

# "OUR PATIENTS AND THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING CONTINUE TO BE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE."



Thomas F. Zenty III Chief Executive Officer University Hospitals

For more than 150 years, our passion for providing quality care has been the hallmark of University Hospitals' legacy of community commitment. Our patients and their health and wellbeing continue to be of the utmost importance.

Our physicians, nurses, employees and volunteers work tirelessly to deliver the care our patients need with the compassion they deserve. Our leaders work to bring this care, with efficiency and efficacy, closer to home for communities throughout the region. And our physicianscientists and researchers endeavor to advance the science of health for the benefit of all.

Importantly, our philanthropic supporters share this community commitment. Their collaborative spirit and contributions open doors that enhance access to quality care, pave the way for innovative new treatments and offer hope to patients and families faced with healthcare challenges.

On the pages that follow, we share stories of giving and the passionate changemakers behind them.

- Mary and Dr. Rustom Khouri, loyal supporters of UH St. John Medical Center, are enabling significant renovations of the hospital's Emergency Department where critical, life-saving care is delivered to thousands of patients every month.
- The Piunno family, with unwavering commitment to improve the lives of patients suffering from hemophilia, inspired a chain of events that, together, funded the new Dominic Piunno Endowed Chair in Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders.
- Robert and Ann Gillespie, through the creation of a new endowed position in oncologic care, are helping to drive clinical research and innovative new strategies for improving breast cancer treatment.

More than anything else, these examples demonstrate our collective power to improve lives. Together, united by a shared community commitment, we are **Advancing the Science of Health and the Art of Compassion**.

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Sincerely,

# LEGACY

V O L U M E 2 5 N U M B E R 0 2 F A L L 2 0 1 8

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on the cover MARY AND DR. RUSTOM KHOURI LOCATION: AVON, OH/PHOTO: ROGER MASTROIANNI



### VISIONARY LEADER NAMED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

UH is advancing pediatric care, teaching and research with the appointment of Marlene R. Miller, MD, MSc, as UH Pediatrician-in-Chief and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

Dr. Miller is a recognized pioneer in pediatric patient safety and healthcare quality. She has led numerous efforts focused on understanding and solving safety issues and developing solutions to improve the quality and value of care.

Dr. Miller is a dynamic and visionary leader who launched her career as a medical student at Rainbow

Markers R. Miller, MC, MC

Marlene R. Miller, MD, MSc

and is now returning to transform pediatric care, discovery and education," said Daniel I. Simon, MD, UH Chief Academic Officer and President, UH Medical Centers.

Prior to UH, Dr. Miller served as Vice Chair of Quality and Safety and Chief Quality Officer, Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore. During her 19-year tenure there, she improved quality and operational performance through initiatives that aligned quality, safety and patient experience across multiple clinical sites.

### NEW UH HEALTH CENTER OPENS IN NORTH RIDGEVILLE

"AS ONE OF THE MOST FORWARDTHINKING HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS IN
THE COUNTRY, UH WILL PROVIDE
EXTRAORDINARY BENEFITS TO OUR
COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME."

- North Ridgeville Mayor G. David Gillock

The expanding western suburb of North Ridgeville is the site of the newest health center in the UH system. The 50,300 square-foot UH North Ridgeville Health Center brings the highest-quality healthcare even closer to the residents of eastern Lorain County and western Cuyahoga County.

Situated on 30 acres
of land at the juncture
of I-480, I-80/Ohio
Turnpike and Route 10,
UH North Ridgeville
Health Center
is easily accessible

for residents of nearby communities. Equidistant between UH Elyria and St. John medical centers, the new health center can connect patients needing acute, inpatient care with both hospitals.

In addition to a full-service, 24/7 emergency department, the new health center features on-site primary care, pediatrics, lab, radiology, OB/GYN, neurology, digestive health, cardiology, pulmonology, thoracic and general surgery, and orthopedics.

#### 2018-2019 RANKINGS OF BEST HOSPITALS ANNOUNCED

Reinforcing its reputation as one of the nation's top hospitals, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center is once again recognized for clinical excellence by U.S. News & World Report.

The 2018-19 Best Hospitals rankings include UH Cleveland Medical Center in 10 adult specialties: Ear, Nose & Throat (16), Neurology & Neurosurgery (18), Gastroenterology & Gl Surgery (20), Nephrology (20), Gynecology (25), Cardiology & Heart Surgery (26), Cancer (28), Geriatrics (40), Diabetes & Endocrinology (42), and Urology (50).

In the Best Children's Hospitals rankings, UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital's reputation as a top national center for newborn care continues with the No. 6 ranking in Neonatology. UH Rainbow ranked in seven additional specialties, including: Pulmonology (20), Diabetes & Endocrinology (21), Cancer (22), Orthopedics (22), Urology (24), Nephrology (43), and Gastroenterology (44).

UH physicians, nurses, employees and volunteers deliver extraordinary care for our patients every day, and their hard work is reflected in this impressive recognition.



#### **UH RESPONSE TO OPIOID ADDICTION**

With Ohio at the epicenter of the opioid crisis and Northeast Ohio, in particular, feeling the enormity of the epidemic, UH has taken an aggressive stance by launching a system-wide response.



Randy M. Jernejcic, MD, MMM

Randy M. Jernejcic, MD, MMM, Vice President, Clinical Integration, University Hospitals, serves as physician chair of the Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium, reinforcing UH's commitment to being a leader on this critical issue.

UH senior leaders formed an Opioid Patient Safety Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. Jernejcic, to discuss educational and prescribing goals across the continuum of care. UH is already placing more emphasis on alternative treatments to pain management such as radiofrequency ablation, neuromodulation, acupuncture, physical therapy and music therapy.

Additionally, the system established the UH Pain Management Institute earlier this year to help patients address their pain in a safe and holistic manner. Under the direction of Jeanne M. Lackamp, MD, FAPA, FAPM, Director, Psychiatry and Medicine, UH Cleveland Medical Center, the institute aims to reduce opioid prescribing through education, awareness and accountability while creating an innovative, multi-disciplinary and comprehensive system of care to provide patients with optimal pain management. A major goal for the institute includes developing a care model that can be replicated across the nation to save lives.

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# Envisioning the **EMERGENCY**Care of Tomorrow

When Rustom Khouri, MD, DPM, met his wife, Mary, 37 years ago while delivering a lecture at the University of Melbourne in Australia, neither could have imagined it would be the start of a shared life dedicated to family, service and philanthropy.

"I was speaking on the use of lasers in outpatient surgical procedures," said Rustom. "I remember looking up from the podium and saw Mary walk in wearing her white lab coat, and everything stopped. I was mesmerized."

