

ONWARD



SPRING 2021 /// A publication for friends and supporters of Oregon Health & Science University

\$2 Billion
FOR BETTER
HEALTH

Thanks to you. /// /// ///

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OHSU Foundation president
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ONWARD

THE OHSU FOUNDATION MAGAZINE SPRING 2021

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Thanks to you



FROM MATT McNAIR

Over the seven years of the *ONWARD* campaign, more than 50,000 donors made gifts to help build a world free from the burden of illness or to ensure the highest level of care is here when it's needed most.

Often, those gifts began with a phone call. Not a call to me, or to one of our fundraising professionals. But a call to an oncologist, neurosurgeon, heart specialist or pediatrician.

These calls are made in moments of dire need, following a frightening diagnosis, an accident, or the onset of worrisome symptoms. Many of our donors connect with OHSU for the first time during the most desperate moments of their lives. They know what a difference it makes when their call is answered, day or night, by a stranger who will soon become someone they depend on. They know what it means to be met not only with the highest levels of expertise but also with compassion and respect. I know this because I hear such stories every day, from donors

The OHSU Foundation conforms to COVID-19 safety policies and procedures. Please note that some photos featured in this issue were taken before COVID-19 and may not show current social distancing or mask requirements. Where this is the case, the date of the photo is noted. Any images depicting those without masks after March 2020 have been photographed from a safe distance according to OHSU safety guidelines.



////////// PRESIDENT, OHSU FOUNDATION //

who were taken care of by leaders in health care who work around the clock, tirelessly, on their behalf.

As a donor, you belong to OHSU's community of healers. You help build the relationships that mean life-saving treatment. Without donors like you, OHSU couldn't provide the care our region relies on, educate the best and brightest, or make scientific advances that bring hope to millions.

As OHSU continues to serve more patients and bring forth more discoveries, our community continues to grow: More than half of the individuals and organizations that contributed to *ONWARD* represent first-time OHSU donors. Whether you are a longtime supporter or made your first gift to OHSU during this campaign, we thank you for your generosity.

In this issue, we'll take a look back at the *ONWARD* campaign and what it has made possible. The pages

of this publication simply cannot contain every single one of the countless positive changes in areas including brain health, cardiovascular disease, cancer research, eye care, pediatrics, rural medicine, student support and more. These are just a few areas

“ *As a donor, you belong to OHSU's community of healers. You help build the relationships that mean life-saving treatment.* ”



where your support has made a significant difference. We also invite you to watch a video about the *ONWARD* campaign and hear more from those it has personally touched at ohsufoundation.org/onward.

Matt McNair
President, OHSU Foundation



New Spaces



Capacity for Discovery



Serving our Community

key

ONWARD for better health

WHAT \$2 BILLION MEANS

In September 2013, Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife, Penny, issued a challenge: They pledged to donate \$500 million to the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute — if OHSU could raise an additional \$500 million over the next two years.

By June 2015, OHSU had met that challenge, helping to revolutionize early cancer detection and treatment.

This challenge also happened alongside early planning for a broader fundraising initiative for OHSU — the

ONWARD campaign, where an ambitious goal was set to raise \$2 billion at OHSU within seven years, beginning with the Knight Cancer Challenge. Donors supported cancer research, OHSU

Doernbecher Children's Hospital and pediatrics, brain health, ending blindness, cardiovascular care, battling infectious diseases such as COVID-19, as well as student support and scholarships.

Although 2020 was a challenging year in so many ways, the *ONWARD* campaign helped galvanize our efforts and is now a reason to celebrate. Thanks to you — and more than 50,000 other donors who contributed nearly 180,000 gifts of all sizes — we have successfully completed the *ONWARD* campaign and exceeded our \$2 billion target.

Achieving this kind of success so quickly is a rarity for academic health centers. Among American

Former OHSU President Joe Robertson, MD, MBA, (left) and current OHSU President Danny Jacobs, MD, MPH, FACS

“Philanthropy makes it possible to continue to innovate and serve.”

Danny Jacobs, MD, MPH, FACS, president, OHSU



May 2018

Association of Medical College members, only Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, UCLA Medical Center, UC San Francisco, and Johns Hopkins Medicine have completed multi-billion-dollar campaigns within a similar time period in recent history.

But even more important than rarified company or specific dollar amounts, this accomplishment directly reflects the commitment of our donors to improving the health of communities in Oregon and beyond. Philanthropy makes it possible to continue to innovate and serve in the Pacific Northwest, nationwide and around the world. It also demonstrates the life-changing impact made by people who give what they can to help build a better future. I am humbled and inspired by the generosity behind every gift.

Human health, equitable access to health care, education and medical research have never been more important to our communities than they are right now. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated. Every dollar will help strengthen OHSU's ability to positively impact the health and well-being of those we serve. ■

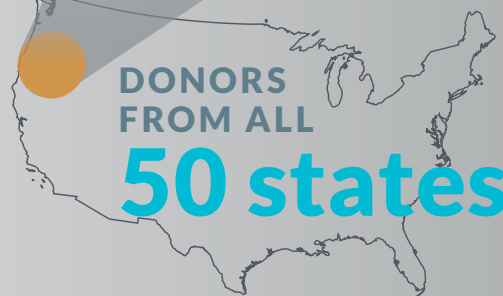
ONWARD CAMPAIGN: 2013-2020

\$2 BILLION FOR BETTER HEALTH



50,000 donors

74% OF DONORS
from Oregon +
SW Washington



GIFTS OF ALL SIZES MATTER GREATLY

97%
gifts less than \$10,000

172,334
gifts of \$1-\$9,999

242
gifts of \$1 million+

TOP 7 AREAS DONORS SUPPORTED

1. Cancer
2. Pediatrics
3. Brain Health
4. Infectious Disease
5. Eye Health
6. Heart Health
7. Rural Health

GROWING ENDOWMENT FOR SECURE FUTURE

TOTAL ENDOWMENT GROWTH

↑115%

New Endowed
Professorships



New Endowed
Chairs



TEAMING UP AGAINST CANCER



A message from Brian Druker, MD

director, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

From basic research to patient care to community impact, the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute has a mission to end cancer as we know it.

Donor support throughout the *ONWARD* campaign has brought more than \$1 billion to help develop new treatments and early detection methods, new facilities and new ways to collaborate. Your tremendous generosity means we can continue our work to improve and save lives. Thanks to all of you.

