

About the Artist

13-year-old Jack Hornecker has an abundance of ideas that constantly flow from his brain to his hands and out through his pencil. However, there was a time last year when that just stopped. Juvenile arthritis made him so sick, he had to be hospitalized.

Thankfully, specialists at the Alberta Children's Hospital were able to help him. And while he recovered, he spent time fine-tuning his craft even further. Today, Jack is feeling much better and is part of a clinical trial – a study that involves testing the benefits of the newest treatments available.

To show his gratitude for the exceptional care he receives, Jack agreed to help illustrate this report.

The budding artist lives and draws in Calgary. He resides with his mom, dad, their dog, Sampson, and curious cat, Violet.



There are 90,000 children who come through the doors of the Alberta Children's Hospital every year. Each one has a story – although perhaps not the fairy tale once imagined. Yet, even in the face of illness or injury, thanks to you, more and more of these children have real hope for health and happiness – ever after.

Your generous investments in the people, programs and progress both at the hospital and the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI) are shaping how the next chapter of child health unfolds. More importantly, you are profoundly changing lives.

This report contains a snapshot of the impact you're making in the hospital's priority areas – Life-Saving Care, Childhood Cancer, Brain Health and Research. It highlights what you have already made possible and outlines some of the exciting developments ahead. We introduce you to a few of the people for whom these successes are the most meaningful – the kids and professionals at the heart of it all. And as an added bonus, as you read through the stories and what we are achieving together, we hope you enjoy the unique depiction of the hospital's accomplishments, as seen through the eyes of our young illustrator.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Chris Potter

Chair

Suga revar

Saifa Koonar President & CEO



When Rose was born - just days before Christmas - she was healthy and as delicate as her name. Then, four weeks later, her breathing suddenly became laboured and she stopped feeding. Her worried parents brought her to their local hospital in Lethbridge.

Doctors told them Rose
was dehydrated and had
a heart rate of 300 beats
per minute - putting her
life in danger. Knowing
they needed pediatric
expertise, they called the
Alberta Children's Hospital.

Within minutes, our hospital's Pediatric Critical Care Transport (PCCT) team - a registered nurse, respiratory therapist and physician from the intensive care unit (ICU) - packed their "portable ICU" gear into a plane and were enroute to Lethbridge. They quickly stabilized Rose. But she continued to get sicker.

When they landed in Calgary cardiologists detected a rare cardiac arrythmia often fatal in newborns. They knew the baby's heart was not pumping blood properly to the rest of her little body and she needed extracorporeal life support (ECLS) - a form of heart/lung bypass to do that work for her. Soon another group of highly-trained experts filled the room to perform the complex procedure. And, just in time, thanks to our hospital and the community-supported PCCT and ECLS teams, Rose's life was saved. Today, with medication, she is no memory of this, we will always remember and will always be - Kate and Samuel Sauvageau, Rose's mom and dad.

Life-Saving Care

Thanks to you ...Highlights

NICU

The new 14-bed Edwards Family Neonatal Intensive Care Unit welcomed its first tiny patients in February 2014. As a "level 3" unit, the most state-of-the-art NICU in Canada cared for more than 250 of our community's sickest newborns in its first year. Babies in the new NICU have immediate access to pediatric specialists from across all areas of our hospital. They also benefit from the expertise of researchers examining new ways to help high-risk babies, including those born prematurely, deprived of oxygen during birth or with complex health issues such as heart, brain or gastrointestinal problems. These important studies are aimed at enhancing and developing interventions, predicting outcomes and improving survival and overall health.

KidSIM

The hospital is now home to the largest pediatric simulation centre in Canada a 4,000-square-foot facility outfitted to mirror inpatient rooms, trauma suites and operating rooms. Using high-tech mannequins, our internationally-recognized KidSIM team trains 3,500 health professionals each year - helping them excel under the pressure of medical emergencies like trauma, resuscitation, difficult airway interventions, and surgical procedures. Our specialists are the first in the world to use simulation to help families address the medical needs of their children at home. They are also conducting innovative research, studies to develop new life-saving technology, and have provided training in hospitals around the world, including Haiti, Malawi and Uganda.

