

but shooting seems to have broken out at multiple points within the building; on the third floor, the sev-

Dragon's Den judge helping raise money for East General

ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGY

BY KRISTOPHER MORRISON

Some hospitals sell dream-home lottery tickets to raise much-needed money, while others offer the chance to win cars, cruises and money. Toronto East General Hospital is trying something more novel: a donation to its prostate cancer program could get you an evening with golf legends Jack Nicklaus and Sir Nick Faldo.

The hospital is building off the success of last year's fundraiser, which gave donors the opportunity to meet hockey heroes Wayne Gretzky and Gordie Howe.

This year's "fireside chat" — to be held in a private residence in Toronto — is being championed by former *Dragon's Den* judge and philanthropist W. Brett Wilson, himself a prostate cancer survivor.

The W. Brett Wilson Challenge to raise \$1-million for TEGH's robotic prostate cancer program is already proving a success, with donors spending over \$5,000 each for a ticket to join the champion golfers for cocktails on Tuesday.

"We approached Brett, I guess it was last summer... it was natural for him to want to do something," said Michael Burns, chair of the foundation board for Toronto East General Hospital.

Mr. Burns told Mr. Wilson that the hospital wanted to hold a fundraiser for robot technology used in prostate cancer surgery.

"We were building an evening with Jack Nicklaus to thank those donors and people who are willing to give and encourage them. [We asked] would he [Mr. Wilson] be first to put forward the W. Brett Wilson challenge by putting down \$100,000 and inspire others to match that and get to \$1-million total."

Mr. Wilson agreed and with \$950,000 raised, organizers are near their goal.

"To date, the program has run entirely on philanthropy. There is no government funding for this," said Dr. Rajiv Singal, head of urology for Toronto East General.

New technologies in medical care take time to receive government funding. They first need to prove a tangible benefit over the current system. TEGH has only had this new technology for about a year, but believe it has great potential.

"It hopefully can allow people a faster recovery, less blood-loss, a quicker time back to work," Dr. Singal said. The technology can cut recovery time from six weeks to three or four, and increase recovery in some of the usual side effects, such as urinary incontinence or sexual difficulties.

"I think it's just going to be a great night. To get up close and listen to the stories they have and maybe get some golf tips..." Mr. Burns said.

"Unfortunately, there are not enough hours to go through my game."

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