasonic vibrations to break down bone and preserves the surrounding tissue and nerves, and as such, contributes to less post-surgical pain and faster recovery for patients."



What's interesting about the Piezomed though is that it operates counterintuitively. With drills and saws, you have to put pressure on the instrument to cut through the bone but it's the opposite with this instrument – essentially, the less pressure the better. It's about guiding the instrument where you want it to go, and letting the vibrations break down the bone.

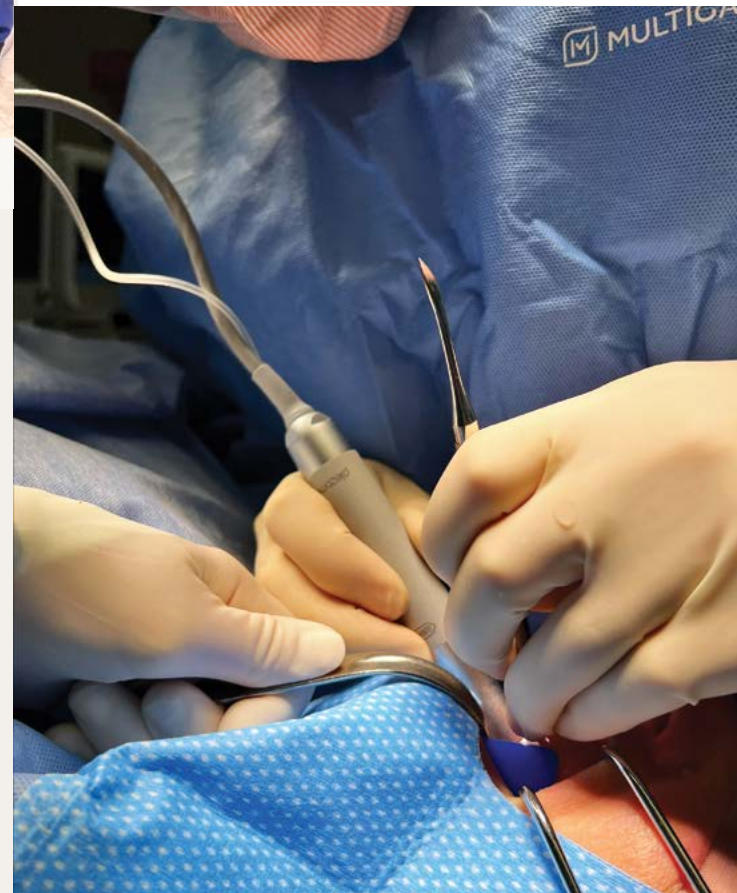
- Dr Chris McGrath, Epworth Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

"It can make cuts in the bone down to a third of a millimetre."

Dr McGrath has been delighted at the shortened recovery time for his patients with many able to return to health quicker than previously expected.

"The bone heals much quicker and following an initial 24 hours of swelling and moderate pain relief, my patients are reporting quicker recovery and minimal pain intervention which means they're getting back on their feet and returning to life quicker.

"The Piezomed is absolutely fantastic! Thank you so much for funding this essential tool. I know my patients are so grateful too – I've been telling them it's been funded by the Epworth Medical Foundation!"



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Hearing implants give new lease on life

“The progressive hearing loss has affected his quality of life significantly, despite the continued adjustment of his hearing aids to the maximum level, which prompted him to consider the option of receiving a bionic ear implant.”

- Mr Guillermo Hurtado, Epworth Ear Nose & Throat Surgeon

”

State-of-the-art cochlear drills funded by philanthropy have helped 77 year-old Robert Bailey get his hearing back.

Mr Bailey has worn hearing aids in both ears for 25 years and decided to undergo surgery to have a cochlear implant.

He was the first person to receive a cochlear implant at Epworth Richmond, in a procedure by Ear, Nose and Throat Otolaryngologist, Mr Guillermo Hurtado, using cochlear drills funded by the Epworth Medical Foundation.

Mr Hurtado also performed the first Bone Conduction Hearing Implant at Epworth Richmond in 2014.

“Mr Bailey’s gradual hearing loss has impacted his daily activities and social interactions with family and friends, which was made worse by the use of masks during the pandemic,” Mr Hurtado said.

