

# Heal the FUTURE



### YOUR LEGACY IS TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF KIDS' HEALTH CARE

The era of Precision Child Health is here. As a member of the J.P. Bickell Society, you are enabling us to diagnose faster, treat smarter and predict better for every single patient. Your generosity will heal the future.

### MEET SICKKIDS PATIENT NORI

9-year-old Nori loves playing the drums and greets everyone she meets with a big smile. She's also been a SickKids patient since age 6, when she was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma.

Over the next 21 months, Nori spent over 100 nights in the hospital, and went through treatments including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, bone marrow transplants and immunotherapy. The treatment was successful, but only a few short months later, a routine scan showed that Nori's cancer had returned.

Nori underwent nine months of radiation and oral chemotherapy before the cancer again went into remission. Unfortunately, in December 2023 a follow-up scan confirmed another relapse.

Nori's journey is ongoing: but she has big plans for a future free of cancer, for herself and other kids with cancer too. SickKids is by her side, working to find the best possible treatments for her. As her parents say:

**"We can't emphasize enough how lucky we are to have such a special world—class hospital in Toronto filled with the best health practitioners not just in their skills but in their empathy and thoughtfulness."**



Nori outside SickKids

### Looking forward to 150



#### A message from SickKids Foundation CEO Jennifer Bernard

If I had to describe this year in one word, I would have to say transformation. It's been quite a year, as SickKids continues to usher in the next evolution of paediatric care with Precision Child Health. We also celebrated the achievement of opening the Patient Support Centre, as well as saw an incredible breadth of groundbreaking research, all focused on delivering next generation care for the next generation.

This upcoming year marks the 150th anniversary of SickKids. The past century and a half have been nothing short of extraordinary for the Hospital: I cannot wait for you to see what's in store as we celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime milestone.

Thank you for using your legacy to transform the future of health care at SickKids: we could not do any of what we do without you. Together we are working towards our mission of "Healthier children. A better world."

# How your gifts heal THE FUTURE

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CANCER TREATMENT THROUGH PRECISION MEDICINE

Donors like you, who have made gifts in your will, are an integral part of making SickKids what it is. You're helping transform health care for kids today, and for future generations – as is Dr. Meredith Irwin, Chief of Paediatrics and a leading paediatric oncologist and researcher at SickKids, who joined us at our recent J.P. Bickell Society luncheon.



**Dr. Meredith Irwin**

Dr. Irwin's clinical and research focus is on developing precision medicine approaches that tailor treatments based on each patient's unique genetic makeup. Her recent work has significantly advanced our understanding of neuroblastoma at the genetic level – paving the way for personalized therapies and better outcomes for patients.

An exciting new study by Dr. Irwin, alongside Drs. Madeline Hayes and Ivette Valencia-Sama, addresses a critical issue in neuroblastoma treatment: the low survival rates for patients with relapsed high-risk cases. The team developed lab models to study how tumors become resistant to drugs, discovering new mutations that occur during treatment. This has led to the development of promising drug combinations targeting these resistant cancer cells, offering hope for improved therapies for recurrent neuroblastoma.

**Dr. Irwin's contributions are helping shape the future of cancer treatment through precision medicine. This is Precision Child Health in action.**

## The Patient Support Centre

Marking one year since opening



Almost all hospital staff have moved into the bright 22-storey tower. More than a beautiful building, the Patient Support Centre will be home to learning and collaboration: the invisible, foundational work that makes health care excellent. It was also the pivotal first stage of our larger campus redevelopment, which continues with the clinical tower. The Patient Support Centre was built entirely with donor support. From the earliest design drafts to the final furnishings, you helped raise this building.