Pain and Rehabilitation

The Vi Riddell Children's Pain & Rehabilitation Centre is providing kids in our community with innovative pain and rehabilitative programs unmatched by any other children's hospital in Canada. The centre's experts in medicine, psychology, social work, family counselling, occupational therapy, art therapy and physiotherapy redesigned their care delivery model to help more children sooner. Notably, teenagers whose debilitating complex pain made it difficult for them to walk even a few steps are now living active lives thanks to an Intensive Pain Rehabilitation program. As well, young people with mild-to-moderate disabilities are benefitting from specially-adapted life-skills training to help with increased independence - enabling them to safely cook, use public transit and even learn to drive.

Kids are not small adults.

In an instant, a child's condition can change from stable to life-threatening, making children far more vulnerable than adults in medical crisis.

That's why we need highly-specialized pediatric programs and exceptionallyskilled experts - capable of providing the right interventions at the right time and committed to continually advancing life-saving treatments.



New Sights

Pediatric Surgery

Through the Brian and Brenda MacNeill Chair in Pediatric Surgery, our hospital will become the first pediatric facility in Canada to initiate comprehensive research aimed at improving outcomes for children who undergo surgery. With continuous advances in surgical technologies and techniques, these studies will be the first opportunity for experts and families to identify and target areas for increased success - across all surgical specialties. Their goal is to set new standards for the field - to further develop and implement standardized care pathways, to prevent and decrease post-surgery complications like infection, to reduce pain, shorten recovery times and improve long-term quality of life for kids in our community and around the world.

Cardiology

Specialists at our hospital are part of a western Canadian child heart network that includes surgical sites in Edmonton and Vancouver. In addition to expertise in cardiac imaging, the Calgary team is also starting to incorporate genomic technologies into clinical practice. Today, our hospital cares for one of the largest groups of pediatric heart transplant patients in the country. To improve their care, the team is researching the development of an innovative "liquid biopsy" to detect transplant rejection. If successful, a new blood test could replace the invasive tissue biopsies currently required. Research is also underway to apply this technology to benefit children with other health issues.

Emergency

Thanks to community support, the Alberta Children's Hospital is a respected pioneer and leader in emergency department (ED) research. Among the first in Canada to conduct pediatric ED investigations, researchers at our hospital also united their colleagues across the country by helping to found two important national networks - one to perform crucial research and another to ensure new knowledge is translated into everyday practice. With innovative studies that include work to improve pediatric resuscitation, find new ways to diagnose appendicitis, treat stomach flu and concussion, and better care for children with pain or serious blood infections, our hospital aims to become the top pediatric Emergency Research centre in Canada within five years.





Maddie always had a love of words and writing. Over her 17 years, she has filled more than 500 notebooks with imaginative and profound stories and poems. However, despite Maddie's brilliance with writing, she struggled in other areas. She was diagnosed at age eight with Autism Spectrum Disorder, answering why she was so aggressive and combative.

In efforts to make her education a success, they tried many different schools. Her parents say they now know some brought her terribly painful experiences and memories that left her with an extreme aversion and distrust of people.

