

# LEGACY

ACHIEVEMENTS IN HEALTH CARE, MEDICAL SCIENCE AND PHILANTHROPY





Thomas F. Zenty III  
Chief Executive Officer  
University Hospitals



Cliff A. Megerian, MD  
President  
University Hospitals

The year is far from over, yet already we have faced so much. We watched as COVID-19 quickly spread around the globe and subsumed our daily lives. We struggled as the deadly virus shuttered our community, bringing with it social isolation, economic damage and emotional strain. We reflected on our values and demanded more of ourselves and our neighbors in the fight against racial inequities. We wept and we worried, but we kept going, each doing our part to take steps forward.

At University Hospitals, there is no better example of this perseverance than our dedicated caregivers. Day in and day out – from the frontline to the lab, from housekeeping to scheduling – they face the pandemic with intense determination and inspiring humility. I am proud to call them my colleagues.

This commitment to serve has long defined UH, nurtured by the sustaining support of our vibrant donor community. Over the last several months, I've felt the power and purpose of your philanthropy more than ever before. Like our caregivers, you prioritized the health and well-being of others and, in the process, saved lives.

“Day in and day out, our caregivers face the pandemic with intense determination and inspiring humility.”

On the following pages, we share stories of remarkable generosity and the profound impact those gifts are already making, such as:

- Compassionate giving from the community – totaling more than \$10 million – to help UH and our heroic caregivers continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic;
- A \$34.5 million gift from the Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation to benefit our children and families by advancing UH Rainbow's future-focused strategic plan;
- Research-advancing support from the Garson family, bringing to the forefront investigational efforts to find alternative treatments for pancreatic cancer.

Extraordinary times like these demonstrate the need for ongoing support for the caregivers who live our mission – *To Heal. To Teach. To Discover.* – every day. Thank you for your dedication to our health system. I am confident UH is poised for many bright and promising tomorrows.

Sincerely,



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### IN MEMORIAM

This issue is dedicated to **Mary Jane Parente-Smith (January 27, 1959 – April 23, 2020)**, longtime graphic designer of *Legacy Magazine*. In spite of a lengthy battle with cancer, Mary Jane was an endless source of positivity and creative energy, relishing life and all the people and experiences in it. Her joy and spirit will be forever missed.



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## UH AHUJA ENTERS NEXT PHASE WITH NEW PRESIDENT

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Alan J. Papa, FACHE

A major health care anchor serving Cleveland's East Side suburbs, UH Ahuja Medical Center is embarking on a Phase 2 expansion project to accommodate changing demographics, service needs and technologies. Leading this initiative is new UH Ahuja President Alan J. Papa, FACHE, a highly accomplished health care executive who came to UH last fall after nine years at Cleveland Clinic Akron General, serving most recently as President and Chief Operating Officer.

The Ahuja Phase 2 endeavor includes labor and delivery services, a neonatal intensive care unit, the largest sports rehab complex in Northeast Ohio, a comprehensive breast health center, additional outpatient surgical care, an expanded ER and more. Papa will focus on the continued growth and operations of UH Ahuja, including clinical programs and services, patient experiences and outcomes, safety and quality.

"We look forward to working with Alan and are confident that his leadership will advance our mission, vision and values," said Neil Sethi, Chair, UH Ahuja Medical Center Board of Directors. "He brings experienced leadership as we embark on a major new chapter in the future of UH Ahuja."

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## WHITE COATS FOR BLACK LIVES

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The disturbing and unfortunate losses of George Floyd, Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor and many others have brought national attention to racial inequality, including disparities in health care.

At UH, we firmly believe in an environment where people of color feel welcome, respected and valued, a culture demonstrated by UH caregivers on June 11 during "White Coats for Black Lives: In Silence. In Solidarity." For eight minutes and 46 seconds, in remembrance of George Floyd, caregivers knelt in silent reflection, focusing on the persistent issues of racism and what each of us can do to advance racial equity and safety.

Disparities in health care result from racism. At UH, our role in addressing adverse outcomes includes our ongoing effort to expand access to the care and compassion that every patient, in every community, deserves. While we have made progress in this effort, much work remains to be done and must continue. To all people of color throughout our communities, we stand with you now and in every moment of the journey ahead.



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## UH SEIDMAN RECRUITS NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED PHYSICIAN FOR LEADERSHIP ROLE

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Brett E. Glotzbecker, MD

Renowned quality expert and oncologist Brett E. Glotzbecker, MD, joined UH Seidman Cancer Center last fall as Chief Medical Officer, overseeing quality and the patient experience for all disease teams and serving as the senior physician liaison for cancer practitioners system-wide. She also works closely with nursing, medical staff and quality teams to provide inpatient clinical care and consult services.

Recruited from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston – the principal teaching affiliate for Harvard Medical School and one of the nation’s highest-ranked cancer hospitals – Dr. Glotzbecker has been principal investigator on multiple funded projects, most recently to compare outcomes for hematopoietic cell transplant patients and to improve communication toward a more efficient discharge process.

“The UH Seidman Cancer Center family is fortunate to have attracted a physician leader of Dr. Glotzbecker’s stature,” said Theodoros N. Teknos, MD, President and Scientific Director, UH Seidman Cancer Center and the Jane and Lee Seidman Chair in Cancer Innovation. “Her expertise in patient experience, quality and clinical care delivery will help us achieve our goal of being the U.S. leader in value-based cancer care.”

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## SUPPORTING A HEALTHY RESTART

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As Ohio recovers from the COVID-19 crisis, communities are looking for guidance on how to reopen while keeping their businesses and schools safe. In response, UH created a comprehensive toolkit to support a safe restart.

The UH Healthy Restart Playbook aggregates information employers need to know, including best practices to keep people safe, guidelines for environmental safety, and recommendations for building trust with employees and customers. Among the many helpful tools included is UH’s Screen, Clean and 6-feet In Between™ checklist.

Similarly, the UH Rainbow Healthy Restart Playbook for Reopening Schools is designed to support K-12 schools as they consider options in educating our community’s children, including best practices to slow the spread of COVID-19, advice on how to talk to kids about the health crisis, and strategies to help reduce the risk to staff, students and families.

“Throughout the pandemic, all of us at UH have been working to care for our community, one patient at a time. These playbooks extend that care, arming business, school and non-profit leaders with strategies for a safe and healthy restart,” said Joan Zoltanski, MD, UH Community Reactivation Director and Fred C. Rothstein, MD, Chief Experience Officer. “People are looking for trusted health information – our goal is to share what we’ve learned in a way that is helpful to our community.”

“  
The health and safety  
of our community is our  
highest priority.

”  
– Joan Zoltanski, MD

*Download the playbooks and view the latest content from the UH Roe Green Center for Travel Medicine & Global Health at [UHhospitals.org/university-hospitals-healthy-restart](https://UHhospitals.org/university-hospitals-healthy-restart).*



# RESPONDING TO THE CALL

*f*or more than 150 years, University Hospitals has served the community with unrelenting compassion and purpose. In response, those that live and work here have played a critical role in sustaining the UH mission. COVID-19 has tested the strength and resilience of our health system, our caregivers and our community, and together we have risen to the challenge.