A hearing aid allows the wearer to perceive sounds with a higher intensity, while boosting certain frequencies depending on your hearing loss. Unfortunately, there’s a limit to how much amplification of sound hearing aids can provide. A bionic ear gives you artificial sound generated by complex microprocessors in the implant, which sends an electronic impulse to the hearing nerve, so the brain receives sound signals again.

“The cochlear implant surgery is usually performed under two hours,” Mr Hurtado said.

“Once switched on, patients will then undergo a rehabilitation program, learning to hear again using the implant. This allows ongoing improvement of speech perception.”

100%
donor
funded

Hospital in the Home team take to the roads of Melbourne

The Hospital in the Home team has welcomed the delivery of ten new cars to support the expansion of this important service, made possible by the generosity of our donor community.

Dr Michael Montalto, Medical Head, Hospital in the Home, has led this transformational service for more than 20 years, with the team delivering intravenous therapies, blood transfusions, pain relief and complex wound care to patients in the comfort of their home.

Earlier this year, the service expanded to include Chemotherapy in the Home, which offers eligible cancer patients the option of treatment in their home environment, rather than hospital.

“Having chemo at home means vulnerable patients can avoid risks like germs and viruses you can get with travel and being out in the community,” shared Dr Montalto.

“The medications we provide are approved to be safe and generally not cause reactions. If a reaction does occur, our nurses are trained to recognise and respond immediately, and they are backed by a team of doctors.

“

Patients are grateful to be able to have their treatment provided at home.

- Nadine Fraginal, Nurse Unit Manager, Hospital in the Home

”

As Nadine Fraginal, Nurse Unit Manager reflected, Chemotherapy in the Home is so important for patients who find it difficult to come into hospital for treatment.

“Offering this service to patients in their homes has provided a great comfort and has eased stresses, not just for patients, but also families and support groups.

“The importance of these new cars cannot be underestimated. Ensuring our team are travelling across Melbourne in safe, well-equipped cars is so important to ensure we can be there for our patients with the care they need.”

“We’re so appreciative of the support we have received from the donor community, and we’re excited to be driving these fantastic new cars!”

Nadine Fraginal, Kerri Cashin and Peter Moralista from the Hospital in the Home team.





Your support funded a sofa bed for ICU, which may seem like a simple thing, but provides comfort for families wanting to be by their loved one's side while they're critically ill. It is so important!

Nikki Harrison, Nurse Unit Manager
Intensive Care Unit, Epworth Richmond

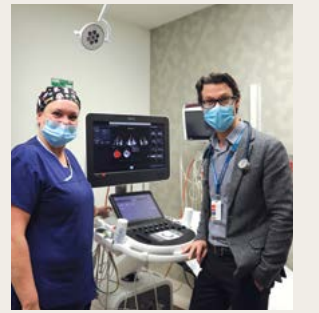


Your support funded Animal Therapy, to help put a smile on our patients' faces while they rest and recover in hospital.

Meredith Elliott, Nurse Unit Manager
Paediatrics, Epworth Richmond

Your support funded a Portable Cardiac Ultrasound, allowing us to provide important cardiac care not just within the cath lab, but on patient wards and in the ED to respond to the urgent needs of patients in our care.

Kate Casey, Nurse Unit Manager,
Cardiac Diagnostics Unit, Epworth Richmond



Your support funded a tonometer, a small but important instrument that helps us check eye pressure in the Emergency Department to check for vision disturbances and help relieve patient discomfort.

Michael Hardie, Nurse Practitioner,
Emergency Department, Epworth Geelong

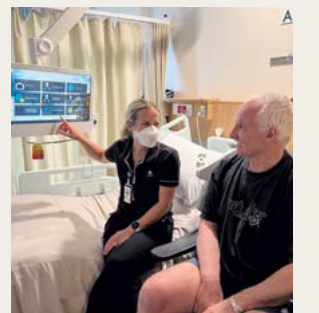
On behalf of the entire
team at Epworth,

Thank you!

Your support has an
enormous impact on the
care provided to patients
every day.