Then, in 2014, she was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

During her 147 days at the Alberta Children's Hospital, doctors and nurses treated her with such gentleness and respect that little by little her heart changed. Maddie says it was like she was carrying two backpacks - one full of pain from the past and the other full of all things related to brain cancer. So she decided to put down the pain from the past to lighten her load. "Thankful hardly begins to cover how I feel for all that the hospital has done for Maddie. She went from being a person filled with fear, anger and hate to someone filled with compassion, love, and contentment. When they healed her cancer, they healed her heart." - Leslie Friesen, Maddie's mom. "I had a past before the hospital, a story I was on. Cancer interrupted it. At the end, I became someone new." - Maddie

Childhood Cancer

For every five kids who one will not survive.

serious side effects from

And all five will suffer.

effective and less

Thanks to you ... Highlights

Calgary Leadership in Phase I Clinical Trial

Children now have access to a new cancer therapy, thanks to ACHRI scientists and the leadership role they played in bringing the drug to Phase I clinical trial. Inspired by a patient at the Alberta Children's Hospital, researchers grew the non-responsive tumour in the lab. Then, as part of their work within the Pediatric Oncology Experimental Therapeutics Investigators Consortium (POETIC), they screened it against 200 medications previously approved for other diseases. One showed potential against a wide range of children's cancers and provided the basis for a Phase I trial co-led by Calgary and now occurring in ten major hospitals across North America. This marks a research milestone for the cancer team, achieved thanks to community support.

BMT

Our hospital is now the leading sickle cell transplant centre for children in Canada and a core member of a new North American consortium working towards helping even more children with this debilitating blood disorder. As well, experts at our hospital continue to reduce the intensity, risks and side effects of blood and marrow transplantation (BMT) - giving more kids with cancer and chronic life-threatening conditions the chance to benefit from BMT as a treatment or cure for their disease. Five years ago, BMT meant months in hospital. Today, many children are able to go home after a few weeks.

Hospital at Home

This first-in-Canada pilot program has been embraced both by families and oncology specialists. Last year, 65 children and teens benefited from more than 650 "house calls" for select procedures. In some cases, instead of spending four days in hospital for chemotherapy, patients spent only a half day receiving medication in the Trican Hematology Oncology and Transplant Clinic, with three days of home hydration, courtesy of their Hospital at Home nurse. For children on that treatment protocol, it meant as many as 48 fewer nights in hospital - reducing stress for the family and improving quality of life for the child.

New Sights

Translational Research

five years.

As part of their crucial work to improve current therapies:

 Our hospital is a founder and sole Canadian member of a consortium focused on developing new therapy to help children more quickly rebuild their immunity after transplant. This group hopes to conduct clinical trials with their discovery within three to

 ACHRI scientists are in the final stages of developing a novel test to help oncologists around the world improve BMT donor selection. Their goal is to lead a national clinical trial to validate the test, which they hope will result in a 50% decrease in graft-versus-host disease, as well as reduced infections and cancer relapses in children after transplant.

Integrated Research Laboratory

Thanks to community support, interest and activity in pediatric cancer research has grown considerably in Calgary over the past five years. Planning is underway for a new, larger and more comprehensive laboratory purpose-built to integrate the now larger team of childhood cancer scientists. The open-concept space will unite researchers focused on bringing new treatments to the clinical trial phase and those working on improving current therapies, including BMT. They will be equipped with tissue-culture facilities for cell-line and tumour growth, modelling units and highly specialized equipment for identifying biological markers. The new space is expected to enable greater collaboration and innovation. Construction will be underway by 2017.

Personalized Cancer Therapy

With increased expertise in both clinical care and research, our cancer team plans to become part of a national initiative to deliver personalized therapy for children and young people with high-risk cancers. Currently in development, the project will involve both pediatric and adult cancer centres who will use genomic sequencing to identify and study specific molecular mutations unique to individual patients' cancers. That information will help them design custom-fit therapies for those with rare or recurring cancers. The goal of the initiative is for

infants, children, adolescents and young adults from across Canada to benefit from this emerging area of medicine, ultimately to improve outcomes for those whose options

might otherwise have been exhausted.

Dr. D@borah Kurrasch

One in three children with epilepsy suffers from uncontrolled seizures. Sadly, this statistic has not improved in decades.

Both as a scientist and a parent, ACHRI's Dr. Deborah Kurrasch believes this lack of progress is inexcusable. So, with community support, she is taking a new approach to discovering drugs - specifically for kids.