At the time, Mary was finishing her degree in chemistry at the prestigious university. She describes being equally smitten with the young physician. "Our courtship was very brief," she said, explaining that Rustom proposed within weeks of their meeting. Five months later, they were married and beginning a new life together in Cleveland, where Rustom, a Vermont native, was working as a podiatrist in a multi-clinic private practice.

The couple put down roots in Westlake, Ohio, and soon welcomed four children: Lauren, Jonathan, Carolyn and Rustom III. From the beginning, University Hospitals St. John Medical Center was an important part of their family's life.

"Growing up in Australia, I was raised Catholic and attended parochial schools," said Mary. "My faith has always been very important to me. It gave me great comfort to bring my children to a faith-based hospital."

Over the years, the Khouris gained a deep appreciation for the hospital and its extraordinary patient-centered care. "The typical bumps and bruises and playground mishaps brought us to the emergency department several times," said Mary, also recalling a few allergic reactions that were potentially lifethreatening. "Every experience was exceptional."

One visit the Khouris will never forget is when a young and healthy member of their family shockingly developed a pulmonary embolism. "The attending physician in the emergency room accurately diagnosed the problem, confirmed it through testing and immediately began treatment," Mary shared. "This was a case when every moment counted.We're deeply grateful for the lifesaving care the physicians and staff provided that night."

While raising their family, the couple also built the Westlake-based Carnegie Management and Development Corporation. Mary, Founder and Chief Administrative Officer, and Rustom, President and CEO, have greatly

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UH St. John Medical
Center is a jewel in our
community. We hope
our gift inspires others
to give generously
to ensure the hospital
continues to provide
compassionate,
life-saving care, every
day." - Dr. Rustom Khouri

expanded the diversified real estate development company since opening their doors in 1984. Today, the company owns and manages several million square feet of property serving multiple industries, and has developed and leased numerous office properties to the federal government. Their success has enabled them to give generously to many causes and organizations that are meaningful to them, including UH St. John Medical Center.

The Khouris were inspired to make their first significant commitment to the hospital while serving as volunteer leaders with the health system. Mary serves on the board of Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation, whose members she describes as, "the most dynamic group of women I've ever met." Rustom, meanwhile, is an active member of the St. John Medical Center Leadership Council. "Every member of our council has had a personal experience with the hospital," he said. "Those experiences have led us to understand how important it is to have this top

notch medical facility in our community. We have a genuine love for UH St. John and want to see it succeed."

In 2014, Rustom spearheaded the inaugural UH St. John Medical Center Golf Classic. Now an annual event, the golf outing has raised more than \$300,000 in support of the hospital. That same year, the couple made a generous gift to support renovations of the hospital's family birthing suites. "Much of our giving supports children and families, and Mary and I were committed to improving the birthing experience for women in our community," Rustom shared. "Since the renovations were completed, several individuals whose families we know have delivered their children in the unit. It's very gratifying to hear that they and others in the community have had an outstanding experience in the new space."

### **Unparalleled Giving**

This year, Mary and Rustom decided to further strengthen their commitment to the Westside medical center. In gratitude for the outstanding care their family and thousands of others have received, the Khouris committed \$3 million to UH St. John Medical Center – the largest gift in the hospital's nearly 40-year history – to support renovations to the hospital's Emergency Department. In recognition of their generosity, the space will be renamed the Khouri Center for Emergency Medicine.

"The Khouris' gift is truly transformative," said Robert G. David, President, UH St. John Medical Center. "It will help us advance our strategy for delivering highly-specialized, emergency care on the Westside."

The future Emergency Department will house state-of-the-art-technology and diagnostic equipment and feature an open layout to facilitate communication among caregivers. Examination and treatment spaces will be standardized, with equipment and supplies stored in the same location in each room to mitigate the possibility of error in the care process.

"The standardization of space in hospitals is a critical concept in healthcare today and is fundamental to ensuring patient safety," said Atul R. Hulyalkar, MD, Chief Medical Officer, UH St John. Medical Center, explaining that physicians, nurses and staff will be actively engaged in the design process to ensure the space meets the needs of caregivers today and for years to come. "We're envisioning the emergency department of tomorrow. With the tremendous support the Khouris have provided, we'll have the ability and resources to create a space where we can deliver the best care in the best environment to the greatest number of patients."

For the hospital's Chief Nursing Officer, Cathy A. Knorzer, RNC, MSN, WHNP-BC, these enhancements will further the hospital's progress in advancing quality outcomes. "We earned a Five-Star Rating for Quality from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and, in May, were awarded Silver Status for stroke care through the American Heart Association & American Stroke Association," she said. "The transformation of our Emergency Department will enable our nurses and clinical staff to continue exceeding the standard of care for patients with life-threatening conditions."

Mary and Rustom's gift follows a period of notable clinical growth for the hospital as well as aggressive investment in physician recruitment and facilities on the part of the health system. "We've grown our robust clinical team to include neurosurgeons; cancer surgeons with expertise in breast, colorectal, thoracic, prostate and head and neck cancers; and general surgeons whose advanced training in minimally invasive and



From left: Atul R. Hulyalkar, MD; Robert G. David; and Cathy A. Knorzer, RNC, MSN, WHNP-BC

trauma-related procedures rounds out the extensive expertise of our team," said Robert. "We've also invested heavily in leading-edge, neuro-navigation equipment and, in July, renovated our cardiac catheterization lab in UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute."

The health system's exceptional investment in the hospital proved a driving factor in the Khouris' decision to support the medical center. "UH St. John is an extremely valuable asset to our community," said Rustom. "The physicians and staff are superb. They have saved the lives of countless patients and restored many more to good health. We are pleased that UH has expanded the breadth and complexity of its services there to better serve the patients and families of the many Westside communities who rely on the hospital for care."

"We support UH because it makes the needs of our community a priority," added Mary. "We're delighted to be part of the changes underway at UH St. John Medical Center." With the Khouris' support, we will transform the patient experience for the nearly 35,000 visitors we see in our emergency department each

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year." – Robert G. David, President, UH St. John Medical Center

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# UH'S CULTURE OF GIVING

Since 1866, University Hospitals has been a mission-driven, charitable institution, reliant upon the generosity and goodwill of the people it serves. Philanthropy and volunteerism have always played a critical role in UH's survival and success but, recently, the two converged in the form of one meaningful gift.

Earlier this year, UH celebrated the establishment of its 100th endowed position, a milestone made more momentous by the donor, longtime friend and UH volunteer Dee Kleinman. Her gift established the Dee Kleinman Endowed Director of Volunteer Services, a unique position that celebrates volunteerism and pays homage to UH's origins. "UH was founded by volunteers and, over its history, has been sustained and supported by volunteers," said Dee,

who has been a committed volunteer at UH since 1977. "The spirit of selfless giving that created this hospital continues today. I wanted to celebrate UH's long-held tradition of volunteerism and help it thrive in the years to come."

