



Fall 2014

Advancing Medicine.

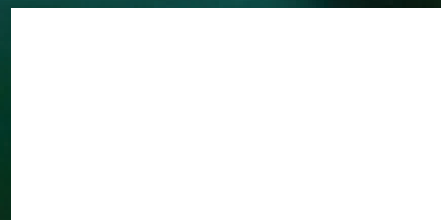
Touching Lives.

For friends and supporters of Rhode Island Hospital

A Women's Hospital Within a Hospital:

New women's inpatient unit offers specialized care

Full story on page 3



A Message

from the President and
Chief Executive Officer

from the Chairman of the
Foundation Board of Trustees



Timothy J. Babineau, MD

Timothy J. Babineau, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Lifespan
President, Rhode Island Hospital

This issue of *Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives.* truly exemplifies the pursuit of excellence that distinguishes Rhode Island Hospital as a major academic medical center. *None of this would be possible without the support of our donor community.*

Examples of excellence abound in these pages. Our cover feature focuses on our new Women's Medicine Inpatient Unit, created to meet the medical needs of our female patients, all within the structure of the state's largest and most comprehensive academic medical center and the state's only Level 1 trauma center. You'll also read about amazing physician-researchers at Rhode Island Hospital and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University who, through their groundbreaking work, have been able to attract support from some very special donors. These include a gift to unravel the mysteries of traumatic brain injury—from soldiers on the battlefield to athletes on the playing field—and another gift that will help chart the future of tissue regeneration in plastic surgery and orthopedics.

At Rhode Island Hospital, we are doing the work that will transform medicine in the 21st century, and we have you to thank.

Since assuming the reins of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board early this year, I've gained an even greater appreciation of the ambassador role that board members play in bringing the hospital to life in the community.

With national healthcare reform dominating the headlines and the landscape of healthcare in the Ocean State constantly changing, it is an exciting time! And, throughout it all, Rhode Island Hospital is consistently providing leadership and a voice for patients, practitioners and healthcare advocates. The hospital also continues its commitment to providing the best care and the most advanced treatments.

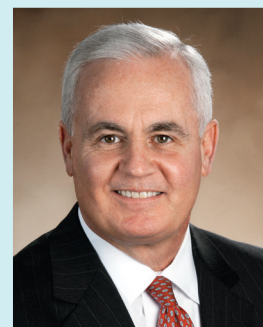
This issue of *Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives.* gives you a glimpse into just some of the initiatives that the hospital is pursuing — and that your generous support helps make possible.

Our investment in research, education and patient care allows us to provide the best medical advances available to our community. When brilliant executive leadership and highly talented medical staff combine with strong forward-thinking philanthropists, the possibilities are endless. These three pillars are, and always have been, the hallmark of Rhode Island Hospital.

On behalf of the Foundation Board, thank you for being an important part of our donor community and for your ongoing support.

Roger N. Begin

Roger N. Begin, Chairman
Foundation Board of Trustees
Rhode Island Hospital
and Hasbro Children's Hospital



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Susan with Dr. Christina Bandera



Sign that greets patients at the Women's Medicine Inpatient Unit

A Women's Hospital Within a Hospital:

New women's inpatient unit offers specialized care at Rhode Island Hospital

I felt right at home,” says Susan. The unit, which opened in March, offers female patients high-level comprehensive care in quiet, comfortable surroundings that promote healing.

When Susan, 69, was diagnosed with endometrial cancer, she was stunned: “You could have knocked me over with a feather,” she says. “This was nothing I was expecting... I’d always been pretty healthy.” Her gynecologist referred her to Christina Bandera, MD, director of the Center for Gynecologic Cancers at the Women’s Medicine Collaborative and Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Miriam Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital, who performed laparoscopic surgery using the state-of-the-art da Vinci robotic system.

“The robotic platform has become the preferred approach for many gynecologic cancer procedures,” explains Dr. Bandera. This type of laparoscopy uses a three-dimensional camera and instruments that improve dexterity and enhance visualization so surgeons can perform procedures with extreme precision. In addition, the minimally invasive smaller incisions result in shorter recovery times, less blood loss, reduced trauma, and fewer complications. “One of the biggest advantages over traditional surgery is a decreased risk of wound infection, and patients usually stay just one night in

the hospital as opposed to three to five nights with traditional surgery through a large incision,” adds Dr. Bandera.