Our mission is simple, but what drives us varies for everyone. I'd like to introduce you to some colleagues and supporters who share their thoughts about what it looks like to end cancer as we know it.

Ending cancer as we know it means delivering the best, state-of-the-art clinical care and research opportunities to all patients. At the Knight Cancer Institute, we combine the best science has to offer with the art of medicine to offer the best chance for a cure while caring for the whole person.



Eneida R. Nemecek, MD, MS, MBA

Nancy Jaggar Blount Endowed Professor of Pediatrics & Medical Oncology



Surgery is one of the front line therapies for cancer. My group designs and develops fluorescent probes that highlight a patient's cancerous cells and normal tissues to make it easier for surgeons to fully remove the cancer and preserve healthy tissue. It's exciting to be at the forefront of this technology and translating it into effective treatments for our patients. To me, that's what it means to end cancer as we know it — we're making things better for those impacted by cancer.



Summer Gibbs, PhD

associate professor of biomedical engineering, OHSU School of Medicine

Ending cancer seems like an aspirational target, but 20 years ago when I started graduate school, my mentor's lab was just discovering a pathway called PD-L1. Although we could not predict if this would be meaningful in the clinic, there was a sense of excitement, hope and cautious optimism. Today, therapies targeting this pathway have ended cancer for thousands of patients. The environment at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and the many wonderful colleagues here re-create and amplify that palpable excitement of discovery, urgency and the hope that some of the things we are doing are going to be transformational 10 or 20 years from now. So for us as a lab, the mission is an inspiration to think beyond what is possible today.



Sudarshan Anand, PhD

associate professor in the OHSU School of Medicine's Departments of Cell, Developmental & Cancer Biology and Radiation Medicine



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To me, the Knight Cancer Institute's mission means we always strive to offer the best. I work hard to deliver the quality of care that I would want my parent or spouse to receive. And with research and teaching, I seek to ensure that what we do today results in meaningful future improvements. I'm motivated for the benefit of my children and others in generations that follow.

//// //// //// //// //// Ravi Chandra, MD, PhD

assistant professor of radiation medicine, OHSU School of Medicine

As a classical hematologist, I treat patients with bleeding and clotting disorders. These can be some of the most challenging and devastating complications for our patients with cancer. To me, the Knight Cancer Institute's mission means getting my patients quick answers and the best care available anywhere that's backed by multidisciplinary research teams pioneering better treatments for bleeding, clotting and cancer as a whole.

//// //// //// //// //// Sven Olson, MD

assistant professor of medicine, hematology and medical oncology, OHSU School of Medicine



Finding a cure for cancer is undoubtedly one of the most important quests of medicine in our lifetime. But, ending cancer as we know it is about more than finding a cure. It is about ensuring that cured patients live long, full and meaningful lives. Even with a cure, cancer takes a toll on the physical and mental health of survivors and their families. To me, ending cancer as we know it means we have also discovered and implemented wrap-around supportive care programs that are accessible to all survivors from the time they are diagnosed through the balance of their lives. These services would address the financial, physical and emotional tolls that cancer takes on survivors and families and would allow cancer survivors to live meaningful lives with full participation in work, education, family, leisure and social activities.



//// //// //// //// //// Kerri Winters-Stone, PhD, FACS

Elnora E. Thomson Distinguished Professor, OHSU



Cancer is a nasty word in our household. Ellen's father died from liver cancer, Rick's sister had breast cancer and Rick was challenged with non-Hodgkins lymphoma from 2010 to 2011 and then multiple myeloma since 2012. We gave up our perfect life — a vineyard and home in Southern Oregon — and moved to Portland to be closer to family and to OHSU. We donate to the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute because we're grateful for the excellent care Rick has received and because we want to support research to help make sure that in the future other families won't have to deal with the emotional and physical challenge of cancer.

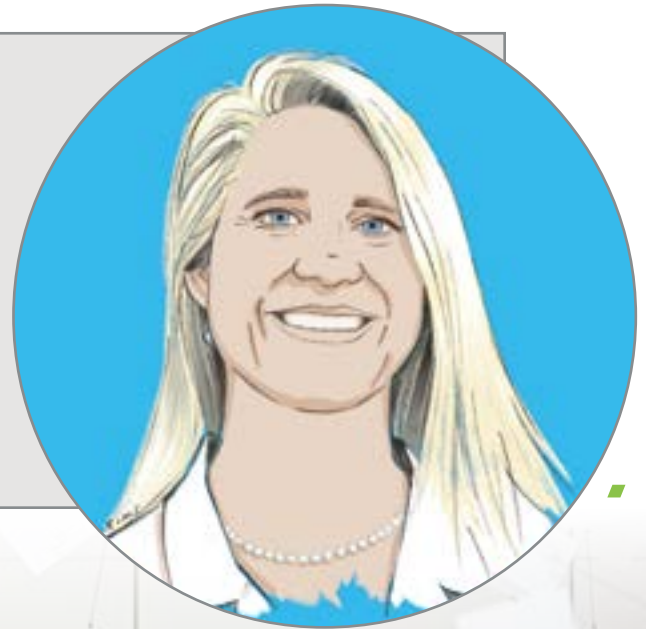
/// /// /// /// Ellen & Rick Levine

donors to the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

Being diagnosed with cancer is currently devastating, with an expectation of pain, suffering and shortened life. We seek to end the shock of late-stage diagnosis and the suffering from the ravages of cancer through precision early detection and personally tailored precision therapy available to all.

/// /// /// /// Rosalie C. Sears, PhD

professor of molecular and medical genetics, co-director of the Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care, OHSU School of Medicine, Krista L. Lake Chair in Cancer Research



The inspiration effect

Through their generous philanthropy, the couple has learned that the greatest joys come not from what you have, but from what you give.



Gary and Christine Rood in the Lematta Family Commons at the Rood Family Pavilion

Giving back is nothing new to Gary and Christine Rood. In high school, Christine's youth group raised funds for Shriner's Children's Hospital. In college, Gary donated to his local church. The couple even met over a good cause, working side-by-side to lobby Capitol Hill for health care reform.

Today, they are both the name — and the driving force — behind the Rood Family Pavilion, donating \$12 million so out-of-town families receiving care at OHSU can have a home away from home. And while the Roods' philanthropic journey has evolved over the years, one thing has remained unchanged: their desire to make a difference.