*“As a nationally recognized academic medical center, we are called to help lead the field in finding a solution to this pandemic.”*

- Grace A. McComsey, MD

## ON THE FRONTLINES

For UH Geauga Medical Center intensive care nurse Chris Dinallo-Morris, RN, the pandemic has been an almost indescribable experience. “I’ve been a nurse for a long time, but taking care of patients with COVID-19 is different,” she said. “Our patients are facing the virus as well as intense isolation, so as caregivers we become their entire support system. We provide medical care, but we also sit with patients when they’re lonely, pray with them when they’re frightened and, in some instances, hold their hand when they die. It can be overwhelming, but we’re only human. We have to remember that it’s ok to cry, it’s ok to hurt.”

Despite the emotional strain, patients like Larry Davis only see the compassion. After 27 days in the hospital, the Kent resident and pilot conquered COVID-19 at UH Portage Medical Center. “There must have been 100 people who had a hand in saving my life and I’m grateful to every last one of them,” he said. “It was a frightening experience, but the staff was incredible. They were there for me when my family couldn’t be, and all the while they kept my wife updated on my status. I never doubted I was in good hands.”

For both Larry and Chris, the key is remembering that we are all in this together, through the ups and downs. “At UH, everyone supports each other,” said Chris. “The health system cares about its staff and wants the best for us because that is how we give our best to our patients and, as a result, the community raises us up and gives us the strength and support to carry on. We are all on the same team.”

## IN THE LAB

“COVID-19 continues to impact lives and livelihoods here at home and around the world,” said Grace A. McComsey, MD, Vice President of Research and Associate Chief Scientific Officer, University Hospitals; and Rainbow Babies & Children’s Foundation John Kennell Chair of Excellence in Pediatrics and Division Chief of Infectious Diseases at UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital. “We all must take the necessary precautions to limit the spread, but the only way we will be safe is by finding a vaccine. And the way we get there is through research and clinical trials.”

Under Dr. McComsey’s direction, the UH Clinical Research Center has been busy leading and participating in a variety of ground-breaking initiatives and clinical trials - some 75 in all. UH was among the first in the country to conduct trials of the antiviral drug remdesivir, which aims to block the virus from replicating; preliminary findings from another study suggest the drug may shorten COVID-19 recovery time and increase the likelihood of survival.

*(continued on page 6)*



Thank you, Northeast Ohio!

## \$10 MILLION+ DONATED BY OUR COMMUNITY

"Trials are complex and take time, but the need for rigorous, professionally conducted research is critically important," explained Dr. McComsey. "New therapies can look good in the lab and demonstrate success in small sample sets, but the only way to ensure drugs are effective and safe for broad use is through clinical trials."

UH pulmonologist Olivia K. Giddings, MD, PhD, who is currently working on two COVID-19 trials, agrees. "For some patients, COVID-19 triggers an over-reactive immune response, causing excessive inflammation that leads to harmful and potentially fatal tissue damage," she explained, "This can lead to severe lung disease such as ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome) which is the leading cause of death among COVID-19 patients."

One of Dr. Giddings' studies is a phase III trial of an immune modulator (CD24Fc) that may suppress the body's inflammatory response; UH is one of just 10 medical centers nationwide enrolling patients. The other study – for which UH is the first activated clinical site – is evaluating the safety and efficacy of MultiStem® therapy, a stem-cell treatment that may benefit patients with COVID-19-induced ARDS.

As they move quickly to fight the virus, Dr. Giddings says the work is both taxing and incredibly inspiring. "Being involved in the development and testing of therapies that may benefit people is an incredibly rewarding experience."

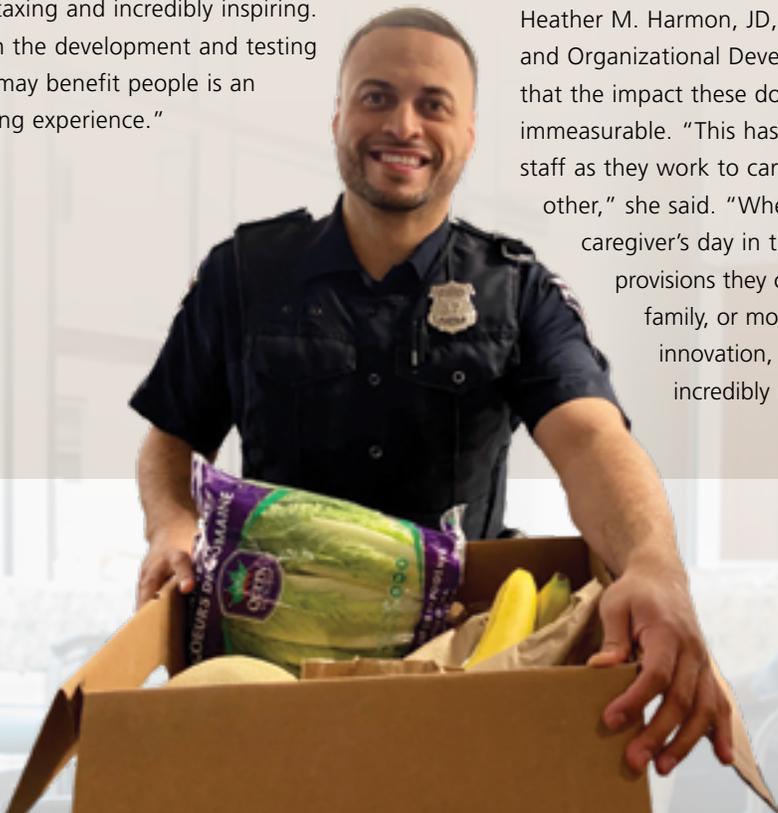


### ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

Since the start of the pandemic, UH friends and supporters have contributed more than \$10 million to support the health system's COVID-19 response. Countless members of the community have rallied together, sewing fabric face masks, providing medical supplies and meals, and giving generous charitable donations.

"The community stepped up immediately, helping us provide the highest level of care to our patients and ensure our caregivers have the resources to carry out our mission," reflected Dave Willets, Supply Chain Director for both UH Elyria and UH St. John medical centers. "We are endlessly grateful for the steady outpouring of support."

Heather M. Harmon, JD, Vice President, Human Resources and Organizational Development, University Hospitals, explains that the impact these donations have on UH caregivers is immeasurable. "This has been such a challenging time for our staff as they work to care for our patients, families and each other," she said. "Whether it was a meal to brighten a caregiver's day in the middle of a long shift, healthy provisions they could take home and share with their family, or monetary donations to drive research and innovation, the support we've received has been incredibly meaningful to all of us at UH." 🍷



# Here for our HER ES



More than  
**133,000**  
masks made



## FUELING OUR HEROES

Former Cleveland Browns cornerback TJ Carrie had heart surgery as a teenager to resolve a rare birth defect and, during his time in Cleveland, he developed a special connection with UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. This spring, the TJ Carrie Foundation and JumpStart provided 200 meals for UH caregivers and staff.



**28,000**  
caregivers supported



## PROTECTING OUR HEROES

Hannah and Eliza Botzman of Independence, along with their mother, Michelle, and brother Joe, assembled more than 100 cloth masks to donate to UH Parma Medical Center.



**40,000+**  
meals delivered



## SUPPORTING OUR HEROES

With the support of Hyundai Hope On Wheels®, UH was one of the first health systems in Ohio to launch drive-thru COVID-19 testing, opening a site at UH Landerbrook Health Center on March 16. As of July, 31, the location has tested more than 7,800 individuals.



