



Baylor  
College of  
Medicine

# EMPOWER

Healthcare Education Research Community

# IMPACT REPORT

# WITH GRATITUDE

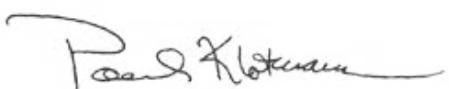
Dear Supporters and Friends of Baylor College of Medicine:

As Baylor College of Medicine's strongest supporters and advocates, you are integral to the health of our community. You demonstrate a deep commitment to our mission and place your confidence in our people and programs, enabling Baylor to adapt to and better serve the health needs of our local and global community. Without the generosity of friends like you, the accomplishments in this EMPOWER Impact Report would not be possible.

Over the past 12 months, we have received more than \$115 million, which has continued to strengthen the Baylor community across our mission areas. From accelerating life-changing research for patients with untreatable depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder, to establishing new scholarships and meaningful endowments, to opening a student food pantry for our students and providing trauma care for injured Ukrainian soldiers, your support has been pivotal. I hope you enjoy reading more details about each of these stories and other highlights made possible through your support.

Each year, I am inspired by the unwavering commitment of our donors. Thank you for being a part of the Baylor family and joining us for another year of better health.

Sincerely,



Paul Klotman, M.D.  
President & CEO  
Executive Dean  
Baylor College of Medicine



Paul Klotman, M.D., reviews a presentation with a Baylor College of Medicine student at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual McNair Symposium (page 30).

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### SCAN HERE TO GIVE



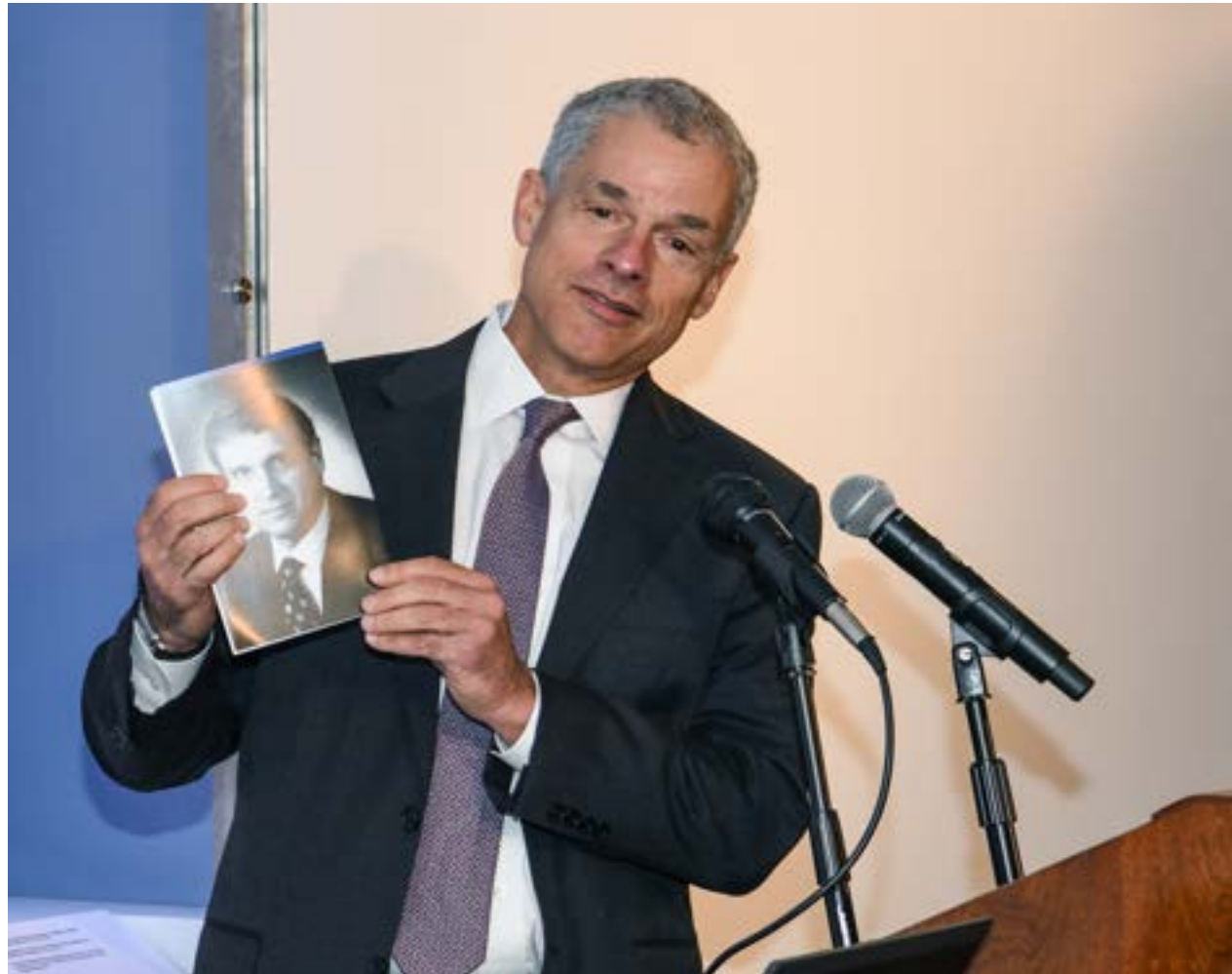
A fluorescence micrograph showing a cross-section of a mouse cochlea. The image displays a dense array of stereocilia, which are labeled in cyan. The stereocilia are arranged in a regular, repeating pattern, forming a staircase-like structure. The background is a mix of purple and blue, representing other cellular structures. The overall appearance is that of a highly organized, repeating biological structure.