The unit provides a full range of inpatient women’s health services. Patients who are admitted include women who have benign gynecologic conditions, gynecologic cancers, medical conditions during and after pregnancy, and breast cancer surgery, including reconstruction. In addition, our team is seeing women for consults in the emergency department, operating room and units throughout the hospital for a variety of gynecologic and obstetric medicine issues. Procedures typically performed are robotic-assisted hysterectomies for bleeding or pain, hysterectomies for cancer of the uterus, cervix, and ovaries, cancer staging, complex surgeries to remove endometriosis, and procedures to preserve fertility such as fibroid removal or fallopian tube surgery. The multidisciplinary obstetric medicine service cares for women referred by obstetricians, midwives, gynecologists, internists and specialists for medical conditions during pregnancy or postpartum. “Rhode Island Hospital is the best place to take care of these patients, who often require multiple specialties such as a cardiologist,” says Dr. Bandera. In addition, the unit is the only women’s medical floor that has the ability to do telemetry, which is used for monitoring patients who are at risk of abnormal heart activity. “Being a women’s hospital within a full-service hospital makes this unit unique,” she adds.

Designed with the specific needs of women in mind, the 14-bed unit features all private rooms with private bathrooms and showers, a couch or fold-out sleep chair for a family member, free TV and Wi-Fi, as well as a quiet, comfortable family lounge. *"Gynecologic and reproductive issues tend to be very private and emotionally charged,"* explains Dr. Bandera. *"We wanted to create a place within Rhode Island Hospital where women and their families could have privacy when dealing with these sensitive things, and the architects made it happen."* Located in the Jane Brown Building, the unit was completely gutted, rebuilt, and redesigned to be a comfortable, quiet place for healing.

As clinical manager of the unit, Kerri Kern, RN, BSN, is responsible for making sure the unit functions in a safe, effective manner so patients receive the best care possible. *"The idea of women being cared for by women is extremely important,"* she says. *"There is a huge need for this unit, a designated place for women whose needs are different from men."* Her clinical inpatient team includes specialized medical-surgical nurses, all with ob-gyn experience, as well as a designated case manager that assists patients with discharge needs.

"We have made it a safe environment with staff who have a high level of expertise in women's needs. This makes women feel like they're being cared for specifically for their diagnosis," Kerri explains. *"Patients are given comfortable pink robes to wear, it's very quiet and aesthetically very pleasing, but the care is really the most positive part,"* she adds. For Susan, the unit's nurses and staff provided a supportive, nurturing experience during her stay there. *"When it's gynecologic surgery, it's just more comfortable having women around,"* she says.



Kerri Kern, RN, BSN

Susan is amazed at the efficiency of her care and recovery. *"I had the procedure a couple weeks after it was diagnosed, and they had me up and walking within a few hours afterward. I was home by the next day,"* she recalls. At her post-operative visit with Dr. Bandera, Susan received the good news—*"She told me I was cancer-free—that it was only stage-one so we caught it early—and I wouldn't have to do any more treatment, except follow-up visits every three to four months... I was thrilled!"*



Women's Medicine Inpatient Unit by the Numbers

Clinical Team

- 14** Multidisciplinary Obstetric Medicine Service physicians, Women's Medicine Collaborative
- 21** Ob-Gyn Associates practitioners, including physicians, certified nurse midwives, and registered nurse practitioners
- 8** Cancer services physicians, registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, Women's Medicine Collaborative
- 17** Lifespan breast program physicians, including specialists in radiation oncology and plastic surgery/breast reconstruction

Features

- 14** Private rooms with private bathrooms and showers
- 1** each Gynecologic procedure room, conference room, family lounge

Foxglove bloom on cover, photographed by Dr. Jason Hack, Emergency Medicine Physician and Director of Medical Toxicology at Rhode Island Hospital, is part of a photography installation in the Women's Medicine Inpatient Unit.

