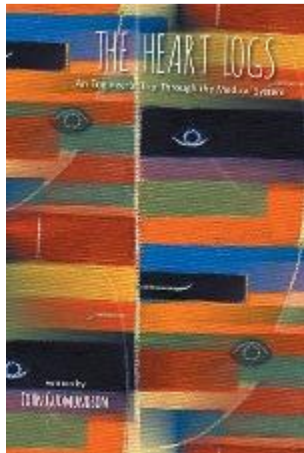


The Heart Logs: A patient's story

In the summer of 2011, John Gudmundson spent seven harrowing weeks at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, for treatment of a sudden serious infection that damaged his heart and affected his kidneys.



One outcome of his experience with infective endocarditis was a need for heart surgery, to replace his damaged mitral valve with an artificial valve. A second outcome was an immediate need for hemodialysis, as his GFR level had dropped to seven. Technically, kidney failure is defined by a GFR level of 15 or less.

Throughout his hospital stay and all of the various treatments he received, John says the care provided by the renal team at the hospital was exemplary.

“All of the care was great, but the renal team stood out as the best trained, the most sympathetic and the most pleasant to be around,” says John.

Fortunately for John, after more than a month in hospital on dialysis, his kidneys recovered function.

“I had just started a run when a nephrologist came by and saw my test results and told the nurses to take me off the machine right away. When I heard that I was doing cartwheels in my mind!”

John has written a book, [The Heart Logs](#), about his experience of the medical system, from the perspective of his background as a software engineer.