Dr. Kurrasch and her team have earned national recognition for their work with zebrafish. These tiny tropical fish are 80 percent genetically similar to humans. Incredibly, by bioengineering them to mimic pediatric brain disorders like epilepsy and autism, the Kurrasch lab is conducting ground-breaking research, studying and screening for potential new treatments.



Brain Health

Epilepsy, autism, ADHD, depression, traumatic brain injury and other serious brain disorders affect tens of thousands of children in Alberta.

That puts their young brains - and potential for the future - at risk.

Our experts are committed to advancing Brain Health for kids - by creating new knowledge, integrating clinical care with the research required to improve it, and by providing the best possible neurologic and mental health interventions for children and their families.

Thanks to you ...Highlights

Nutrition and Brain Chemistry Research

Internationally-recognized ACHRI scientists have made another important discovery about the impact of nutrition on chemical changes in the brain. A precisely-controlled high fat, low carbohydrate diet - the ketogenic diet (KD) - is known to effectively control seizures. ACHRI researchers have determined why. They've identified a novel and compelling mechanism in the brain that can now be targeted to improve current therapies and inform future drug development. As an indication of Calgary's rising prominence in Brain Health science, our hospital will host the 2016 Global Symposium on Ketogenic Therapies - a gathering of world-leading researchers exploring KD applications in childhood diseases including brain cancer, autism and cognitive disorders.

Mental Health Literacy

Three new programs aimed at increasing mental health knowledge, understanding and early intervention for children are in high demand, already helping thousands of participants in just two years. More than 1,500 teachers and staff have learned how to embed mental health literacy into the curriculums of grade nine and ten classrooms across Calgary. At the same time, 4,000 elementary and junior high school teachers benefitted from online courses addressing mental health issues relevant to younger students in our community. And 75 frontline healthcare professionals completed a first-in-Canada intensive mini-fellowship, described by some physicians as "transformational" and the "best mental health conference" they have ever attended.

Stroke

In a world-first study, Alberta Children's Hospital experts demonstrated the effectiveness of two new treatments for children who have experienced a stroke at birth - a condition affecting thousands of Canadian children and often resulting in a form of cerebral palsy with life-long weakness on one side of their bodies. Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), a form of non-invasive brain stimulation, uses magnetic waves to enhance the brain's ability to learn new skills. Constraint therapy involves applying a cast to a child's "good" arm to force the brain to use the weak arm more. Researchers discovered that providing children with one or both treatments doubled their chances of gaining significant strength and ability on their weak side.

New Sights

Neurodevelopmental Research

Scientists focused on brain development now have a new 10,000-square-foot laboratory across the street from the hospital. The Owerko Centre at the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute can accommodate more than 75 researchers. The new lab enables greater collaboration and innovation in an environment purpose-built for studies involving children with developmental disorders such as autism and attention deficit disorders (ADD/ADHD). In concert with other ACHRI scientists and specialists at the hospital, the nationally-recognized researchers at the centre are working to find ways to prevent and treat disorders like ADHD and autism spectrum disorder. The team's goal is to change the face of neurodevelopmental research in Canada and internationally.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Calgary is now home to one of the top concussion researchers in the world who, as the Ronald and Irene Ward Chair in Pediatric Brain Injury, is leading a group of scientists with expertise extending from the laboratory to the hospital and into the community. Their accomplishments include: developing innovative clinically-meaningful models of pediatric concussion, conducting Canada's only treatment trials for post-concussion syndrome, and informing public policy on brain injury prevention. Together, they aim to help children with mild TBI/concussion by identifying the best methods for diagnosis, the most useful tools for predicting who is at risk for persistent problems, and the most effective treatments.

