

Media Release



99 Cornish Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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January 26, 2018

SUCKER-PUNCH VICTIM REGAINS SIGHT

Last June university student Brittney Thomas-Ljungberg's right eye literally split open when she was sucker-punched in a random attack in the Exchange District.

The emergency on-call ophthalmologist* repaired Thomas-Ljungberg's eye that day and since then her journey to recovery has been with surgical retinal specialist Dr. Frank Stockl.

"I first saw Brittney a few days after her injury," said Dr. Stockl. "Her vision was lousy. There was so much blood in her eye I couldn't even examine her properly."

Dr. Stockl closely monitored Thomas-Ljungberg through a series of ultrasounds.

In July, what he feared would happen did: Thomas-Ljungberg's retina detached with persistent bleeding. Dr. Stockl performed emergency surgery to remove the lens of her eye and repair the detachment.

In October Dr. Stockl was able to insert a new lens implant and Thomas-Ljungberg's eye is now stable with 20/25 vision.

"I wasn't sure I'd be able to see again," said Thomas-Ljungberg. "I'm forever grateful to Dr. Stockl and his crew."

PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITY

When: 11:30 a.m. Friday, January 26, 2018

Where: Ophthalmology Assessment Unit, 3rd floor Cornish Building (Take Elevator A)

What/who: Joint interviews with Brittney Thomas-Ljungberg and Dr. Frank Stockl

* MHC's Eye Care Centre is open 24/7 for eye emergencies; register at Patient Registration through the 99 Cornish Avenue entrance.

Misericordia's Eye Care Centre of Excellence is the largest comprehensive surgical and treatment program in Western Canada serving Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario, the Territories and Nunavut. The 25 surgical ophthalmologists perform nearly 12,000 surgeries annually, including corneal transplants, and provide 24-hour on call services for eye emergencies. More than 32,000 patients are seen in ambulatory eye clinics for assessments and treatments such as eye injections for retinal disease. Complementing the centre is the Misericordia Eye Bank medical lab and the University of Manitoba Ophthalmology Residency Program, including a resident clinic.

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