## COMMITMENT THAT SPANS *generations*

From left: Patience Humphrey; Pam and Steve Keefe; Cathy A. Sila, MD; Sandy, Hanna and George Brinn; Bonnie Humphrey and Charles Michener at the August 2019 celebration of the Gilbert W. Humphrey Professor of Neurology

The Humphrey Family legacy at UH stretches nearly 100 years, beginning in the 1920s with patriarch George M. Humphrey and his wife, Pamela, both of whom provided great leadership during a formative time in UH history. Over the decades, a number of their descendants have followed their example, serving as volunteer leaders and philanthropic models. Today, the family's legacy of generational support at UH exceeds \$10 million in total giving.

*“For generations, the Humphrey family has helped UH develop life-saving new treatments and innovative surgical techniques.”*

– Cathy A. Sila, MD

“Our family is incredibly proud of our enduring connection to UH,” said Sandra Humphrey Brinn, herself an active trustee of Rainbow Babies & Children’s Foundation. “It is fulfilling to know that our family is making a difference in patients’ lives through quality care and advanced research.”

## ENSURING AN IMPACTFUL LEGACY

Recruited to UH and named the George M. Humphrey II Endowed Chair in Neurology in 2008, Cathy A. Sila, MD, used funds from her endowed position to develop UH's first integrated stroke program. Within five years, all UH medical centers were Advanced Stroke Center-certified and consistently earning quality awards from the American Heart & American Stroke Associations. Today, UH is internationally recognized for leading advances in stroke care.

In 2019, Dr. Sila was named Chair, UH Department of Neurology. With her new role, came a new endowed title: the Gilbert W. Humphrey Professor of Neurology. Coinciding with the creation of the neurology department, the chair was established in 1980 specifically for the department chair.

"The Humphrey family's generosity has benefitted patients with all manner of neurological disorder and it is my unique honor to have held two Humphrey chairs," said Dr. Sila. "The first served me well and will go on to well-serve another neurologist. My new endowed position is equally important and will help me shape our department in the years to come."

## BUILDING ON A FAMILY COMMITMENT

Earlier this year, Pam and Steve Keefe made a \$1 million commitment to the UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children, building on their family's previous \$5 million leadership gift to support the center. Their gift, bolstered by \$500,000 in matching support from the Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation, established the Pamela Butler Keefe and Stephen T. Keefe Chair of Excellence in Academic Pediatrics.

The new position will be held by the future Division Chief of General Academic Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, a key member of the UH Rainbow Center leadership team currently under national recruitment. With funding from the Keefe Chair, the new division chief will lead education, research, community outreach and advocacy efforts to address health care disparities and promote life-saving pediatric advancements.

"The UH Rainbow Center is stunning example of community-focused care with the potential to transform the MidTown neighborhood," said Pam. "Our family believed in the project from the beginning and, having seen it in action, we are committed to helping the center fulfill its purpose." 🍷

# ENDOWED, TODAY AND FOREVER

In a record-breaking year for UH endowed positions, **11 new chairs, master clinicians and endowed directors were established in 2019**. Additionally, endowed titles were awarded to 23 UH caregivers.

For the health system, these positions help recruit and retain world-class physicians. For appointees, they recognize and promote excellence in clinical care, education and discovery. And for donors, they establish a lasting legacy.



Lalitha V. Nayak, MD (center) and her family celebrating her December 2019 appointment to the Joan H. and Richard B. Ainsworth, Jr. Endowed Chair in Hematologic Research

*For a full listing of UH endowed positions, visit [UHgiving.org/endedpositions](https://UHgiving.org/endedpositions).*

Patti DePompei, RN, MSN with UH Rainbow patients Agis and Kya Wimbley at the UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children in March



LOCKSTEP COMMITMENT TO  
**patients & families**

For more than 130 years, the women of the Rainbow Babies & Children’s Foundation have rallied individuals, organizations and lawmakers to support UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital. Through gifts great and small – from the signature Ride the Rainbow gala to funds raised through the Children’s Miracle Network – their support has made an undeniable difference in the lives of countless Northeast Ohio children and families.

In that spirit, the Rainbow Foundation made a record-breaking \$34.5 million gift last year to advance the hospital’s future-focused strategic plan. This spring, they made an additional \$250,000 gift to support the hospital’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contributions come at a pivotal moment for UH Rainbow which recently embarked on a new five year plan.

“Together with the Rainbow Foundation, we’ve begun the next chapter of UH Rainbow’s story,” shared Patti DePompei, RN, MSN, President, UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s and UH MacDonald Women’s hospitals. “The foundation’s extraordinary generosity will ensure the resources and support we need to achieve our vision and reinforce our position as Northeast Ohio’s leading children’s hospital.”

“It’s important to us that we support the children of Northeast Ohio,” said Terri Kennedy, immediate past president, and Collette Laisure, current president, Rainbow Babies & Children’s Foundation. “We’re shining a light on the excellent work of the Rainbow team and the plan they have for the future.”

“Having a strong, compassionate presence in the community is a priority for both UH and the Rainbow Foundation. Our kids and families deserve our very best.”

- Patti DePompei, RN, MSN



Patti DePompei, RN, MSN (seated at center) with past presidents of the Rainbow Foundation (from left): Kim Pesses, Julie Raskind, Dinah Kolesar, Beth Curtiss, Jane Meyer, Robin Baum, Ann O'Brien, Terri Kennedy, and Lynne Alfred at the November 2019 dedication of the Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation Chair in Leadership and Innovation

## UH RAINBOW STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

*Expanding clinical services to meet the evolving needs of children*

*Leading research and advocacy to drive breakthroughs in pediatric medicine*

*Recruiting and retaining leading pediatric specialists*

*Addressing health disparities affecting women and children*

*Expanding access to UH Rainbow's extensive network of pediatric care providers*

## RESPONDING TO NEED

Since its inception, the Rainbow Foundation has been a lead supporter of the hospital and its most pressing needs. Some of their most notable gifts include:



**\$20.6 million,**  
helping establish the **Quentin & Elisabeth Alexander Neonatal Intensive Care Unit,**  
a national model for family-centered care



**\$32.5 million,**  
supporting the first-of-its-kind **Angie Fowler Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Institute**



**\$5 million,**  
benefiting the state-of-the-art **UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children in Midtown**

“Patti has dedicated her career to doing what’s best for the children and families we serve,” said Terri. “The UH Rainbow Center is the embodiment of her compassion, her concern and her commitment. We are proud of all the good the center has and will continue to do in our community.”

Since opening its doors, the UH Rainbow Center has grown substantially and is on track to deliver over 100,000 annual patient encounters. In addition to its emphasis on primary care, the center is a key site for research in women’s health issues including post-partum depression. And, building on its promise to deliver wrap around support services, the center now offers specialized care for both the LGBTQIA+ community and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Recognizing the prevalence of violence and abuse in today’s society, Patti explains that the center has integrated trauma-informed care into every visit, making exams feel less invasive and giving patients more control.

“A significant number of Americans experience serious trauma at some point in their lives,” she said, noting one in four women experiences domestic violence, and one in four children experiences physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

“It’s important that we as caregivers are mindful of this reality,” she continued. “It’s a small but incredibly important change to the way we deliver care.”

## GROWING TOWARD TOMORROW

Redoubling its efforts to recruit national experts, UH Rainbow attracted Marlene R. Miller, MD, MSc from the Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore in 2018. As UH Pediatrician-in-Chief and Chair of UH Rainbow's Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Miller has since recruited high-profile physicians from leading pediatric hospitals across the country. She has also recognized and elevated leaders within UH Rainbow.