Connecting to a cause

Early in his career, Gary was deeply inspired by another local philanthropist: Phil Knight. "Even when I didn't have a dime to give, I promised myself that when I could, I would emulate the Phil Knights of the world," he said.

Over the years, the couple found themselves gravitating toward causes that benefit young people. And when Gary's son Randy died of cancer, they made their first large philanthropic investment: a scholarship fund in his honor to help make college a reality for high school graduates. In addition to the Randy Rood Memorial Scholarship, the couple also actively supports Friends of the Children, the Boys and Girls Club, OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital, and the Rood Family Pavilion, among other causes.

"For me, my heart is first and foremost with children,"

“It’s not about how much you give, it’s about your heart.”

explained Christine. “I truly believe in the arts and in environmental causes, but giving kids a strong start in life through health care and education is really important to me.”

Gifts that give back

The way Gary and Christine see it, they benefit just as much from their generosity as the organizations they support. “We get so many thank-you cards from families that have stayed at the Pavilion,” said Christine. “That’s really special to us.”

“Strangers have come up to us and told us that they made a charitable gift because they were inspired by what we’ve done,” added Gary. “Between moments like that and the wonderful people we’ve met at OHSU, it’s just been wave after wave of blessings.”

One of the most meaningful moments for the couple happened recently when they interviewed a young recipient of the Randy Rood Scholarship in The Dalles. “The girl was there with her mother and a little baby,” said Gary. “It turns out that her mom and baby sister had stayed at our Pavilion when they needed medical care in Portland. Talk about coming full circle.”

An evolving perspective

As much as they’ve given over the years, it’s only recently



— Christine Rood, donor

that the couple has grown comfortable being more visible about it. “When we first started making these large gifts, I very much wanted to stay in the background,” said Christine. “But I started to realize that it’s important to inspire others through our actions. So it’s been an interesting personal evolution, going from wanting to sign anonymous checks to saying, ‘Okay, I’ll put myself out there.’”

Gary agrees. “I’ve also grown in my willingness to step out and encourage people to support what’s important to them,” said Gary. “For some people, it’s research. For others, it’s education. It’s not about supporting the same charities that we do — it’s about having a cause that they personally believe in so that they can experience the benefits of giving, regardless of who it’s going to.”

“Step up and give”

Like so many of us, COVID-19 has impacted the Roods’ businesses — but it has in no way dampened their desire to give. While they were able to follow through on all their philanthropic commitments for the year, they weren’t able to expand on them as planned. Instead, the couple is using this

time to strategize about where they’ll lend their support next.

“Doernbecher needs a new NICU, so that’s on our radar,” said Christine. She’s also hoping to help increase OHSU’s rural outreach. As for Gary, he’s looking to contribute more to the day-to-day costs of the Rood Family Pavilion. “Having helped run medical facilities my whole life, I understand that you need the dollars to pay for things like housekeeping just as much as you need the dollars to pay for a new building,” he explained.

Despite Gary and Christine’s overwhelming generosity over the years, they both insist that being a great philanthropist has nothing to do with the size of the checks you write.

“It’s not about how much you give, it’s about your heart and your capacity,” said Christine. “We met a little girl who started a lemonade stand for the Knight Cancer campaign, and she ended up raising over \$500. If you can only give \$5, that’s fine too. All that really matters is that you step up and give something, whether it’s your funds, your time or your energy to the causes that are important to you.” ■



A SHELTER IN THE STORM

For overwhelmed parents, the
Rood Family Pavilion offers
comfort, convenience and caring

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OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital celebrates 90 years of exceptional care. Today, Doernbecher has grown into a nationally ranked institution because of passionate people, innovative technology, philanthropy and a commitment to providing the best care possible.

2016

ONWARD SPRING 2021 /// 13

It's exactly 346 miles between her home in Grants Pass and OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital — and Becky Scherrer knows every one of them like the back of her hand. That's because she's made the trip countless times with her 4-year-old son, Zeke, to receive treatment for his many serious medical conditions. Despite the physical and emotional toll the frequent journey takes on Becky and Zeke, she says there's a bright spot in the midst of it all: their stays at the Rood Family Pavilion.

Diagnosed with awesome

Zeke, or “Zekey” as his mom likes to call him, was born a month early. Although everything seemed normal at first, he soon started developing feeding issues, high fevers and sepsis.

Eventually he was diagnosed with a mitochondrial disease that interrupts the body's ability to convert food and oxygen into energy. While mitochondrial disease is extremely rare, the form Zeke has is even less common — in fact, it's only been diagnosed once before. “He's literally one in four billion,” said Becky.

On top of that, Zeke also has a restrictive lung disease, epilepsy and cerebral palsy, all of which require constant monitoring and care. But Becky prefers to focus on the diagnosis his neurologist once gave him: awesome. “Zekey is such a cool kid,” said Becky. “Despite being in a wheelchair and nonverbal, he's funny and cheeky and definitely manages to get his point across. The entire staff at the Rood Family Pavilion loves him.”

Finding home away from home

In an effort to minimize disruption for her two other kids, Zoe and Zurie Ella, the siblings typically stay home with Becky's husband, Jeff, while Becky and Zeke make the trip to Doernbecher on their own. For a mother trying to shuttle a young child >>>>



Zeke and his family are always on the move.



OHSU opens Mission Control, a modern command center that uses predictive analytics and a real-time data display to coordinate patient care from the time the patient enters the hospital until they are discharged. (see page 26 for more)

2017

between medical facilities for tests and treatments, it can be an isolating, frustrating experience. That's why Becky is so grateful for the comfort and convenience the Rood Pavilion offers to families like hers. The five-story guest house, operated in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon & Southwest Washington, provides temporary lodging for patients and families who travel long distances to OHSU for specialized care. There is no cost for Doernbecher families.

"The tram up to Doernbecher is literally four minutes from the front door, and riding it is Zeke's absolute favorite thing in the world," she smiled. "Having a little boy in a wheelchair presents all sorts of logistical challenges, so being able to just roll out the door and catch the tram across the street is such a welcome relief," she said.

Having friendly faces to greet her after a long day at the hospital is a game-changer, too.



Zeke and Becky

A mother's gratitude

Although Becky has never met Gary and Christine Rood, she says that their care and generosity is evident everywhere in the facility that bears their name. "The whole building is so well thought out," she said. "You can tell that they were really considering the needs of the families who would be staying here."

"I think for me, having so many beautiful community spaces where you can meet other families going through similar challenges also helps me feel less alone."