With stories like Susan's and excellent patient feedback, Dr. Bandera envisions the Women's Medicine Inpatient Unit becoming "the go-to place in Rhode Island for gynecologic oncology and obstetric medicine patients who want the security of being in a full-service hospital." As the only comprehensive women's health unit in the state to also be part of a full-service,

academic hospital, Dr. Bandera and her colleagues are proud to be a part of it. "We're proud of the services we provide and the physical appearance of the unit. It's a very friendly place and we're all committed to having a collaborative rapport with each other. Patients perceive that," she says. "I think we all feel it's our home."

"She told me I was cancer-free—that it was only stage-one so we caught it early—and I wouldn't have to do any more treatment, except follow-up visits every three to four months... I was thrilled!"

—Susan, patient

Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation Donates 500 "Janes" Gowns to Pappas Center



Each year, more than 25,000 women are seen at the Anne C. Pappas Center for Breast Imaging at Rhode Island Hospital. Now, thanks to the generosity of the

Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation, patients undergoing screening mammograms and other breast procedures will have some extra help to feel more dignified.

In May, the Foundation made a special gift in honor of all mothers and daughters by donating 500 hospital gowns called "Janes" to the Pappas Center. The unique gowns were developed by Sharon Linder from Get Janes, LLC, and feature the Foundation's logo opposite that of the Pappas Center and Rhode Island Hospital, to help spread awareness on the importance of routine screenings and self-advocacy. Recently, the Foundation has made a similar gift of gowns to the hospital's dedicated Women's Inpatient Unit.

"We are so thankful to the Gemma Foundation for their generosity in helping us fulfill our mission of providing compassionate, state-of-the-art breast imaging and diagnosis," says Dr. Martha Mainiero, the center's director. "With a dedicated team that specializes in early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer, the donation of 'Janes,'

which were specifically designed with the mammography procedure in mind, will help us make each and every patient experience the best it can be."

A mammogram—particularly a patient's first—can cause anxiety both before and during the procedure, so the new "Janes" gowns were designed to help women feel at ease. Their special lightweight knit fabric and wrap closure provide maximum coverage with an emphasis on comfort.

"We understand how nerve-racking the mammogram process can be, so we wanted to help women feel comfortable with an alternative to the more traditional hospital gown,"

says Maria Gemma, executive director of the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation. *"Since we work yearlong to promote early detection, this gift is a salute to those being proactive with their health through routine screenings. It's also a reminder that we are there for them,*

their family members and friends, if they ever need us."

Since its inception 10 years ago, the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation has worked diligently to collaborate with hospitals, oncologists and other partners to offer free breast health awareness, education and support programs in the local community. At the heart of their work is the promotion of early detection and routine screenings to save lives.



Grateful for Receiving Life-Saving Care, Couple Honors Physicians with Gifts to Support Education

It was a picturesque summer Saturday in Rhode Island, but Wini Galkin wasn't enjoying the outdoors. She was lying on the couch unable to move, her back in excruciating pain—the result of a seriously damaged disc. Just before noon, the doorbell rang. In walked Dr. Phillip Lucas, Wini's orthopedist from Rhode Island Hospital.

"When I saw Dr. Lucas, I couldn't believe he was making a house call on a Saturday, but that's what he does, not only for me, but for all of his patients," says Wini. "To me, he's exactly what you want a doctor to be—he cares so much."

Since 1973, Wini and her husband, Robert, have been dedicated donors to our hospital. In recent years, their giving has taken on a new form, one that holds special meaning for the couple: honoring those physicians who have provided the highest level of compassionate care possible.

What began in 2006 when the couple honored Dr. Arun Singh, head of cardiac surgery, with a gift to provide general support for one of the country's leading cardiac programs, grew further last year.

Life-long learners, the Galkins made two significant gifts in 2013 to support continuing education. The first, which recognized Dr. Lucas, established a Spine Fellowship Fund with a focus on spinal disease research. Shortly after, the couple honored Dr. Stuart Schwartz, Wini's rheumatologist, with a gift that helped renovate a resident training conference room while also subsidizing the costs for physicians to attend national conferences.

