I Did It! I Sang My Heart out for Car Karaoke for Stem Cells. Please Consider Supporting Me!



Hello Friends of McEwen Mining,

Trust you and family have enjoyed the summer.

I have a brief and I think amusing distraction for you. I'm performing and if you feel so disposed you can also do the same as it's fun and the purpose is very relevant.

I would like you to consider supporting some ground-breaking medical research that is focused on repairing damaged hearts with heart muscle cells made from Stem Cells (induced pluripotent stem cells). Extensive animal testing has produced remarkable results such that human trails are expected to begin within 2 years.

The objective of this research is combating heart disease and in the near future reducing the need for heart transplants, artificial hearts and pacemakers. www.mceweninstitute.ca

See below for background information.

We've all come through a very challenging 18 months and when my wife, Cheryl, asked me and several of her friends to **Sing for Stem Cells**, we all felt it was time for some FUN!

This event is called **Car Karaoke for Stem Cells!** Everyone who has participated has had a blast doing it at a time when our spirits needed a lift! Here's the link to the event: www.carkaraoke.ca

There are two ways that you can help. First, I went out on a limb and sang a song to support this vital research.

You can watch my song: https://youtu.be/fdBWGxCeeeI **and my personal page for donations is** here (https://support.tgwhf.ca/site/TR/Events/CarPoolKaraoke?px=1022851&pg=personal&fr_id=1140)

Donations are being accepted until Monday September 20, 2021.

Secondly, you can share this with others that you think would be interested in this impactful research. When donating from Canada donations are easily made online with the links above or you can call Alexandra Stevenson at our UHN Foundation to process your donation via telephone: 647-532-0988 and email alexandra.stevenson@uhn.ca

When donating from the USA we have a special donation platform "American Friends of UHN" and Alexandra is your go-to person if you require a tax receipt. Her contact details are: email alexandra.stevenson@uhn.ca and telephone 1-647-532-0988.

If a tax receipt is not needed then you can just donate on my page. My personal page for donations is: here (https://support.tgwhf.ca/site/TR/Events/CarPoolKaraoke?px=1022851&pg=personal&fr_id=1140)

I know you'll get a laugh out of watching the Tenors when you click on the link above. **Two of the Tenors have heart conditions** & are very excited about where this research is heading & how it's going to save lives! You will see their video on the home page for www.carkaraoke.ca

Here is some background:

The McEwen Stem Cell Institute is leading the world with heart cells created from stem cells. In 2016, Bayer AG and Versant Ventures launched a new biotechnology company, BlueRock Therapeutics to develop new cell-based therapies to treat heart failure and Parkinson's disease. The company was founded on the **ground-breaking research of our Director at McEwen Stem Cell Institute, Dr. Gordon Keller; McEwen Stem Cell Institute Scientist, Dr. Michael Laflamme and their colleagues at New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre.**

The research is making great progress as earlier this year the Sloan Kettering team in partnership with BlueRock began their clinical trial to treat Parkinson's patients with dopamine neurons made from stem cells. UHN (University Health Network) is also a site for this trial and we expect to have patients treated here in Toronto later this year! This is a major advance as it will pave the way for a similar trial to treat heart disease with heart cells made from stem cells! I am reaching out to you for support as we push through the roadblocks to get to that human trial. As you are likely aware, Cheryl and I have donated over 25 million to the McEwen Stem Cell Institute and we continue to do so. However, getting to the finish line requires exceptional funding for our scientists to swing for the fences and pivot when needed. Unrestricted funding accelerates outcomes. That is why we have come so far since 2007 when we recruited Dr. Keller. It's been quite a fast ride for the research world!

This is a pivotal point in time for stem cells to move to patient therapy. I have confidence you will be proud of what has transpired at the McEwen Stem Cell Institute and the enormous effort being put into developing a clinical trial for patients with heart disease. The McEwen team is working to produce the best cells to repair damaged hearts. It is likely that the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre, here at UHN, will be one of the sites where the first patients receive heart muscle cells generated from stem cells. This is a wonderful time for Canada to shine in healthcare and particularly with heart disease remaining the number 1 killer. **We can change that!**
I want to thank you for any support you can send along! It will help get us to our goal and accelerate this vital research to the patients who need it!

All my Best,
Rob

More Background.

The McEwen Stem Cell Institute is part of the Toronto General Hospital (TGH). For the third year in a row, TGH has been ranked one of the world's best hospitals. TGH is ranked number four for the second consecutive year, and is again the only Canadian hospital in the top 10.

Since TGH first opened in 1819, world firsts have included the first clinical use of insulin, the first successful single- and double-lung transplants, the first transplant using the Ex Vivo Lung Perfusion System, and the first successful direct stimulation of a heart that had stopped beating, the precursor of all pacemakers.

TGH is part of University Health Network (UHN), Canada's largest research and teaching hospital, affiliated with the University of Toronto.

The ranking, managed by a global market research company in partnership with Newsweek magazine, rated more than 1,000 healthcare institutions. The 2021 top 10 list (https://www.newsweek.com/best-hospitals-2021) was finalized by a panel of doctors, medical professionals and administrators from across four continents.

World's top 10 hospitals:
Mayo Clinic, US
Cleveland Clinic, USA
Massachusetts General Hospital, USA
Toronto General Hospital, Canada
Johns Hopkins Hospital, USA
Charité, Germany
Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden
Singapore General Hospital, Singapore
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Switzerland
Sheba Medical Center at Tel HaShomer, Israel

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