From left: Barbara Nalette and Dee Kleinman

In 2017, approximately 4,000 volunteers contributed more than 326,000 hours throughout the health system. "Volunteers today perform so many duties, from reading to pediatric patients to staffing patient resource centers to participating

on advisory councils," said Barbara Nalette, who has led UH Volunteer Services since 2003. "The impact they have goes far beyond their hours of service."

The inaugural Kleinman Endowed Director, Barbara applauds Dee's many contributions to UH. "Dee gives of herself so generously, in both time and treasure," she said. "Thanks to her, we can continue to grow and strengthen our amazing team of volunteers and the compassionate services they deliver."



Whether you're a volunteer or a donor, you want to make a difference. I'm both and I can attest that it is incredibly rewarding to make an impact in people's lives."

– Dee Kleinman

### THE FIRST ENDOWED CHAIR

Endowed positions at UH have a multitude of meanings. They are prestigious titles awarded to leading physicians and administrators, recognizing profound contributions in healthcare and the potential for continued innovation. They are ongoing sources of support, providing dedicated funds for research, education and training. And they are, above all else, inspiring reminders of our community's generosity, each a lasting legacy that will endure for generations.

UH's first endowed position – the Harvey Huntington Brown, Jr., Chair in Neurosurgery – was established in December 1950, in memory of Cleveland industrialist Harvey Huntington Brown, Jr., who served as chair of the UH Board of Trustees from 1947 until his death in August 1950. Today, that position is held by Warren R. Selman, MD, UH Neurosurgeon-in-Chief and Chairman, Department of Neurological Surgery, UH Cleveland Medical Center.

"The Brown Chair was first held by former division chair Frank E. Nulsen, MD, who was a great mentor and leader. He shaped our department into one that is recognized for neurosurgical excellence and taught me that one of our greatest responsibilities and privileges at UH is to train those who come after us," said Dr. Selman. "This endowed position has allowed our department to innovate in all aspects of our mission – healing, teaching and discovering – and given me the opportunity to attract, train and retain the best and brightest in neurosurgery."



Warren R. Selman, MD



# Dominic's DREAM

As a child, Dominic Piunno would say his prayers with his mother, Shelly, before bed. Night after night, he would bow his head and pray that doctors would find a cure for bleeding disorders, both for himself and all the other kids living with the same burden.

Born with hemophilia, Dominic's blood lacks sufficient clotting proteins which prevents it from clotting normally. As a result, he is prone to excessive bleeding, particularly after an injury, bruises easily and has an increased risk of bleeding inside his joints or brain. Hemophilia is a genetic disorder and is quite rare, affecting approximately 1 in 10,000 births. There is no cure for hemophilia; the recommended standard of care is prophylaxis, a regular infusion of concentrated clotting factor.

Today, Dominic is a 15-year-old high school sophomore and has learned to live with his disorder. He and his family still dream of a day he might live without it, but the more attainable goal they hope for is better treatment.

"Despite the risks, Dominic lives a full life and is more active than most kids," said Shelly who, as a registered nurse, administers Dominic's frequent infusions.

"He is a born athlete and an avid baseball fan," added his father, Dominic. "He plays for both his high school team and a traveling league, and

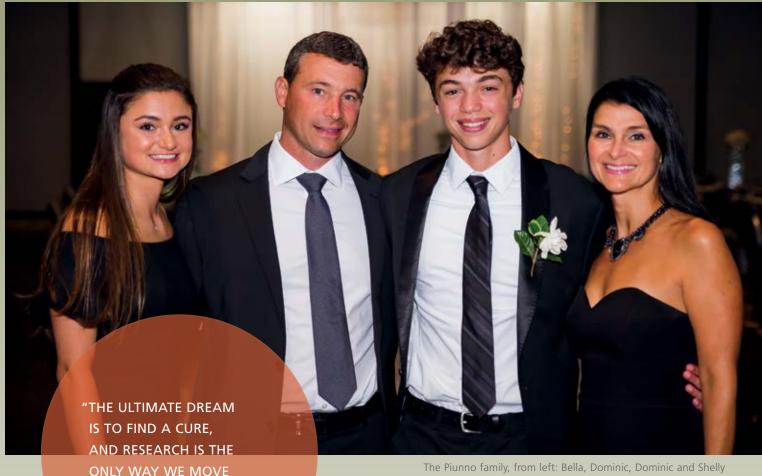
plans to pursue baseball in college. His diagnosis has never held him back."

"A cure may not be at hand right now, but how different would life be if Dominic could take a pill every day instead of an infusion?" asked Shelly. "Only research and awareness will get us there."

### A Committed Circle of Friends

In 2014, Dominic's step-grandmother, Maria Quinn Piunno, started a chain of events that would mobilize the Piunno family around building awareness and support for hemophilia research – she decided to gift her interest in an estate planning law firm so that the proceeds would advance her grandson's dream.

"I practiced law for 40 years. I wanted to turn what I had built into something that would make a difference and have an impact on a lot of people," explained Maria, a longtime member of UH's Diamond Advisory Group who has helped numerous clients leave their own legacies at UH and other charities. "We knew the only thing



The Piunno family, from left: Bella, Dominic, Dominic and Shelly

that would help Dominic would be research, and few care for bleeding disorders the way University Hospitals and UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital do. So, I established an endowed fund at UH for precisely that purpose – I can think of no better legacy to leave behind." In recognition, Maria and her husband, Frank, were welcomed into the UH Diamond Legacy Society.

FORWARD." - Shelly Piunno

After that, the Piunno family decided to take action as well and formed a Circle of Friends, a grass-roots fundraising effort benefitting UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. They set the ambitious goal to raise \$1 million for hemophilia and bleeding disorder research in an effort to move the needle on hemophilia care.

Over the next few years, they hosted two galas and two fashion shows, each with sponsorship

packages and auction items, under the banner of Dominic's Dream. Countless friends and family members joined the cause, working events, writing letters, collecting donations and even making gifts themselves.

During this time, Maria's partner at the law firm, Michael O'Brien, became involved as did one of his clients, Sylvia Oliver. "The stars aligned when Sylvia came into the picture," said Shelly. "She just wanted to help and was the presenting sponsor for several of our events."

In 2017, Sylvia made another gift to Dominic's Dream, helping the family reach their goal of \$1 million. This, in turn, triggered a challenge grant from the Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation for \$500,000.

With \$1.5 million, Dominic's Dream took shape the Dominic Piunno Endowed Chair in Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders was established at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in December 2017.

### Making the Dream a Reality

Dominic and his physician, Sanjay P. Ahuja, MD, MSc, MBA, Director, Hemostasis & Thrombosis Center, UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, clicked from day one.