# HEALTHCARE

Image: Cross section through the cochlea of a mouse ear, stereocilia labeled in cyan. Specimens provided by Andrew Groves Lab, photo by Melissa McGovern, Baylor College of Medicine

# Blazing New Trails

## The DeBakey Medical Foundation Endows Surgery Chair, Advances Legacy of Transplant Pioneer



Todd Rosengart, M.D., holds an early photo of George P. Noon, M.D.

After completing his residency at Baylor College of Medicine, George P. Noon, M.D. '60, joined the Baylor faculty and went on to blaze trails in organ transplantation and cardiac assist device development for more than 50 years. He collaborated with famed heart surgeon Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., to perform one of the first heart transplants in the United States in 1968. A few years later, Drs. Noon and DeBakey worked with NASA to develop a miniature axial flow pump, a device that rocketed cardiac surgery forward and earned Dr. Noon induction into the Space Technology Hall of Fame.

For Dr. Noon's legacy of life-saving accomplishments, Baylor recognized him in 2019 with its Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Just last year, The DeBakey Medical Foundation committed \$2 million to honor and advance that legacy by establishing the George P. Noon, M.D., Endowed Chair in Surgery.

"Dr. Noon is a key reason why Baylor leads the way in transplantation and surgical innovation," said H. David Short, M.D., president of The DeBakey Medical

Foundation. "This chair celebrates his character and commitment and will help drive breakthroughs in surgery for years to come."

Members of the Noon family and The DeBakey Medical Foundation gathered at Baylor to honor Dr. Noon and celebrate the first chair holder, Gabriel Loor, M.D., associate professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and co-chief of the Division of Adult Cardiac Care at Baylor.

A nationally recognized physician-scientist in heart and lung transplants, Dr. Loor has already advanced the Noon legacy by establishing the Lung Transplant Program at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, a premier center in the region for treating end-stage lung disease. The program served a critical function during the COVID-19 pandemic for patients needing lung transplants after infection.

Like Dr. Noon, Dr. Loor exemplifies a passion for improving health through science, scholarship and ingenuity. With support from the Noon Chair, he will continue to elevate Baylor's heart and lung transplant program.

*Hear Dr. Loor discuss his passion for medicine and the impact of the lung transplant program on patients.*

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[give.bcm.edu/debakey](https://give.bcm.edu/debakey)



Seated from left: Charles McCollum, M.D., George P. Noon, M.D., and Gabriel Loor, M.D.  
Standing from left: Todd Rosengart, M.D., Paul Klotman, M.D., and H. David Short, M.D.

# Boosting Therapy Response

## Adopt-A-Scientist – Cure Cancer Offers More Hope to Breast Cancer Patients

Baylor College of Medicine oncology researchers made significant progress in the development of a low-cost personalized blood test to better detect the response of metastatic breast cancer to treatment, thanks to a \$200,000 gift from Adopt-A-Scientist – Cure Cancer.

Led by George Miles, M.D., Ph.D., FCAP, assistant professor of Molecular and Human Genetics and laboratory director for Precision Oncology, and Bora Lim, M.D., associate professor of Oncology and director of translational research for the Breast Cancer Research Program, the study uses circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) – DNA from cancer cells that is released into the bloodstream – to track and monitor disease progression and response to treatment.

“The gift from Adopt-A-Scientist was integral to our success this year, helping fund personnel and pay for critical equipment and assay development for our pilot study, which became the foundation of a trial design,” Dr. Miles said. The support helped open access to National Institutes of Health grant funding.

The ctDNA study is part of Baylor’s Rapid Disease Monitoring and Response to Therapy project, which uses blood testing

to determine those patients who may benefit from less treatment for better outcomes and those who may benefit from a more specific, personalized therapy to boost how they overcome disease. Tailoring treatment protocols based on an individual’s genetic makeup may affect healthy cells less and more aggressively attack the cancerous ones.

While the ctDNA study currently focuses on breast cancer, this research holds enormous potential for other cancers, offering hope to a greater number of patients and their families.

“Adopt-A-Scientist’s support enables us to establish a molecular monitoring framework for patients, ensuring they are on the right therapy at the right time,” Dr. Lim said. “That ultimately will lead to improved patient outcomes and quality of life.”

“Adopt-A-Scientist is impressed by Baylor’s team approach to helping bright minds, like those of Drs. Miles and Lim, to fight this hated disease,” said Dewey Stringer, founder of Adopt-A-Scientist.

*Read about other research endeavors for treating metastatic breast cancer that Dr. Lim and her colleagues are engaged in.*