Named "The Schwartz Conference Room," medical trainees use the room daily for morning reports and special educational opportunities. Thanks to the Galkins, the room was equipped with a state-of-the-art microscope connected to a high-definition video camera—allowing images of



The Galkins with Dr. Stuart Schwartz

medical specimens to be viewed in real-time on a wall-mounted monitor.

"I am humbled by the Galkin's generosity in my honor; their thoughtfulness is one of the most meaningful highlights of my 30 years at Rhode Island Hospital,"

says Dr. Schwartz. "Education is an extremely important part of my medical career, and these upgrades in technology will enhance the learning experience for generations of house officers and medical students."

Like our physicians, the Galkins see their support of education and research as a way to advance the already superb care our hospital is known for.

"Everyone who has ever treated me, including Dr. John Froehlich, has been absolutely wonderful," says Wini. "The quality of physicians at Rhode Island Hospital is what sets it apart from other hospitals—people who come here know they're going to get exceptional care."

Adds Robert, "The care that Wini has received has been nothing short of wonderful; each of these doctors have helped to improve her quality of life—this is our way of saying thank you."



Dr. John Cronan

Picture this in the not too distant future: A surgeon enters the operating room as a nearly six month-old baby with a malformed skull is prepped for surgery.

If left untreated, the child could face permanent brain damage and uneven facial growth. Using measurements of the child's skull collected by CT scan, a properly shaped prototype is created with a 3-D printer in Rhode Island Hospital's 3-D imaging lab—soon to be the only one of its kind in the state.

Professorship in Diagnostic Imaging Will Lead to Rhode Island's First 3-D Imaging Lab

This new imaging lab will be possible thanks to the establishment of the Charles and Elfriede Collis—Frances Weeden Gibson Professorship in Diagnostic Imaging, led by Dr. John Cronan.

"The Collis family was the driving force behind creating this professorship; they have always had an interest in how technology improves medicine," says Dr. Cronan, who serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Diagnostic Imaging at Alpert Medical School and Radiologist-in-Chief at Rhode Island Hospital. ***"The level of imaging possible through the lab we're creating will be revolutionary."***

Sometimes referred to as a funded chair, a professorship utilizes a pool of funds that provides resources each year to support a professor or physician's ability to explore new clinical and research projects. Dr. Cronan was selected to oversee the professorship for his immeasurable contributions to Rhode Island Hospital and for leading the nationally-recognized Residency Radiology Program.

In addition to the imaging lab, which Dr. Cronan anticipates will be completed next year, the professorship will support leading edge research initiatives. And with support from the estate of the late Frances Weeden-Gibson—a third generation Brown alum who was instrumental in the founding of the Medical School—the professorship also serves to strengthen the partnership between Rhode Island Hospital and the University.

"This professorship gives us an even higher level of visibility in the academic community," says Dr. Cronan. ***"It reinforces the excellence of both Rhode Island Hospital and Brown."***

Long-time friends of Rhode Island Hospital who have generously supported patient care, research and education, Elfriede Collis and her late husband, Charles, have always reached out to help others. For more than three decades, Mrs. Collis has served as volunteer, Trustee of the Rhode Island Hospital Board, Chair of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board, and Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee of the Lifespan Board.

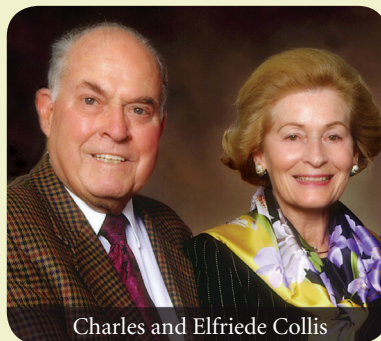
"My husband and I always felt an obligation to give back to mankind and help in any way possible," says Mrs. Collis.

"It is a wonderful feeling when you see your philanthropy make a difference that will ultimately lead to improved patient care."

