



## **BACKGROUNDER - THE OTTAWA HOSPITAL CHEST DISEASES CENTRE**

The Chest Diseases Centre is a unique concept designed to create an environment of collegiality, knowledge sharing, close liaison, and seamless interaction amongst thoracic surgeons, pulmonary physicians, otolaryngologists, specialized nurses, and allied health care professionals, all from one central location.

### **A history of the centre**

- In 1985, Thoracic Surgery separated from Cardiac Surgery, making way for the Multidisciplinary Thoracic Surgery Program led by Dr. Harold Sachs and Dr. Farid Shamji, leading to the reorganization of the delivery of thoracic surgical care.
- In 1999, Thoracic Surgery was consolidated at the General Campus, uniting everyone involved in providing thoracic surgical care at the three TOH campuses, including Drs. Shamji, Maziak, Mehran, Crepeau and Tadros.
- In 2002, details for the creation of the Thoracic Diseases Centre for Eastern Ontario (housing Thoracic Surgery, Pulmonary Medicine, the Ambulatory Clinic, and the Esophageal Function Laboratory, with a combined thoracic surgery / pulmonary medicine ward) were finalized.
- In 2007, the Cancer Assessment Centre was opened for three programs – Lung, Prostate, and Colorectal Oncology.
- In 2009, TOH officially designated the Chest Diseases Centre.

### **Why it is innovative?**

- This is the only centre in Canada that combines the skills of a multidisciplinary team to diagnose and treat head, neck and chest diseases in one clinic.
- Patient care will be vastly improved because all the skills and talents will be concentrated in one geographical location.
- Three specialties will be in one location combining expertise in the head, neck and chest.
- It will bring together a team of specialized nurses, dietitians, speech-language pathologists, pharmacists, and allied health-care professionals all dedicated in the care of diseases in the head, neck and chest.
- There will be increased efficiencies and reduced costs due to the centralization of services.
- Clinical teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels will reach even higher dimensions because of the concentration of specialists in this centre.
- Opportunities for clinical research and studies will become readily available because all clinical activities will be concentrated at one site.
- The Esophageal Function Laboratory remains in Thoracic Surgery.
- There will be a shared Proximal Airway Disorder clinic.
- Transfer of patients between specialties within the centre will occur more efficiently.