"Rainbow has the only Hemophilia Treatment
Center in the city of Cleveland and Dr. Ahuja has
been Dominic's doctor for years," said Shelly.
"He's compassionate and kind. He takes a great
interest in Dominic and his life, and attended
most of our fundraising events. He and his team
are amazing partners in this journey and, together,
we do everything in our power to make sure
Dominic can live the life he wants."

In December, Dr. Ahuja was named the inaugural appointee to the Piunno Chair and joined a distinguished group of Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation Scholars who, like him, hold endowed chairs supported by the Foundation. The position to him is more than an honor. "Dominic is the ideal patient," said Dr. Ahuja. "I've developed a bond with him and his family that I would never trade. I take the responsibility that comes with this chair seriously and hope to make them proud of their investment in me."

Board certified in pediatrics and hematologyoncology, Dr. Ahuja is a nationally-recognized expert in bleeding and clotting disorders. Currently, he is Primary Investigator on a number of early phase trials for longer-acting clotting factors.

"Prophylaxis is effective in preventing bleeding episodes and can prevent joint damage if started at a young age," said Dr. Ahuja. "But to be effective, frequent infusions are needed, which is particularly challenging for pediatric patients. Longer-acting concentrates would help sustain the level of clotting factor in the blood for extended lengths of time, requiring less frequent injections. This would greatly improve quality of life. Looking further out, a cure for hemophilia is not far away. We just opened gene therapy clinical trials for hemophilia patients at UH Rainbow in September. We are incredibly excited about the possibilities."



Sanjay P. Ahuja, MD, MSc, MBA

"DOMINIC IS THE IDEAL PATIENT.
I'VE DEVELOPED A BOND WITH HIM
AND HIS FAMILY THAT I WOULD
NEVER TRADE." – Sanjay P. Ahuja, MD, MSc, MBA

The Piunno Chair will provide Dr. Ahuja a perpetual funding source, helping to advance his work with longer-acting clotting factors as well as another area of interest – a point-of-care device designed for in-home use. Similar in concept to a glucose monitor for patients with diabetes, Dr. Ahuja describes a small, portable device that could potentially check the level of clotting factors in the blood.

"A device like this, combined with longer-acting concentrates, would be a game changer," said Dr. Ahuja. "Managing bleeding disorders would become easier, less expensive and less stressful. We would have the flexibility to build a treatment plan that allows patients to be active while minimizing joint bleeds and injuries."

This kind of innovative thinking gives the Piunno family every confidence that their time and efforts have been well spent. "We raised the money and now it's up to Dr. Ahuja," said Maria. "We believe he will do something to help patients with all types of bleeding disorders."

### **Advances**

### UH PORTAGE BESTS AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES BY NEARLY 50 PERCENT

According to the American Heart Association, it should take no longer than 90 minutes from the time a patient arrives at the hospital with a blocked artery until the artery is reopened through cardiac catheterization. UH Portage Medical Center is beating that time by nearly 50 percent, averaging a door-to-balloon time, as the measurement is known, of 50 minutes. The national average is 65 minutes.

Sustained high performance by the medical team at UH Portage Medical Center has a significant impact on patients experiencing a heart attack. "There is a direct relationship between the length of time an artery is blocked and the odds of survival, making early treatment critical," said Anjan Gupta, MD, Interventional Cardiologist, UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute, UH Portage Medical Center. "Our success in bringing that time down to an extraordinary 50 minutes is all about teamwork."



Anjan Gupta, MD



Anna Maria Hibbs, MD, MSCE, FAAP

## VITAMIN D REDUCES WHEEZING IN AFRICAN AMERICAN PRETERM INFANTS

African American preterm infants experience a significant decrease in recurrent wheezing with sustained supplementation of Vitamin D, according to a first-of-its-kind research study led by UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital neonatologist Anna Maria Hibbs, MD, MSCE, FAAP. African American infants born premature are at higher risk for recurrent wheezing, which can cause discomfort and is a risk factor for developing asthma later in life. The results of this study were published in the May 2018 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

"Parents need to know African American preterm infants are at high risk of wheezing in infancy," said Dr. Hibbs, Eliza Henry Barnes Chair in Neonatology at UH Rainbow. "Vitamin D is an attractive treatment option because it is easy to administer and is relatively inexpensive. Parents can be in control of this intervention."

There are no widely-accepted therapies to prevent prematurity-associated wheezing. However, Dr. Hibbs found that a daily dose of vitamin D through six months of age decreased recurrent wheezing by more than 10 percent. "I hope this study can highlight the burden of wheezing illness experienced by premature babies and the importance of targeting interventions that can lessen this burden."



## FDA APPROVES STEM CELL STUDY TO REDUCE NEED FOR JOINT REPLACEMENTS

James E. Voos, MD, Jack and Mary Herrick Distinguished Chair in Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine; Chair, Department of Orthopedics, UH Cleveland Medical Center; and Head Team Physician for the Cleveland Browns, and his research team received approval from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for a first-of-its-kind stem cell study for patients with early arthritis who are at risk of knee replacement. For the study, researchers will collect bone marrow from participating patients, isolate the stem cells, multiply and expand the cells in the lab and inject them at the site of soft tissue damage. Stem cells have growth factors that may aid in the repair process and reduce or delay the need for joint replacement.

"The demand for joint replacement is projected to more than double in the next five years," said Dr. Voos. "If our protocol for injecting bone marrow-derived stem cells is effective, patients will be able to maintain healthy, active lifestyles for longer without the pain and burden of joint replacement."

The initial stage of the study will determine patient benefit and ensure there are no unwanted side effects. Future phases will expand to other joints, such as hip and shoulder, and refine the injection protocol for dosage and frequency.

## HARRINGTON DISCOVERY INSTITUTE HOSTS SIXTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

In May, the Harrington Discovery Institute hosted its 6th Annual Scientific Symposium in Cleveland. The two-day event convened scientists working on breakthrough discoveries, commercialization experts and philanthropic supporters, including 32 Harrington Scholars from across the U.S. and the U.K.

"Convening face-to-face is vital to the goal of moving science from the lab to patients in need," said Jonathan S. Stamler, MD, President, Harrington Discovery Institute and Robert S. & Sylvia K. Reitman Family Foundation Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Innovation, UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute. The Harrington Discovery Institute has a mission to advance discoveries by physician-scientists – and all scientists in areas of unmet therapeutic need – into medicines for the benefit of society.

Highlights of the event included keynote lectures by Christopher Austin, MD, Director of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, and John Crowley, Chairman & CEO, Amicus Therapeutics. Dr. Austin spoke about catalyzing translational innovation and Mr. Crowley shared his personal experience with finding a treatment for Pompe disease, a rare neuromuscular disorder that affects two of his children.



