



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

MASKING TOGETHER CHALLENGE IMPACT REPORT

PRESENTED TO DR. ELAINE CHIN



COVER ART

Sharing Bioethics by Lisa Boivin, a member of the Deninu Kue First Nation, interdisciplinary artist and PhD student at the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute at University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Sharing Bioethics came about when my Mother asked me, 'Lisa, what do you do? How do I explain it?' My Mother knows what bioethics is and she understands aspects of my Dene culture, but she wasn't sure how I marry the two academically. I told her I would paint her an image-based story so she could understand. The painting is over owing with bioethical, medical, familial and Dene stories. My Mother is connected to all of them. In the painting I am sharing bioethics with a clinician; in real life I am sharing bioethics with my Mother. *Sharing Bioethics* is an honour song that I painted for my Mother.

FROM THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Ethics guide us when the right path is not necessarily clear. The art selected for the cover inspires reflection about the many considerations and tensions that health care professionals must weigh when faced with hard choices. It is an apt image at this time of global pandemic, when difficult decisions are made on a daily basis. The artwork's origins following a conversation between Lisa and her mother also speak to another guiding force in our lives: our families, friendships and communities. In a time of crisis, our relationships and connections to one another are more valuable than ever. We are grateful to Lisa for sharing her work

THE MASKING TOGETHER CHALLENGE

It started as a search to find a single box of face masks for a patient and rapidly transformed into a nation-wide fundraising campaign to support the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine and its most urgent needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The response from supporters was quick and created a triple impact that has already been felt by U of T Medicine researchers, clinicians and trainees. Thank you!

DONATIONS



\$188,962.20

total amount raised through the campaign to support urgent priorities



127 donors

contributed to the campaign from across Canada

PRIORITY AREAS



COVID-19 research at U of T and across partner hospitals



Repurposing and reuse of personal protective equipment using heat, ozone and UV light.



363 nights of isolation housing for medical trainees



20,000 face protection strips for ICU workers across eight hospitals

MEDIA MENTIONS



The *Masking Together Challenge* story was featured in newspapers including the [National Post](#), [Toronto Star](#) and [Toronto Sun](#).



Dr. Elaine Chin appeared on [CityTV's Breakfast Television show](#) to promote the *Masking Together Challenge*.

THANK YOU NOTES FROM FACULTY OF MEDICINE TRAINEES

who benefitted from your support through isolation housing

"I am a resident at U of T and was assigned to work on the COVID wards at one of the downtown hospitals. When I initially found out about my assignment to the wards, I was incredibly grateful that I could contribute my skills on the COVID wards yet at the same time was worried of potentially exposing my pregnant wife at home. We live in a one-bedroom condominium which made it impossible for us to isolate. I was incredibly relieved to find out that the Faculty of Medicine had received funding to allow those of us on the front-lines to self-isolate from our family members. I immediately applied and I was so grateful as to the ease with which I was able to secure myself a second place where I could self-isolate while working on the COVID wards. Thank you so much! You were able to provide immense relief to me on a personal level during this time and allow me to focus on my clinical duties."

"Thank you for your very generous contribution. I had previously been living with my family and the thought of potentially infecting them with COVID-19 acquired from my high-risk front-line work in internal medicine was very anxiety-inducing. When I was made aware of the program in which I could have alternate housing arranged, I was so thankful. Your contribution has certainly contributed to my overall wellness, and peace of mind at this difficult time. Of course, once this is over I will be very happy to return home, but in the meantime I am more reassured that I am not exposing my loved ones to risk. Your impact is felt on a daily basis. Thank you very much for making this possible."

"On behalf of my entire family, I would like to express our most sincere gratitude for the donation to the Faculty of Medicine that has supported my housing rental during the current COVID-19 outbreak. As a senior trainee who works daily in the ER and ICU at Toronto General, I had early and frequent contact with COVID patients: a fact that lead to real challenges at home where my pregnant wife and two-year-old son wait for me to come home each day filled with both hope and fear. With so many unknowns about transmission from clothing/belongings, susceptibility in pregnancy, and incubation time/asymptomatic spread, we made the difficult decision to isolate from each other following each block of clinical service. Having needed testing twice now for symptoms post-exposure at work, I cannot begin to express in words the relief I feel for not having to go home and risk exposing my loved ones while awaiting my test results. These are challenging times, and there are thousands of causes worthy of your generosity. Please know that you have made a very real difference in my small family's life, a difference that will never be forgotten."

"This is amazing. Thank you. I cannot tell you how much this support means to my mental health. The number one anxiety and source of distress I have heard from fellow trainees with families is how to protect their families, and this certainly stands true for me. I am voluntarily isolating from my husband and young child. Providing tangible support to address this is incredible. I sincerely appreciate that you are helping protect our wellbeing and the wellbeing of our families. It is very impressive."

"I am a neurosurgery resident currently working at Toronto Western Hospital. Unfortunately I had exposure to a confirmed COVID positive patient while on call and need to isolate from my family and young son. I sincerely appreciate the support during this very stressful time."