"Endowed positions and dedicated funds for research and other initiatives are now a baseline expectation of sought-after physicians," shared Dr. Miller. "There is a direct correlation between a hospital's success in recruiting top talent and their ability to offer these prestigious positions."

As part of their recent gift, the Rainbow Foundation created the Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation Chair in Leadership and Innovation for Patti, in recognition of her immeasurable contributions to the hospital. They also allocated matching funds to inspire additional endowed positions.

"Dr. Miller is an extremely valuable addition to the UH Rainbow leadership team," said Terri. "She and Patti are providing extraordinary leadership during a promising time in the hospital's history. We hope these matching funds provide even greater momentum in their recruitment and retention efforts."

Recruitment is increasingly important as the hospital expands its regional footprint. Recently joining with two prominent pediatrician practices — Green Road Pediatrics in South Euclid and KidsFirst Pediatrics Co. in Willoughby Hills — UH Rainbow Babies & Children's now provides comprehensive care to more children in Northeast Ohio than ever before.

Dr. Miller hopes to build on these collaborative efforts and work with children's hospitals across the country to tackle some of the big, unanswered questions in pediatric health care.

"To know whether we're moving the needle, we need to band together and share data," she said. "Together, we can develop best practices that benefit children's hospitals everywhere. That, to me, is where we need to go." 🍷

## A family's heartfelt gift

Through her service on the Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation board, Stacey Edwards knows that UH Pediatrician-in-Chief Marlene R. Miller, MD, MSc, is a rare and exceptional leader. And, because her family

is already involved with UH and UH Rainbow, they knew the perfect way to recognize Dr. Miller.

"UH's most important assets are its people," said Stacey. "By creating an endowed position, we could honor our mother's legacy of giving and passion for children while supporting Dr. Miller at the same time."

In December, Stacey and her sisters, Jessica McCamon and Lauren Pannunzio, joined their father, John Antonucci, chairman of the family-owned Superior Beverage Group and a member of the UH Board of Directors, in establishing the Marsha L. Antonucci Distinguished Chair of Pediatrics. The position received the first of many new matching gifts made possible by the Rainbow Foundation's latest gift.

"Our mother instilled in us the importance of giving our time, our hearts and our resources," shared Stacey. "She's delighted that our gift recognizes Dr. Miller and her passionate commitment to the health of children."



Marlene R. Miller, MD, MSc (left) and Stacey Edwards at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in March

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**DIAPHRAGM PACING ALLEVIATES DEMAND FOR VENTILATORS**

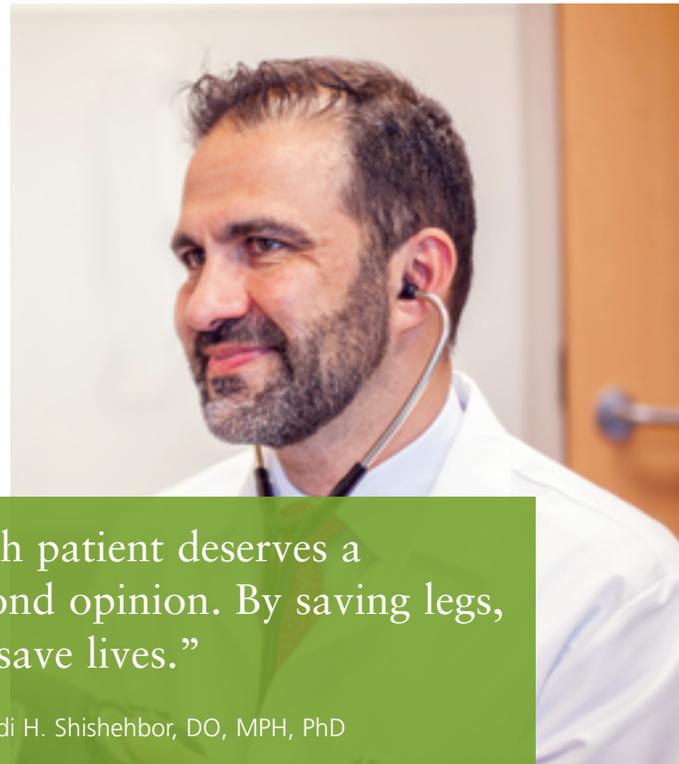
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Diaphragm pacing uses small, surgically implanted electrodes to stimulate the breathing muscle, causing it to contract and forcing the patient to breathe. A pioneer in the field, Raymond P. Onders, MD, FACS, Chief of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery, and Margaret G. and Walter K. Remen Chair in Surgical Innovation at UH Cleveland Medical Center, developed the first diaphragm pacing system (DPS) over 20 years ago.

Dr. Onders implanted the first DPS in 2000, allowing a young quadriplegic patient to breathe without a ventilator. In 2003, actor Christopher Reeve, best known for his leading role in the movie *Superman*, became the second patient to receive the system. Over the years, the DPS has benefitted patients suffering from spinal cord injury, severe neurologic disorders, post-surgical complications and, now, COVID-19.

“This pandemic’s most feared complication is severe pneumonia as it can lead to respiratory failure and require mechanical ventilation,” explained Dr. Onders. “Given the number of COVID-19 patients, a shortage of ventilators quickly became a reality in many parts of our nation and globe.”

Diaphragm pacing received emergency approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in April to aid with the nationwide demand for ventilators. Dr. Onders projects the technology could reduce ventilator burden in COVID-19 patients or intensive care units by 26 percent.



“Each patient deserves a second opinion. By saving legs, we save lives.”

- Mehdi H. Shishehbor, DO, MPH, PhD

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**SAVING LEGS AND LIVES AT UH HARRINGTON HEART & VASCULAR INSTITUTE**

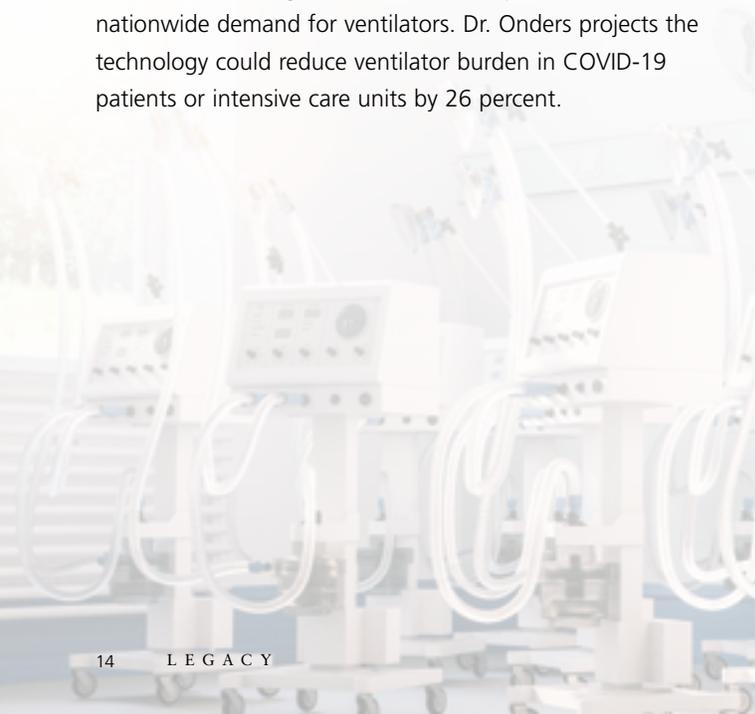
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An expert in advanced limb salvage and amputation prevention, Mehdi H. Shishehbor, DO, MPH, PhD, is happy to give his patients a leg to stand on – literally. Director of UH’s Interventional Cardiovascular Center and Co-Director of the Vascular Center at UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute, he draws patients from across the country, some traveling more than 1,000 miles to Cleveland after being told a leg amputation is their only solution.

The Amputee Coalition of America estimates there are 185,000 new lower extremity amputations in the U.S. each year, predominantly due to circulation issues like peripheral artery disease which causes painful cramping, numbness and wounds.

UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute’s Limb Salvage Program, however, is transforming the standard of care for patients at risk of amputation, specializing in minimally invasive procedures like LimFlow, which bypasses blocked arteries in the leg to restore blood flow into the foot. UH is one of only five hospitals in the country – and the only location in Ohio – performing the new limb-saving technique.

“The importance of getting a second or even third opinion cannot be overstated,” emphasized Dr. Shishehbor. “Circulation disorders significantly impact the quality of life unless treated with the most up-to-date techniques and expertise.”



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## UH AND NASA JOIN FORCES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

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UH and NASA Glenn Research Center have collaborated to develop new methods for decontaminating personal protective equipment (PPE). The approaches offer on-site sterilization applications in both health care and aerospace.

Developed by Glenn research engineer Sharon Miller and physicist Bruce Banks of the Science Applications International Corp., the atomic oxygen decontamination method sees contaminated PPE and ozone placed in a chamber that is then heated. As the ozone decomposes into atomic oxygen, it can kill viruses. In May, NASA provided a prototype for UH to test on N95 masks. Early results show favorable results; further testing will determine the ozone concentration and exposure time needed for disinfection.

The peracetic acid method – developed by UH infectious disease and critical care physicians Amrita R. John, MD, and Shine K. Raju, MD – uses an aerosolized chemical disinfectant and is effective in killing 99.9999 percent of viruses and bacterial spores. Results show that N95 masks can undergo up to five decontamination cycles without detectable loss of filtration, structural integrity and strap elasticity. The method is under review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for emergency use authorization and is the subject of a multi-institutional study with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Case Western Reserve University, and NASA Glenn Research Center.



Amrita R. John, MD (left) and Shine K. Raju, MD

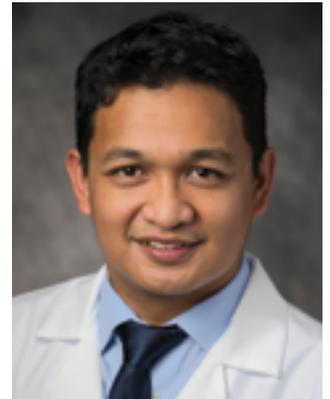
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## NEW STUDY EXAMINES IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LABOR AND DELIVERY

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Pregnancy alters the immune system which creates a unique challenge in light of the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

In a study published by the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology MFM, physician-researchers from UH Cleveland Medical Center and Georgia State University project 52 COVID-19 related maternal mortalities in the U.S. this year.



Manesha Putra, MD

“Our model projects an increase in the U.S. maternal mortality rate to at least 8.7 per 100,000 live births as a direct result of this pandemic,” says principal investigator Manesha Putra, MD, Maternal Fetal Medicine, UH Cleveland Medical Center.

“More specifically, the study predicts 3,308 severe and 681 critical COVID-19 cases among delivering women in the U.S., with about 52 maternal mortalities.”

The new study is among the first to examine the pandemic’s impact on obstetric care. “We hope this study helps guide resource allocation and better prepares hospitals, maternity units and caregivers on the frontlines.”

IN THE NAME OF *family*



John and Peggy Garson at last year's Annual Society of 1866 Celebration

*After their son, Scott, was suddenly diagnosed with cancer, John and Peggy Garson became well-versed in the field of pancreatic and periampullary cancers.*

Last year, they established the John and Peggy Garson Family Endowed Chair in Pancreatic Cancer Research to support and advance the work of pancreatic cancer expert Jordan M. Winter, MD, UH Chief of Surgical Oncology and Director of Surgical Services, UH Seidman Cancer Center – the physician who saved their son.



Jordan M. Winter, MD

## AN UNEXPECTED DIAGNOSIS

2018 was good to Scott Garson. The 55-year-old commercial real estate broker enjoyed another successful business year and was grateful for the good health of his parents, wife and two children. Looking forward to an equally bright 2019, he was gathered with friends on New Year's Eve when someone noted he looked jaundiced. Concerned, they pressed him to see a doctor.

A few days and a series of tests later, a mass was discovered at the point where Scott's pancreatic and bile ducts met the small intestine. A biopsy confirmed ampullary cancer, a rare disease akin to pancreatic cancer. And then, Scott's world turned upside down.

"If the mass were two millimeters in either direction, I likely wouldn't have had symptoms and the cancer would have progressed much further before being discovered," he said. "Hearing that rattles you; it changes you. You realize that

if you want to beat cancer, you need to have a certain acceptance of it."

"Matched stage for stage, ampullary cancer has a more favorable prognosis than pancreatic cancer, but it is still a very real and concerning diagnosis," said Dr. Winter, who performed a complex, six-hour Whipple procedure to remove the mass and rebuild Scott's digestive system.

"It's amazing what your body can learn to live without," reflected Scott, who, in the process, lost parts of his pancreas and small intestine, his gallbladder and his bile duct.

After recovering from surgery, Scott began a taxing six-months chemotherapy. "I had a great team around me that was making good decisions and listened to my concerns," he said. "It was calming and allowed me to relax and focus on my care instead of the cancer."

*"UH is my hospital.*

**HERE, I'M A PERSON, NOT A PATIENT."**

– Scott Garson



Ann and Scott Garson (center) with their children, Noah and Jessica, at the November 2019 dedication of the John and Peggy Garson Family Endowed Chair in Pancreatic Cancer Research

## A PHILOSOPHY OF COMPASSION

When a patient faces a new cancer diagnosis, they're confronted with a lot of anxieties and stress. Innovative therapies are critical to help patients live longer or potentially be cured, but for Dr. Winter, it's equally important that cancer care be delivered with sincerity and compassion.

"Throughout my career, I've been known for forming close relationships with my patients, so when I arrived at UH Seidman Cancer Center, where caregivers treat every patient like a member of their own family, I knew I'd found the right fit," he said. "I believe the human connection between physician and patient is an incredibly important ingredient to patient care."

More than a philosophy, Dr. Winter puts this belief into practice on a daily basis. "To treat a patient like family, they need family-level communication," he said.

"Every one of my patients gets my personal cell phone number and a directive to call me if they have any concerns, 24/7."

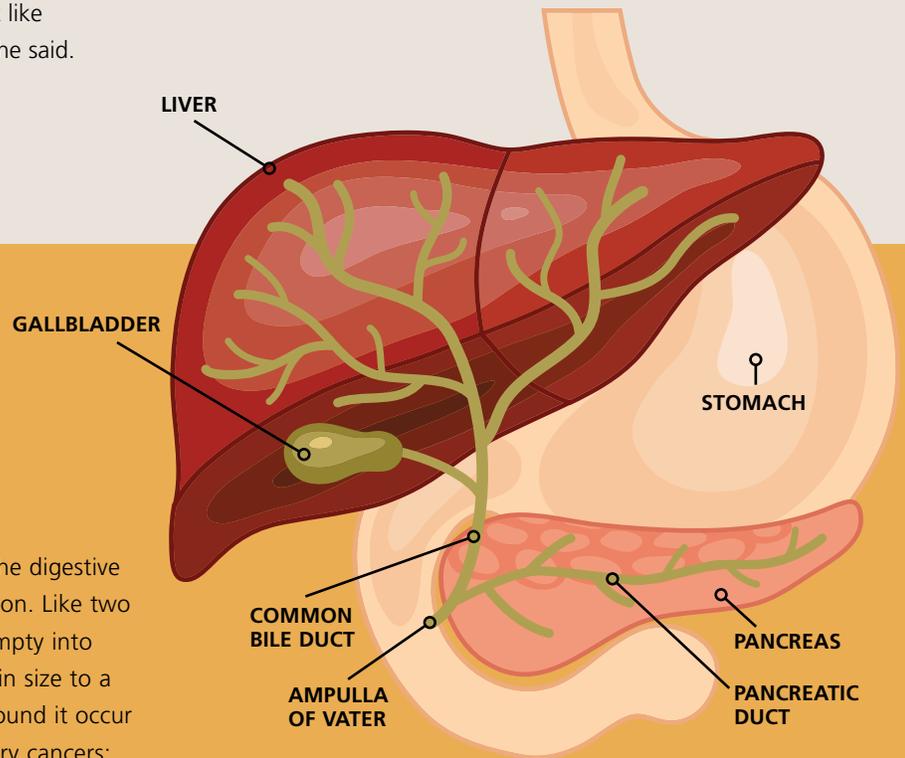
This commitment to patient care, noted Scott, was instrumental to his recovery. "Every day for two-and-a-half months, I took a photo of my wound and sent it to Dr. Winter so that we could track my health together. I felt like my job was to help him as much as it was his to help me."



Scott and Dr. Winter (above) in September 2019, and (below) March 2020

## What are Periapillary Cancers?

The pancreas and liver are important parts of the digestive system, secreting enzymes that aid with digestion. Like two rivers, the pancreatic and bile ducts join and empty into the small intestine. This juncture, approximate in size to a pencil eraser, is called the ampulla of Vater. Around it occur four cancers, collectively known as periapillary cancers:



### Ampullary Cancer

Forms in the ampulla of Vater

### Biliary Cancer

Forms in the bile duct

### Duodenal Cancer

Forms in the small intestine

### Pancreatic Cancer

Forms in the pancreas

Pancreatic cancer is the most common and most aggressive periapillary cancer. It also has the lowest five-year survival rate of all major cancers - just nine percent.

## POWERED BY PHILANTHROPY

A highly skilled clinician, Dr. Winter is the Jerome A. and Joy Weinberger Family Master Clinician in Surgical Oncology as well as a leader in translational and basic research. His lab, funded by grants from the American Cancer Society and National Institutes of Health, is at the forefront of investigational efforts to find alternative treatments for pancreatic cancer.

Currently, his lab is working to understand how pancreatic cancer cells survive in their microenvironment and identify weaknesses that may lead to new and effective therapies.

"We've had some highly promising, early results in pre-clinical models for a drug that targets the metabolic interactions within pancreatic cancer cells," said Dr. Winter, who hopes to soon move into human clinical trials. "If this drug can improve patient survival, it will be the first significant advance in pancreatic cancer treatment since standard chemotherapy."

Lines of investigation such as this are the groundbreaking advances John and Peggy Garson are eager to support through the Garson Family Endowed Chair in Pancreatic Cancer Research.

"If not for Scott's illness, we never would have known about Dr. Winter and his work," said John. "He is a great scientific mind with an equally admirable personality and bedside manner. He is everything you could want in a caregiver and we are honored to support his passionate commitment to the field."

"The Garson Chair is an honor and game-changer for my lab," shared Dr. Winter. "We work very hard to get grants but they're extremely competitive. This chair will provide significant, ongoing research support and help us make real discoveries in the diagnosis and treatment of periampullary cancers."

That is exactly the outcome Peggy hopes for. "We're fortunate Scott had ampullary cancer, which has a much more real possibility of being cured than pancreatic cancer," she said. "But patients with pancreatic cancer deserve better odds. We believe Dr. Winter will find a way to make that happen."

This January, Scott received a clean bill of health. "It's baffling, but in one year, I was diagnosed, treated, recovered and cured from cancer," he said. "I'm incredibly fortunate to have an outstanding hospital close to home that can attract talent like Dr. Winter." 🍷

“THE GARSON CHAIR  
WILL GENERATE  
RESEARCH FUNDING  
IN PERPETUITY –

*it is a tremendous gift.”*

– Jordan M. Winter, MD



# DIAMOND

CHARITABLE GIFT PLANNING



## Years Well Spent

Ophthalmologist William L. Annable, MD, former UH Chief Quality Officer, and his wife, Catherine, a retired UH clinical nurse, agree they've spent more time within the walls of UH over the years than they have in their Cleveland Heights home.

The couple speak with great warmth about their experiences at UH. "I had the best job in the hospital – I got to know everyone," said Catherine. Dr. Annable agreed, "I love what I do, and I love where I do it."

"This hospital has been a vital part of my life for 50 years. During that time, the impact of this organization on the city has only grown, and Catherine and I believe UH is an invaluable component in the future of health care in Cleveland."

Catherine and William L. Annable, MD

In addition to their dedicated medical service, the Annables, longtime Diamond Legacy Society members, have consistently supported the hospital's growth and expansion, including provisions for UH in their estate plans. "We understood the need from seeing it every day," Dr. Annable shared. "We felt an obligation to support and serve the mission of our hospital and to contribute to the welfare of our patients today and tomorrow."

The fondness the two share for their work at UH is readily apparent. "We owe this institution everything, and are happy to be able to support UH's exciting future."

# Giving

## Through Your Will or Living Trust

Many UH supporters who make current gifts also choose to leave a meaningful legacy by carefully planning a charitable bequest in their will or trust. A bequest can be flexible in amount, form and type of assets. You also retain full use of your assets during life and can make modifications should circumstances or goals change.

### Customize your *charitable bequest*

You can tailor a charitable bequest to accurately reflect your personal values and intentions. There are four main gift designations to consider:

#### **Specific Gift**

Designates a specific amount or named asset such as real estate, artwork or collectibles to UH, and is made first before all other distributions.

#### **Percentage Gift**

Designates a percentage of your estate to UH and ensures that both heirs and UH receive proportional shares of the estate if it should change in value.

#### **Residual Gift**

Designates remaining assets to UH after all specific bequests, taxes and administrative expenses are satisfied.

#### **Contingent Gift**

Designates assets to UH if your primary beneficiary predeceases you or disclaims the gift.

#### **Sample Bequest Language:**

I give, devise and bequeath to University Hospitals (Tax ID #34-0714775), located in Cleveland, OH, (*insert percentage of estate, dollar amount or description of assets*) to be used for the area of greatest need (*or for the support of a specific area, fund or program*).



Only  
**32%**

*of Americans say they have a will or other estate plan in place.\**

\*Caring.com 2020 Estate Planning and Wills Survey

## *Will vs. Living Trust*

Wills and living trusts are tools for managing asset distributions that can be changed or revoked at any point during your lifetime.

Wills are subject to court proceedings (probate) which establish a public record.

Living trusts are not probated, which means estate administration takes place in private. They are generally more complex and, therefore, more expensive to administer than a will.

## Next Steps

Your will or living trust is one of the most important documents you will execute during your lifetime. It can have a profound effect on the financial well-being of family, friends and University Hospitals, so take steps to ensure it accurately reflects your wishes.



**Create a will or trust.** If you do not have a will or trust, talk with your advisors about how you want your assets distributed and the tax implications of what and how you give.



**Update your will or trust.** Review your will or trust periodically to make certain it is up-to-date. If you want to include a bequest to UH, it is simple to add a codicil.



**Inform UH.** It is important to let us know of your gift intentions to UH during your lifetime so that we can thank you now for your generosity and make certain your intentions are clearly stated.



**Learn more.** The UH Gift Planning Team would be happy to work with you and your advisors to explore the best way to include UH in your estate plans. Call **216-983-2200** or visit **[UHGiving.org/GiftPlanning](https://UHGiving.org/GiftPlanning)**.

Leave your **legacy.**  
Remember University Hospitals in your estate plans.



My legacy gift is my personal way of saying 'thank you' to UH."

– Lori Zaim



## Compassion at Every Turn

In 2014, life changed dramatically for the Zaim family. Husband and father Tarif Zaim, MD, a board-certified skin pathologist, suddenly found himself in the role of patient when he received a devastating diagnosis – stage 4 non-small cell lung cancer.

"We knew immediately we were going to UH Seidman Cancer Center," said Lori, his wife of 34 years and co-owner of Fireside Book Shop. "As one of the best in the country, we knew UH would deliver a full range of the most advanced treatment options."

Under the care of Afshin N. Dowlati, MD, Director, Thoracic Oncology, UH Seidman Cancer Center and Lucile and Robert H. Gries Endowed Director, Center for Cancer Drug Development, Tarif and Lori had nearly two more years together. Sadly, the cancer spread to his brain and he passed away in January 2016.

"Tarif was confident he was in the best place possible," shared Lori. "In an otherwise horrible situation, we felt surrounded by kindness and compassion at every turn, from the valet and coffee cart greeters to the personalized care of every nurse and doctor. Everyone made the ordeal a little easier on us."

On advice from her friend and financial advisor, Lori took a significant step to solidify her husband's legacy last year. "It had never occurred to me that I could extend my gratitude for all that UH did for my husband through philanthropy," said Lori, who decided on a generous gift through her living trust that will support lung cancer and brain tumor research and innovation at UH Seidman Cancer Center.

"UH gave us the gift of more time," she said. "If my support can provide that to another family in the future, I'm grateful for the chance to do it. And I know Tarif would be too." 🍷

# Philanthropic Spirit

## LIFE-LONG PASSION LEADS TO NEW ENDOWED CHAIR



Lisa and Vasu S. Pandrangi, MD

“Plastic and reconstructive surgery is fascinating and incredibly meaningful to me,” shared Vasu S. Pandrangi, MD, Chief of Plastic Surgery at UH St. John Medical Center. “Patients come to us with issues that affect them medically and physically, but often times they’ve been impacted emotionally as well. As plastic and reconstructive surgeons, we have the chance to change the trajectory of our patients’ lives by providing them with the opportunity and hope to live their lives to the fullest.”

Dr. Pandrangi’s interest is not limited to clinical care, however. “Vasu and I both believe strongly in the importance of research and education,” shared his wife, Lisa. “The pursuit of knowledge leads to discovery and innovation, both of which are critical for advancing plastic and reconstructive surgery at UH and beyond.”

Championing their cause, the couple made a generous gift to establish the Dr. Vasu and Lisa Pandrangi Family Endowed Chair in Plastic Surgery. Funding from the new position will support a visiting scholars program, welcoming physicians from around the world to help educate the current and future generations of plastic and reconstructive surgeons.

“In the last seven years, I have seen the UH Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery emerge as a leader in its field,” said Dr. Pandrangi, crediting the success to quality research and the recruitment of talented surgeons like Anand R. Kumar, MD, Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery at UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital and the inaugural Pandrangi Family Chair. “We hope this gift will further elevate UH on the national and global stage.”



## MEANINGFUL SUPPORT FOR MUSIC THERAPY

Chuck Harle was a board member at UH Parma Medical Center for more than 40 years. When he passed away in January 2018, his wife, Jean, took special care to fulfill his wish of supporting the hometown hospital he loved.

"I gave it a whole lot of thought, and music therapy made the most sense," shared Jean. "Chuck received inpatient hospice care over the holidays – an incredibly difficult time. But the staff sang carols and, simple as it seems, it was such a comfort to me."

Significant research supports the use of music therapy in the medical setting, including recent studies that associate music therapy with reductions in pain perception, depression, anxiety and stress.

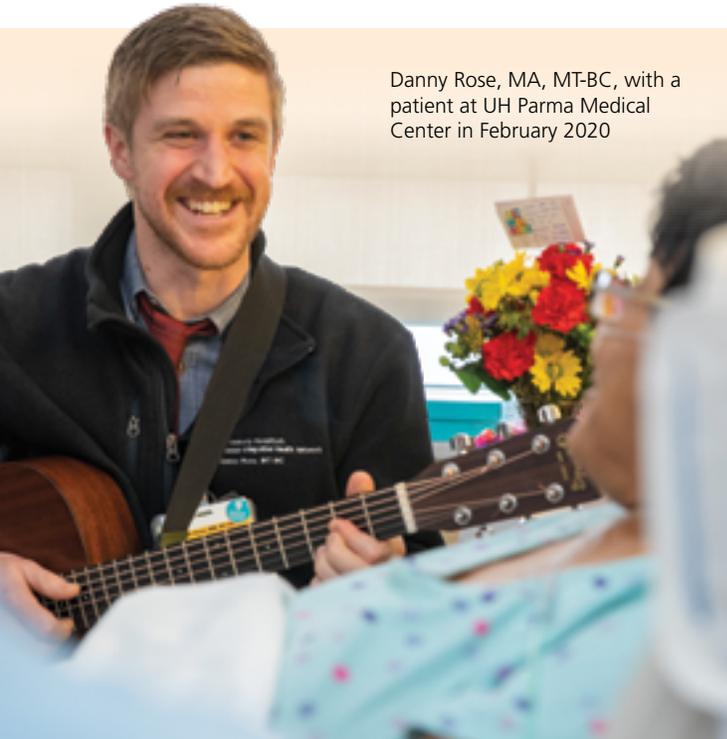
Through Jean and Chuck's generous support, UH recently expanded its music therapy program, adding a full-time music therapist – Danny Rose, MA, MT-BC – at UH Parma Medical Center. Danny will serve as many as 1,000 patients per year, helping to reduce stress and improve comfort for those receiving care.

"Music therapy is soothing and takes your mind off what you're going through," said Jean. "I know this will be a big plus for the hospital and that Chuck would be glad to support UH Parma in such a meaningful way."

Even as COVID-19 has changed the rules for visitation, Danny and his fellow music therapists continue to care for UH patients via telehealth services, including music-assisted relaxation, songwriting interventions and live virtual performances. The team is also providing guided meditation and virtual music rooms to help UH caregivers relax and destress.

"Listening to music that you enjoy can have many positive effects on your body, mind and spirit," said Danny. "I hope that I can bring a sense of normalcy and comfort to all of the patients and caregivers that are dealing with their regular day-to-day lives on top of facing the pandemic around us."

Danny Rose, MA, MT-BC, with a patient at UH Parma Medical Center in February 2020





## REALIZING THE VISION FOR AYA CARE AT ANGIE'S INSTITUTE

September 2019 ribbon-cutting event for the Andrew Uhrman Inpatient Unit

The Angie Fowler Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Institute's vision is to offer age-appropriate space and amenities for pediatric, adolescent and young adult patients. That vision will become a reality when the Andrew Uhrman Inpatient Unit opens to patients later this year. The new, life-affirming space extends the state-of-the-art healing environment of Angie's Institute to inpatients who are fighting cancer and blood disorders, joining the previously opened outpatient floor and rooftop Angie's Garden.

us, but his compassion, his empathy and his joy will live on at Angie's Institute," said Seth.

UH Rainbow celebrated the new unit at a 2019 ribbon-cutting event with Who front man and Teen Cancer America founder, Roger Daltrey. In addition to the Uhrman Family, Char and Chuck Fowler and their family – Chann and Ed Spellman and Holley and Rob Martens – were in attendance. The Fowler family established Angie's Institute in honor of their daughter and sister Angie, who was just 14-years-old when she died of melanoma in 1983.

For the Fowlers, joining with families like the Uhrmans and other generous supporters has made Angie's Institute truly special. "Losing Angie at that age, there was real grief in not knowing what she would have been like as an adult and what she could have accomplished," shared her sisters, Chann and Holley. "But being able to celebrate the institute in her name, even all these years later, has been so therapeutic."

**"Together, we've made Angie's Institute a model for what every AYA facility can be."**

– Chann Spellman and Holley Martens

Made possible thanks to generous support from Seth Uhrman, the Andrew Uhrman Inpatient Unit is a lasting tribute to Seth's son, Andrew, who passed away at age 10 from a rare blood disorder. During his illness, Andrew raised funds for the hospital, asking family and friends to make donations to UH Rainbow in lieu of birthday presents. "Andrew is lost to



## ENHANCING THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Dealing with cancer is tough. Treatment can be long, inconvenient and often requires waiting, patience and perseverance. Robert “Bob” Sill knew this all too well.

Diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2011, Bob received his care at UH Seidman Cancer Center with frequent, sometimes daily, visits. “Bob faced his diagnosis head on,” recalled his wife, Eileen. “Every day for three months, he got up and went to UH to get his treatments.”

On more than one occasion, Bob expressed to Eileen his appreciation for the calm and uplifting atmosphere in the Cristal Family Radiation Oncology Reception Area at UH Seidman Cancer Center. “While his treatments were uncomfortable, Bob found comfort there in the waiting room,” explained Eileen. “He enjoyed the freshness, the colors and the feel of the space. I truly believe it helped keep his spirits high as he passed the time.”

A loving husband, father, grandfather and leader in the community, Bob lost his battle with cancer in June 2018. In his memory, Eileen was encouraged by her children, Scott Sill and Shari Perlmutter, to renovate and enhance the reception area of UH Seidman Cancer Center at UH Minoff Health Center. “From Bob’s experience, I know how hard waiting can be when you are battling cancer,” she explained. “My family and I hope this gift enhances that experience for others seeking cancer care.”

For Eileen, philanthropy gives in both directions. “In 2013, Bob and I made a gift to create the Robert and Eileen Sill Welcome Wall in Angie’s Institute and it brought us such joy to know we were making a difference,” she said. “I know in my heart he would be thrilled with this new gift and the impact it will have on countless patients with cancer. He would also be proud to know, with this gift, he fulfills his longtime wish of joining the UH Samuel Mather Society.”



Eileen Sill and her late husband, Bob, at the 2014 opening of Angie’s Institute



From left, Jonathan H. Lass, MD; Debbie May-Johnson; Irina Pikuleva, PhD; and Douglas J. Rhee, MD at the check presentation in February

## FUNDING BOOSTS FIGHT AGAINST BLINDING EYE DISEASES

A normal part of aging is changing eyesight, but the prevalence of vision impairment and blindness is on the rise according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Recent statistics show more than 80 percent of American adults aged 50 or older suffer from impaired vision or a blinding eye disease such as glaucoma. The Cleveland Eye Bank Foundation, however, hopes to stem this tide, awarding UH Eye Institute a \$300,000 grant to fuel research in the prevention, treatment and reversal of vision loss associated with eye disease and aging.

“UH has world-renowned physician-scientists who want to make an impact on vision and the blinding eye diseases for which there are no cures,” said Debbie May-Johnson, Executive Director, Cleveland Eye Bank Foundation.

Douglas J. Rhee, MD, Director, UH Eye Institute and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, said UH researchers are working to develop new therapies for the major causes of blindness in the United States, specifically retinal disease, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and corneal disease.

“UH Eye Institute is a leader in vision research and discovery. With our colleagues at area institutions, we’ve made Cleveland one of the largest hubs of vision research in the country. The Cleveland Eye Bank Foundation plays a crucial role in fueling that research.”

– Douglas J. Rhee, MD

Debbie said the foundation hopes its relationship with UH will continue beyond this grant. “We feel our investment in the UH Eye Institute will make a great impact. Discoveries made right here in Cleveland could lead to cures that benefit patients everywhere.”

# reflections

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Daniel I. Simon, MD  
Chief Clinical & Scientific Officer, University Hospitals  
President, UH Cleveland Medical Center

## A World Turned Upside Down

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us all – friends, families and neighbors here in Northeast Ohio, across the country and around the globe. With little notice, the virus drastically altered our daily lives and, for some of us, took family members too soon. While we've struggled with COVID-19, long bubbling issues of equity and health disparities have been brought to the fore and raised up as priorities for our country and health system to address. In a nutshell, it's been a difficult and heavy time.

Over the past several months, I've seen and lived moments that are equally heart-breaking and inspiring:

- Nurses at the end of their shifts sitting with otherwise isolated COVID-19 patients, calming their fears and offering support without visitors;
- Researchers working late into the night, designing and conducting trials in the hopes of changing the course of this pandemic with new anti-viral and anti-inflammatory therapies;
- Environmental Services team members singing in the hallways to help buoy spirits;
- Emerging leaders stepping up in the Hospital Incident Command Structure to navigate our COVID-19 response and recovery efforts with resilience, agility and collaboration;
- Volunteers sewing masks because they want to do something, anything, to help;
- Caregivers speaking up about ways big and small that UH can address inequities and disparities.

Turned on its head by the devastating effects of an aggressive virus and grappling with how to better care for people of color and other under-represented minorities, the amazing people of Northeast Ohio continue to support the work of our caregivers time and again.

It has been my distinct honor to help lead UH's COVID-19 efforts. Knowing I have UH's 28,000 caregivers and the tremendous support of this community as my partners, I am confident that we will continue to navigate through these challenging times and come out stronger together.

Our patients and community will always come first and, now more than ever, we value your commitment to UH.

“You give generously because you want to have an impact for good – and you do.”

Produced by University Hospitals Institutional Relations & Development in partnership with University Hospitals Marketing & Communications Department.



*Protecting your health  
with **science** and **compassion**.*

**safe**