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# “I was drawn to this right from the beginning. I needed to become a doctor.”

- DR. PIROZE DAVIERWALA



**Dr. Piroze Davierwala** is a world leader in minimally invasive procedures.

techniques can lead to drastically shorter recovery periods than traditional methods, decreased risk of infection and longer-lasting results than venous bypasses. “There aren’t many surgeons in the world who can do this,” says Dr. Davierwala, who was the Director of Coronary Bypass Surgery at the Leipzig Heart Center in Germany before joining the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre. “But it’s a much better operation for the patient.”

When Dr. Davierwala was young, he witnessed the power of medicine and the importance of patient care first-hand. He was born in Pune, India, where his mother, an obstetrician-gynecologist who is still practising at 82 years old, would bring him to work, exposing him to all the good physicians can do. “I was drawn to this right from the beginning,” says Dr. Davierwala. “I needed to become a doctor.”

He decided to focus on the heart after studying at the University of Pune, where he became fascinated with the intricacy of the circulatory system and the life-changing impact cardiovascular surgeons make.

After university, and spending seven years as a general and cardiovascular and thoracic surgery resident in India, Dr. Davierwala moved to Canada for a three-year fellowship at the University of Toronto. He quickly fell in love with the city’s culture and was mentored by top clinicians, including Dr. Tirone David, the world’s leading practitioner of open-heart surgery and the Melanie Munk Chair in Cardiovascular Surgery at the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre.

From there, Dr. Davierwala went to Leipzig, where he learned how to do minimally invasive procedures, ultimately becoming a global leader in this kind of surgery. He now wants to bring that excellence to the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre. “Unique challenges keep me motivated,” he says. “Right now, in Toronto, minimally invasive surgery is not done to the extent it is in Germany. Coming here is a great opportunity to take the program to another level.”

Dr. Davierwala hopes that through small incisions, major progress can be made. ■

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## THE FUTURE IS MINIMALLY INVASIVE

Dr. Piroze Davierwala, cardiac surgeon in the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre at UHN’s Sprott Department of Surgery

All Dr. Piroze Davierwala needs to make a huge impact on a patient’s life is a tiny incision. Through an opening no longer than five or six centimetres long, Dr. Davierwala performs some of the most complex mitral valve repair and arterial bypass surgeries, a form of cardiac care that some call the wave of the future. In some cases, surgery is done through 10-millimetre-wide scopes, with no incisions. “We don’t cut open the chest bone at all,” he says.

If it sounds challenging to operate on something as delicate as the heart through a small opening, it’s because it is, but such arterial bypass