# Ringing in Hope

### AT UH SEIDMAN CANCER CENTER

Like many others who have been treated for cancer, Ann Gillespie understands the toll the devastating disease exacts from those diagnosed and from those who love them. Her extraordinary compassion for other patients catalyzed Ann to bring meaning and a small measure of joy to the cancer experience while offering new hope to all those treated at UH Seidman Cancer Center.

A mother of two and grandmother of five, Ann was diagnosed by UH physicians with lobular cancer of the left breast in October 2014. Soon after beginning chemotherapy, she marked the loss of her hair with a head shaving party hosted by her daughters and closest friends. "We drank champagne, wore pink boas and my daughters hired a makeup artist to do my makeup," she said. "It was a wonderful day."

Ann's subsequent treatment involved surgery to remove the cancerous tumor followed by five weeks of radiation therapy. Through it all, she felt great support from her care team, including surgeon Marjie L. Persons, MD, UH Cleveland Medical Center, and oncologist Joseph C. Barr, MD, PhD, UH Seidman Cancer Center, and remained focused on what was next. That changed, however, on her last day of treatment.

"I remember standing in the treatment room, still wearing the pink robe they gave me, thinking, 'I've done this. I did everything they told me to do, and I've made it,'" shared Ann.
"For the first time, I reflected on all I had experienced and broke down crying, completely overwhelmed by my emotions."

"I realized I needed to do something to honor this moment," she continued. "And not just for me, but for all cancer patients. When you travel so far, you should celebrate when you reach the end."

After hearing about a bell-ringing tradition at another U.S. cancer center, Ann and her husband, Robert (Bob) Gillespie, former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KeyCorp, were inspired to bring a similar custom to UH. In the fall of 2016, the couple



Janice A. Lyons, MD

# "ANN AND BOB ARE EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE AND PHILANTHROPISTS. THEY ARE VISIONARIES WHO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN CANCER CARE." – Janice A. Lyons, MD

made a generous commitment that enabled UH to purchase and install 18 brass ceremonial bells at UH Seidman Cancer Center locations throughout the system. An additional bell was placed in the Mary and Al Schneider Healing Garden outside UH Seidman Cancer Center.

Almost immediately, the bell ringing ceremony became a rite of passage for UH cancer patients. "It is a profoundly moving experience," Ann explained. "Patients are surrounded by their families and the staff who cared for them during their illness. When they ring the bell, it touches everyone who hears it, especially those still in treatment. It's the sound of hope."

## Momentous Support for a Heart-Sparing Cure

Ann and Bob are now bringing hope to untold numbers of cancer patients through another gift to the health system. In March, the couple made a \$1 million commitment to establish the Bob and Ann Gillespie Master Clinician in Oncology. The Gillespies' gift was augmented by a \$250,000 matching gift from the Dr. Donald J. and Ruth Weber Goodman Philanthropic Fund at the Cleveland Foundation.

The new endowed position will advance clinical oncology at UH Seidman Cancer Center through the work of inaugural appointee Janice A. Lyons, MD, Director of Breast Cancer Services, UH Department of Radiation Oncology.

"Dr. Lyons is an exceptional physician, dedicated equally to her patients and to her research," Bob stated. "Her current work is aimed at identifying therapies that protect the heart during radiation treatments. Dr. Lyons' contributions today will ensure the long term heart health of others like Ann, who receive a left-side cancer diagnosis."

According to Dr. Lyons, cardiac toxicity sustained through radiation poses a significant threat to patients with cancer of the left breast, increasing their risk of developing cardiac disease 10-15 years following treatment. "With so many innovative breast cancer therapies available today, most women diagnosed with breast cancer will be cured," she said. "The onus is on physicians to find ways to use radiation sparingly to minimize their risk of cardiovascular complications later in their lives."

The Gillespie Master Clinician will help further Dr. Lyons' work in developing heart-sparing treatments similar to deep inspiration breath hold (DIBH) therapy, a technique established more than a decade ago that delivers radiation in coordination with a patient's breath hold.

"When you take a deep breath, your lungs fill with air and move your heart away from the chest," explained Dr. Lyons who, with her UH colleagues, was among the first in the nation to adopt the technique. "Breath hold therapy is effective because it helps



move the heart out of the field of radiation. Today, we're striving to establish proton therapy as the newest modality for treating these cancers of the left side."

Developed to treat tumors of the brain, head, neck, lungs and spine, proton therapy allows radiation oncologists to target tumors with the cancerdestroying capabilities of radiation while limiting exposure to healthy tissue and organs. UH is the first and only health care system in Northeast Ohio to offer proton therapy. Dr. Lyons, lead investigator representing UH Seidman Cancer Center, is part of a new national trial examining the use of proton therapy as an alternative to radiation for patients like Ann.

"For decades, proton therapy has been used to treat pediatric patients because of its efficacy in reducing the risk of secondary, radiation-induced cancers that can develop decades after treatment," said Dr. Lyons. "Through the Gillespies' tremendous generosity, we can be part of the effort to make proton therapy the standard of care for treating cancers of the left-side, effectively preserving the heart health of countless patients.

"All of this is possible because Ann understands the cancer journey and how people are impacted by the disease," she continued. "Most of all, she knows the importance of not being content with the way we treat cancer today."

### PREVENTION: THE MOST POWERFUL DEFENSE

Cleveland Heights native Ebonee Woods-Hughes was rightfully concerned when breast cancer began to strike a number of women in her family. "First my mother, then my sister and my cousin were diagnosed," Ebonee shared. "I realized it wasn't a matter of if, but when, I would have cancer, too."

In 2016, Ebonee turned to the UH Center for Breast Cancer Prevention for help. Following a personalized assessment, physicians confirmed that the breast cancer threatening her family is caused by a BRCA-1 genetic mutation. "Each of us is the first person in our own line of defense when it comes to our health," she said. "When I tested positive for the gene, I saw it as an opportunity to learn about how to take care of my overall health."

The lifetime risk of breast cancer for a BRCA-1 carrier is 72 percent, a stark contrast to the 12 percent risk associated with women without the mutation. Carriers also have up to a 44 percent risk of developing ovarian cancer in their lifetime, compared to a 1.3 percent risk for women in the general population.

"The center helped me evaluate my options to come up with a preventive plan that works for me," said Ebonee, who chose to have both of her ovaries removed to mitigate the threat of ovarian cancer.

"To date, no screening has proven to effectively detect ovarian cancer," explained Ebonee's surgeon, Steven Waggoner, MD, Anderson Family Master Clinician in Gynecological Oncology and Division Chief, Gynecological Oncology, UH Cleveland Medical Center. "For this reason, many women elect surgical removal while continuing screening for breast cancer."

