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OF MANITOBA



Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg
Caring for Health À l'écoute de notre santé

NEW OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM BOON TO PROVINCE'S AGING POPULATION

Manitobans can now train at Misericordia Health Centre's Buhler Eye Care Centre while helping decrease wait times

A new University of Manitoba ophthalmology residency program, sited exclusively at Misericordia Health Centre, will ensure the province's aging population's eye care needs are met in the future, according to Minister of Health Theresa Oswald.

"It's critical for our seniors to have the best eye care services available to them. This new program will see eye doctors train right at here while providing crucial care to Manitobans," said Minister of Health Theresa Oswald.

Dr. Brian Postl, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, welcomed the U of M's new ophthalmology residency program, after a 30-year absence. "Residents trained in Manitoba are more likely to practice here and provide the expert eye care that Manitobans need and deserve," he said. "The new residency program will ultimately improve patient care across the province."

The five-year ophthalmology residency program is located at Misericordia Health Centre's Buhler Eye Care Centre, the largest surgical and treatment centre of its kind in Western Canada.

"Misericordia's capital redevelopment includes a new health complex, the ideal setting for a state-of-the-art resident clinic and teaching facility," said Arlene Wilgosh, Winnipeg Health Region's president and executive officer. "We are proud to be partnering with the University of Manitoba to train our doctors in modern facilities."

Residents will have the opportunity to learn from ophthalmology specialists, practice surgery in a new mock operating room and assess and treat their own patients under supervision.

Dr. Lorne Bellan, ophthalmology department head, University of Manitoba, spearheaded the creation of the new residency program and believes the program will not only allow future ophthalmologists to train at home, but will also decrease provincial wait times.

“The new residents’ clinic will provide another location for patients to receive eye consultations and help decrease wait times,” said Bellan, who is past-president of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society and past-chair of the Wait Time alliance. “It’s a win-win situation.”

The first ophthalmology resident is currently receiving training. Each year, a new resident will be added until the program reaches its full cohort of five.

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Founded in 1883 as Western Canada’s first medical school, the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine has graduated more than 9,000 physicians who have become influential medical leaders, world renowned health researchers and dedicated doctors. As Manitoba’s only medical school, the U of M Faculty of Medicine has educated and trained the majority of our province’s physicians.