

## PRESS RELEASE

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## QEII Showcases Region's First Intra-Operative MRI

(HALIFAX) The QEII Health Sciences Centre welcomed the new year with the launch of the region's first intra-operative MRI. The PoleStar® Surgical MRI System from Medtronic Navigation is a revolutionary compact intra-operative MRI and navigation system, providing surgeons with real-time, high-quality images before, during, and after neurosurgical procedures. The Intra-operative MRI is made possible by funding through the QEII Foundation from Medtronic, and other donors. This state of the art technology is the first of its kind in Canada.

"This is a quantum leap forward for both neurosurgery at the QEII, and for the medical education opportunities we can offer," said Chris Power, CEO of Capital District Health Authority.

The Intra-operative MRI will enable the QEII's neurosurgeons to better visualize the patient's anatomy during surgery so they can accurately detect tumor boundaries while avoiding healthy tissue or critical structures and verify that they have removed the tumor prior to the patient leaving the surgical suite. As a result, patients undergoing cranial procedures may experience less invasive surgeries, faster recovery times, and improved outcomes. Surgery may now be an option for some brain tumor patients who were previously considered high risk.

"This technology is a sophisticated tool that will enhance our ability to treat Nova Scotians. We are proud that our institution is at the forefront of intra-operative imaging in the world" said Dr. Ivar Mendez, neurosurgeon and chairman of the Brain Repair Centre at the QEII.

The Intra-operative MRI at the QEII Health Sciences Centre is a first in Canada, and coupled with remote presence technology, offers a medical education opportunity unique in Canada. "This new MRI will not only enable Maritime-based neurosurgeons to offer better care to patients, it will be used to train physicians from across the country," said Dr. Harold Cook, Dalhousie's dean of medicine. "It will also offer our medical students the chance to experience a medical technology that is not available anywhere else in the country."

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**About Medtronic**

Medtronic, Inc. ([www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com)), headquartered in Minneapolis, is the global leader in medical technology – alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for millions of people around the world.

**About the QEII Foundation**

The QEII Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization established to strengthen health care at the QEII. The Foundation's mission is *leading the spirit of philanthropy to enrich health care for Atlantic Canadians* and in the process helps support the QEII's quest to become a world-leading haven for health, healing and learning.

**About the Brain Repair Centre**

The Brain Repair Centre (BRC) is a multidisciplinary collaboration linking more than 100 world-class researchers and physicians specializing in groundbreaking treatments and technologies in the field of brain repair. They range from surgeons who replace tissue in the human brain to recover lost capability, to scientists in the field of imaging, stem cell neurobiology, pharmacology, psychiatry, ophthalmology, neurology and cognitive neuroscience.

Brain Repair Centre research is dedicated to disorders such as Parkinson's, Huntington's, Alzheimer's, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), multiple sclerosis, serious mental illness, stroke, epilepsy, vision dysfunction, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, cancer and chronic pain