Now a patient in the high risk breast program, Ebonee receives ongoing preventive care and surveillance from Heidi Goodwin, CNP, UH Seidman Cancer Center. "UH is filled with excellent caregivers," said Ebonee. "I feel relieved to know I'm in the hands of such a great team."

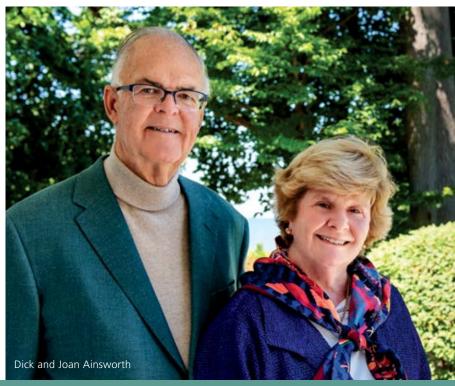
UH Center for Breast Cancer Prevention, a pioneering program at UH Seidman Cancer Center, uses comprehensive, evaluative services to assess patient risk for breast cancer. For more information on risk assessments or to schedule an appointment, call 216.844.BRST.

# DIAMOND

### CHARITABLE GIFT PLANNING

"A gift annuity provided us an opportunity to be part of the solution, to support UH and work we believe in, while simultaneously providing us a financial return, important during our retirement years."

- Joan Ainsworth



### The Gift That Gives Back

From the beginning, the lives of Joan and Dick Ainsworth have been intertwined with University Hospitals. "My husband and I are lifelong UH patients," shared Joan. "We were both born at UH MacDonald Women's Hospital and, growing up, if there was an illness in either of our families, we went to UH. That continued once we were married and had children of our own."

Now retired, Joan and Dick remain grateful patients and express their appreciation through longstanding support of the UH annual fund and other projects.

As co-chair of the MacDonald Women's Health Leadership Council, Joan was inspired by the new UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children and what the center meant to the future of healthcare for Cleveland families. "The space is welcoming, and the location is ideal," she said. "To provide so many services under one roof – medical, social, dental, even legal resources – is truly forward-thinking, and the bus line is right there. The center is exactly the resource Cleveland families need to adequately address health and wellness issues."

Participation in a UH-sponsored poverty simulation moved Joan to action. "It really opened my eyes. People in difficult circumstances have to be so creative, juggling money, time and transportation – their everyday lives are so complicated by things we take for granted." She added, "Dick and I have been fortunate and had the resources we needed, which is why we firmly believe in giving back to the community."

Recently, the couple did just that by establishing a charitable gift annuity in support of UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children. An early career in social work followed by years as a development professional give Joan a unique perspective on how philanthropy benefits non-profit organizations and their donors.

Joan and Dick, now members of the UH Diamond Legacy Society, believe a gift annuity is a win-win. "It provided us an opportunity to be part of the solution, to support UH and work we believe in, while simultaneously providing us a financial return, important during our retirement years."

# Strategic Charitable Giving: How and When You Give Matters

Charitable giving can be a gratifying and fulfilling part of your personal and estate planning. While there are many reasons why people support University Hospitals and a variety of opportunities to make a difference, it is important to remember that how and when you give matters. Strategic giving offers you the option to make a gift now and qualify for a charitable deduction this year, or arrange for future gifts that fit your long-term goals.

Give Today

#### **Cash and Stock**

Cash and stock are easy ways to make a gift to UH that will immediately support our mission. These gifts may also qualify for an income tax deduction, making the actual cost of your gift significantly less than the dollar value. **Double Your Tax Savings with Appreciated Stock**. In today's environment, long-term appreciated stock may be the perfect gift – you pay no capital gains tax on the appreciation when stock is transferred directly to UH.

### **IRA Charitable Rollover**

The IRA Charitable Rollover is still one of the most popular and strategic gift options. This is good news for IRA owners age 70½ and over who must take a required minimum distribution from their IRA and also want to support UH. Under current rules, you can use your IRA to make a meaningful gift up to \$100,000 and avoid taxes on the IRA distribution. It's easy to do and you can make these gifts every year. Simply instruct your IRA custodian to make a distribution directly to UH.

Give Today, Get Income Now or in the Future

### **Charitable Gift Annuity**

The charitable gift annuity is both a gift to UH and an annuity with favorable tax benefits to you. You make an irrevocable gift to UH with cash or appreciated stock and UH agrees to pay a fixed amount every year for the lifetime of you and/or another designated annuitant. The rate is based on the age of the annuitant(s) at the time of the gift. In addition, the gift may qualify for a charitable deduction that may lower taxes if you itemize. Charitable gift annuity rates recently increased, making this popular gift even more attractive to donors.

New Gift Annuity Rates (One-Life)

Age	65	70	75	80	85	90+
Rate	5.1%	5.6%	6.2%	7.3%	8.3%	9.5%

### **Deferred Gift Annuity**

The deferred gift annuity is a smart option if you want to make a significant gift while supplementing your retirement income. Many of our supporters are still working and choose to defer annuity payments until retirement or some later date. The longer you defer payments, the larger your tax deduction and the greater the payout rate may be. This flexibility allows you to tailor a deferred gift annuity to meet your specific retirement planning goals.

### Strategic Charitable Giving: How and When You Give Matters (continued)

Plan Today, Give in the Future

### **Charitable Bequest**

A charitable bequest to UH through your will or trust that is planned today can shape your personal legacy and make a difference in the future. You can accomplish specific charitable goals while retaining the right to make adjustments during your life. You can even establish an endowment that will continue your annual giving to UH in perpetuity.

### **Designate a Charitable Beneficiary**

There are a variety of ways to plan now and give later that will let you arrange a meaningful, personally satisfying gift to UH, while assets remain available and under your control.

- Name UH the beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of a "no longer needed" life insurance policy. Simply contact your insurance agent for the appropriate form.
- Name UH the beneficiary of your IRA account or 403(b) plan. Retirement plan assets are taxable when given to family but not when gifted to University Hospitals, a tax-exempt charity. The entire amount we receive creates your legacy gift.
- Name UH the beneficiary of your brokerage account or bank account through a transfer-on-death (TOD) or payable-on-death (POD) designation, thus bypassing probate.
- Recommend a distribution of the remainder of your donor advised fund to UH or name UH as your successor advisor.

### **Your Personal Strategy**

There are many ways to give and strategic planning will help you do more for UH while achieving a unique combination of tax savings, retirement income and personal satisfaction.

The UH Gift Planning Team would be happy to work with you and your advisors on a personal strategy that meets your financial and philanthropic goals.

Call 216-983-2200 or visit UHGiving.org/GiftPlanning.