Becky Scherrer, mom

"The moment you walk in to the Rood Pavilion, you just get that warm, welcoming feeling like when you visit grandma's house and smell cookies in the oven," said Becky. "I think for me, having so many beautiful community spaces where you can meet other families going through similar challenges also helps me feel less alone."

As for the impact the Roods have had on Becky and her family, she finds herself at a loss for words to describe it. "You truly can't put a price tag on the gift they made," she said. "To be able to have a place that feels like a second home, where you feel loved and cared for in the midst

of a medical challenge, is just invaluable. I think what they did is incredibly special, and that's coming from a mom whose kid is one in four billion." ■

Learn about more families touched by gifts given during the **ONWARD** campaign at ohsufoundation.org/onward

Mechanics of the heart

Charter Mechanical and its employees donate nearly \$600,000 to OHSU

PRINCIPLE OVER PROFIT.

That's how Portland-based mechanical and piping services company Charter Mechanical was established 15 years ago by veterans of the industry.

"Based on past professional experiences, we knew we wanted to do things differently," said Charter Mechanical Vice President Mark Daskalos. "Our two core principles are to take exceptional care of our employees and our customers. It's a fairly simple formula, but we felt if we did that right, then good things could happen."

As the company grew, so did its generosity. Charter Mechanical has grown from a small startup into a leading provider of mechanical and process piping services in the Northwest with 500 employees. Employee-matched donations have gone from over \$30,000 the first year to more than \$90,000 last year, despite the challenges of COVID-19.

"Once our company got up and running, we announced a giving campaign," said Daskalos. "Our employees could choose a charity, and we'd match their donations dollar for dollar. OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital was selected for several reasons. Our employees wanted their dollars to stay local and go toward an organization that has such a large impact in the Northwest. In addition, OHSU had a lot of construction going on at the time —

with so many great projects coming up on the horizon, we knew we could help make an impact."

Since 2013, Charter Mechanical and its employees have donated almost \$600,000. They've been a part of every major milestone of the ONWARD campaign, including the Knight Cancer Challenge with a gift for pediatric cancer research, naming a suite at the Rood Family Pavilion, and supporting Novel Interventions in Children's Healthcare (NICH), an OHSU Doernbecher program that supports families with limited resources and social or personal challenges that disrupt the family's ability to manage the child's health condition.

In the past three years, Charter Mechanical has given more than \$225,000 to NICH, directly benefiting more than 250 families in need. Funds have covered rent and moving assistance, utility bills, medical supplies, vehicle care, cell phones and wireless plans, school supplies and workbooks, swimming lessons, holiday meals, prescription glasses, job interview attire, funeral expenses and other essential items.

"We have been blown away by their generosity," said Michael Harris, PhD, director of the NICH program. "Charter Mechanical has provided so much support

for our most vulnerable patients. Not only do these families have the stress of a child with a serious illness, they're also struggling with significant life challenges. They have helped improve the health of so many children while helping their families find stability."

Charter Mechanical employees have gone on facility tours to learn more about OHSU's health care services and programs, and many employees have volunteered at



Michael Harris, PhD, NICH director, talking with a patient.

the Rood Family Pavilion. While Charter Mechanical employees also raise money for other causes, their dedication to OHSU remains steadfast.

"Giving back to the community and OHSU reflects our mission of taking exceptional care of our people," said Daskalos. "We want to support the issues they care about, right here in the community where we work and raise our families." ■

A vision for eye health, EVERYWHERE

Philanthropy is a family tradition for the **Roundhouse Foundation** and philanthropist **Heather Killough**

In 2011, Kathy Deggendorfer, co-founder of the Sisters, Oregon-based Roundhouse Foundation, traveled to Fiji to volunteer with the OHSU Casey Eye Institute to provide support to vision-impaired people in rural locations. One of the other organizations there was the Fiji Society for the Blind; their staff traveled between the islands working

Volunteer Aaron Thomas greets patients boarding the OHSU Casey Eye Institute mobile eye clinic in Chiloquin, Oregon.

with those who had vision problems. During her time there, Deggendorfer was impressed by the women who accompanied

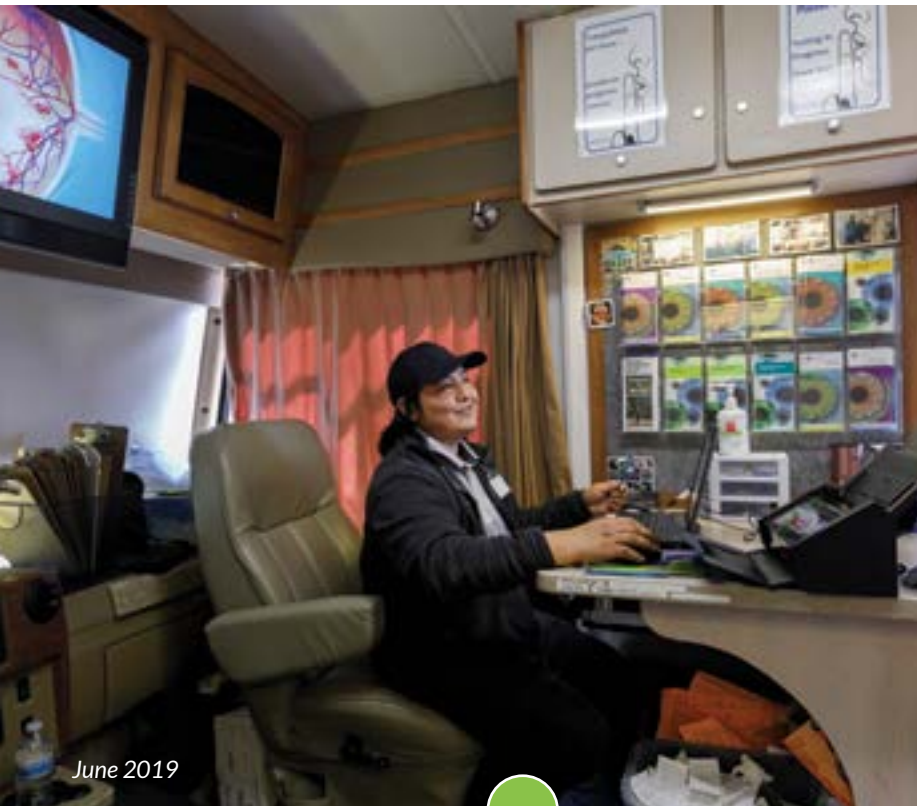
the medical volunteers. They were chosen for their cultural sensitivity. They were trained to identify and help perform early treatment for eye disease, doing triage in the field. They listened. These skills allowed them to identify who needed help.

The opportunity to help in the South Pacific with OHSU Casey Eye Institute providers made Deggendorfer want to volunteer with the OHSU Casey Eye Institute's mobile outreach eye clinic. This OHSU program connects underserved communities in Oregon with eye care. Deggendorfer saw that no

matter where in the world health care is provided, a respectful and caring approach leads to better outcomes.

"The Casey Eye mobile clinic is a good example of breaking down barriers, approaching people where they live, and working through cultural issues in a sensitive, effective way," Deggendorfer said. "It's amazing to hear people's stories about what a difference getting care has made. For instance, one of the people served by the mobile clinic just got new glasses — for the first time in 12 years. We build trust with people by meeting them in their space."

Casey's mobile eye clinic is the only adult vision screening program in



June 2019

Philanthropy helps OHSU Casey Eye Institute's Community Outreach Program reach more communities.

Oregon to offer eye exams under an ophthalmologist's supervision, allowing the program to identify and provide follow-up for even complex vision problems.

Recently the Roundhouse Foundation joined philanthropist Heather Killough to jointly donate \$3.25 million to expand Casey's Community Outreach Program services, including education and technology to share expertise throughout Oregon, expansion of community health worker training and certification, and additional diagnostic testing and treatments made available via a second mobile eye clinic.

"Vision is so important," Killough said. "The opportunity to launch a statewide screening program and improve eye health throughout Oregon is so exciting. I look forward to accomplishing even more in the years to come."

Killough was one of the original donors whose generosity helped establish the Casey mobile eye clinic a decade ago. Through her experience with community organizations such as New Avenues for Youth, which works to prevent youth homelessness, she came to understand the importance of community outreach. Through the mobile clinic, she saw a way to help avert blindness through timely, accurate diagnosis and care.

Killough takes pride in continuing her grandfather Henry Casey's dedication to the Casey Eye Institute, named in honor of his brothers, James and George, who founded the United Parcel Service. "I find it rewarding to help others receive quality eye care and continue my grandfather's good work," she said. "He loved helping people. He would be happy to know we save vision for so many," she said.

At Roundhouse, generosity is also a family affair. Deggendorfer's daughter, Erin Borla, executive



director and trustee, said, "My grandmother [the late Gert Boyle, president and chairwoman of Columbia Sportswear and co-founder of Roundhouse] always said it was better to give with a warm hand than a cold one. We have taken that message to heart throughout all of our work across rural Oregon. We spend time getting to know our grant partners, the work that they do — what makes projects successful, what are the

"The opportunity to improve eye health throughout Oregon is so exciting."

Heather Killough

biggest barriers they need to overcome; and how can our partnership help to support community driven work for effective change beyond a check."

Killough agreed. "My mom did things for others, too. Giving back to others is what I was taught growing up and what I know. It goes from generation to generation," she said.

Borla added, "Every community is unique — and that is particularly true in rural spaces. They each have their own culture, community leaders, and partners, and those folks know their communities best. Asking questions, listening and making sure people feel heard and valued for their experiences and expertise is how innovative solutions to challenging situations happen — whether it's in health care, philanthropy or anything else." ■



Donor-driven **DISCOVERY**

**Philanthropy accelerates
biomedical research at OHSU**

Research assistant Jenny Chu looks over blood samples in the lab at OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center.



**\$558
million**

**GIFTS + GRANTS
TO RESEARCH
DURING CAMPAIGN**



January 2020

In January 2021, researchers for the first time began human testing of a promising HIV vaccine candidate developed at OHSU's Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute. Led by San Francisco-based Vir Biotechnology, the Phase 1 clinical trial creates new hope against the global spread of the AIDS-causing virus.

For the vaccine's lead scientist, Louis Picker, MD, and his co-investigators, this marked a major step forward in a career-defining quest to outsmart AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other global health threats. Picker and his team had developed their innovative approach to vaccines over two decades of painstaking research, leading up to a major 2013 study demonstrating their vaccine's astonishing effectiveness against the simian form of HIV. From there, the race was on to develop a safe, effective version for human use — and to find a way to pay for it.

Enter the **ONWARD** campaign

Support for OHSU's research mission during the *ONWARD* campaign's seven-year run surpassed \$558 million in gifts and grants from private individuals, foundations, corporations and other organizations. These funds are enabling researchers across the university to recruit top scientific talent from around the world, equip their labs with the latest technology, and fine-tune their ideas through countless hours at the lab bench. In Picker's case, competitive research grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation combined with federal funding from the National Institutes of Health played a key role in moving the group's vaccine from the laboratory into clinical trials.

"Philanthropic support of science plays a critical role in the research landscape," says Peter Barr-Gillespie, PhD, OHSU's executive vice president and chief research officer. "It helps scientists at the earliest stages of their projects, when it's difficult to find government funding. It helps us break new ground and open new areas for exploration."

Across the university, *ONWARD* donors gave to research programs close to their hearts in fields such as cancer, cardiovascular medicine, eye health, neuroscience, pediatrics and OHSU's other areas of scientific strength. Combined with support for signature building projects providing new, state-of-the-art laboratory space, OHSU supporters have profoundly expanded the university's capacity for scientific discovery and helped scientists develop a deeper understanding of human health and disease. >>>>





Isabelle Baconguis, PhD, is featured with the FEI Titan Krios™ Cryo-Transmission Electron Microscope.

Constructed in part with \$160 million of the Oregon Legislature's \$200 million investment in the Knight Cancer Challenge, the Knight Cancer Research Building has space for more than 650 cancer researchers and support staff in spaces optimized for scientific collaboration. On OHSU's Marquam Hill campus, the new Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic at the OHSU Casey Eye Institute is the first freestanding pediatric eye institute in North America. In addition, the 60,000 square-foot building gives Casey room to expand its pioneering research programs in gene therapy and age-related vision loss at the Paul H. Casey Ophthalmic Genetics Division and the Wold Family Macular Degeneration Center, respectively.