Your support funded an Innovation Grant, providing me with an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the experience of patients in our hospitals who have communication challenges.

Lauren Fletcher, Senior Speech Pathologist
Epworth Rehabilitation

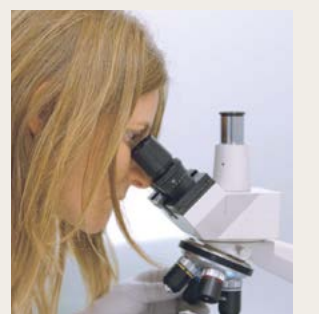


Your support funded an ECG, enabling us to take quick, non-invasive tests to record the electrical activity of the heart, helping us provide the best patient care which is most important in emergency situations

Russel Signo, Nurse Unit Manager,
2 Lee Epworth Richmond

You have funded the launch of a new Cellular Therapies Program, enabling our doctors and scientists to perform Autologous Stem Cell Transplantations for our blood cancer patients.

Nicole Brooks, Research Program Manager
Molecular Oncology & Cancer, Immunology Group



Your support funded an Epworth Staff Scholarship which is helping me grow and develop my leadership skills. This was an incredibly unique opportunity which I'm so grateful for.

Anthony Falloria, Associate Nurse Unit Manager
Epworth Freemasons

"As is the case for so many major milestones at Epworth, it is the generosity of the community who are integral to supporting the very best patient care. Thank you for all that you make possible. We wouldn't be the great organisation we are today without your exceptional generosity."

Jo Goodridge, Executive General Manager Epworth Freemasons

You have funded an Epworth Staff Scholarship, enabling me to complete a certificate in training and assessment that perfectly aligns with my career progression and role as a nurse educator.

Elizabeth Pane, Nurse Educator, Epworth Eastern



It's a privilege to care for our patients



Members of the Epworth Freemasons Day Oncology Unit with new equipment funded by philanthropy.

For Sarah Scully, Day Oncology Nurse Unit Manager at Epworth Freemasons, providing extraordinary patient care is about piecing together multiple parts of a puzzle with patients at the very centre.

"I feel like we're in a really privileged position of being let into someone's life at a really troubling time. They're often at their lowest and quite vulnerable. For us, to be let into that moment, and to go on that journey with them is a really, really special thing."

"We certainly see it as a privilege, and if we can ease that load ever so slightly then we'll absolutely do whatever we can. I think patients expect we can do the technical parts of our job well, but it's the moment of holding someone's hand when they're upset, or letting them vent when they're frustrated – it does make a big difference."

As Sarah reflected, the impact of our community of kind-hearted donors is extraordinary.

"Donors are such an important part of the puzzle of why we're able to do the work that we do."

"Whether it's helping us upgrade this great new facility that is beautifully filled with natural light, funding essential equipment like chemotherapy trolleys, or innovative scalp cooling units which simply aren't available at other hospitals, or funding apheresis and photopheresis machines which are helping us deliver ground-breaking treatments like autologous stem cell transplants – we simply couldn't do what we do without them."

Providing the best cancer care is a team effort!

Providing the very best cancer care at Epworth is a job that our staff take great pride in, and it's a partnership between teams of dedicated frontline staff within the hospital including the Day Oncology Unit, Intensive Care Unit and the dedicated patient ward led by Leslie Bell, Nurse Unit Manager of 2 East, the Oncology and Haematology Ward.

With thanks to our donor community, Epworth Freemasons has completed a \$2 million upgrade of this important ward to ensure patients are cared for in the most comfortable environment to support their rest and recovery. It's about providing the very best holistic care. As Leslie shares:

"Patients who are staying on this ward are often facing the devastating news of a cancer diagnosis, they're facing challenges they've never experienced before – it's a really difficult time."

"Being cared for in a bright, happy and uplifting environment when you're at your sickest helps patients mentally and can play a real part in their recovery."