"Few people have the capability to single-handedly make an enormous difference – but everybody can participate in their own way to make an enormous difference in someone's life." – Flo Goodman

Flo Goodman and her son, David Kahane, who traveled from New York to join her for the opening of the UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children

### Helping Families Flourish

Nearly a decade ago, a tour of University Hospitals moved Flo Goodman and her late husband, Bob, to make a philanthropic commitment to the hospital's future. "After talking with several UH doctors about their specialties, there were so many areas that inspired us," recalled Flo, who said they ultimately decided to take a 'bookend approach,' supporting pediatrics and geriatrics though the Goodman-Kahane Endowed Lectureship Fund. The fund allows UH to present an annual lecture dedicated to developments in pediatrics and geriatrics, alternating the subject annually.

Years later, a New York Times article about fostering the healthy development of young children caught Flo's eye. She did not have to look far to find the Cleveland institution actively addressing that very issue – the new UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children, a state-of-the-art facility housing pediatric primary care, OB/GYN services and innovative support programs, was under construction.

"It is so well thought out in every way," she said.
"The services, all under one roof, are tailored to the needs of the neighborhood. Every detail has been attended to, right down to the art on the walls – everything is focused on helping families flourish."

For Flo, a longtime member of the Diamond Legacy Society, the perfect option for supporting the project was an IRA Charitable Rollover. She established the Florence Goodman Care for the Community Fund in 2015, supporting two vital UH programs at the center – Mom Power and Centering Parenting. Both intervention programs teach parenting and self-care skills to at-risk mothers and provide well-baby checks and post-partum care. "These programs help families overcome stressors, provide emotional support and teach activities that enrich children's health," said Flo. "They can only enhance our community and the world."

Flo was raised to care about others and lend a hand to those in need. "I grew up in New York City and our house on Friday nights was always filled with refugees my dad was helping get established in this country," she shared. "I learned that we all have good and bad times in our lives. Our challenge is to reach out to those in difficult situations and meet them where they are. Few people have the capability to single-handedly make an enormous difference – but everybody can participate in their own way to make an enormous difference in someone's life."



### Our Community, Our Future

In June, UH launched an innovative model of care in the heart of Cleveland's MidTown neighborhood. The new UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children – a \$26 million capital project fully funded by philanthropy and New Markets Tax Credits – was designed to provide community-centered care and address the medical, social and environmental factors influencing health.

More than 300 benefactors, friends and community members gathered for the ribbon cutting, which included remarks by UH leadership as well as local and state government officials.

The celebration was followed by a community block party, featuring facility tours and a host of free outdoor activities.

Beyond traditional treatment and medical therapies, UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children aspires to improve the overall health and wellness of the Cleveland community. In addition to pediatric primary care, adolescent medicine, and pregnancy and gynecologic care for women, the center offers integrated mental and behavioral health services, dietitians and nutrition education, a full-service vision clinic, dental screening and cleaning, legal services and an on-site pharmacy.

"As a pediatrician, my hope is for all children to thrive into adulthood," said center co-director Aparna Bole, MD, FAAP, Division Chief, General Academic Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

"We know from research and experience that multiple contributors impact overall health and wellness. I'm grateful that UH has embraced addressing non-medical health needs, and I'm excited to work with our patients, their families and the community as partners."







From left: Andrew A. Pieper, MD, PhD and John Morley

## Renowned Physician-Scientist Named Morley-Mather Chair

One of the nation's leading physician-scientists in the field of neuropsychiatric disorders, Andrew A. Pieper, MD, PhD, will serve as the inaugural Morley-Mather Chair in Neuropsychiatry. Recruited to Harrington Discovery Institute earlier this year, Dr. Pieper is Director of the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation-Harrington Scholar Program and Gund-Harrington Scholar Program.

Established by John Morley and his late wife, Sally – recipients of UH's Samuel Mather Visionary Award in 2014 – with the Elizabeth Ring Mather and William Gwinn Mather Fund, the chair represents a unique partnership between UH Neurological Institute and the Department of Psychiatry. "We saw an opportunity for neurology and psychiatry to come together and have a stronger relationship," said John, a UH Lifetime Trustee and Diamond Legacy Society member who actively serves on the UH Board of Trustees. "Dr. Pieper has a very clear sense of what needs to be done and how to do it. We're thrilled to have him as the inaugural chair."

The Morley-Mather Chair will support Dr. Pieper's scientific study of neuropsychiatric conditions, the development of new therapies and the training of residents and physicians.

"There are a wide number of neurological and psychiatric conditions related to nerve cell death in the brain," said Dr. Pieper. "With the support of the Morley-Mather Chair, my lab can explore ways to help nerve cells live longer and function better, which could improve brain health across the lifespan."

### Jumping for Rainbow

It was an August evening to remember at the Chagrin Valley Hunt Club when more than 250 guests gathered for the annual Rainbow Jumper Challenge to support pediatric services at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. Co-chaired by Mary Adelle Horner, Wendy Adelman Kampinski and Elizabeth Porter, this year's event raised over \$200,000 and treated guests to an equestrian jumping competition along with cocktails, dinner, dancing and a silent auction. Since established in 2009, the Circle of Friends has raised more than \$1 million to benefit UH Rainbow.

"It has been a true privilege to co-chair the Rainbow Jumper Challenge Circle of Friends event again this year. I am in awe of the amazing physicians and staff at UH Rainbow who provide expert care to so many children and families," said Mary Adelle.

"Supporting this cause was a no-brainer for me," added Wendy. "UH Rainbow is one of the best children's hospitals there is and we are so fortunate that it is right here in our backyard."

"Jumper Challenge benefits the babies and children of UH Rainbow. It is truly the most wonderful cause." – Elizabeth Porter



From left: Event chairs Mary Adelle Horner, Wendy Adelman Kampinski and Elizabeth Porter

UHGiving.org FALL2018



### Continuing a Legacy of Excellence

For 50 years, UH Transplant Institute has been home to innovative surgical techniques and transformative patient care. Renowned liver transplant surgeon Kenneth D. Chavin, MD, PhD, FACS, will continue that legacy of excellence as the new James A. Schulak, MD, Endowed Director, UH Transplant Institute.

During his career at UH, Dr. Schulak oversaw more than 3,000 abdominal transplants. The education and innovation fund that bears his name ensures leading-edge transplantation procedures and care for patients will continue at UH for generations to come.

The endowed director was created thanks to the generous contributions of Mary Jane and Jack Breen, Karen and Earl Cipriani, Judie and Chuck Miller, J.S. Rube and many friends, with support from the King Family Fund.

"Donor support helps us recruit some of the world's leading physician-scientists, including Dr. Chavin," said Daniel I. Simon, MD, UH Chief Academic Officer and President, UH Medical Centers. "When



From left: Joseph F. Sabik, MD, UH Surgeon-in-Chief and Chair, Department of Surgery, UH Cleveland Medical Center; Kenneth D. Chavin, MD, PhD, FACS; and Daniel I. Simon, MD

physicians of his caliber join UH, it's our patients who ultimately benefit from the advanced therapies and quality care they provide."



