



# Straight from the Heart

WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program Newsletter



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## Francis LaBossière Profile

Francis LaBossière truly left his mark by his many contributions to the Cardiac Sciences Program. It was unexpected when we first heard of Francis accepting the position of President and Chief Operating Officer at the Victoria General Hospital. Although many were surprised by his news, we were also happy for him to launch another challenging era in his already productive career.



Francis LaBossière & the Clinical Education Instructors: Christina Kuttng, Shelley Munro & Kendra Gierys

genuine interest in people could make a difference. Others took notice. In fact the nurses that worked with Francis not only saw his potential but also encouraged him to pursue the nursing profession, a career Francis never considered until that moment.

Francis envisioned positive change and wanted to influence decisions at a higher level. His desire to do more meant pursuing leadership roles to which education was key to

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Francis' beginnings as a Health Care Aide helped him discover how his

## 2008 Future of Heart Health Meeting

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Future of Heart Health Symposium meeting was a resounding success. The theme of this year's meeting was "Where we are going and where we should be going in Heart Care." We had stellar presentations from internationally renowned speakers.

Dr. Lyall Higginson stressed cardiovascular health issues among the aboriginal peoples. A surprise guest, National Chief Phil Fontaine of the Assembly of First Nations was impressed with the presentation and recognized the importance of addressing these issues in aboriginal communities.



National Chief, Phil Fontaine & Dr. Alan Menkis

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## Francis LaBossière Profile (cont'd)

achieving his objectives. Francis completed his ICU nursing course and later obtained his Masters of Business Administration.

In life we have to make difficult decisions. Francis did just that when he was accepted to law school in Moncton, New Brunswick. Enticed by his childhood dream of practicing law Francis weighed the impact it would have on his young family. Francis made a tough decision between fiercely competing priorities and chose the care of his family as a priority by declining the chance to pursue law. Francis to this day strives to live a balanced family-centered life.



Francis LaBossière Farewell Present

**“The people are  
the heart of the  
Cardiac Sciences  
Program.”**



Francis Farewell Party  
September 11, 2008

Francis' professional finesse was built on a solid foundation of diverse experiences. It is these evolving responsibilities as a front-line nurse, teacher, manager and director that contributed to his success in past leadership roles.

Very early on as Program Director, Francis worked hard with his esteemed colleagues, Dr. Alan Menkis and Ken Rannard to develop a blue print to build a cohesive, innovative and dynamic Cardiac Sciences Program. Francis

speaks with conviction when he says “credit cannot go to one person...everybody plays an important role and together we make things happen. The people are the heart of the Cardiac Sciences Program.” He describes working with the Cardiac Sciences team as a phenomenal experience.

In asking Francis how he wanted to be remembered by those he worked with in the program, his response was “I hope I have touched peoples lives in a positive way.” Francis exceptional people skills, fun loving and exuberant personality will be remembered fondly. We wish you the greatest success in all you do Francis!!



Verna Tribula, Gail Bedosky, Sandy Gibb,  
Francis, Zoe Atamanchuk & Peg Holt

## Future of Heart Health Meeting (cont'd)

Dr. Rick Mangat of Novadaq related his own story of coming to Winnipeg and finding a talented, innovative, supportive research community which resulted in the intraoperative Spy Imaging System now being marketed worldwide. Dr. Mangat's enthusiastic support of Winnipeg and the Cardiac Sciences Program inspires pride for Winnipeggers involved in heart health.

All presentations stirred the



Audrey Glidden & Jacqueline Courchene

imagination and provided insight on cardiovascular health based on research, prevention, intervention and palliation.

Our many thanks to Cardiac Sciences Program, the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation and our many partners for their valuable contribution in making the second bi-annual Future of Heart Health meeting an exceptional event.

## Congratulations!!

- Dr. Rakesh Arora received the Dr. Rudy Falk Clinician Scientist Award.
- Dr. Shelley Zieroth appointed Head of the Medical Heart Failure Program.
- Dr. Darren Freed appointed Head of the Surgical Heart Failure Program.
- Lorraine Avery received poster award at the 5<sup>th</sup> International NP/APN Network Conference in Toronto.
- Dr. Davinder Jassal received the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada New Investigator Award; the Canadian Cardiovascular Society 2008 Young Investigator Runner-Up Award; and the Manitoba Health Research Council Operating grant.
- Mr. Roien Ahmadi, Masters Student: Manitoba Health Research Council Studentship Award.
- Dr. Kenny Kumar, Masters Student: Manitoba Health Research Council Studentship Award.
- Ms. Cecilia Han, BSc Med Student: Winner of Philip Yaffe Memorial Prize and winner to present BSc med project at Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum.
- Ms. Nazanin Fallah-Rad, BSc Med Student: Winner of Frosst Scholarship; Nicholson Prize and Winner of BSc med presentation to present at National Student Research Forum.
- Dr. Roger Philipp appointed Director of Cardiac Catherization Laboratory.



## New Developments:

- Mark your calendars for the upcoming Cardiac Sciences Starry Night party on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at The Fort Garry, 222 Broadway. Tickets now on sale!!
- Congratulations to the cardiac, heart failure and pacemaker clinics on their first outpatients survey results. This was the first survey since the amalgamation of Cardiac Sciences at St. Boniface General Hospital. We received an outstanding 85% average of very good to excellent on patient visits. The results reflect incredible team work and pursuit of excellence. Congratulations to the Cardiac Sciences Team that made this possible!!
- The Cardiac Sciences Program (CSP) participated in the St. Boniface General Hospital's 2008 Employee Charitable Donation Fund (ECDF) "BUILDING BASKETS FOR CHARITY" event. With contributions from many, the Cardiac Sciences Program basket was a sight to behold and was won by Irene Blank, RN on Labour and Delivery.



