

IMPACT NEWSLETTER

Stories of outstanding care you make possible with your support of Sault Area Hospital Foundation.



Dr. Kevin Smith in the Operating Room at SAH.

Your support brought a new treatment to SAH!

Interventional Pain Management (IPM) finds the source of pain, and provides lasting treatment. The goal is as much pain-free time as possible – without prescription pain medication.

Dr. Kevin Smith may only visit Sault Area Hospital (SAH) a few times a year (every 3 months or so), but he is busy when he is here! Dr. Smith will book a full week in one of SAH's Operating Rooms treating patients, back-to-back, all day.

Dr. Smith is an Anesthesiologist and IPM Specialist. He works to find lasting solutions for his patients' chronic pain. "Pain is one of the most common reasons people seek treatment, second to the common cold," said Dr. Smith. "The treatments we do seldom cure the underlying cause for chronic pain, but help reduce the pain burden. Patients can do more with less pain, and improve the quality of their life."

Before Dr. Smith started visiting, SAH had been without this specialty for many years. Some patients went to Southern Ontario to see him, but the burden of travel was intense.

"The most common treatment that aligns with interventional pain medicine is spinal pain. People with chronic back or chronic neck pain," explained Dr. Smith. "We use injection-type treatments to diagnose where the pain comes from. Different injections provide sustained pain relief for those parts of the spine. The goal is to stabilize the pain for the longest period of time with the fewest treatments."

Most of Dr. Smith's work relies on tools SAH already had in the surgical suite. There is one procedure that needed a new piece of equipment: a Radiofrequency Generator (RF Generator). **Thanks to your support**, we were able to bring this technology to SAH!

The RF generator uses radio waves to heat up a nerve that is sending pain signals. This can prevent the nerve from sending pain signals back to your brain. A successful RF procedure can leave a patient pain-free for 9 to 12 months. They may need repeat procedures, but relief lasts longer than many other options. This can reduce the need for prescription pain medications.

Suzanne Aldersley was the first patient at SAH to receive treatment using the RF generator. She used to travel to Dr. Smith in Toronto for the same treatment!

“Traveling for treatment was difficult. We'd have to split our trip across two days because it was painful for mom to sit in the car for long stretches. **Now, we can get that care here, at Sault Area Hospital.**”
- Lisa Aldersley, daughter of patient Suzanne Aldersley

Your gifts to Sault Area Hospital Foundation helped bring Dr. Smith and the RF Generator to Sault Ste. Marie. It's thanks to your support that patients will have access to pain management treatment, here at home. Thank you!



Biomedical Engineers Daniel Proctor (left) and Slava KhoKhlov (right) pose with new electrosurgical testing equipment.

Behind the Scenes: Biomedical Technology

Not far from the Operating Rooms at Sault Area Hospital is a special workshop, where medical equipment is brought to be maintained and fixed.

Just like your car, your kitchen appliances or your home computer – medical equipment needs regular maintenance to work at its best. It is critical to regularly test and service the equipment at Sault Area Hospital. These tools need to work accurately – so we can rely on them to provide outstanding care.

A highly-specialized team of four Biomedical Engineers (often shortened to “Biomed”) manage the maintenance schedule for over 2,000 pieces of equipment across the hospital! This team is responsible for everything from simple vital signs monitors to advanced surgical equipment.

“Our job is primarily behind-the-scenes. **Our goal is to maintain and catch issues so they don’t reach the bedside.**”

- Daniel Proctor, Biomedical Engineer

With specialized training, the Biomed team can not only keep equipment working well, but also extend its lifespan. But to do their jobs, they require specialized tools that they use to test equipment. Your support this year is helping purchase these tools, too!

Electrosurgery Testing

An electrosurgery tester measures electric current from surgical tools. It’s commonly used to test cautery units – which can be found in every operating room, and many minor procedure areas. If cautery isn’t safely calibrated, it could shock the operator or the patient. The tester helps ensure any current is within a safe and effective range. The new tester is smaller and more lightweight – which is important when the team travels to other healthcare facilities. “We’ve serviced equipment at Group Health Centre, Matthews Memorial, Lady Dunn, Thessalon, Chapleau, Dubrueilleville... all over the Algoma District,” shared Biomedical Engineer Daniel Proctor. “Having lightweight tools makes travel much easier!”

Ultrasound Testing

Sault Area Hospital does not currently have an ultrasound tester – this is brand new equipment! “Ultrasounds aren’t just happening in Medical Imaging now... they are happening at the patient’s bedside,” Daniel shared. As standards of practice change, SAH needs to adapt. Investing in ultrasound testing tools can ensure ultrasound units across the hospital work well for years to come.

Your support keeps equipment working!

If medical equipment continues to work well, we won’t need to replace it. Your gifts are putting critical tools in the hands of our Biomedical Engineers so they can keep equipment working across the entire Algoma District – helping all of us continue to deliver outstanding care. Thank you!

THANKS TO YOU: NEW EQUIPMENT IN THE LAB

Some of the newest equipment you've funded is being put to the test!

Over the last year, your support has helped bring new equipment to the Lab at Sault Area Hospital. The lab supports care across the entire Algoma District! Care providers rely on the lab to run tests and provide results. Test results help make diagnoses, set treatment plans and follow patient progress.

