

A world-class cardiac centre in the heart of Vancouver

The Providence Heart + Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital is home to a world-class cardiac program that provides a full spectrum of cardiac services not found anywhere else in the province. Known for innovation and ingenuity, the program has attracted some of the world's leaders in cardiac research and care. It is the hub of exciting, breakthrough research that is positioned to revolutionize the approach to heart health.

Building on a 50-year legacy of cardiac excellence, the creation of the Heart + Lung Institute in 2007 brings the program to a whole new level. As the first institute of its kind in Canada, it strengthened existing links and created new ones between heart and lung research, discovery and the best of care for people with heart or lung diseases.

A unique and valuable resource

The Heart + Lung Institute provides a spectrum of cardiac care, from advanced programs of risk reduction and prevention through to leading edge therapies like, transplantation, ablations for arrhythmias and percutaneous valve replacement.

Within the Institute, the Heart Centre at St. Paul's Hospital, is also a major education and training facility for cardiac professionals, and a place where leadership in innovation regarding heart disease causes and treatments is a way of life.

Unique and vital resources for heart patients at the Institute include:

- BC's acute heart failure program – the biggest and busiest in Canada
- The provincial centre for heart transplantation
- BC's only Pacific Adult Congenital Heart (PACH) Clinic for adults born with congenital heart defects
- Canada's first Metabolic Syndrome Clinic to help prevent chronic health problems like heart disease and diabetes in people especially at risk
- An acclaimed Healthy Heart Program that helps heart patients take control of their health and transition back into a normal lifestyle
- Canada's first research chair preventive cardiology - the Pfizer/Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon Chair in Cardiovascular Prevention Research
- Highly specialized heart procedures such as pacemaker lead removal
- Electrophysiological mapping and ablation procedures for arrhythmias

Integrating teams in research and care

Integrated teams of professionals are key to the successful delivery of care to the broad spectrum of patients seen at the Heart Centre. Combining expertise from an array of medical and surgical professionals working with advanced practice and specialist nurses and allied health providers enables care delivery to even the most complex forms of heart illness.

As part of an academic health sciences centre, research is tightly integrated in all areas of the Institute's program – from research in the laboratory, to translational research and clinical trials, to population-based studies. The organizational model enables more collaboration between researchers and healthcare providers, and across laboratories, wards, clinics, disciplines and communities. This closer relationship ensures that the transfer of new discoveries, techniques and treatments into care is greatly accelerated.

Many of the world-renowned researchers, who are faculty members of University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, also provide patient care. They teach, learn, inspire and lead.

Further highlights

The Heart + Lung Institute's cardiac program was the first in the world to pioneer a new minimally invasive heart valve operation – allowing older patients, from whom open heart surgery was too risky, access to the procedure.

- Cardiologists at the Institute were the first in North America to successfully perform two breakthrough heart-pump implants in patients with failing hearts using new-generation ventricular assist devices (VADs).
- A patient in the Heart Centre at St. Paul's Hospital became the first in Canada to receive an implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD) that uses wireless technology.
- In 2008, the Institute opened Western Canada's first Advanced Cardiac Imaging Operating Room, to help support the growing number of patients who can now be helped with specialized minimally invasive heart procedures that, for BC and Canada, are only done at St. Paul's Hospital.

Many of the successes of the cardiac program are the result of collaboration with, and support from, the provincial health authorities, provincial and federal governments, community and private sector partners, and the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation.