



# Benefactor

SEEKING SOLUTIONS, TRANSFORMING HUMAN HEALTH

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ABOVE: Dean Pizzo discusses a case during rounds with Melissa Morelos, '05, MD '10, and Kareem Shehab, MD, pediatric infectious diseases fellow. Stanford and other academic medical centers treat many of the nation's patients, train new physicians, and translate medical research into new treatments. Photo: Mark Tuschman



PHOTO: Steve Fisch Photography

*"I hope that reform will permit doctors to reclaim their place as professionals who serve patients and communities..."*

—Philip A. Pizzo, MD

## Health Care Reform Essential to Improving Nation's Health

As I write this, the debate on health care reform in Congress and throughout the nation has grown quite heated and intense. While this is not surprising, given the magnitude of the economic challenges and the number of constituencies that will be affected, it is unfortunate to witness the tenor of many of the discussions and debates and, more sadly, how misinformation and politics are supplanting a focus on the most important issue—improving the health and health care of our nation.

Quite surprisingly, academic medical centers (AMCs) have not figured as prominently at the table as they deserve. Although they comprise only 2 percent of health care providers, AMCs care for a significant percentage of the nation's sickest patients. They also train tomorrow's doctors and leaders and create the knowledge that can transform health outcomes. The groundbreaking work of our physicians and scientists is supported by competitive research grants and contracts from the federal and state governments, as well as foundations and, importantly, philanthropic contributions.

As discussions about health care reform began, the three driving areas of focus were containing costs, enhancing quality, and improving access; cost containment is the overarching and driving mandate but has received less attention than it should in some of the recent proposals.

Controlling costs cannot be accomplished without major shifts in the provider-payer community, and these will affect every component of the health care environment. Cost containment will also focus attention on some of the perverse incentives that drive U.S. medicine. The fact that doctors and hospitals are paid more for procedures and technologies increases the use of technology, high-end procedures and surgeries, new drugs, and medical devices. The balance between primary and specialty care and the role of technology and procedures will need to be recalibrated if any rational cost containment is to be achieved.

Health care providers will also be increasingly judged and paid on quality metrics, a process already under way. Evaluations of physician performance will be made more publicly available, including on the Web.

Solving the access problem (especially for the 46 million uninsured Americans) will require a number of changes. These include changes in public and private providers and almost certainly a requirement that everyone have health care coverage. For those who can't afford private insurance, a public system has been proposed but has become a flash point in the debate—unfortunately along political rather than rational lines of dialogue. That said, it remains an important feature of serious health care reform.

Dealing with access is a key component of reform, but achieving this in a way that both sustains quality and achieves cost containment is also critical.

In the end, the intense debate under way in Washington this summer and fall will determine whether we see serious and significant progress in health care reform. I still believe that in the long run the American public will be best served by significant health insurance reform, which almost certainly needs to include a public option to private insurance. In addition, I hope that reform will permit doctors to reclaim their place as professionals who serve patients and communities and not just as members of the medical-industrial complex that is now so dysfunctional and unsustainable.

Philip A. Pizzo, MD  
Dean, Stanford University School of Medicine  
Carl and Elizabeth Naumann Professor

THE  
STANFORD  
CHALLENGE



HIGHLIGHTS IN GIVING  
TO MEDICAL SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS

Stanford University School of Medicine gratefully acknowledges and thanks alumni and friends who made new gifts and pledges of \$100,000 or more to medical school programs between December 2008 and June 2009. We are pleased to list below a sampling of these generous gifts and pledges.

**Pilar H. and Paul Lewis Davies III, '83, MBA '87, and Lakeside Foundation:** \$250,000 to support the Division of Emergency Medicine

**Victoria and the late Frank Fertitta, Jr.:** \$250,000 to support the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute

**Marcia and John Goldman, MBA '75:** \$100,000 to fund a junior faculty fellowship for lupus research and treatment

**Olga S. Gratton Estate:** \$588,000 to the Richard R. Gratton, MD Fund to support scholarships for medical students

**Susan and Blanton Hamilton:** \$100,000 for narcolepsy research, training, and education

**Tzu Leung Ho, MD, FACS:** \$150,000 to support diabetes and stroke research

**Kirsten and Joe K. Huber:** \$500,000 (Canadian) for research in Moyamoya disease and angiogenesis

**McCormick Foundation through its Welcome Back Veterans Initiative:** \$250,000 to help establish a veterans connection center as an entry point for the mental health care of returning veterans and their families

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RIGHT: Jene Blume began championing the study of Parkinson's disease while caring for her husband, renowned earthquake engineer John A. Blume, '33, ENG '35.

PHOTO: Mark Tuschman

Baxter Foundation Drives Discovery for 50 Years Through Its Generosity to the School of Medicine

His mother must have thought Holbrook “Brook” Kohrt, MD '04, MF '09, PhD '14, was fibbing. Admitted to Stanford University School of Medicine as a future MD and aspiring PhD, Brook was phoning her to say he had been awarded the school's first full-ride scholarship—a gift from the Donald E. and Delia B. Baxter Foundation.

It was stunning news, especially since the name Baxter resonated so strongly with the Kohrt family. Life had been bumpy for Brook. He was born with a random mutation of a portion of the X chromosome, resulting in severe hemophilia. The bleeding disorder, which stems from a lack of the clotting protein known as factor VIII, would limit his physical activity. It would require four major surgeries as well as blood transfusions every other day during the height of the HIV epidemic. Kohrt would lose many childhood friends.

But by the 1990s, translation of the scientific breakthrough of synthetic, nonhuman derived, recombinant factor VIII eliminated the risk of contracting HIV. Among its makers? Baxter International. That's why every month for the past decade a new supply of factor VIII has arrived on Kohrt's doorstep in a large box labeled *Baxter*.

Donald Baxter, MD, a pioneering medical researcher and entrepreneur, helped found Baxter International. His wife, Delia Baxter, established the Donald E. and Delia B. Baxter Foundation in 1959 to honor the memory of her late husband. Although the company and the foundation share the Baxter name, their only other connection is the goal to alleviate human suffering—and to improve the life of Brook Kohrt.

Kohrt related his story in May at a celebration of five decades of partnership between the Baxter Foundation and the School of Medicine. Among the honored guests at the event held at the Cantor Arts Center was Richard Haake, MBA '58, who is the husband of Donald and Delia Baxter's daughter, Martha Baxter Haake. Two of the Haakes' three children, Donald Haake and Jane Haake Russell, and their son-in-law, James Russell, also attended.

The Baxter Foundation's grants to Stanford since 1960 total more than \$10 million. Early gifts helped build research laboratories and other buildings for the new medical campus. Later ones created the Baxter Cardiology Center and an endowed professorship and laboratory in pharmacology, to name a few contributions. There are Baxter awards for faculty scholars, graduate students, and the nation's top medical students, including Olakunle Ogunrinade, MD '10, who succeeded Kohrt as the recipient of the full-ride Delia B. Baxter Scholarship.

Despite the scope of their philanthropy, the family members, who double as foundation directors, stay in contact with the people they help at Stanford. The Haakes, who hope other donors will follow their lead and establish similar scholarships, encouraged Kohrt as he

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Initiative to Study Parkinson's Disease Gives Hope to Patients—and Those Who Care for Them

Caring for someone with a progressive illness is a heartbreaking and at times nearly impossible task that many people lovingly undertake each and every day.

For Jene Blume, who cared for her husband, there is absolutely no point in sugarcoating her experience. It was excruciating, she will tell you, to watch John A. Blume, '33, ENG '35, a vigorous man and a world-renowned expert on earthquake engineering, grapple with Parkinson's disease for a decade.

But even those strong memories are eclipsed by others full of joy. It tickles her to think of John playing the ukulele or of the two of them harmonizing with close friends. “John loved to sing and I loved to sing, too,” Blume said during an interview in her Bay Area home.

A spry age 89, Blume closely follows the research being done at Stanford through the John A. Blume Foundation Initiative for the Study of Parkinson's Disease. With a gift last year of \$500,000, the foundation and the Blume family together have so far contributed more than \$2 million to the School of Medicine.

Now and then Blume gets together on campus with researchers such as Jaimie H. Henderson, MD, associate professor of neurosurgery, to hear updates on their work. Henderson surgically treats patients with Parkinson's using a technique called deep brain stimulation (DBS), and targets the causes of the disease in his research.

“Stanford has been really blessed to have Jene Blume supporting our research,” Henderson said. “She is an incredibly bright lady who not only follows our progress, but also offers her own smart ideas for new directions to pursue.”



Earlier this year Henderson co-authored an article in the journal *Science* that detailed an optical approach for refining DBS surgery. And in a current study, also under the wing of the Stanford Institute for Neuro-Innovation & Translational Neurosciences, he is exploring how to prevent the brain protein alpha-synuclein from building up on, and eventually killing, dopamine-generating neurons.

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disorder that affects more than a million and a half Americans, most of them older than 50. Loss of dopamine, a neurotransmitter, leads to speech impairment, tremors, and trouble walking. Other symptoms include depression and mental confusion.

Perhaps because she has spent much of her life among engineers, including an uncle who helped build the Hoover Dam, Jene Blume has long believed the field will be key to future breakthroughs in the treatment of Parkinson's. She said, “Stanford has been the most active institution in marrying medicine and engineering.”

Her husband's distinguished career culminated in 1974 with the dedication of the John A. Blume Earthquake Engineering Center at Stanford. It continues to conduct research focused on creating seismically stable structures.

Before her husband's death in 2002, Blume's son was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, adding to her resolve to accelerate research toward new treatments and a cure. She will tell you that she's no scientist, but from one caregiver to another she wants people to know this: “There's a long way to go, but there's always hope.” ■



completed his residency in internal medicine in 2004 and began pursuing a PhD in cancer biology. “Their support has developed into a friendship,” Kohrt said. “They have been confidants with whom I shared the challenges of medical training.”

For Kohrt, the “free ride” proved much more than a godsend for his mother. In his remarks at the celebration, he made sure the honorees understood what *Baxter* means to him.

“As a physician, a scientist, and as a patient, I want to thank you for your dedication to advancing science,” he said. “For your generosity, which has impacted numerous patients. For your faith in my vision. And for your friendship, which is a testament to the importance of humanism and compassion in all the pursuits of our dreams.” ■

“The scholarship allows the ‘best’ to pursue a direction in science where they can make the greatest contribution and, we hope, literally change the world.”

—Donald Haake  
President, Baxter Foundation



ABOVE: The five-year, full-ride Delia B. Baxter Scholarship supports Olakunle Ogunrinade, MD '10 (left). The inaugural recipient, Holbrook Kohrt, MD '04, MF '09, is now pursuing a PhD. Photo: Mark Tuschman

## Honoring a Commitment to Women with Cancer

Stanford “Sandy” Roy Weimer, MD '68, met his late wife Janet Friedman Weimer, MA '67, just before he arrived at Stanford University School of Medicine. Within a year of their wedding, she joined him at the school. He became a psychiatrist, and she practiced as a speech pathologist and audiologist for a time.

Graduating from the famed cooking school Le Cordon Bleu Paris launched Jan Weimer’s true calling as a leading food industry author and consultant. Sandy Weimer says, “Jan was the world’s most encyclopedic mind on food.” A prolific food writer, she was *Bon Appétit* magazine’s executive food editor in the 1980s. Among other roles, she was also a featured guest on cooking shows such as those of Wolfgang Puck and Martin Yan. Her design book, *Kitchen Redos, Revamps, Remodels, and Replacements: Without Murder, Madness, Suicide, or Divorce*, is considered definitive, and she wrote or co-authored four other books on food and cooking.

Jan Weimer died in 2007 after being treated for breast cancer for 15 years. She kept her illness largely confidential so it would not interfere with her career or burden her friends, and she continued working despite side effects from chemotherapy.

Before she passed away, she discussed with her husband her desire to help other women suffering from cancer. He decided to honor her memory by making a bequest of their shared estate to endow a fund dedicated to breast cancer research at Stanford. He says, “It is a good way to make a commitment and leave a legacy. It encourages people to think about the future.”

The couple’s long friendship with Sandy Weimer’s classmate Ronald Levy, MD '68, provided him with the ideal partner for exploring options to accomplish his goal. Levy, the Robert K. and Helen K. Summy Professor in the School of Medicine, is chief of the School of Medicine’s Division of Oncology and a member of the Stanford Cancer Center senior leadership. Together, the physicians conceived of a fund that will at first support successive junior faculty members conducting breast cancer research and that will potentially support a professorship,

named for Jan Weimer, in breast cancer. Sandy Weimer pledged an initial \$1 million to the Jan Weimer Faculty Support Fund and is working to enlist gifts from others.

The first recipient of support from the fund is Allison W. Kurian, MD, MSc, an assistant professor of medicine and of health research and policy at the School of Medicine. Her work focuses on identifying groups at high risk for breast and ovarian cancer and on developing techniques for early cancer detection and risk reduction.

Jan Weimer was a devoted volunteer for the arts, including helping the chamber music ensemble Camerata Pacifica expand their audience. As a patron of the Camerata, Sandy Weimer decided that partnering with the ensemble would be a wonderful way to bring together potential donors in support of the Jan Weimer Fund (<http://www.janweimerfund.org>) while introducing new listeners to the group. In 2008, they held three events, and they are planning more in 2009, including the second annual Jan Weimer Memorial Concert at the Los Angeles Music Center.

Sandy Weimer reports, “You could always tell Jan’s writing by a sense of her chortling.” He is now pleased to regard the fund as “a perpetual reminder of that zany, brilliant, dedicated lady.” ■



### HIGHLIGHTS IN GIVING

Continued from page 2

**Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation:** \$325,000 for the Center for Primary Care Outcomes Research for research on potentially preventable readmissions in San Francisco Bay Area adult acute care hospitals and other hospital quality indicators

**Frances B. Nelson:** \$500,000 to establish the Frances Bohannon Nelson Pre-Doctoral Neuroscience Fellowship Fund

**Marion S. Osborne, '51, MA '52, MD '56:** \$394,000 for two gift annuities for eventual support of the Marion Shikamura Osborne and Maurice M. Osborne, Jr. Medical Scholar’s Fund to support medical student research

**Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Research Foundation:** \$175,000 for the medical student scholar programs and the Pfeiffer Distinguished Visiting Professorship and to further support the Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge

**Barbara Boyd Proulx, '83, MS '84, MBA '90, and Thomas A. Proulx, '84:** \$100,000 to support the Human Performance Lab at the Lacob Family Sports Medicine Center

**Abby and John M. Sobrato:** \$570,000 to support research in the Stanford Institute for Immunity, Transplantation and Infection

**Buena Thomas:** \$654,000 to support Alzheimer’s disease research

**The Valentine Foundation:** \$150,000 to support the Stanford Stroke Center

LEFT: Sandy Weimer, MD '68, created an endowed fund to advance the work of junior faculty targeting breast cancer. His wife, Jan, MA '67, died last year of the disease.

PHOTO: Courtesy of Sandy Weimer, MD '68



# Medical School Gatherings

## MEDICAL EDUCATION DONOR APPRECIATION DINNER

Donors who have contributed scholarships and support for medical education were recognized last March at a reception and dinner. The Annual Medical Education Donor Appreciation Dinner—ongoing since 1994—provides a special opportunity for students and donors to meet or reunite in person. More than 175 donors, student recipients, and faculty attended the event, where students described their backgrounds, motivation, and career directions in a panel discussion. **1** Donors Mason and Maggie Case (*l and r*) share a moment with student Alex Kuo, MS '05, PhD '11. PHOTO: Francine Freeman

## DEAN'S MEDAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

A celebration in May marked two important events: the 50th anniversary of the 1959 move of Stanford University School of Medicine to the Palo Alto campus from San Francisco and the bestowal of the Dean's Medal upon three individuals: Lorry I. Lokey, '49, and former medical school deans Robert J. Glaser, MD, and Lawrence G. Crowley, MD. The Dean's Medal is presented to individuals whose scientific, medical, humanitarian, or other contributions have significantly advanced the mission of the school. **3** Medal awardee Robert Glaser and his son, Robert Glaser, Jr. **4** Event guests Frances and Peter J. Duignan, MA '53, PhD '61, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. **5** Hannah Valantine, MD, PhD, senior associate dean for diversity and faculty development at the School of Medicine (*left*) with John, '59, LLB '63, and Jill Freidenrich, '63, during the event reception. PHOTOS: Bay Area Event Photography

## STANFORD CANCER CENTER CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

**6** The beautiful Stanford Cancer Center was the venue for a very special evening last spring—to commemorate the center's fifth anniversary as a state-of-the-art environment for cancer research and patient care, and to thank donors who support its pioneering work. **8** Cancer survivor Karen Bevels delivers a keynote speech. **9** Enjoying camaraderie during the reception are event guests (*l-r*) Sheila Mussone, John A. Sobrato, Weldon Wood, Ruth Wood, and Sue Sobrato. PHOTOS: Mark Tuschman

## TOURING LI KA SHING CENTER FOR LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE

In February, several donors to the Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge participated in a “hard hat” tour of the new medical education building. Construction is expected to be completed in March 2010. **12** Anne and Robert Herold speak with Barbara Clemons, assistant vice president of medical development. PHOTO: Bay Area Event Photography







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## CANARY CENTER OPENS AT STANFORD

The opening of the Canary Center for Cancer Early Detection at Stanford was commemorated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June. Located in a newly renovated School of Medicine building on California Avenue in Palo Alto, the center was established with the goal of translating early detection research into clinical practice. **2** (*l-r*) President John Hennessy; Gary Glazer, MD, radiology department chair and the Emma Pfeiffer Merner Professor of the Medical Sciences; Don Listwin, founder and director, the Canary Foundation; Sanjiv “Sam” Gambhir, MD, PhD, director of the Canary Center and the Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Professor of Cancer Research; Dean Philip Pizzo; and Beverly Mitchell, MD, director of the Stanford Cancer Center and the George E. Becker Professor of Medicine. PHOTO: Courtesy of the Canary Foundation

## FIFTY YEARS OF GIVING CELEBRATED WITH BAXTER FOUNDATION

Directors, faculty, students, and friends of the Donald E. and Delia B. Baxter Foundation gathered to honor 50 years of program support to the School of Medicine. (*See related story on pages 2–3 about Baxter Foundation gifts to Stanford.*) **7** Among the guests were (*l-r*) Tag Mansour, PhD, professor of chemical and systems biology, emeritus; Helen Blau, PhD, the Donald E. and Delia B. Baxter Professor of Pharmacology; Joan Mansour; Marla Elliot; and Donald Haake, Baxter Foundation president. PHOTO: Bay Area Event Photography

## A SALUTE TO ROMAN REED

Florianne and Stuart Gordon hosted an event at their San Francisco home in April to celebrate Roman Reed’s accomplishments as a spinal cord injury advocate and his appointment as executive director of community relations for the Stanford Partnership for Spinal Cord Injury and Repair. **10** (*l-r*) Rich Guggenime, ’61, Roman Reed, and Stuart Gordon at the event. PHOTO: Bay Area Event Photography

## THREE CHAIR HOLDERS HONORED AT INVESTITURE

**11** Dean Pizzo with (*l-r*) Thomas Südhof, MD, Graham Creasey, MD, FRCSEd, and Lawrence Steinman, MD, CRT ’74, at an investiture event in March as they celebrate the appointments of Südhof as the Avram Goldstein Professor in the School of Medicine; Creasey as the Paralyzed Veterans of America Professor of Spinal Cord Injury and Medicine; and Steinman as the George A. Zimmerman Professor. PHOTO: Bay Area Event Photography

## LUDWIG FOUNDATION CAMPUS VISIT

Representatives of the Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Fund for Cancer Research made their annual site visit to the School of Medicine’s Ludwig Center for Cancer Stem Cell Research in June. **13** Foundation trustees Edward McDermott, Jr., (*second from right*) and John Gordan III (*far right*) met with (*l-r*) Michael Clarke, MD, associate director of the Stanford Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and the Beekhuis Professor; Irving Weissman, MD ’65, director of the Ludwig Center and the Stanford Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, and the Ludwig Professor; Dean Philip Pizzo; and Beverly Mitchell, MD. PHOTO: Steve Fisch Photography





PHOTO: Courtesy of Carly (left) and Molly Houlahan

### Buzzin’ Business Helps Stanford Cancer Center

Earlier this year, the Stanford Cancer Center joined the short list of institutions benefiting from one of the nonprofit world’s sweetest successes: Hives for Lives.

Started in 2004 by Carly and Molly Houlahan, daughters of Stanford alumni Christina Jampoler Houlahan, ’89, and Barton Houlahan, ’89, the Pennsylvania-based organization evolved from a backyard beekeeping hobby. Today, Hives for Lives markets honey regionally through Whole Foods Market and other merchants. It also sells beeswax candles and lip balm. So far, more than \$150,000 in proceeds, including a \$4,500 gift to the Cancer Center, have stoked the effort to cure cancer.

The founders, now ages 17 and 15, continue to expand the venture as a way to honor the memory of their grandfather. He died at age 63 of throat cancer, but not before leaving a deep imprint. In a video they posted last year on the Web site YouTube, the sisters recall the things they loved best about Michael Otto Houlahan. He taught them to appreciate classical musicals like *My Fair Lady*. He danced with them in the living room to Frank Sinatra after serving Shirley Temples. “He devoured book after book and when he spoke his words were smart and peppered with [literary] quotes,” Carly says in her narration.

The decision to give to the Stanford Cancer Center was an easy one, Carly and Molly said in a recent interview. “When we researched where great work on fighting cancer was being done, Stanford seemed to be at the top of the list.”

As a charitable partner in Hives for Lives’ “Local Honey Means Local Money” campaign, the Cancer Center will be an annual recipient of research funds that result from the organization’s profits.

## Kathryn Edmondson: A Woman on a Mission to Make a Lasting Difference Through Alzheimer’s Research

After swearing in her last witness in a long career as a courtroom clerk, Kathryn Edmondson gave up law for medicine. Or so it appeared. She liked to zoom up the freeway from her Silicon Valley retirement community, where she wowed fellow residents with her holiday decorating ideas, to attend seminars at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Soaking up news of breakthroughs and treatments turned from a casual interest for her to a more serious one, though, once her husband, Woodrow “Woody” Edmondson, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. An epiphany struck: Medical research, and Alzheimer’s in particular, was the place to make a lasting difference, she told friends.

The irreversible brain disease gradually strips away those traits that make a human a person, leaving loved ones to wonder where their husband or mother has gone. Today, it affects at least four million Americans, mostly senior citizens. That number could more than double with the aging of baby boomers.

Woody Edmondson’s treating doctor, Gary Steinke, MD, recalls talking with the couple about their desire to fund investigations at Stanford. They had visited the Alzheimer’s Activity Center in San Jose, a day care facility run by a nonprofit organization co-founded by Steinke. “They saw the realm of dementia and the



effects it had on people,” he said. “And by learning about the science, Kathryn saw the benefits of past research.”

Woody Edmondson passed away in 1995. Over the years before her death in 2008, Kathryn Edmondson worked closely with her accountant to create a series of seven charitable gift annuities and one charitable remainder unitrust.

Each of these charitable life income gifts to the School of Medicine offered a significant tax deduction along with an annual payout to her, twin benefits that proved ideally suited to her financial objectives. In keeping with her record of philanthropic generosity, she also remembered Stanford with a bequest.

Following Kathryn Edmondson’s wishes, the school split her gifts—totaling more than \$1 million—between two endowed funds: the Woodrow and Kathryn Edmondson Medical Research Fund, which fuels school-wide projects with the most pressing need, and the Woodrow and Kathryn Edmondson Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

The tragic fact that Kathryn Edmondson herself developed Alzheimer’s underscores the importance of planning for an uncertain future, Steinke noted. “She saw with Woody what could happen,” he said, “and she took action.” ■

PHOTO: Courtesy of Kathryn Edmondson Estate

## Clinical Immunologists Unlock Secrets to Diseases That Affect Millions with Reinhard Family Funding

Myra Reinhard simply wanted to do what all good parents strive to do: lead quietly by example.

Identifying herself foremost as a mother, grandmother, and more recently as a great-grandmother, and then as a Silicon Valley businesswoman and community volunteer, Reinhard founded the Myra Reinhard Family Foundation in 1998 as a way to engage her four children (and, someday, grandchildren) in addressing real-world problems.

So far, two generations make up the San Jose-based foundation’s board. Each director brings his or her own proposals to the table for a vote. Among the first Stanford University School of Medicine projects they green-lighted years ago was the \$250,000 naming gift for the Myra Reinhard Family Laboratories in the Center for Clinical Sciences Research (CCSR). The center promotes translational research by assembling basic science and clinical investigators under one roof.

The foundation continued to build on the theme of closing the gap between research and patient care a decade ago when it championed Stanford’s Clinical Faculty Scholars Program. Each year it awards \$50,000 (now \$60,000) to a scientist-clinician. One recipient, Janice “Wes” Brown, ’81, MA ’81, MD, CRT ’90, PD ’96, belongs to a team within the Stanford Institute for Immunology, Transplantation and Infection (ITI) that aims to lessen patients’ vulnerability to infection following chemotherapy by boosting immune function. Led by Garry Fathman, MD, director of the Center for Clinical Immunology at Stanford, ITI researchers are trying to answer questions related to rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes—the gamut of autoimmune diseases that collectively affect 50 million Americans—as well as organ transplant rejection.

With a family interest in type 1 diabetes, the Reinhard family were particularly eager to fund researchers who routinely see patients through their practices. “They get out of the lab to help people every day,” noted Nora Manchester, program officer for the foundation since its inception. “And they embody the excellence that is synonymous with Stanford.”

In its most recent gift toward improving care, the foundation lent its support to the Human Immune Monitoring Center, which resides on the ground floor of the CCSR building. Its humble appearance belies the scale of its mission: to provide a single destination for an array of the most sophisticated immunological tests available.

Before creating the foundation as a family legacy, and as a hands-on way for her children to learn to give responsibly, Myra Reinhard devoted herself to helping youngsters as a founding board member for the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children. The nonprofit organization, known as CASA, supports kids who have gotten snared in the legal system through the abuse or neglect by their parents.

Reinhard also served as a board member of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley, working to enhance education, health care, and other services in the Bay Area and in Israel. Her personal philanthropic gifts touch Jewish education programs and the arts, including a recent contribution toward the restoration



of disintegrating Hearst newsreels archived at UCLA, her alma mater.

Looking ahead, she hopes to see Stanford researchers unlock secrets about the immune system that will lead to treatments or cures. Truly a lesson in giving. ■

LEFT: Myra Reinhard, longtime donor to immunology research

PHOTO: Courtesy of Myra Reinhard Family Foundation



# Alma and Marvin Burkett Aim to See Concepts Become Prototypes in Arrhythmia Innovation Program

Talk long enough with Alma and Marvin Burkett, and it becomes clear the Silicon Valley couple intends to wring as much fun out of their life together as they possibly can. Their mutual devotion is reflected in their eyes and in the family stories they share. It also underpins the gift they made this year to the Arrhythmia Research and Innovation Program of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute.

Not long ago, doctors at Stanford Hospital & Clinics treated Marvin Burkett for cardiac arrhythmia, in which the heart beats irregularly—in his case, too fast. Throughout the experience his wife jotted down all the medical details in a journal, becoming fluent in the condition’s terminology. “I asked a lot of questions,” she said, “because Marv is my whole world.”

Thrilled with the stellar quality of his care, and eager to explore how they might best help future patients, the couple eventually met with Paul Wang, MD, director of the Stanford Cardiac Arrhythmia Service and Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab. His work on national and international clinical studies of arrhythmia therapies intrigued them, in part because it involves prototype development.