Neuro-Critical Care (NCC)

Global experts recognize that current treatments for severe brain injury and illness need improvement. To address that need, our hospital is creating a program unlike any other in Canada. NCC focuses on highly-intensive care for babies, children and teens with conditions such as brain trauma, massive stroke, brain tumours and severe seizures. Our hospital specialists will work closely with scientists to investigate potential biological markers to advance diagnosis and treatment. In addition to helping save more lives, NCC is designed to help specialists identify and treat previously undetected secondary injuries so that kids can go home with fewer long-term side effects impacting their physical, mental and intellectual potential



The mysteries of nzo

Eight-year-old Annika
knows CPR, just in case her
little brother needs her. From
the time he was born, Enzo
would suddenly stop breathing
and had serious issues with his
heart. To avoid a life in hospital,
his mom became an emergency
medical technician so she
could care for him at home.

Despite hundreds of conventional tests, Enzo's condition eluded diagnosis. His specialists and family worried he had one of severa genetic disorders that would make him too fragile to survive surgery and possibly prevent him from seeing his fourth birthday.

Usually, specialists can only test for one genetic disorder at a time. Each test takes months for results and costs thousands of dollars.

This trial-and-error approach means families often suffer stressful, invasive procedures without answers for years or even forever. Now, thanks to community support for Next Generation DNA Sequencing technology, researchers at our hospital are conducting a first-in-Canada pilot study to screen kids for all 4,800 genetic disorders known to medicine - with one single blood test. That test was life-changing for Enzo. It helped rule out those devastating disorders and opened up brand new treatment options for him - including surgery to fix his breathing, and soon hopefully his heart. "We are so grateful that we can now see our little boy grow up." - Rachael O'Neill, Enzo's and Annika's mom.

Innovative Research

Research moves medicine forward.

Yet the majority of health research around the world focuses on adults, leaving too many unanswered questions about disorders affecting babies, children and adolescents.

That's why we have a team of researchers working together at the Alberta Children's Hospital and the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute - dedicated to the crucial science that will benefit kids, both here and around the world.

Thanks to you ...Highlights

Genomics

Building on the success of ACHRI's genomics facility, the University of Calgary has created a Centre for Health Genomics and Informatics. The centre will expand genomics research across the university to include Cancer, Infections, Inflammation and Chronic Disease and Veterinary Medicine. ACHRI has helped to identify more than 20 genes that cause chronic illness, disability and premature death in children. As well, ACHRI researchers are helping children at our hospital benefit from rapid DNA sequencing. Families whose children have undiagnosed disorders may soon have answers in weeks, rather than years, as part of a pilot study that screens children for every genetic disorder known to medicine - in one leading-edge test.

Depression

Early results from a first-in-Canada pilot study to help adolescents with treatment-resistant depression are very promising. With current therapies effective in less than half the people who need them (and none of the teens in the study), ACHRI researchers are investigating non-invasive brain stimulation called transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) as an option. So far, TMS has resulted in a 50 percent reduction in symptoms for over half the participants. The study is also generating invaluable biological information about brain changes resulting from treatment. Building on that success, ACHRI is collaborating with the Mayo Clinic on a larger trial aimed at producing enough evidence for TMS to be accepted as standard treatment in both Canada and the United States.

Knowledge Translation

With community support for foundational pilot studies, ACHRI researchers are leading efforts to ensure children receive the most effective medical treatment, regardless of where they live in Alberta. 80 percent of kids receive care outside of the province's two children's hospitals. Recognizing how difficult it is for health care providers to keep up with the latest findings in child health, researchers at our hospital distilled the most up-to-date knowledge about childhood asthma into step-by-step instructions, called a "pathway". Today, all 100 emergency departments in Alberta have begun implementing the asthma pathway, resulting in twice as many children receiving optimum

care. The next step for researchers is to introduce this pathway into physicians' offices.