2 East features a team of 48 dedicated nurses providing care on this 40-bed ward.

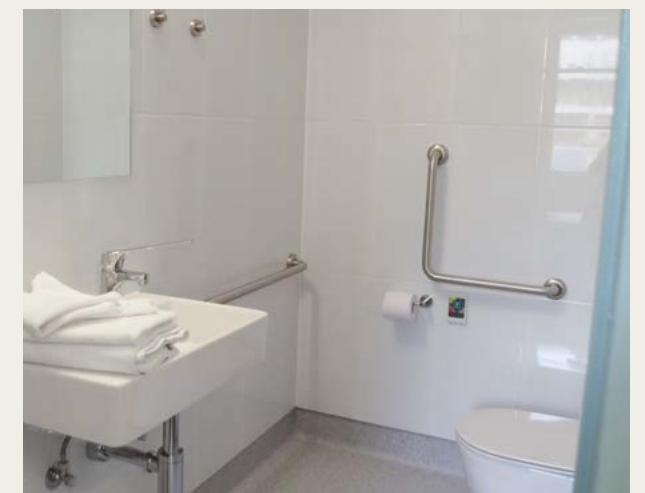
"We support a range of clinical trials in both oncology and haematology treatments, including stem cell transplantations and complex immunotherapy treatments, and in the near future, CAR-T Cell therapies."

"This requires our team to provide really specialised, unique care in tandem with the Day Oncology Unit who manage the delivery of these innovative treatments. While geographically we are separate units, we work as one to ensure patients receive the care they need at a really uncertain time in their lives!"

As Leslie reflects, without the Epworth Medical Foundation supporters, the redevelopment of 2 East would not have been possible.



The new patient rooms at Epworth Freemasons are now open.



Philanthropy has been absolutely essential for the growth and development of this ward. It's difficult to put our gratitude into words.

- Leslie Bell, 2 East, Nurse Unit Manager Oncology & Haematology

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Endowments make the impossible, possible

100% donor funded



Endowments at Epworth are truly transformative!

When people ask me why endowments at Epworth are important the answer is quite simple – there is no greater way to make an impact on the future of healthcare at Epworth than by establishing an endowment.

They make the impossible, possible.

An endowment can be established with a gift of \$100,000 or more, either as a gift in your Will or during your lifetime.

Unlike a donation, the funds of an endowment are carefully invested and only the investment earnings are used. This allows the principal amount to remain and enables us to create a permanent legacy of care in a donor's name.



When an endowment is established, there are no administrative costs so 100% of the gift is applied to the purpose for which it has been given.

- Vanessa Dannock, Philanthropy Manager



Innovation grant to support patients living with dementia

Wendy Villella, Associate Director of Clinical Services, Epworth Richmond, and Suzie Hooper, Director of Clinical and Site Services, Epworth Rehabilitation, were awarded an Epworth Medical Foundation Innovation Grant to launch a pilot project to support patients living with dementia.

Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia, and a leading cause of death for women.

“Most patients don't come to our hospital to treat dementia, they come in for other conditions, while living with dementia.”

“People with dementia come to hospital and enter an environment that is unfamiliar to them. We want to decrease the level of distress for the patient and their families.”

The project includes three parts. Part one, which has been completed, was a full day workshop to understand dementia and achieve purposeful engagement. Led by Dementia Australia, 20 Epworth staff across nursing, environmental, food and allied health staff participated.

“Patients with dementia see things differently, process things differently,” Wendy explains. “Staff were absolutely blown away after attending the workshop and were eager to make changes immediately.”

“One participant from food services said they would never again ask a person living with dementia if they wanted the same meal as yesterday, as they would not remember what they had. That participant is now seeking other ways they can limit confusion for our patients. Now, they recognise a person with dementia might not be able to see or identify everyday objects or how they are used, such as a white cup on a white table.”

The second part of the project is to purchase and implement an eLearn, **Dementia Support in Hospitals**. This will be available shortly for all staff at Epworth.

The third element of the program is implementation of the BIRCH Pathway, a program where Epworth staff are observed in hospitals to offer ways we can improve our model of care for dementia patients, in an acute setting.

“We aim to implement the BIRCH recommendations and have the program pilot completed by December, so it can be rolled out across Epworth throughout 2024.”

“We're so grateful to our community for supporting this innovation grant. It is a considerable investment into education and innovation to improve patient care. Now, we can empower staff to feel more confident to care for dementia patients.”