Support has also equipped OHSU scientists with advanced technology to visualize the structure and inner workings of living cells in unprecedented detail. OHSU is a national leader in the emerging field of cryogenic electron microscopy (cryo-EM), in part on the strength of its close collaboration with Hillsboro-based cryo-EM manufacturer FEI (now part of Thermo Fisher Scientific), and from consistent support from local grant makers including the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Recognizing OHSU's leadership, the National Institutes of Health selected OHSU and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to jointly operate one of its three new U.S. centers of cryo-EM research and training.

In the beginning

The *ONWARD* campaign officially began with Phil and Penny Knight's surprise pledge in 2013 to donate \$500 million for cancer research if OHSU could raise a matching amount within two years. Dubbed the Knight Cancer Challenge, this successful campaign-within-a-campaign helped OHSU raise more than \$1 billion for the Knight Cancer Institute and earn a place in fundraising history. Through the *ONWARD* campaign, donors continued to support the Knight Cancer Institute over the next five years while also advancing every other facet of OHSU's mission — especially research.

Capacity for discovery

Laboratories are the incubators of biomedical discovery, where ideas for new treatments are conceived, nurtured and brought to life by teams of dedicated investigators, technicians and graduate students. Through their gifts during *ONWARD*, OHSU donors have helped expand the university's total laboratory space by approximately 10 percent.

Taking the initiative

ONWARD support has also enabled OHSU to focus on critical problems in health and science through bold research initiatives that bring experts together. For example, the Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center (CEDAR) was established with support from the Knight Cancer Challenge to advance the field of precision early detection of lethal cancers. CEDAR researchers are working to create new detection technologies such as liquid biopsies, identify new indicators of early cancers, and help Oregonians measure and manage their personal cancer risk factors.

A \$25 million initial commitment from Norman and Linda Brenden and the Colson Family Foundation in 2013 positioned OHSU for leadership against pancreatic disease in all its forms. The Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care was established to drive innovation in early detection and therapeutics and to promote improved quality of life for patients with pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer and other challenging pancreatic diseases.

Whether in cancer or other disease areas, the future of precision medicine will rely on new computational strategies for collecting, storing and analyzing the huge volumes of complex data it generates. OHSU has joined forces with the University of Oregon to establish the OHSU-UO Center for Biomedical Data Science. With an initial focus on cancer that will soon broaden to other disease areas, the center will bring together experts from both institutions to transform OHSU's patient data into clinically useful information. OHSU donors have stepped up to support OHSU's role in the center's success with notable gifts, including \$10 million from Tim and Mary Boyle and \$1 million from Keith and Julie Thomson.

Donor support has also enabled OHSU to establish one of the nation's few research centers dedicated to attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adults. Led by nationally known ADHD expert Joel Nigg, PhD, the Center for ADHD Research is focused on identifying the causes of and developing new treatments for the disorder, which is a strong indicator of risk for other forms of mental illness and addiction. An ongoing matching gift campaign made possible by the Sharp family's Abracadabra Foundation helped to raise significant funds for the center during *ONWARD* and will continue until reaching its goal of \$25 million in private support.

People-powered progress

OHSU's ability to drive progress in biomedical discovery depends on its ability to retain and recruit exceptional faculty researchers: Philanthropy helps by establishing endowed chairs and professorships. These prestigious positions provide the chair or professorship holder with a stable source of annual funding that can enable them to take their work to the next level. During *ONWARD*, donors established 11 new endowed chairs and 34 new endowed professorships.

Donor gifts during *ONWARD* are also helping tomorrow's research leaders pursue bold ideas. For example, substantial support from the Silver Family Innovation Fund has established the Faculty Excellence and Innovation Awards program, providing exceptionally creative early- and middle-stage investigators with up to \$750,000 in unrestricted research funding over three years.

Funding hope

Biomedical research is a slow and costly undertaking. Progress is incremental, and timelines span years or even decades. Supporters of research at OHSU understand that every win, no matter how small, is a step forward that probably wouldn't have happened without them — and that every setback also carries

“*Philanthropic support of science plays a critical role in the research landscape.*”

Peter Barr-Gillespie, PhD, OHSU executive vice president and chief research officer



vital lessons. Federal funding lays the foundation for discovery but, increasingly, philanthropic support is what transforms raw knowledge into new solutions for our society's complex health challenges. For many donors, the return on their investment in research is measured by the hope it creates for a healthier future. ■

Dialed in

HOW COVID-19 FUELED THE GROWTH OF TELEMEDICINE AT OHSU

In 2019, seeing opportunities to improve health care through the rise and reach of digital tools, OHSU set a goal of doubling its number of patient virtual visits each year, aiming to reach 16,000 visits in 2020 and grow from there. During a virtual visit at OHSU, provider and patient connect for an appointment through a smartphone, tablet or computer using a secure video link.

This was an ambitious target, considering virtual visits numbered only in the low hundreds each month.

COVID-19 changed all that.



OHSU Virtual Visits

AUGUST 2019

232

AUGUST 2020

22,091

ONE YEAR

9,422%
increase

“In just one month — April 2020 — we surpassed our original target for the entire year,” said Darren Malinoski, MD, FACS, chief clinical transformation officer and professor of surgery in OHSU’s Division of Trauma, Critical Care, and Acute Care Surgery.

The growth of digital health tools

Malinoski co-leads OHSU’s Office of Digital Health along with Mark Lovgren, interim vice president of OHSU’s telehealth services. The department oversees online health care at OHSU in collaboration with partner health systems and information technology teams. Telehealth spans outpatient and inpatient services, including connecting OHSU specialists with community hospitals to support stroke, neonatal intensive care and virtual intensive care units across the state.

Malinoski said, “Because we had a digital strategy prior to COVID-19, with the contributions of many teams within OHSU, we were able to seize the opportunity to scale up quickly and implement the plans we had: We did five years of work in one year.”



OHSU Telemedicine provides remote access to neonatology specialists

"We have seen massive growth in our capacity to serve patients and the community," added Lovgren. "Our goal is to focus on improving digital tools to make them become the new normal."

The COVID-19 Connected Care Center

Spring 2020 brought another crucial development in telemedicine: the COVID-19 Connected Care Center, a free public hotline made possible by a \$1.6 million gift from the Morris-Singer Foundation. Callers to the Center with questions or concerns related to COVID-19 speak to OHSU registered nurses and other clinicians who can assess illness severity, provide education and coordinate care. The Center launched at the end of March 2020 to support patients in the emerging pandemic; it continues to answer questions on topics including symptom support, testing and vaccinations.

