



*by your side*

## **BACKGROUNDER - How have Dragon Boat Festival proceeds been spent?**

### **2010 Festival - Tissue Processor**

A portion of the proceeds from the 2010 local Festival were used to purchase a vital piece of diagnostic equipment that can not only confirm the presence of cancer, but tell physicians when it has been successfully removed.

The equipment, an automated tissue processor, is one of many essential laboratory tools that provide PRHC's medical professionals with the information they need to quickly and accurately diagnose cancer. The processor is used to preserve surgical tissue samples, removing water and embedding the tissue in wax so that it can be effectively examined by a pathologist.

This automated process was needed to handle the large volumes of surgical specimens generated each day. The number of samples prepared for each case varies, but breast cancer diagnosis can generate 25 samples and bowel cancer can generate 75 samples. It can take as long as 12 hours to process the tissue in batches of up to 600 samples. Ultimately, more than 100,000 tissue samples were prepared for review in 2009, a large portion of which were cancer investigations.

In addition to the stress a delay in diagnosis could cause patients and their families, new guidelines state that breast tissue samples should be processed within 72 hours of surgery in order to effectively determine the best treatment protocol for breast cancer.

By supporting the purchase of a new, more modern tissue processor, the Dragon Boat Festival has helped ensure PRHC's medical professionals can continue to provide timely reports, preventing delays and providing their patients with fast, accurate cancer diagnosis and treatment information.

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## **2009 Festival -**

### **Computer aided detection system for breast MRI imaging, software for MRI breast biopsy and mammography reporting stations:**

MRI is growing in popularity as a screening tool, and is most often used for an abnormality that cannot be properly evaluated through ultrasound or mammography. It is also very useful for younger patients with dense breasts. MRI screens of the breasts produce 2000-3000 images and the CAD software will measure density and draws attention to areas for closer examination by the radiologist

### **A second sentinel node probe.**

The 2nd sentinel node probe allows the OR to respond to increasing cases due to the greater volume now seen through screening and ensure patients are not kept waiting when the single probe is being sterilized between cases or down for maintenance or repair.

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