From left: Foundation representatives William Hill, Secretary/Treasurer; Tim Green, Trustee; Cheryle Chiaramonte, President; and Roy Bean, Trustee

"We are so impressed with UH's patient care and the feeling of community its physicians and staff provide. This is one of the best investments we can make in our county." - Cheryle Chiaramonte

### Improving Lives in Ashtabula County

For nearly 100 years, The Ashtabula Foundation has been improving lives in Ashtabula County. Its legacy of providing funding for positive, lasting impact in the community includes gifts to UH Conneaut and Geneva medical centers.

In June, the foundation made a generous commitment of \$150,000 to UH Conneaut Medical Center's Connection to Care Project, which will help bring UH Seidman Cancer Center services and telemedicine to patients and their families. The foundation also recently fulfilled a commitment of \$150,000 to UH Geneva Medical Center to construct an expanded operating room within the medical center's updated surgical suite.

"Supporting UH perfectly aligns with our commitment to focus on key life areas, especially as social and medical issues inevitably increase," said Cheryle Chiaramonte, President, The Ashtabula Foundation. "The two areas we have chosen to support will provide a modern healthcare environment that will lead to improved early diagnosis and treatment."



"WE KNEW THAT
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITALS WOULD
BE THE BEST
HOME FOR OUR
ART LEGACY."

– Darlene Duvin



Darlene and Bob Duvin with their prized Chihuly

### A Generous and Artful Gift

Longtime Cleveland residents Bob and Darlene Duvin have a keen eye for artwork. Over the last 40 years, this has led the couple to amass a highly regarded and inspiring art collection that graces the halls of their homes in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and Sanibel, Florida, as well as Bob's Cleveland law office.

"Our collection has so many unique and beautiful pieces, we knew we wanted to find a place where many others could enjoy it as well," explained Darlene. "After learning about the UH Art Collection from our dear friend, Trudy Wiesenberger, we knew that UH would be the best home for our art legacy."

The Duvins' wide-ranging collection includes works by such noted artists as Dale Chihuly, James Rosenquist, Red Grooms and Robert Motherwell. Consisting of more than 200 pieces,

it is the most significant contribution of art gifted to UH in the healthcare system's history.

"We were thrilled when we learned of Bob and Darlene's gift," explained Tom Huck, UH Art Curator. "Their artwork has been carefully selected throughout their lives and is incredibly uplifting and impactful. There is no doubt that it will enrich the lives of our patients, guests and staff."

"It has been a true joy collecting and living with this artwork over the years," shared Bob. "Darlene and I come from humble beginnings, and we have been blessed with good health and good luck which has allowed us to accumulate this wonderful collection. We are happy to be able to share our good luck with such a longstanding institution as UH."





Rick and Lori Buoncore, center, with their sons and grandson, from left: Chris, Jackson and Ricky

### Diamond Advisors Inspire Philanthropy

A crowd of nearly 120 professionals gathered at Progressive Field in May for the UH Diamond Advisory Group annual meeting. James A. Goldsmith, Esq., Partner, Ulmer & Berne LLP, chaired the event and Paul J. Dolan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Indians, served as honorary chair.

Francoise Adan, MD, ABIHM, Christopher M. and Sara H. Connor Chair in Integrative Health and Medical Director, UH Connor Integrative Health Network, gave an inspiring presentation on the power of integrative medicine and alternative therapies.

UH Chief Executive Officer Thomas F. Zenty III presented Richard "Rick" J. Buoncore, Managing Partner, MAI Capital Management, with the 2018 UH Distinguished Advisor Award. Rick was recognized for his work with many clients on significant gifts in support of UH, including Sara and Chris Connor, who contributed \$6.5 million last year for the expansion of UH Connor Integrative Health Network.

"It's a great honor to be named the UH Distinguished Advisor," said Rick. "It's personally satisfying to work with philanthropic people who recognize the importance of UH in our community and who are focused on helping the system achieve its goals for the greater good."

### A Spark of Hope Celebrates 10 Years

Hope Fimiani was 18 months old when a routine visit to the pediatrician led to an unfathomable diagnosis. "The doctors sat us down and explained that Hope had acute myeloid leukemia (AML), an extremely rare diagnosis in someone her age," explained her mother, Dyana. "Our hearts were broken."

Michael Sparkman was an active sixyear-old when a feared sprained ankle sent him to an orthopedic physician. "He was a typical, vivacious young boy," said Michael's mother, Donna. "We were in complete disbelief when they said it was lymphoma. It was our worst nightmare come true."

Despite rounds of treatments and hopes for remission, Hope and Michael lost their battles with pediatric cancer, just days apart, in October 2008.

In their honor, A Spark of Hope was born. Inspired by the contagious optimism and incredible strength of their children, Dyana and Donna co-founded the nonprofit with the mission to support families, raise awareness and advance research for pediatric cancers.

A Spark of Hope celebrated its 10th anniversary earlier this year and, to date, has raised nearly \$500,000 for pediatric cancer research at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

"Our families were irreparably changed by pediatric cancer. Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of other families facing the same terrible disease."

Dyana Fimiani

# reflections



William W. Brien, MD
UH Chief Medical and Quality Officer

### Advancing Quality through Patient-Focused Care

'Quality' is another way of saying that the focus is on the patient. It is the patient who is at the center of everything we do, and it is the patient's experience that is ultimately the testament to the level of quality we have achieved.

A few decades ago, quality in healthcare was a general theme and aspiration. Eventually, though, it began to be driven by escalating costs and waste in healthcare systems. All stakeholders – patients, payors, the federal government and gradually, physicians— wanted to achieve it. That's when things coalesced and soon, healthcare systems were required to make the kinds of changes that would reduce harm, improve safety and drive out waste in their hospitals.

Quality came to be something that was quantifiable and measured by how effective those changes were. Every healthcare system has been, and is, continually trying to improve on its quality scores. When considering quality overall, a system must not only consider the performance of its organization one year over another, it must also compare itself to other systems and note where it falls in regards to national hospital benchmarks.

UH continues to achieve high scores in patient experience and our quality outcomes show that we are exceeding our targets. But our goal is no less than perfection. Even if we have lowered the number of medical errors from 5 per 1,000 to 1 per 1,000, the target is and always will be zero.

Quality, however, is about more than numbers. I recall a time when clinicians treated a disease. Those days are long gone. Today, we treat the whole patient – a human being who is more than a condition or illness, and needs not just treatment, but care.

To me, that is what quality is about. It's not just about where we rank. It's what we do for each and every one of our patients that leads to more efficient and effective care.

It's what every patient deserves.

Quality is about them, because our patients are why we are here.



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