Anthony Cheng, MD, primary care physician and medical director for the COVID-19 Connected Care Center believes the hotline clearly demonstrates the importance of telehealth to support public health nursing and primary care. "We served many patients who would have otherwise not been able to access

care," he said. "Our nurses have used the best of their clinical judgment, hearts and communication skills to make a huge difference in the lives of so many." (See page 28 for words from Serena Mott, a registered nurse who works at the Center.)

As of February 2021, there have been more than 110,000 hotline "encounters" — this includes both incoming and outgoing calls, test results delivered by MyChart, as well as patient questions asked using MyChart. Staffers at the Center have logged more than 12,000 hours of talk time.

Intensive care — up close and at a distance

Telemedicine is also taking intensive care to the next level. In June 2021, OHSU will launch the Virtual ICU (VICU), a partnership with General Electric supported by Phil and Penny Knight, along with Nike CEO John Donahoe and his wife, Eileen, and Nike executive chairman Mark Parker and his wife, Kathy.

The VICU can connect patients and providers in hospitals throughout the state: When a traditional ICU care model is unavailable or far away, the VICU >>>>

“Our nurses have used the best of their clinical judgment, hearts and communication skills to make a huge difference in the lives of so many.”

Anthony Cheng, MD



provides services through in-room and mobile care equipment. This keeps patients in their local communities, reduces potential harm and costs in unnecessary patient transport, and supports local providers, said Malinoski. Additionally, during an infectious disease outbreak like the COVID-19 pandemic, the VICU also reduces personal protective equipment (PPE) usage and protects staff and patients from exposure to the virus.

The VICU software evaluates information gathered by the monitoring devices at the patient's bedside — such as heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, oxygen saturation levels and medication information — and helps the team predict potential medical issues that could arise. This enables the care team to stay one step ahead of a crisis. Through two-way video connections, providers can assess a patient as if they were there, but they're off-site.

“The VICU provides a second ICU team that reviews a patient's vital signs and electronic medical record in real time and collaborates with the patient's existing care team at the bedside,” said Malinoski.

Marshall Lee, MD, is the medical director of the VICU and has been working with GE to help develop the user interface for the VICU software. “If you're working with six different hospitals, you might have six different types of electronic medical records. We've designed our VICU so each patient's information and notes from other providers are all presented the same

way,” he said. This can streamline care; providers won't waste time looking for or miss critical information about a patient's health.

Currently, all adult ICU beds at OHSU as well as at OHSU partner hospitals Hillsboro Medical Center and Adventist

Health Portland are connected; starting in mid-June, providers will work in the VICU patient support center in the Center for Health & Healing Building 2 on OHSU's South Waterfront to monitor patients at OHSU and Hillsboro, with additional offsite partners to join beginning in autumn 2021.

Matthias Merkel, MD, PhD, chief medical capacity officer for OHSU's Mission Control and professor and vice chair of critical care, says philanthropy let OHSU pursue next-level care when COVID-19 struck. “With lightning speed, we created a bed-tracking system which monitored a majority of hospital beds across Oregon in real time, in case of a surge in patients hospitalized with COVID-19. Philanthropy also allowed us to launch the full technology-enabled VICU, which brings us quickly to a patient's bedside — but allows the patient to stay in their community. That's a huge benefit. Family support is a crucial part of a patient's recovery.”

Endeavors such as the VICU will not only increase inpatient capacity in hospitals, but will also expand the capability for care at home. Hospital at Home, a pilot program with Medicare, will bring inpatient-level care to patients in their homes through telemedicine.

“Virtual health care and telemedicine are here to stay,” added David Zonies, MD, MPH, associate chief medical officer overseeing critical care for OHSU health and professor of surgery. “There are amazing opportunities for education — our critical care fellows want to be part of this, because it's going to be a part

of their normal workload. We have the chance to use this virtual platform to provide community outreach services with our health care partners at smaller sites. We can also apply it toward our academic mission, and study it to figure out the best practices in delivering advanced critical care.”

Digital equality

Another tool that’s crucial to the digital health experience is MyChart, a free website or app for all OHSU patients that can also link with records at other health systems. MyChart offers patients secure access to portions of their medical records; they can also contact providers, request prescription renewals, or send messages to their health care providers.

The digital health team is working on how to make MyChart work even better for patients and allow them to navigate what can be a complex system.

“We may head out to vulnerable communities to help overcome barriers to some patient experiences. We may create something like Apple’s ‘Genius Bar’ where we show people how to sign up for MyChart and use it in creative ways,” Lovgren said.

But even more important than tweaking the patient digital experience is ensuring those options are available to all who need them. Online tools, knowledge and access continue to be a challenge for underserved communities.

The team is developing new approaches, including aligning with OHSU’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts to connect with underserved communities. Research teams are also collecting data to identify specific disparities in digital health care; the goal is to better understand barriers to accessing digital tools so these barriers can be reduced.

Although that will take some time, the team also collaborates with health insurance plans and social workers bringing together resources to let patients access tools such as phones, broadband Internet and computer literacy programs. Those efforts will need to be as forward-thinking and as nimble as technology itself.

“Our biggest challenge is digital equity,” said Lovgren. “When you introduce new modes of care, you have the potential to affect health care disparities. When it comes to technology-based solutions, we need to be proactive in identifying and addressing them.” ■



Virtual visits skyrocketed in 2020 and are expected to remain high in the future.

December 2017

CALLING THE SHOTS

MEET A NURSE WHO HELPS COVID-19 CONNECTED CARE CENTER CALLERS FIND THEIR WAY



Serena Mott, RN, answers at least 60 phone calls a day. A 2006 graduate of the OHSU School of Nursing, her background includes medical-surgical and resource nursing. In August 2020, she joined the COVID-19 Connected Care Center.

“I was wary about making a change, but we’ve never done anything like this before. We are all experienced nurses, all having to learn together. It’s a positive, supportive place,” she said.

That place is actually multiple remote locations; Mott, like most of her colleagues, works from home, using a desktop computer, headset, and a virtual private network (VPN) setup on her phone, which keeps caller information secure. She and the other nurses — about 12 per shift — use a chat software to communicate with each other.

In March 2020, anticipating a surge in questions regarding COVID-19, the Andrew and Corey Morris-Singer Foundation donated \$1.6 million to OHSU to expand access to health care professionals. Shortly thereafter, OHSU unveiled the toll-free hotline for

people anywhere in the state to seek guidance about symptoms and care for COVID-19. The generous grant allowed OHSU to increase staffing for the hotline and associated telemedicine services.

