

# ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

## 50 YEARS OF FIRSTS IN HEART CARE—AND COUNTING

In **1968**, St. Michael's cardiac surgeons performed the first successful heart transplant in Canadian history. **That was just the beginning.** Since then, St. Michael's has become the go-to hospital for some of the world's greatest cardiac innovations.

**2014**

Drs. **Subodh Verma** and **David Mazer** launch **CardioLink**, the world's first research program with a focus on clinical trials in heart and vascular surgery. Its goal is nothing less than to change medical practice.

**2018**

Another world **first** for **Dr. Fam**, when he implants a new device called the Pascal system, which seals a patient's leaking tricuspid valve and is less invasive than open heart surgery. The 82-year-old patient had been hospitalized five times for heart failure. She was discharged three days later.

**2019**

In a world **first**, **Drs. Neil Fam, Mark Peterson** and **Géraldine Ong** replace the tricuspid valve of a patient who wouldn't survive conventional surgery, by going in through the femoral vein in his thigh.

**2021**

In another Ontario **first**, **Dr. Gianluigi Bisleri** treats irregular heart rhythm by creating a maze pattern of scar tissue to block the electrical signals that cause it.

**2022**

**Dr. Gianluigi Bisleri** becomes the **first** surgeon in Canada to treat an irregular heartbeat by performing a procedure on the outside of a patient's heart rather than inside it.

**2017**

For the first time ever, **Dr. Neil Fam** repairs a leaking heart valve by going in through the patient's jugular vein.

**2018**

**Dr. David Mazer** heads a **study** that shows waiting longer to give blood during cardiac surgery is more effective—and changes transfusion practices around the world.

**2021**

**Dr. Kaja Konieczny** and her team become the **first in Ontario** to implant a cardioverter defibrillator under the skin. The device delivers a shock to restore normal heart rhythm if it detects irregularities.

**2021**

St. Michael's opens a first-in-Canada hub that has brain and heart specialists working together. It's called **The Schroeder BRAIN&HEART Centre**.

**2022**

A CardioLink **trial** maps, for the first time ever, brain lesions caused by reduced blood flow during aortic surgery, shedding light on how to prevent stroke.

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