*"Heart of the Matter"*

*Thank-you to everyone who helped make our participation such a success!!*

## Please welcome:

- Dr. Rohit Singal, Cardiac Surgeon/Intensivist.
- Linda McLean, Charge Technologist of the Noninvasive Cardiac Diagnostics Department.
- Sheila Bowles, Interim Program Director for St. Boniface Site Role.
- Lori Embleton, assisting Interim Program Director for Regional Role, WRHA.

### Talkback Corner

We want to hear from you! The WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program would appreciate your questions, comments or suggestions. Please forward articles for this newsletter or other items for communication to [jcourchene@sbgh.mb.ca](mailto:jcourchene@sbgh.mb.ca) or via the "Contact Us" link on the WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program website, [www.cardiacsciences.mb.ca](http://www.cardiacsciences.mb.ca).

## Outstanding Contributions by the Cardiac Sciences Program Presentations at the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) Annual Meeting October 25-29, 2008

1.	Ariyaratnam, V.	<i>Differences in treadmill exercise tolerance parameters between patients with partial and advanced interatrial depolarization abnormality.</i>
2.	Ariyaratnam, V.	<i>Utility of the frontal plane QRS axis in identifying myocardial infarction in patients with poor R wave progression.</i>
3.	Ariyaratnam, V.	<i>The association of atrial tachyarrhythmias with isolated atrial amyloid disease.</i>
4.	Ariyaratnam, V.	<i>Cross-sectional relations between inhomogeneous sinus impulse propagation and P-Wave terminal force among outpatients.</i>
5.	Ariyaratnam, V.	<i>Formulaic quantification of echocardiographic left atrial volume.</i>
6.	Avery, L.	<i>Down Borders: The value of the Cardiac Clinical Nurse Specialist.</i>
7.	Chartrand S. & Manji, R.	<i>Bunk beds in the ICU - Can two cardiac surgery patients occupy one ICU bed?</i>
8.	Estrella-Holder, E.	<i>Multimodality assessment of functional capacity in heart failure patients: The integrated role of the heart failure and device clinics.</i>
9.	Estrella-Holder, E.	<i>End of life care in heart failure: maximizing patient's quality of life.</i>
10.	Findlater, R. & Schnell-Hoehn, K	<i>When blood runs cold: cold agglutinins in cardiac surgery.</i>
11.	Hussain, F.	<i>Does the extent of revascularization predict survival in cardiogenic shock due to myocardial infarction: A prespecified analysis from the Manitoba Cardiogenic Shock Registry Investigators.</i>
12.	Hussain, F.	<i>Do hemodynamic variables predict in-hospital survival in cardiogenic shock due to myocardial infarction: A prespecified analysis from the Manitoba Cardiogenic Shock Registry Investigators.</i>
13.	Hussain, F.	<i>Medication utilization and prediction of in-hospital survival in cardiogenic shock due to myocardial infarction: A prespecified analysis from the Manitoba Cardiogenic Shock Registry Investigators.</i>
14.	Hussain, F.	<i>Metabolic predictors of in-hospital survival in cardiogenic shock due to myocardial infarction: A prespecified analysis from the Manitoba Cardiogenic Shock Registry Investigators</i>
15.	Hussain, F.	<i>PCI for STEMI. (moderated poster)</i>
16.	Hussain, F.	<i>PCI Outcomes. (oral presentation)</i>
17.	Jassal, D.	<i>Utility of tissue Doppler and strain imaging in the early detection of Trastuzumab and Anthracycline mediated Cardiomyopathy.</i>
18.	Jassal, D.	<i>The role of tissue Doppler imaging in the noninvasive detection of chronic rejection after heterotopic cardiac transplantation in rats.</i>
19.	Jassal, D.	<i>Trastuzumab mediated Cardiomyopathy in the setting of adjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer: A real world population based study.</i>
20.	Jassal, D.	<i>Can bicuspid valve morphology predict the pattern of aortic root dilatation? A substudy of the aortic stenosis progression observation measuring effects of rosuvastatin (astronomer) study.</i>
21.	Jassal, D.	<i>Novel imaging methods in structural heart disease.</i>
22.	Kapoor, A.	<i>Preoperative statin use and outcomes after cardiac surgery: A Prospective cohort study.</i>
23.	Kumar, K.	<i>The impact of the Manitoba model of 24 hour in-house Intensivists on a dedicated Cardiac Surgery ICU.</i>
24.	Manji, R.	<i>Are the data any good?</i>
25.	Manji, R.	<i>Does PCI or CABG work long term?</i>
26.	Manji, R.	<i>Do young patients have antibody-mediated rejection of bioprosthetic heart valves?</i>
27.	Philipp, R.	<i>Do telemetry units really save lives? The impact of telemetry on survival of in-hospital cardiac arrests in non-critical care patients.</i>
28.	Seifer, C.	<i>Implantable loop recorders in older patients with unexplained syncope.</i>
29.	Tam, J.	<i>Should we limit NT-ProBNP testing in the Emergency Department.</i>
30.	Tam, J.	<i>Do telemetry units really save lives? The impact of telemetry on survival of in-hospital cardiac arrests in non-critical care patients.</i>
31.	Zhang, L.	<i>Aortic valve replacement with Mitroflow pericardial valve: Manitoba experience.</i>
32.	Zieroth, S.	<i>Select appropriate patients with advanced HF for complex CV surgery, including high risk bypass, mitral valve replacement/repair, percutaneous versus surgical replacement of the aortic valve, surgical ventricular restoration, epicardial LV lead placement.</i>