Upgrades to the lab can mean new tests, and improved speed, accuracy or detail of results. The faster our care teams have lab results, the quicker they can make decisions for your care. These are just a few of the important pieces of equipment our lab received this year, thanks to your support.

Centrifuge

Every tube of blood that goes to the lab takes “a turn” in the centrifuge. This special machine spins the sample to separate red blood cells and plasma. The lab has 3 of these machines, and together they process over 2 million samples each year! The newest centrifuge replaced one that was over 15-years-old. The new unit is much more efficient and quiet!



A new Centrifuge in the lab at SAH.



A specialized lab fridge.

Specialized Freezer and Refrigerator

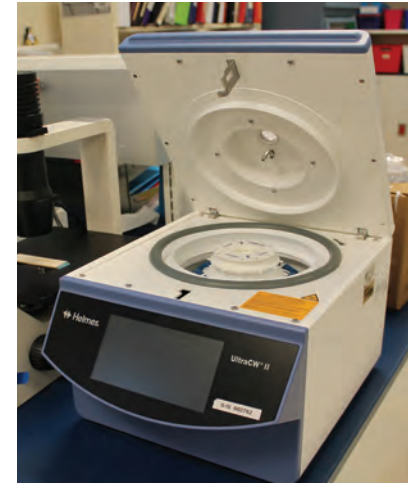
These medical-grade appliances don't look like your kitchen fridge! They need to hold very steady temperatures to hold very steady temperatures to stop test supplies, blood products, and patient samples from spoiling. The fridge we replaced this year stores patient samples for a short period of time (a few days). This can save

our care providers from having to collect new samples. This can also save patients from having blood drawn a second time!

Automatic Cell Washer

Like the centrifuge above, the cell washer spins blood – but it is most often used to test compatibility before a blood transfusion. As patients have more transfusions,

they can develop antibodies. These antibodies can cause a serious allergic reaction if blood compatibility isn't matched. The cell washer is used several times a day, every day. It is a key part of providing safe blood transfusions to patients at Sault Area Hospital.



An automatic cell washer.

It's thanks to your donations that our hospital can get the equipment it needs.

Our lab is a critical part of all care-planning at Sault Area Hospital. Because of your support, our lab professionals have the tools they need to provide millions of test results each year.

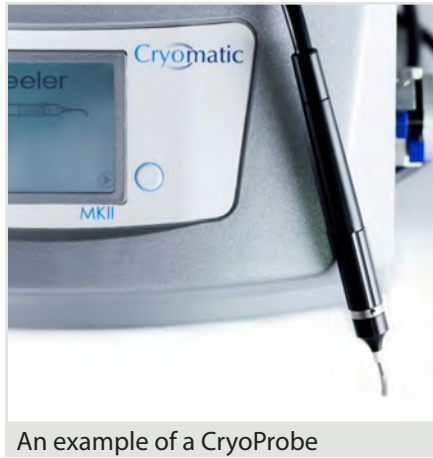
UPCOMING NEED: A cool tool to freeze cancer and save sight!

While it may look like a pen, a CryoProbe works more like a magic wand. This tiny tool uses nitrous oxide or carbon dioxide to safely and effectively freeze tissue in seconds.

Sault Area Hospital's Ophthalmology Program relies on a CryoProbe to treat eye diseases – like retinal tears and glaucoma. It can also remove certain skin cancers!

While the CryoProbe is only needed a few times a week, it provides quick, effective, vision-saving treatment to patients in Algoma. If it wasn't available, and a patient had to travel for treatment, they could be at risk of permanent vision loss.

Right now, the CryoProbe at Sault Area Hospital has reached



An example of a CryoProbe

the end of its “useful life.” At over 20 years old, it is getting harder to keep it working, and it needs to be replaced.

Newer CryoProbes have updated features that can help optimize treatment. They come with options to better tailor the procedure to the patient's specific needs.

Your donations keep this care available, locally!

Your support can help bring a new CryoProbe to our hospital, ensuring patients have access to this “cool” care, close to home.

THANK YOU!

In the last few months,
you have helped bring
\$965,000+
in equipment to SAH!

Thanks to you, we have already been able to give Sault Area Hospital almost \$1 million for critical medical equipment since April 1.

This included \$500,000+ toward the total replacement of one of our three Radiology (X-Ray) Rooms. Construction on the other two rooms should be complete in August.

The new x-ray equipment is expected to bring new tests to SAH, helping keep people local for care. We'll share more about the new Radiology Rooms when the project is complete!

Our hospital would not have these tools if it wasn't for your generosity. **THANK YOU!**

Stop by and visit!

We are happy to be on site at Sault Area Hospital to assist patients, visitors and staff.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday,
8:00am - 4:30pm

In the main lobby, turn right and you'll see our “Foundation” sign!

When you give, you make outstanding care possible.



Visit our website:
sahfoundation.com

Make a secure gift, or find more information about our programs.



Call our main line:
705-759-3848

We'd be happy to chat, or you can leave a message for a call back.



Send us mail:

**750 Great Northern Road
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 0A8**

We've included a postage-paid envelope with this newsletter for whenever you need it next.

**We look forward to the next
time we see each other!**