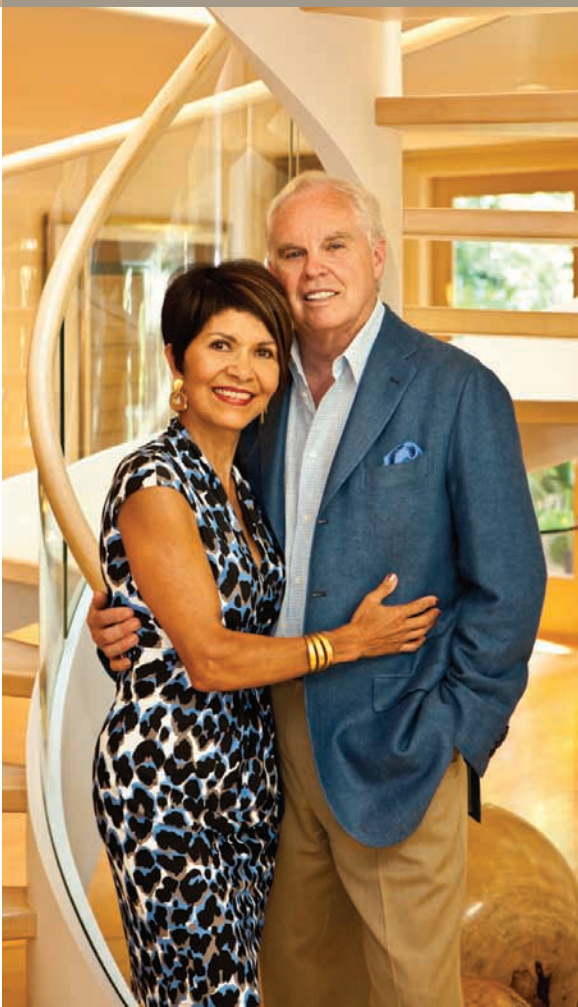
During his career as chief financial officer of the computer graphics tech firm NVIDIA, where he still serves as a senior advisor, and, earlier, at Advanced Micro Devices, Marvin Burkett learned what it takes to thrive in a field predicated on innovation. He knows the challenge of wrangling funds for a seemingly far-fetched concept such as a nanorobot, a device that scientists say could someday revolutionize cardiac care.

“The merging of medicine with computer science and engineering, especially bioengineering, is something Stanford can do better than any institution,” he said. “Things just happen faster in a place that aggressively fosters interdisciplinary research.”

According to Burkett, a similar efficiency occurs when a scientist-clinician like Wang also shoulders the role of educating young fellows. “Training the next generation is key to being a leader in prevention and treatment,” he said. “And so is listening to patient feedback,” his wife added during an interview in the couple’s home.

Arrhythmias are a heterogeneous group of conditions, with myriad physiological triggers and treatments. Wang is focusing the efforts of the Arrhythmia Research and Innovation Program on creating new approaches for addressing ventricular tachycardia, atrial fibrillation, and sudden cardiac death. Among the goals will be to offer a noninvasive alternative to surgery or catheter ablation.

Given the pace of progress, and her proclivity for immersing herself in a project, Alma Burkett could soon fill another journal—this one with research findings that have transformed our understanding of cardiac arrhythmia. “Stanford is not a hospital unto itself,” Marvin Burkett said as his wife nodded. “It presents a unique opportunity. Knowing all that it has to offer, it made me want to pick up the phone, call Dr. Wang, and ask, ‘What can I do?’” ■



ABOVE: Alma and Marvin Burkett, pictured in their Silicon Valley home, made a generous gift to help doctors better understand and develop new treatments for cardiac arrhythmia.

PHOTO: Mark Estes Photography

# Former Genome Project Collaborator Circles Back with Gift to Support Basic Science Research

Jonathan Willis Jarvis was going on a 2,650-mile walk back in 1993 when he agreed to make a brief layover at the Stanford Genome Technology Center.

After 59 days en route from Mexico to Canada along the Pacific Crest Trail, tormented by tick bites and blisters, he was happy for the hiatus. Leaving the trail near Mojave, California, he hopped on a bus to Bakersfield, a train to Sacramento, and then another bus to San Jose. Staying at the home of a then-Stanford scientist, John Mulligan, he spent just nine days consulting on the Yeast Genome Project before resuming his hike.

So it was a welcome surprise last spring that Jarvis, a retired software designer and programmer who spent a chunk of his career at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, doubled back with a gift to the center. He wanted to contribute \$10,000, he said, because he believes in the center’s capacity to develop technologies that will migrate from the lab to the marketplace and “reduce suffering.”

Jarvis, who now lives in his native Texas, added that he hoped to thank Stanford for opening doors to him earlier in his life. During his stint in the late ’70s as a circuit design engineer at the nearby Hewlett-Packard Optoelectronics Division, the university had allowed Jarvis to sit in on graduate-level classes. And he was grateful for his experience at the Genome Technology Center.

Throughout his short visit, Jarvis worked 16 hours a day to advance the use of DNA microarrays, which measure gene expression in a cell or tissue, by adapting his own image-analysis software to screen for clones to sequence.

In a recent letter thanking Jarvis for his generosity, center director Ronald W. Davis, PhD, wrote, “We have matured a lot

from those times and are doing a lot of bioengineering and new technology for medicine.”

