



**Yee Hong Centre  
For Geriatric Care**  
頤康中心

Media Advisory

## **New satellite site provides care closer to home for hemodialysis patients**

*Expansion of program is a partnership between The Scarborough Hospital and Yee Hong*

**TORONTO (July 28, 2009)** – It was over a home-cooked breakfast five years ago that Dr. Paul Tam and Dr. Joseph Wong began planning a new hemodialysis centre at the Yee Hong Scarborough Finch Centre.

Dr. Tam, Medical Director of The Scarborough Hospital's Regional Dialysis Program, and Dr. Joseph Wong, Founder and Chair of the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, had crossed paths several times since meeting as young doctors three decades ago. So when Dr. Tam called Dr. Wong with the idea, Dr. Wong invited Dr. Tam to his home for breakfast.

Today that idea is a reality. A modern, state-of-the-art facility is now serving 24 patients who require hemodialysis three times a week. Later this year, the centre will reach its capacity of 72 patients, providing more than 11,000 life-saving treatments a year.

“Looking at patient demographics, it was apparent that in this area we had a high population of dialysis patients, many of them aging,” says Dr. Tam, adding the centre serves area residents as well as those living at Yee Hong. “We are always looking for strategic ways to expand our program and better meet the needs of our patients.

“We are proud of our partnership with The Scarborough Hospital and welcomed the idea of a hemodialysis centre at our site,” says Dr. Wong. “This new centre will allow our residents who need dialysis to receive treatment here, at the place they call home.”

The Scarborough Hospital provides care to 514 hemodialysis patients at the hospital and its three satellite sites. Currently the hospital has 12 home hemodialysis patients and 232 peritoneal dialysis patients. As well, approximately 3,000 people are seen regularly in the chronic kidney disease clinic – the largest of its kind in North America.

An estimated 2 million people in Canada have kidney disease and more than 20,000 require dialysis to stay alive.

**WHAT:** Official opening of The Scarborough Hospital's Satellite Hemodialysis Unit at Yee Hong Scarborough Finch Centre, including a tour of the new facility and interview and photo opportunities with Dr. Tam, Dr. Wong and a dialysis patient.

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 30, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Yee Hong Scarborough Finch Centre, 60 Scottfield Dr., Scarborough

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