Tracy received an Epworth Staff Scholarship in 2017

Class of '17: Tracy's scholarship keeps staff and patients safe

When a donor generously funds an Epworth Staff Scholarship, they make a direct and lasting impact to staff and patients. For Tracy, the skills developed via her scholarship in 2017 continue to guide her work at Epworth.

Tracy started as a nurse at Epworth in 2000, and was inspired to switch careers to safety, after seeing how it could affect people's lives.

“Having a husband with a workplace injury, and knowing the impact it has not just on him, but myself and my family, it really made me stop and think about a lot of things,” Tracy says.

She completed a Cert 4 in OHS and loved it. The next step was to complete a Diploma in Work Health and Safety, but it didn't seem possible.

“I thought, I can't do it, because money was tight,” Tracy says. “I was the sole income earner in the family because hubby had a workplace injury and he wasn't working.”

Not wanting to give up, she explored the idea of applying for an Epworth Medical Foundation staff scholarship in 2017.

After a carefully-considered application, Tracy was successful! Two nights a week, she studied hard to complete her diploma, eager to see how it could help in her new career at Epworth.

“I wouldn't have been able to do the diploma if I did not get that scholarship,” Tracy says.

Now five years later, Tracy says her current role in safety is the one she's “always wanted” – with the scholarship and diploma opening the door for her.

“All the skills I attained in that course, I'm actually putting into practice now,” Tracy says.

A typical day could start by helping a nurse find the safest way to do a new task, and end with a mock fire drill to ensure kitchen staff are prepared in emergencies.

She is excited to stay at Epworth in the future – and is still motivated by her experience of how a single safety issue can affect the rest of your life.

“Even now, it's hoping that no one goes through what myself and my family have gone through.”

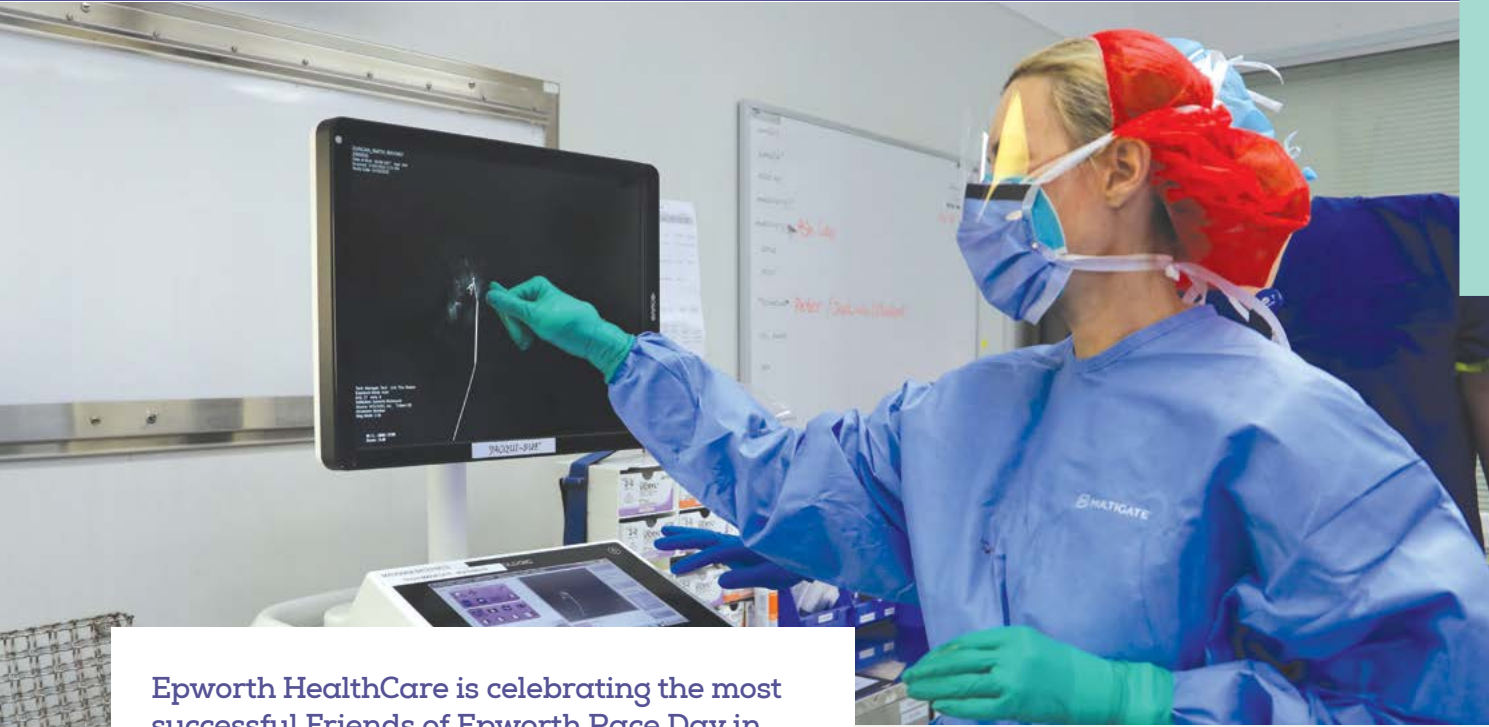
“It's important because we want everyone to go home uninjured and not in pain.”

