

Leaving Your Mark – Supporting a Cure for Epilepsy



• A portrait of Ruth Mary
• Maclver in her 30s
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In 1933, when Ruth Mary Maclver was 11 years old, she began to suffer epileptic seizures that were little understood at the time, forcing her to leave school in Grade 7. When she passed away in March at the age of 86, she donated her brain, medical records and \$89,000 of her estate for research into the cause and cure of epilepsy.

“I am very happy about this donation,” says neurologist Dr. José Tellez Zenteno, Director of the Saskatchewan Epilepsy Program at the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Medicine and Royal University Hospital. He says Ms. Maclver’s bequest will be used in several ways:

- for the purchase of a portable electroencephalogram, a device used for home assessment of the brain activity of adults with epilepsy, thus avoiding hospital admission for tests;
- to employ the Synchrotron’s biomedical beamline to analyze the metals,

metabolites and anatomy of her brain to better understand the mechanisms of epilepsy;

- to explore the prevalence and risk factors of obesity in a cohort of patients with epilepsy; and
- to fund a research coordinator to perform these studies and other related activities such as presenting at national and international conferences.

Dr. Tellez Zenteno hopes to recruit 100 patients with epilepsy into the obesity study and enrol 100 patients in the portable electroencephalogram program to assess its yield and safety as a test for adults.

Despite leaving school early, Ms. Maclver was a lifelong learner with a passion for books. She took a business course and worked for 27 years at the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* as a proofreader. She made her financial bequest through the Royal University Hospital Foundation. In the words of Dr. Tellez

Zenteno, “Ruth was a great woman and her wish will be honoured with high-level clinical research at the University of Saskatchewan and Royal University Hospital.”

“It is very humbling to receive word that someone has included the RUH Foundation in his or her will,” says Arla Gustafson, CEO of RUH Foundation. “There are many personal, family and tax advantages to making a charitable donation through a will. Everybody wins.”

For more information about how you can support Royal University Hospital in your will, please contact Gay Oldhaver, RUH Foundation’s Major and Planned Giving Officer, at 306-655-1063.

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Word is out, thanks in part to this colourful banner in the Main Mall of RUH. The Royal University Hospital Foundation’s new Royal Vital Care appeal is raising \$2.8 million to purchase 96 state-of-the-art vital sign monitors, 24 defibrillators and a centralized monitoring system at RUH. The first phase of the campaign, the Staff Appeal, encourages employees at RUH to support the appeal through a donation or payroll deduction, with the goal of raising about 10 percent of the total from among RUH physicians, nurses and staff.

Thanks to Royal Vital Care, our medical team will have access to the latest technology for assessment and treatment of their most critical patients. Patients will benefit from the fastest, most accurate monitoring machines on the market. State-of-the-art data systems will support groundbreaking research and clinical trials. Recruitment and retention will be strengthened because the best technology attracts the top practitioners.

Prizes were awarded to several staff members who joined the ‘Hour of Power’ by pledging an hour of pay per paycheque for one year: Lisa Bergen, Cardiac Catheterization Services, and Heather Miazga, Cardiac Care Unit and Cardiac Short Stay Unit, each won two tickets to the KISS concert with backstage passes. Bergen also won two tickets to *Moulin Rouge* by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Richard Clatney, People Strategies, won two tickets to KISS, and David Mandzuk, ICU, took home an RUH Foundation Travel Blanket.

“Prizes are always fun, but the real ‘prizes’ in this campaign are the new vital sign monitors and the real ‘winners’ are the many critically ill patients who will have the benefit of this life-saving technology,” says Arla Gustafson, CEO of RUH Foundation. The Royal Vital Care appeal will gain momentum at RUH in the upcoming months and as it moves into the community.

• Kelly Johnson, RN, Royal Vital Care
• Staff Champion
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