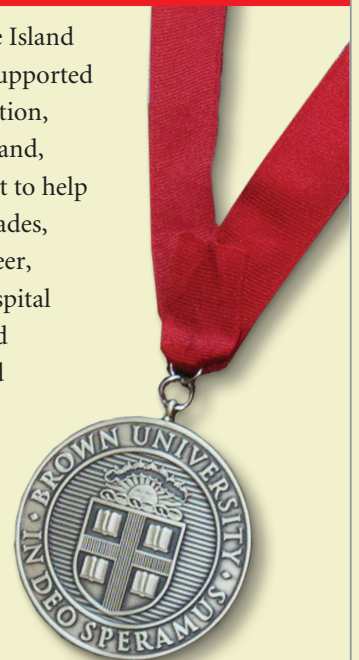
"There are few people who have supported the hospital the way the Collis family has; every day, their gifts are instrumental in helping us to diagnose

and treat diseases in ways that weren't possible before," says Dr. Cronan.

"On behalf of the entire Rhode Island Hospital community, our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of the late Charles Collis. He was an inspirational person and a tremendous friend to our hospital."



Charles and Elfriede Collis



Frances Weeden



Drs. Chodobska (left) and Chodobski (right)

Generous Donor Teams Up With Neurotrauma Research Duo in Unique Traumatic Brain Injury Discoveries

The stories from overseas immediately grab your attention, and your heart. Servicemen and women make their way across a dirt road amidst the unknown placement of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Gunners man their stations atop armored vehicles, primed to detect the signs of enemy activity.

Suddenly, there's a blast from beneath one of the tires; an IED detonates. Debris flies through the air and soldiers are knocked to the ground, scattered, dazed and bloodied. Within minutes, the dust begins to settle. Yet, for those soldiers impacted by the blast, the effects of such a traumatic episode on their brain will last for the rest of their lives—leaving an alarming number of veterans to fight different battles: post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, dementia, and more.

But at Rhode Island Hospital—more than 5,000 miles from the battles overseas—in one of the country's top departments of emergency medicine, a dynamic husband and wife neurotrauma research team is on the verge of ground-breaking discoveries that may change

the way concussions and traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) are diagnosed and treated. Their work is made possible thanks to a generous \$250,000 gift from Diane Weiss.

In graduate school, Weiss based her thesis on the behavioral indicators of those on the autism spectrum at a time the condition was considered the result of a lack of parental bonding. Challenging that premise with the belief that neurological malfunctions were at play, fueled Diane's interest to dedicate her life to studying brain function and supporting veterans, especially those with PTSD.

Five years ago, Diane attended a lecture on brain activity led by Dr. Adam Chodobski and his wife, Dr. Joanna Chodobska. By the end of their presentation, Diane found the calling of a project she had to get involved with—one that combined her desire to improve people's quality of life with her passion for advancing science; a perfect match.

Natives of Poland, Drs. Chodobski and Chodobska joined the faculty at Rhode Island Hospital and the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in 1991, bringing with them an expertise in brain barriers and physiological mechanisms controlling brain fluid homeostasis. Their work centered on understanding the molecular mechanisms of brain swelling, a common complication of severe TBI—

making it a natural fit for them to focus on the growing problems associated with repetitive brain injuries affecting both the military and athletes.

One of the biggest challenges in treating a mild TBI, commonly known as a concussion, is the difficulty in diagnosing the amount of damage incurred by the brain and predicting neurological outcomes after the accident. Physicians urgently need reliable and objective tools to help answer those questions—prompting a significant interest in blood biomarkers for TBI to objectively measure the injury.

Unlike other neurotrauma researchers, who tend to focus on proteins that are released into the bloodstream from damaged brain cells, Drs. Chodobski and Chodobska look at proteins produced by the body in response to injury. This approach is leading to the identification of biomarkers that can quantitatively diagnose a concussion or mild TBI. But, there is much more this approach may offer.

“We felt that the traditional approach wasn’t sufficient, because when proteins are released by dying cells in the brain, they can’t be targets for intervention,” says Dr. Adam Chodobski. “In contrast, with the proteins we’re working with, there’s the potential for treatment.”

