

September 16, 2015

Inaugural chair announced in arthroplasty outcomes

Halifax, NS – Hip and knee replacements transform lives. The announcement today that a new research chair in arthroplasty outcomes will be welcome news to Atlantic Canadians who would greatly benefit from further research into this complicated area.

Dr. Michael Dunbar was announced today as the inaugural QEII Foundation Endowed Chair in Arthroplasty Outcomes. Arthroplasty is a surgical procedure to restore the integrity and function of a joint. Nova Scotia has significant challenges associated with the delivery of arthroplasty care, including long wait times for joint replacement surgery and more concerning, a higher failure rate than the national average.

Dr. Dunbar is an orthopaedic surgeon at the QEII Health Sciences Centre and a professor at Dalhousie University in the Departments of Surgery, Biomedical Engineering, and Community Health and Epidemiology. His research will focus on improving delivery of care and outcomes for arthroplasty patients, giving them timely access to care and better quality of life.

"The power of this chair position is how it intersects with many disciplines and the ability to look for patterns," explains Dr. Dunbar. "Atlantic Canada is chronically behind in arthroplasty outcomes and we need to know why. As chair, I can align with national and international efforts and research data to improve arthroplasty care and bring that learning here to the QEII."

An endowed chair provides stable long-term funding for the research chair holder, allowing further medical advancements to be made in a dedicated area. This research will enhance care for future Atlantic Canadian patients receiving arthroplasty care at the QEII; patients like Candy Palmater, who at the young age of 40 received a hip replacement.

"I suffered with arthritis pain for years, until it took my independence from me. I could no longer drive my car, put on a pair of nylons, or even sit through a movie," recalls Palmater. "Dr. Dunbar performed my hip replacement and gave me my life back; a fully functional life without pain. I am forever grateful and hopeful that research will continue to advance so that others living under the oppression of extreme pain can experience the liberation that replacement surgery can bring."

The QEII is a major orthopaedic centre in Atlantic Canada, seeing almost 6,600 patients each year for orthopaedic surgery. "Today's announcement is all about relieving pain, restoring physical function and improving quality of life for patients," said Janet Knox, President and CEO, Nova Scotia Health Authority. "This endowed research chair will strengthen care and help give patients a chance to regain their independence."

The announcement was made today at the QEII Health Sciences Centre and recognized main funding partners BMO Financial Group, QEII Health Sciences Centre Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, and other generous donors.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Tanya MacLean

Director of Communications, QEII Foundation

902 489 5664; tanya.maclean@qe2foundation.ca



About the QEII Foundation

The QEII Foundation inspires generosity to advance health care at the QEII Health Sciences Centre. With financial support from all levels of the community, the QEII Foundation helps fund new technologies, medical research, innovation, and professional education that contribute to life-changing moments experienced every day by patients and their loved ones. By working together with people who share a vision of better health, the Foundation strengthens care delivered at the QEII, improving the health and lives of Atlantic Canadians.