New Sights

Imaging

Using technologies like 3T Magnetic Resonance Imaging, ACHRI has established one of the strongest pediatric imaging research programs in western Canada. Already, investigations at our hospital are creating new knowledge about chemical, structural and functional changes related to normal and impaired pediatric brain development. The team is conducting ground-breaking work to help children with conditions such as stroke, concussion, obesity, autism, depression, and learning and attentional disorders such as ADHD. Their goal is to enable child health specialists here and around the world to identify the earliest markers of brain illness, to intervene as soon as possible, and to help improve the quality of life for children everywhere.

Pediatric Pain

Working closely with hospital specialists at the Vi Riddell Children's Pain & Rehabilitation Centre, ACHRI is creating the largest, most comprehensive pediatric pain research centre in Canada. With one of North America's top pain researchers just recruited to ACHRI, and other internationally-recognized Calgary scientists expanding their work to help children, this team will generate new knowledge about key pain receptors and pathways within the brain, the effects of current pain medication on brain development, and pain memory. A strong benchto-bedside collaboration will enable our researchers to focus on finding new treatments and therapies that provide babies and children with the safest, most effective pain relief possible

ACHRI Scholars

Thanks to community support, ACHRI is attracting some of the best national and international graduate and post-doctoral students who are training to become the next generation of child health researchers. One ACHRI scholar successfully identified a gene that when mutated causes a severe childhood condition called cerebro-costo-mandibular syndrome (CCMS). Children with CCMS suffer life-threatening health problems because of malformations in the jaw bones and rib cage. This discovery earned the researcher an invitation to speak at a gathering of the top geneticists in the world. Identification of the CCMS gene has resulted in a new test to give families a definitive diagnosis, more accurate information, and improved treatment plans for their children.



The Story Continues .

Since 1922, people like you have been helping to write the success stories that take place every day within the colourful walls of the Alberta Children's Hospital. There has been no limit to the energy, the creativity or the compassion that accompanies your generosity. Kids give up their birthday presents, students hold school events, organizations and companies coordinate campaigns, entrepreneurs give back to our community

- all to help brilliant specialists like Dr. Deborah Kurrasch and amazing children like Baby Rose, Maddie and Enzo.

Thank you for your tremendous investments in child health. Over the past two years, the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation received 73 million dollars in fundraising revenue. As a result, we were able to provide more than 52 million dollars in funding for crucial child health programs and technology, invaluable family centred care initiatives, innovative pediatric research and advanced education to help children and families who rely on our hospital and research institute.

For a complete view of our audited financial statements, please visit **www.childrenshospital.ab.ca/financials**.

Clinical Programs and Services -33%

Research and Education - **56%**

Family Centred Care - 11%

Our Donors

It is the compassion and generosity of an entire community that makes excellent healthcare possible for kids and families who rely on the Alberta Children's Hospital. Our thanks to the thousands of people, companies, Children's Circle of Care members, Children's Miracle Network members, foundations and service clubs who have given time, money and resources to our hospital throughout its history. In particular, we would like to acknowledge those who donated \$10,000 or more from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2015, including those who wish to remain anonymous.

We would also like to give special thanks to individuals who have made the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation a beneficiary in their Wills, as well as the families and friends who chose to honour the lives of their loved ones with a gift to the Hospital this year.



Children's Circle of Care

The Children's Circle of Care recognizes individuals, couples, family foundations and privately-held corporations who make annual qualifying contributions of \$10,000 or more. Those who have generously donated \$1,000,000 or more are recognized as Lifetime Members. This program is a North America-wide initiative started by the Woodmark Group, a not-for-profit organization made up of 26 of the most prominent children's hospital foundations in Canada and the United States - including the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation.



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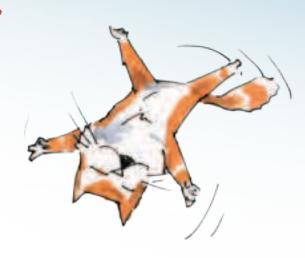
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Telephone: (403) 955-8818 Toll Free: 1-877-715-KIDS (5437)

Fax: (403) 955-8840 Email: kids@achf.com

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