

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

Humanism in Surgery: Developing a Patients as Teachers Initiative in Surgery for Medical Students



AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

St. Michael's Foundation

Inspired Care. Inspiring Science.



HUMANISM IN SURGERY

Developing a Patients as Teachers Initiative in Surgery for Medical Students

THE OPPORTUNITY

We have a new opportunity to get involved in an important initiative that brings physicians together with students and patients to directly impact care for women with breast cancer.

You can make a meaningful difference in women's health by supporting a new initiative focused on education and research that is aligned with best practices in patient-centred care and fills a gap that currently exists in the standard surgical curriculum in Ontario's medical schools.

Dr. Jory S. Simpson, a surgical oncologist and assistant medical director of the CIBC Breast Centre at St. Michael's Hospital, will lead the development of the **Patients as Teachers Initiative in Surgery for Medical Students**.

The goal is to evolve medical education through a collaborative partnership with female patients and the integration of evidence-based medicine with the principles of humanism, caring and empathy.

Dr. Simpson has a Masters in Education (MEd), completed a clinical fellowship in breast surgical oncology and specializes in providing care to patients with breast cancer.

He is also appointed to the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto (U of T) and teaches at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level.



Jory S. Simpson, MD, MEd, FRCSC

Dr. Simpson is also the Director of Undergraduate Education in General Surgery at U of T and the Surgical Lead for the LiNC (Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship) program at St. Michael's Hospital.

Both his academic and research pursuits are focused on enhancing breast cancer surgical treatment and improving breast cancer outcomes for disadvantaged and marginalized women.

The MD program at U of T recognizes the dual foundation of medicine in science and humanism; however, only a small number of courses offered work to facilitate professional development and promote patient-centred communication, empathy and reflection.

This new program will address this gap by empowering breast cancer survivors to play a role in shaping the future of health care by becoming teachers and facilitating patient-centred learning.

This unique program will:

- Drive innovation and discovery through the promotion of patient-centred learning;
- Incorporate the concepts of humanism and social responsibility into surgery; and
- Engage patient teachers as partners in education through curriculum development, program implementation and evaluation.

In promoting a real and open dialogue between patients and students, this program will provide an innovative alternative to traditional doctor-led, student-centred approaches and will ensure future physicians are equipped to provide compassionate patient- and family-centred care.

The new Patients as Teachers Initiative in Surgery—believed to be the first of its kind in surgery—will ensure the next generation of surgeons understands the importance of treating the whole person, rather than just the disease.

Surgical clerkships often provide students with only a snapshot in time of the impact of a disease. This program aims to overcome this barrier by providing them with an opportunity to **learn about the lived experiences of breast cancer survivors** who have undergone surgery and adjuvant treatments, such as chemotherapy and/or radiation.

Over the course of their eight-week clerkship, there will be three mandatory workshops integrated into students' schedules. The first two workshops will be facilitated by two breast cancer survivors of different backgrounds.

During these sessions students will hear about what it is like to be diagnosed and treated for breast cancer. The final workshop facilitated by Dr. Simpson, will be held during the last week of surgical rotation. During this workshop, students will reflect on their surgical rotation and present "Creative Art". Arts-based approaches to medical education involve using various mediums to represent personal experiences in order to enhance understanding of the human condition.

Some examples include 1) visual approaches, such as visual art (i.e. drawing, painting, photography, film, video, sculpture, collage, posters) and 2) verbal approaches, such as literacy fiction, narrative prose, poetry, creative writing, music, dance and spoken word. The Creative Art piece will reflect students' understanding of the surgical patient's perspective and impact of disease.

The Patients as Teachers Initiative will be delivered five times during the funding year and is expected to reach five cohorts of medical students during their surgical clerkship at St. Michael's (**approximately 50 students/year for a total of 250 students over five years**).

WHY ST. MICHAEL'S

Education is a top priority at St. Michael's Hospital. As a fully affiliated U of T Academic Health Sciences Centre, we have robust research and education programs in place, and are a vital part of a continuum of education that promotes better patient outcomes through a culture of ongoing learning and discovery.

Every year, we host 3,000 students in 27 health disciplines who are completing placements across our hospital. Approximately 50 of those students are third-year medical students in their surgical clerkship with the FitzGerald Academy at St. Michael's Hospital.

The FitzGerald Academy is one of four academies for undergraduate medical students at U of T, comprised of a network of hospitals and community agencies committed to providing a profound educational experience for undergraduate medical students—St. Michael's is the main anchor hospital for the FitzGerald Academy.

Dr. Simpson will lead the development and implementation of the Patients as Teachers Initiative in Surgery for third-year medical students in their surgical clerkship with the FitzGerald Academy at St. Michael's Hospital. As the Director of Undergraduate Education in General Surgery and the Surgical Lead for the LiNC (Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship) program at St. Michael's, Dr. Simpson has seen the impact patient-centred learning has had on students firsthand.

Patient-centred learning is incredibly valuable to the student experience. To be able to hear directly from a patient impacted by care integration is very powerful and provides a new level of social learning that is currently missing from the MD curriculum. **The Patients as Teachers Initiative in Surgery will bridge that gap by empowering patients to play a role in advancing health care while promoting the human side of surgery.**

NEXT STEPS

The first year of the program – the pilot – is sponsored by St. Michael's and the University of Toronto's Medical School; however, additional funding is required to continue the program for four additional years following the pilot in order to reach 200 more students, build a robust roster of volunteer patient teachers with breast cancer surgery experience, and ensure program sustainability to facilitate ongoing learning.

We are seeking to raise \$50,000 a year to sponsor the Patients as Teachers Initiative in Surgery. These funds would cover the costs of administrative support, session facilitators to run the program, a research assistant to evaluate the program, transcription of the patient/student sessions and a conference presentation to share knowledge with others and communicate key findings.

RECOGNITION

We would love to discuss opportunities for recognition and acknowledgements for this program, and are happy to facilitate a meeting with Dr. Simpson so you can learn more about the impact this innovative initiative will have and how you can get involved.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this important opportunity. We hope you will support us as we develop new ways to advance women's health through clinical care, education and research.

For more information and to arrange a meeting with Dr. Simpson to further discuss this innovative initiative, please contact Andrea Lucas, Philanthropy Officer, Major Gifts at lucasa@smh.ca or 416.864.6060, ext. 46658.

We are so grateful for your support. Thank you for your interest in supporting St. Michael's.