To learn more about endowments at Epworth and the difference you can make, please contact Vanessa Dannock on **03 9426 6572, 0408 122 599** or vanessa.dannock@epworth.org.au Alternatively, scan the QR code for more information.



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Stamas family supporting women's health



Dr Chantel Thornton uses the Trident Imaging System in theatre.

Epworth HealthCare is celebrating the most successful Friends of Epworth Race Day in history, raising over \$150,000 to support vital surgical equipment to help treat and care for patients in theatre every day.

Led by Major Sponsor George Stamas AM, Owner and Director GJK Facility Services, funds raised on the day supported the purchase of important equipment including a:

- Sentinel Node Navigator used in general and breast surgery, utilising a gamma probe to surgically remove single or multiple sentinel nodes with minimally invasive incisions
- Resectoscope Instrument Set used in urology and gynaecology surgeries to remove tissue from inside the body, including dissecting fibroids polyps and septums in the uterine cavity



George Stamas

"Epworth events are such a wonderful celebration of the broader Epworth community. It was great to see our donors, corporate partners and frontline staff enjoying a day out together at Flemington, and importantly, raising funds to support the care of patients at Epworth" reflected Scott Bulger, Executive Director, Epworth Medical Foundation and Brand.

Epworth is delighted to have such extraordinary supporters, and George Stamas AM, Founder and Director GJK Facility Services epitomises this.

As Dr Chantel Thornton, Epworth Specialist Breast Cancer Surgeon reflects, George and wife Jaqui Maree make a significant difference to the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with breast cancer.

"We couldn't do the work that we do without the support of philanthropists like George and Jaqui."

"The equipment they've funded, including the Sentinel Node Navigator and Trident Imaging System are integral in treating breast cancer and have a direct impact on the outcome of patients in our care."



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An extraordinary legacy at Epworth

Allison Evans, Epworth Richmond Executive General Manager, Mr P S Lee, Warwick Brown, Chair, Epworth Golf Committee

For many years, Mr P S Lee and his family have made an extraordinary impact at Epworth. As namesake of the world-class Lee Wing at Epworth Richmond, Mr Lee has funded research, staff scholarships, new patient support accommodation alongside Epworth Richmond, essential equipment and much more.

"We talk a lot about the team at Epworth, and Mr Lee and his family are a massive part of our team, and they will always be. I think the gifts that they have given have just meant so much, and they are linked with us at Epworth forevermore," reflected Allison Evans, Epworth Richmond Executive General Manager.

His most recent gift, as Major Sponsor of the Epworth Golf Day, funded four new Sonosite portable ultrasound machines for Epworth Richmond.

The Sonosite portable ultrasound machines provide real time images and observations of structures such as veins, nerves, arteries and organs, and will be used across an array of specialities including anaesthetic procedures, diagnostic purposes and insertion of patient monitoring devices across operating theatres, the emergency department and intensive care unit.