While additional markers still need to be studied, Chodobski is optimistic about patenting the biomarkers for broad use, which could help clinicians everywhere better diagnose and treat concussed patients.

Drs. Chodobski and Chodobska are also testing a peptide compound developed by their collaborator at Brown University that may eventually become a drug to treat TBI. The compound easily passes through the blood-brain barrier, getting to where it can halt excessive inflammation caused by a TBI before permanent damage occurs. And, if administered shortly after injury, the compound has been effective in stopping the progression of brain damage. Other preliminary results have demonstrated the compound’s ability to provide long-term improvements in cognitive function following injury.

“Our hope is that ultimately soldiers going into combat could have this compound with them in the field,” says Dr. Joanna Chodobska.

The other project that the doctors are currently working on focuses on the effects of repetitive concussions and

how the severity of a TBI impacts the brain’s inflammatory response. This project will be critical in answering many questions, including: how does the human brain deal with repetitive insults; why repetitive concussions may lead to neurodegenerative diseases; is there any “safe” time between repetitive concussions; and are there genetic traits that make some people more susceptible to injury?

“We know that around 15 percent of people who sustain a concussion suffer from prolonged symptoms that can last for months, even years,” adds Chodobski. ***“We want to learn whether they are more genetically predisposed to brain trauma; we are more and more convinced there’s a close association between repetitive concussions and dementia.”***

Drs. Chodobski and Chodobska are quick to recognize the support they receive from the department of emergency medicine, including chair Brian Zink, M.D., and vice chair Gregory Jay, M.D., as well as their clinical faculty.

“I think our work is contributing to the hospital’s vision of becoming a leader in neurological emergencies; there’s tremendous diagnostic and prognostic value in our research,” says Chodobska. ***“None of our success would***

happen without the level of support we receive. Rhode Island Hospital is the perfect environment for what we’re hoping to accomplish.”

Diane Weiss, who is a Governor of Rhode Island Hospital and a Trustee of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation, in addition to serving on the advisory council of the Norman

“What Joanna and Adam said during that lecture was absolutely amazing; it boggles my mind how much incredible research is happening at Rhode Island Hospital. I just knew I had to support what they’re doing.”

— Diane Weiss



Prince Neurosciences Institute at Rhode Island Hospital and the Palm Beach County Veteran’s Committee during her time in Florida, considers it a privilege to be able to help advance this work.

“Adam and Joanna have sacrificed their lives to try and figure this out; they’re not only passionate about it, they are absolutely brilliant,” says Diane. ***“Being a part of this gives my life enormous meaning—I truly believe they’re on the right path and that their findings will change the world.”***

Adds Dr. Chodobska, ***“Diane is one of the most amazing people we’ve ever met. She’s not only our benefactor, but someone who brings a different perspective to our field with this incredible positive energy and attitude. She is as responsible for our discoveries as we are.”***

How does an idea get from a scientist's brain to the research bench and ultimately to the patient's bedside? The answer is often times a combination of tenacity and serendipity. For Drs. Ciombor and Liu at Rhode Island Hospital, that most certainly was the case.

Entrepreneur's Gift Propels Tissue Regeneration Research

The potential of even the most promising idea cannot be explored, let alone be realized, until the researcher first obtains funding – typically through successful grant writing, private gifts, or both. This initial funding supports the time, space and equipment needed to test and develop the idea. A recent gift of \$210,000 from Hong Kong industrialist T.T. Lee, illustrates the far-reaching impact of funding that allows a project to begin in earnest.

Dr. Deborah Ciombor, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Rhode Island Hospital, who is also an Associate Professor of Surgery at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Associate Director of the former Center for Restorative and Regenerative Medicine at the Providence VA Medical Center, had seen firsthand the struggles of injured soldiers, including veterans whose amputated limbs are too short for a prosthetic arm or leg.

Paul Liu, M.D., Chairman of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Rhode Island Hospital and Professor of Surgery at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, had been exploring the use of gene therapy to speed healing and the creation of new techniques for treating problem wounds.

Both of them had been researching tissue regeneration in Providence for years, from different perspectives.