Indeed, in the five years since participating in the successful Human Genome Project, a federally sponsored initiative to map the genetic code, the center has developed tools that speed up the sequencing and analysis of DNA. In its role as a shared-use facility it has spawned start-up companies that will continue to define the explosive future of personalized medicine. And, with its multidisciplinary team of biologists, chemists, physicists, engineers, and software designers, the center has led the race to identify variants in genes that are associated with specific diseases. These discoveries in basic science will ultimately improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for a variety of conditions.

Although Jarvis never made it to Canada that summer he stopped at Stanford, he did complete the entire Pacific Crest Trail the following year under his trail name Willis Whoa, averaging 22 miles per day. ■



ABOVE: The Pacific Crest Trail covers 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington. In 1993, Jonathan Willis Jarvis took a break from hiking the trail to work at the Stanford Genome Technology Center, where he helped advance the use of DNA microarrays in genome sequencing. PHOTO: Ralph Alcorn



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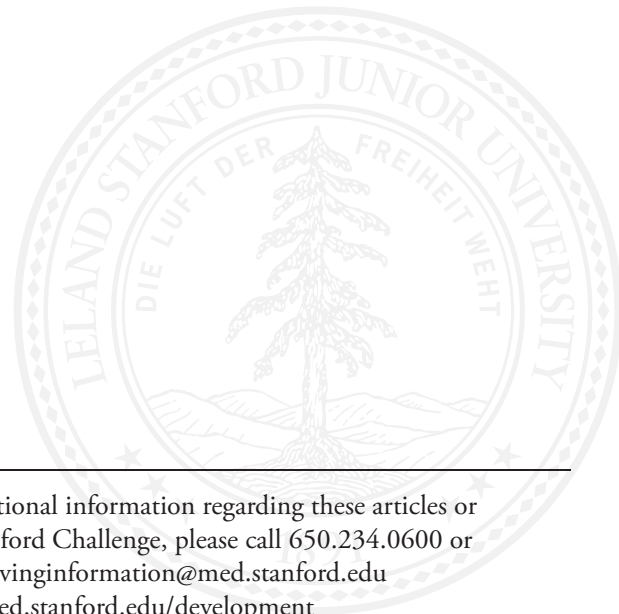
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ABOVE: Richard Levy, PhD, and his wife, Susan, catalyzed a long-term research collaboration between the School of Medicine and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

PHOTO: Mark Estes Photography

## Gift Forges Research Collaboration to Enhance Survival and Quality of Life for Breast Cancer Patients

With every breast cancer diagnosis, the patient and her physician start a journey to determine the best path of treatment. On the one hand, medical options such as surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy are considered. Non-medical factors, such as exercise, diet, and education, may also play an important role. But how do all of these factors converge to affect outcomes, and which combination of choices leads to the best results?

Eager to help find some answers, Richard Levy, PhD, a Bay Area philanthropist and business leader, sought to capitalize on the expertise of researchers from Stanford University School of Medicine and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation. He and his wife, Susan, will provide \$2.1 million for a three-year collaboration that aims to improve outcomes for breast cancer patients.

“Patients need good technology and good environmental factors, such as exercise and nutrition, to achieve good health,” said Levy, the former longtime president and CEO of Varian Medical Systems in Palo Alto. “Here we have world-class institutions in both areas. It’s a natural partnership.”

Levy can attest to the value of collaboration. A nuclear chemist by training, he joined Varian colleagues and Stanford scientists from the Department of Radiation Oncology in pioneering linear accelerators for cancer treatment. Still active as board chairman of Varian, Levy also serves on the board of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and of its parent, Sutter Health.

If the new cancer study accomplishes all that he hopes, it will yield a secondary benefit: identifying ways to pare health care

costs nationwide—a cause close to his heart. “If Palo Alto and Stanford can find a way to provide better care at lower cost, that will set an example,” Levy said.

The project’s primary goal, of course, is to collect data that will give doctors an expansive look at the biological, clinical, social, and environmental factors that influence cancer survival and quality of life. A woman’s lifetime risk for developing breast cancer is about one in eight, or 12 percent. That grim statistic means scientists can draw from a large pool of potential study subjects, each with distinctive physical, psychological, and emotional experiences to relate.

Indeed, the researchers plan to keep tabs on hundreds of women (and their treating doctors) who agree to plug information into a secure electronic database called OncoShare, monitoring their tests, drug infusions, radiation sessions, and so on throughout the course of their treatment. At the same time they will examine nonmedical, or complementary, activities such as exercise routines or group therapy.

“Many factors contribute to breast cancer treatment and survival,” said Beverly Mitchell, MD, director of the Stanford Cancer Center and George E. Becker Professor of Medicine. “This comprehensive database will help researchers answer important questions about how genetics, medical choices, and psychosocial factors can influence outcomes.”

With its novel approach, the study could ultimately serve as a model for others, believes Levy. “There are plenty of common diseases where the quality of health relates to both technology and lifestyle.” ■