As Warwick Brown, Chair of Epworth's Golf Committee shared, P S Lee's long-term support of the golf day has been key to its success.

I have no doubt that Mr Lee has helped Epworth stay ahead of the curve in terms of patient care and patient outcomes. His commitment is unwavering, and we're all so appreciative of his passion and determination.

- Warwick Brown, Chair, Epworth Golf Committee

Mr Lee said he's forged a close relationship with the hospital over more than 20 years.

"We have a long term, deep connection with the hospital and the staff," Mr Lee said.

"It is wonderful to know that our support means we are making a difference to the care given to patients."

100% donor funded

Alex Baxter – a lifetime of giving

Alex Baxter's gentle nature and amazing spirit will be treasured at Epworth and the Day Oncology Unit at Epworth Eastern forever.

Allwyn Isaac, Epworth Eastern Nurse Unit Manager, has worked in day oncology at Epworth Eastern for 15 years, caring for many patients with cancer. He won't forget Alex Baxter, who spent long hours at the unit, receiving regular care for leukaemia.

Sadly, Alex passed away late last year.

Alex keenly supported the unit through the Epworth Medical Foundation and wanted a special way to express his gratitude and respect for his Epworth team.

Through an endowed gift in his Will, the Dr Alexander Baxter Nursing Scholarship will allow an Epworth nurse to undertake training or research to improve patient care – every single year, forever.

Alex was passionate about education.

His life took him on an interesting journey, born in Glasgow, Scotland, before crossing countries with his family and growing up in Canberra. He trained as an engineering surveyor and later followed a passion for allied health through qualifications in acupuncture and hypnosis, and a Doctor of Chiropractic in 1987.

Those living in the Box Hill area would be familiar with his chiropractic practice, based locally for 35 years. Alex was very focused on patient care and how it could be improved by growing the relationships between himself, GPs and specialists.

Alex's time in day oncology inspired his giving.

"He was a very generous, open-minded person," Allwyn describes Alex.

"Initially we didn't have too many chats, and then as the day went along and he observed everything, he would ask about what is happening in the unit."

Day oncology treatments can take six to eight hours to administer, and so naturally, patients get to know the team well.

"What they're going through is not easy. Mentally and emotionally it's very hard for them," Allwyn says.

"So it's a very bubbly unit here with patients. Always friendly, chit chatting and laughing to keep the environment up. That makes a big difference for the patients."

After observing in his measured way, Alex wanted to directly help the team who was helping him.

"He was a medical person and looked around to see if we were lacking anything. He would say, 'tell me how I can help the unit to develop.'

"He willingly came forward to support us, actually," Allwyn says.

Supporting nurses, now and in the future

Alex's first gift was the generous purchase of three advanced workstations for the Day Oncology Unit, to help administer chemotherapy and ensure the right treatments are given.

His priority was investing in equipment that was guaranteed to make a tangible impact into the future. Allwyn remembers the day Alex got to see the units in action.

"He was so thrilled that it was going to be used for a long time," Allwyn says.

Alex's forward-thinking nature is also evident in his choice to establish an endowed scholarship, via a gift in his Will to Epworth.

The first of many Dr Alexander Baxter Nursing Scholarships will be awarded in 2023. Every single year in his honour, an Epworth nurse will have the opportunity to pursue better ways to treat and care for patients.

As an Epworth nurse himself, Allwyn hopes to apply for the scholarship in the future.

"So many people have benefitted from scholarships. It's a wonderful thing what patients and supporters do for us."

Alex Baxter (left) funded an advanced workstation for the Epworth Eastern Day Oncology Unit, led by Allwyn Isaac, Nurse Unit Manager



"Because we truly believe in Epworth and the extraordinary team who care for our patients every single day, my wife Naomi and I have left a gift to Epworth in our Will. Our gift will establish a perpetually endowed staff scholarship in our family's name. It's our way to thank and recognise Epworth staff for their support and care when our family members have been patients."

- Scott Bulger, Executive Director, Epworth Medical Foundation

For more information about leaving a gift in your Will, scan the QR code, call Scott Bulger on 03 9426 6133 or 0407 446 000 or email scott.bulger@epworth.org.au



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