In orthopedics, Dr. Ciombor focused on tissue engineering to advance cartilage and bone regeneration and improve the fit and function of prosthetics. Meanwhile, Dr. Liu focused on healing skin to seal wounds and reduce scarring.

The common element was advancing the growth of tissue cells to successfully heal wounds – whether from surgery, burns, trauma, injury, disease or any circumstance that could interfere with the healing process and increase the risk of infection. The two decided it was time for a cross-fertilization of ideas.

Their research uses cells harvested from liposuction – essentially waste material that would be discarded otherwise – to investigate how to impact the growth rate of tissue to heal wounds faster and even grow bone.



Drs. Deborah Ciombor and Paul Liu

“Fat is the second largest source of pluripotent cells, after bone marrow. We’ve been using fat to rehabilitate burn patients scars for some time; it increases the mobility of the scar,” says Dr. Liu.

The project explores which proteins in the cells impact regeneration. This research could literally transform countless lives by advancing the rate of healing and even

promoting bone growth. It has the potential of helping a broad range of people including wounded warriors with amputated limbs, burn victims with infections and scars, diabetics with wounds that won’t heal, patients who need a mechanical device to help with long-term feeding or medication, and virtually any surgical patient.

A Serendipitous Meeting

A simple conversation at a conference between Dr. Ciombor and Javin Pierce, President of Pierce Surgical Consolidated, led to Pierce mentioning Ciombor’s research project to T.T. Lee, an international businessman and investor that Pierce collaborates with on various projects. Lee was intrigued by the project and wanted to meet Dr. Ciombor. He flew her to Hong Kong for a whirlwind meeting—during which she explained the project and its potential. Lee was so taken with the potential of their project that he immediately made a \$210,000 gift, which provided the duo a much-needed infusion of funding into their work.

The generous donation is supporting staffing and equipment, including the purchase of a Luminex machine that automates protein analysis and significantly expands their capacity to test sample proteins. They will also be able to bring in several graduate assistants and medical students, impacting their training and research in an ever-broadening ripple effect.

“Mr. Lee’s generosity gives us the opportunity to do research at a pace that would not be otherwise possible. That is truly a gift,” says Dr. Ciombor. *“We have been given the gift of time ... to think and experiment. It provides us with breathing room that we just didn’t have before.”*

Dr. Liu adds, *“There are few words to express our gratitude to T.T. for the time to focus on the research itself, not simply how we are going to fund our research.”*

Lee is excited about the work and its potential to help people with a myriad of applications. *“We plan to visit Rhode Island to see the results of their work first hand. This is more than a donation to us; it is an exciting project that has widespread significance,”* he says.

Engineering tissue that helps skin heal better and faster and also helps bone to grow is vital for many trauma patients, including military personnel, who lose a limb in a manner that leaves too little bone for the attachment of a prosthetic. This research could also apply to individuals who need shunts for dialysis, ports for gastrointestinal issues or for any mechanical device that interfaces long term with the body.

Adds Lee: *“There is little doubt that stem cells and associated treatments can unlock some of the secrets to longer and healthier lives ... and we want to be an active part of this process.”*



T.T. Lee and his wife Lisa

Haffenreffer Family's Legacy Fosters Tradition of Excellence



It reads like the Who's Who among physician leaders in Rhode Island. It includes the names of hospital and board presidents, department chiefs, and acclaimed researchers. This list of more than 300 physicians features names that decades later still resound in the halls of Rhode Island Hospital. Their mention evokes stories of compassion, dedication, persistence and leadership.

What is this impressive list? It is the roster of The Haffenreffer Family House Staff Excellence Award alumni. Since 1946, this award has been not only recognizing Excellence in residents in Rhode Island Hospital's physician training programs, it also has created a dual legacy — a family's multi-generational philanthropy and physician excellence.

When the well-known industrialist and philanthropist Rudolph Haffenreffer, best known as the president and CEO of The Narragansett Brewery Co., started the award 68 years

ago, he likely had no idea that it would become the highest honor a resident or fellow can attain at Rhode Island Hospital. It is as competitive and prestigious as an Emmy or Oscar award. While the specifics of the award have evolved over the years, its spirit has remained steadfast: showcase and honor excellence and potential in outstanding new physicians.

