



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION TO ADVANCE SPECIALIZED CARE

Sunnybrook's Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship is one of the few programs of its kind in Canada. Donor support will help us expand this unique opportunity to leverage our expertise in diagnosing and treating complex lung conditions through minimally invasive procedures.

The Respiriology team trains leading fellows from Canada and internationally to elevate care for acute thoracic oncological conditions while expanding our capacity at Sunnybrook.

Founded in 2012, Sunnybrook's Interventional Pulmonology (IP) Program was among the first of its kind in Canada. Program Director Dr. Harvey Wong and the team apply minimally invasive techniques to three areas of care: diagnosing cancers in the lung; reducing or "debulking" tumours blocking the airway; and treating conditions affecting the membranes surrounding the lungs. In each of these areas, IP is expediting diagnosis and transforming outcomes and the treatment experience for respirology and lung cancer patients.

Immersive training to bridge a key gap in care

Since 2019, Dr. Wong has been harnessing Sunnybrook's unique expertise and resources in IP to train the next generation of leaders in treating the most complex cases.

Fellowships also benefit patients well beyond Sunnybrook. Of the six IP Fellows to date, five have gone on to establish their own IP programs at other centres and one is joining another IP program in Toronto.

Philanthropy played a key role in establishing the IP Fellowship Program. Dr. Wong and the team are now looking to build on that early success by ensuring sustainable funding to train at least one IP fellow annually.

Join us, and together we can ensure tomorrow's leaders receive advanced training to take on the most complex lung diseases. With your support, we can improve outcomes for respirology patients.



"As one of Canada's leaders in this area, we educate future specialists in procedures that are transforming the care experience and outcomes for our patients with complex thoracic oncological conditions."

Dr. Harvey Wong
Director
Interventional Pulmonology

Immersive training that builds capacity in specialized respirology care

Sunnybrook's Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship Program ensures the next generation of leaders in IP care are prepared to treat the most complex thoracic oncological conditions. **With donor support, we can ensure this vital initiative for sharing our expertise and innovation benefits even more patients and their families.**

Donor support enables the Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship Program to provide clinical training in minimally invasive procedures for diagnosing and treating lung and airway diseases in three main areas primarily related to patients with cancer.

- **Diagnosing cancers in the lung**

Prior to IP, conventional CT-guided biopsy of tumours in the lung were painful and posed a risk of serious complications from lungs deflating in 10 to 20% of patients. The IP Program trains fellows on a variety of thin bronchoscopes (camera and ultrasound, pictured) that enter the airway and lung for viewing and sampling of tumours and lymph nodes. Combining multiple outpatient procedures during a single visit reduces hospitalizations and the need for acute care – and significantly improves the patient experience.



- **Debulking tumours in the airway**

Restricted airflow is a serious life-threatening complication of tumours that develop in a patient's airway. Prior to IP, there were limited options beyond comfort measures for treating patients with this complication. Now, the IP team train fellows on a variety of tools, including a cryoprobe and thermal ablation, to remove tumours blocking the airway to restore greater airflow for patients almost immediately.

- **Treating pleural disease and conditions affecting membranes surrounding the lungs**

With the help of a point-of-care ultrasound, fellows are trained to provide same-day diagnosis of the accumulation of fluid in the space between the lung and its lining. The team can drain the fluid using ultrasound guidance, relieving debilitating shortness of breath. In cases where the fluid re-accumulates rapidly, the team can then insert a more comfortable catheter that allows for home drainage and a better recovery experience.

Fellowships impact patients beyond Sunnybrook

Donor support is an essential part of the Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship Program. Each fellow requires an investment of \$90,000 for their specialized training and mentorship, which will advance care at Sunnybrook and beyond. **With your support, we will ensure the Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship Program continues to benefit patients through advanced minimally invasive care. Join us, and together we will deliver specialized training and mentorship to improve outcomes and the treatment experience for our patients.**

Generous donor support was the catalyst for Sunnybrook's Interventional Pulmonology Fellowship Program and many of the advances the IP Program has brought into practice.

It is only with philanthropy that we continue to elevate cancer and respirology care and improve outcomes for patients and their families at Sunnybrook and beyond.

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