

# 700 Elgin Avenue ambulatory care clinic update



Health Sciences Centre  
Winnipeg  
A Shared Health facility

August 3, 2022



## THANK YOU!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work on the Ambulatory Care Clinic over the last five years. When we started out, we knew there would be lots of work to get to this point. We're very proud that the big moves are now completed and patients are starting to visit us in our new space. We greatly appreciate your commitment and collaboration in the planning of the move and with the work flow redesign. Even though there is still more to do, we know we can count on your continued support of the project. Together, we will make the Elgin Clinic dream come true!

**Dr. Eberhard Renner,**  
**Professor and Head, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Manitoba**

**Reid Love, Executive Director of Ambulatory Care, HSC Winnipeg**



## Interview with Dr. David Robinson, Ambulatory Care Clinic Medical Director

We recently sat down with Dr. David Robinson, the Ambulatory Care Clinic's Medical Director to learn about the benefits of the new clinic and some of the other great things it has to offer.

### How is this clinic different than other ones in the city and province?

The new Ambulatory Care Clinic is very different than others around Winnipeg and in Manitoba. When we first conceived of the new clinic, we tried to see how clinics could work better for patients. We met with patients, physicians, and support staff and did an analysis on how we could improve the experience of patients and provide better care. The general idea is that patients can come to the clinic and see multiple specialists in the same visit. Not only is this more convenient for the patients but it also allows doctors to collaborate on the complex medical issues of patients.

Another unique feature of our clinic is that we are an academic unit, which means that we are teaching and doing research as well. This further encourages collaboration and provides patients with the best care available.

### What is your favourite part of the new clinic?

I love the big windows in the front of the building. It's so nice to be able to look out and see the trees and houses. I also really like the mix of people. My area shares space with dermatology and neurology. In our old space it was just us. Now we have more people to work and socialize with, which is a very nice change.

### What does the future look like for the Ambulatory Care Clinic?

The future is very bright. We're still learning everything about the new space, but I know that our collaboration will get even stronger as time goes on. I also hope that eventually we can have longer hours that will give our patients more convenient time options for appointments.



## History

### Allergy and Immunology

The earliest reference to Allergic Disease being treated at Winnipeg General Hospital is in 1947. By 1949 Allergy is listed as a subdivision of Medicine within the Outpatient Department. From 1949-1969, Dr. C.H.A. Walton, Chief of the Department of Allergy at the Winnipeg Clinic and a staff member at the Winnipeg General Hospital, was regularly publishing research on allergy, asthma, and immunology.

In 1969, the Allergy Research Group was established and provided care to patients as well as conducted research into allergies. In the 1970s, HSC became a pioneer in allergy research and treatment.

### Cardiology

While cardiology is not directly referenced at Winnipeg General Hospital at the beginning of the twentieth century, diseases affecting the heart and circulation system (including Endocarditis, Myocarditis, Pericarditis & Tachycardia) are all listed as being treated at the hospital from at least 1902.

By the mid-1920s a Cardiac Clinic had been opened in the Outpatients Department and, like many other Outpatient Clinics at WGH, was predominately staffed by the Social Service Department. The Cardiac Clinic continued as an Ambulatory Care Department although the only reference in the Annual Reports is to statistics from the late 1960s and early 1970s.

### Gastroenterology

Gastroenterology and the Gastro-Intestinal Clinic existed at Winnipeg General Hospital from the late 1940s under the leadership of Dr. Duncan Kippen and continued under the direction of Dr. Gordon Grahame.

By 1967 it is listed as part of Outpatient/Ambulatory Care and, as part of the Ambulatory Care renovations of the early 1990s, it was relocated from GF4 to GA1.

This move, from one of the oldest parts of the hospital to a building constructed in the late 1950s, gave Gastroenterology “the opportunity to move forward with plans to increase testing and endoscopic services on an outpatient basis” and to upgrade technology to 1990s standards.

### Infectious Diseases Clinic

The care of patients with Infectious Diseases has been part of HSC since its beginning. Initially with an isolated ward and then isolated building for patients with Typhoid or Tuberculosis, by the turn of the twentieth century the hospital had outpatient clinics for both Tuberculosis (1909) and Venereal Diseases (1919).

For the next 50 years, most infectious diseases were predominantly handled by case specific facilities, for example the Municipal Hospitals (Riverview) and the Central Tuberculosis Clinic. However, in the late 1960s an Infectious Diseases Ambulatory Care Clinic was again set up at Winnipeg General Hospital.

### Metabolic Endocrinology

In line with the discovery of insulin in Ontario, the Winnipeg General Hospital Pathology Department established a special biochemical and metabolism lab in 1921. By 1922, a number of patients were receiving Insulin treatment for diabetes. WGH was then designated the treatment centre for Manitoba, and by 1925 an outpatient diabetic clinic was running once a week at the hospital.

A Metabolic Clinic was begun for outpatients by the later 1960s and at this time the lab testing was done by the Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinical Investigation Unit.

*Created with files from Emma Prescott, Archivist, Heritage & Art Services, HSC Winnipeg.*