Since the 1960s, the award has been presented annually, although the number of recipients and the selection process varied until it was formalized in the early 2000s. *"I am not aware of any award that is as longstanding as The Haffenreffer Award at Rhode Island Hospital,"* says John B. Murphy,

MD, Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and past Chief Medical Officer at Rhode Island Hospital. *"The fourth generation of Haffenreffers is now bestowing this award. That is living proof of the commitment the family has to excellence, to the hospital and to the community we serve."*

Since its inception, the program has recognized 330 physicians. To even be considered, candidates must be nominated by their program director. Recipients are chosen

from all areas and services in the hospital, based on a written nomination that conveys how the candidate demonstrates exceptional qualities in clinical service, professionalism, leadership and scholarly activity. The award, which comes with an unrestricted gift of \$10,000, is given to five senior residents or fellows at

Rhode Island Hospital once a year.

"This award is just one of the many ways the Haffenreffer Family supports the hospital and our mission. We are grateful to them for their unwavering support of our endeavors. This award is a great way to recognize

"The fourth generation of Haffenreffers is now bestowing this award. That is living proof of the commitment the family has to excellence, to the hospital and to the community we serve."

— John B. Murphy, MD

outstanding physicians and to help ease their financial burden just a bit when they complete their residency and are in transition,” says Dr. Murphy, who helped establish the formal selection process and works closely with the Haffenreffer family in presenting the awards.

He has served as the emcee of the event for years, along with Rudolph Haffenreffer's grandson, David Haffenreffer, who served as a Rhode Island Hospital trustee for many years and continues to serve on the Board of Governors. This spring, Rudolph's great granddaughter, Kristen Haffenreffer, who serves on the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board, joined them to present the awards for the first time.

For decades, the Haffenreffer Family House Staff Excellence Award has honored those who represent the future of medicine and the future of Rhode Island Hospital. Distinguished alumni include Edward Iannuccilli, MD, 1969-70 recipient, former Chairman of the Board of Rhode Island Hospital and former member

of the Lifespan Board of Directors; Boyd P. King, 1974-75 recipient, retired Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs at Rhode Island Hospital; and Joseph Amaral, MD, 1983-84 and 1985-86 recipient, former President of Rhode Island Hospital. For a complete listing of all honorees please visit www.giving.lifespan.org/haffenreffer-awards.



David Haffenreffer at podium



As the fourth generation Haffenreffer to support Rhode Island Hospital, Kristen takes her role and responsibility seriously and to heart.

“My great grandfather was a real innovator and visionary. He recognized opportunities to make a difference in people's lives, such as purchasing and refurbishing the Mount Hope Bridge to ease transportation issues, and he wanted to help others pursue their dreams and live a better life.

He instilled a strong work ethic and commitment to community and philanthropy in his family that my father's generation and mine are proud to carry on. It is important for any organization to

have individuals who have served the organization for a long time, who know the history and traditions and can provide context and perspective in their leadership. It is also necessary to support the new and upcoming individuals, the ones who represent the future and can sustain the organization and help it thrive for future generations.

We are proud that this award has developed a tradition of supporting the efforts of both by recognizing the future of medicine and helping the current leaders attract and retain talented physicians. My grandfather always appreciated and wanted to compensate those who worked hard. He was an entrepreneur and viewed those who went into medicine and medical research in the same light. He wanted to support and recognize their efforts. We are pleased to continue this tradition. We have been handed the mantle and are committed to Rhode Island Hospital and our community.”

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Please join with our select group of visionary donors as a member of the Rhode Island Hospital Living Heritage Society. Simply name the hospital as a beneficiary of your estate plan, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

This critical support ensures the hospital's future and our pursuit of excellence in patient care, pioneering research, medical education and technology.

To learn more about naming the hospital in your estate plan, or to receive information on establishing a gift which will provide you or a loved one with income for life, please contact Noreen Mitchell, Planned Giving Officer at **401-444-6311** or nmitchell@lifespan.org.

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