“If you need us, call us. We’re here to keep you and the community safe.”

/// /// /// /// /// /// /// Serena Mott, RN



The COVID-19 Connected Care Center is open 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. seven days a week:
Call 833-OHSU-CCC (833-647-8222).

2,800+
CALLS IN 1ST MONTH

8,200+
CALLS IN JULY 2020

12,300+
CALLS IN NOV. 2020

When Mott first joined the Center, she explained, many of the calls she fielded involved COVID-19 testing: where callers could get tested, or calling people with positive test results (most negative test results were sent to MyChart, with nurses calling those who did not use MyChart) and then advising them on next steps in their care. Sometimes she wrote letters to patients' employers explaining the need for quarantining. Or she helped callers access virtual visits with providers. Nurses also have information about health resources by county as well as options such as financial services that can assist patients.

James Christensen, RN, is a charge nurse at the Center who works closely with Mott. He remembers helping a patient who lacked housing who'd tested positive for COVID-19 in the middle of the winter. "We were able to get breathing medication to the patient and get them into a hotel while they were isolated and recovering, and contact their local food bank and make sure they had basic needs met," he said. "We're proud of being able to take care of patients in that way."

Assessing how sick a person is can be difficult over the phone. When face to face, someone might say they aren't in pain, but their limp tells a different story. Nurses at the COVID-19 Connected Care Center must quickly evaluate a situation by knowing what questions to ask and how to encourage callers to share crucial details. Sometimes they ask open-ended questions like, "Can you tell me more about this?" Or if

Oliver Pelayo, an OHSU registered nurse, prepares vaccine doses during a drive-through clinic held at the Portland International Airport.

someone has a cough, they ask when it started or what it feels like.

Mott and the Center's other providers are often the initial contact when someone's ill and doesn't know what to do — even if it's not COVID-19.

"Sometimes people don't understand how sick they are," said Mott. "They need to be told to go to the emergency department. I treat callers like they're my family: I would want my family to err on the side of getting care."

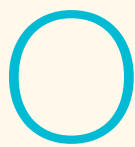
Lately callers are now more likely to ask questions about vaccines: availability, scheduling or side effects. Sometimes simply the fact that they're speaking to a real and knowledgeable person quells callers' anxieties.

"We don't just tell callers to go on the website. We stay on the phone with them. People want to have their concerns heard — even if they already know the answer. Connection brings hope," Mott said. "If you need us, call us. We're here to keep you and the community safe." ■



Understanding women's hearts

The Giesy Family Scholar Award honors talented nursing students

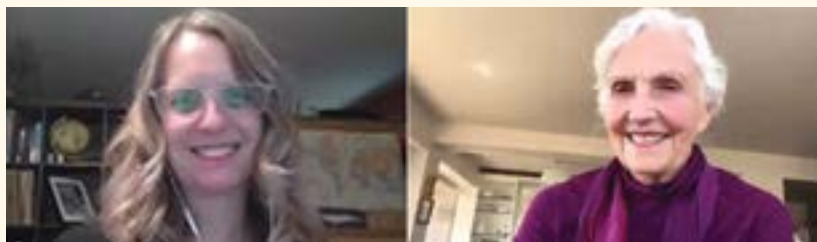
 HSU students are training to become the health workforce of tomorrow — yet many struggle with significant student debt. Scholarships and financial awards, such as the ARCS Scholars program, can help ease the burden.

Mary Roberts-Davis, a third-year PhD student in the School of Nursing, was awarded the Giesy Family Scholar award to pursue research in heart disease. Barbara Giesy, '57 BSN, '80 MSN, established the endowed gift to provide support to the strongest PhD candidates in the field of nursing.



The ARCS Foundation is a national women's group dedicated to advancing science and technology. The ARCS Scholars program provides financial awards to academically outstanding students who are studying to complete PhD degrees in science, engineering, math, technology and medical research. More than 140 scientists at OHSU have been financially supported by the ARCS Foundation Oregon Chapter since its founding in 2004.

////////// Recently, Mary (left) and Barbara (right) discussed the importance of giving and how financial awards impact students.



Barbara: Mary, we have a lot in common, with both of us having a great deal of experience in nursing. Tell me about your years in practice.

Mary: I graduated with my Bachelor of Science degree in 1998, and since then, I've worked primarily in the critical care setting. I have spent about 18-19 years in critical care, with the last 10 years focused on cardiovascular intensive care patients. You could say my heart is with the cardiovascular system.

Barbara: After all that experience, what made you decide to go into a PhD program to learn more about heart disease?

Mary: I've always been fascinated with research. I did a lot of teaching for medical and nursing students around cardiovascular care in the inpatient setting. I noticed women were different than men in this area — women tended to come into the ICU much more unstable than men. Over time, I heard so many stories

of women who didn't recognize their symptoms or were told their symptoms weren't medically related. It piqued my interest into researching how women could be better understood if we knew more about hemodynamics (the dynamics of blood flow) and a woman's biopsychosocial profile (the psychological, biological and social factors contributing to a person's illness). OHSU was perfect for that, ultimately, because I knew there was a robust program of researchers waiting to mentor me.

Barbara: I am so grateful for people who understood the difference in women. I had a triple bypass surgery at age 57, and it was because the physician realized the pain in my back was actually a pain in my heart. I'm still here to talk about it because people like you in cardiovascular work are amazing. I am so thrilled to hear you are bringing your life experience into your advanced practice.

As the first recipient of the Giesy Family Scholar Award, how has

that helped you get where you are today?

Mary: It's helped me immensely in two really important ways. First, the financial gift has allowed me to attend and present at conferences. It's not easy to travel and to financially prepare for those types of conferences, which are really essential in research. It has eased the burden. And second, this ARCS award gave me a boost of confidence that someone trusted and believed in my future. Not having been in school for some time, it has been a bright spot to feel support from the program and your family.

Barbara: It's been a great pleasure. The reason we named it the Giesy Family Scholar Award is because I come from a history of women in nursing, and now my two daughters and a granddaughter are continuing that legacy. There are other medical professionals in the Giesy family, so I could have given anywhere, but I wanted to provide the opportunity for nurses like you to bring their perspective to scientific research. As the first recipient, your research exemplifies what I had hoped for. ■

Some quotes have been condensed for clarity or space.

For more of the conversation between Barbara and Mary, visit ohsufoundation.org/GiesyFamily



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