Terri Guerra and the Nancy Owens Breast Cancer Foundation staff

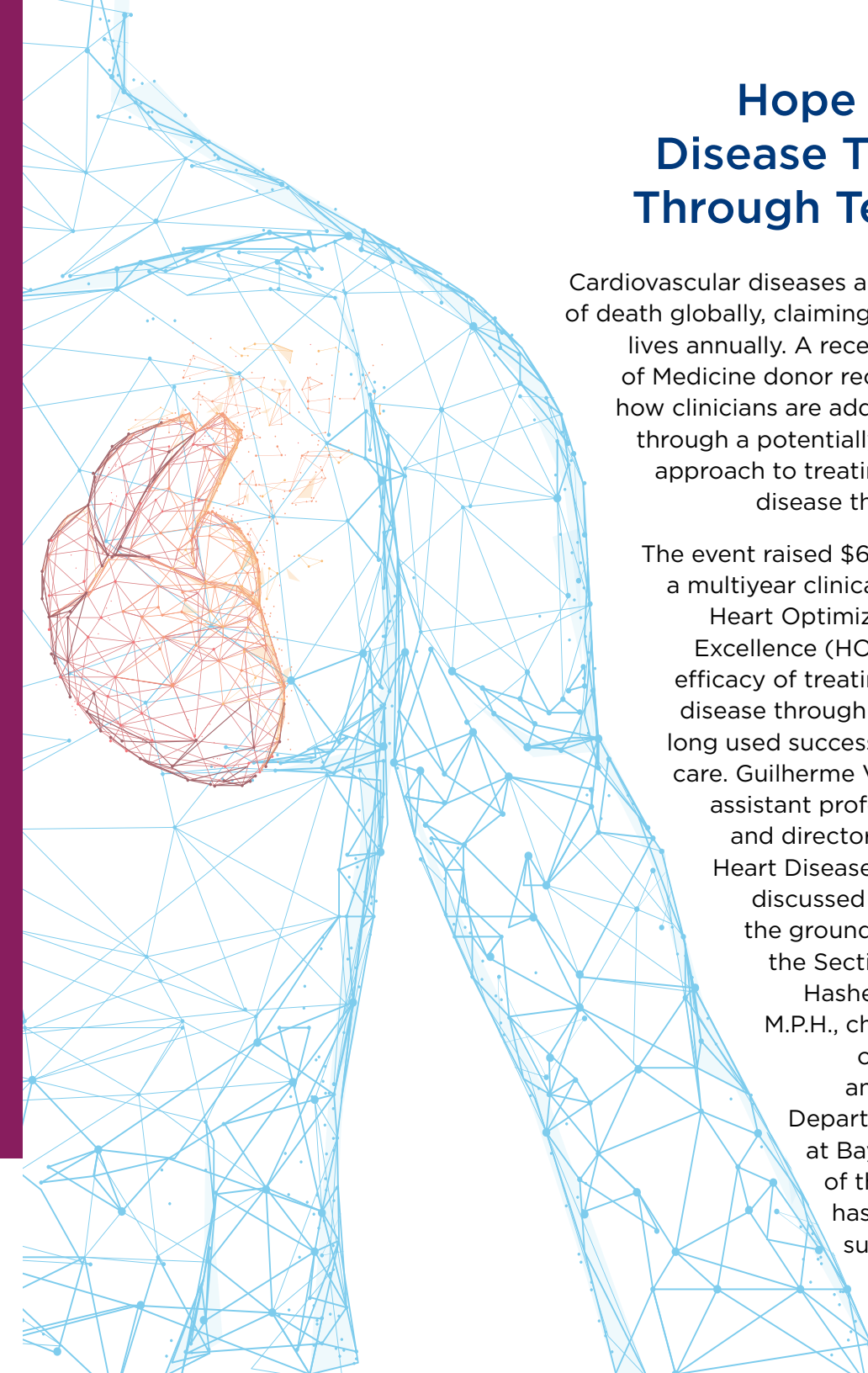
“The Nancy Owens Breast Cancer Foundation supports the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center at Baylor College of Medicine because of its comprehensive approach to basic science, translational and clinical research. Dr. Xiang Zhang and the rest of the team at the Breast Center use every tool, every technology and every pathway available to understand the root causes of this disease in order to find new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat it. We couldn’t be prouder to support the incredible work they are doing to save lives.”

— **Terri Guerra**  
President, Nancy Owens Breast Cancer Foundation

# WHY I GIVE

LEARN MORE

[give.bcm.edu/adopt-a-scientist](http://give.bcm.edu/adopt-a-scientist)



## Hope for Heart Disease Treatment Through Team Care

Cardiovascular diseases are the No. 1 cause of death globally, claiming almost 18 million lives annually. A recent Baylor College of Medicine donor reception examined how clinicians are addressing this crisis through a potentially game-changing approach to treating cardiovascular disease through team care.

The event raised \$69,000 to support a multiyear clinical trial by Baylor’s Heart Optimization Program of Excellence (HOPE) to gauge the efficacy of treating cardiovascular disease through a team approach long used successfully in oncology care. Guilherme Vianna Silva, M.D., assistant professor of Medicine and director of the Structural Heart Disease Center at Baylor discussed these efforts and the groundbreaking work of the Section of Cardiology. Hashem El-Serag, M.D., M.P.H., chair and professor of the Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine at Baylor, led a portion of the discussion and has been a steadfast supporter of HOPE.



“I have been truly honored to support Dr. Christie Ballantyne and the Center for Cardiometabolic Disease Prevention at Baylor

College of Medicine. Cardiometabolic diseases often disproportionately afflict minority communities, and the Center is dedicated to combating this crisis through advanced patient care, education and research. Dr. Ballantyne and his team have already made significant strides toward reversing the alarming rise in cardiovascular diseases. Their work will continue to help patients lead healthier lives through a comprehensive approach to prevention and treatment.”

— **Trini Mendenhall**  
Board of Trustees,  
Baylor College of Medicine

# WHY I GIVE

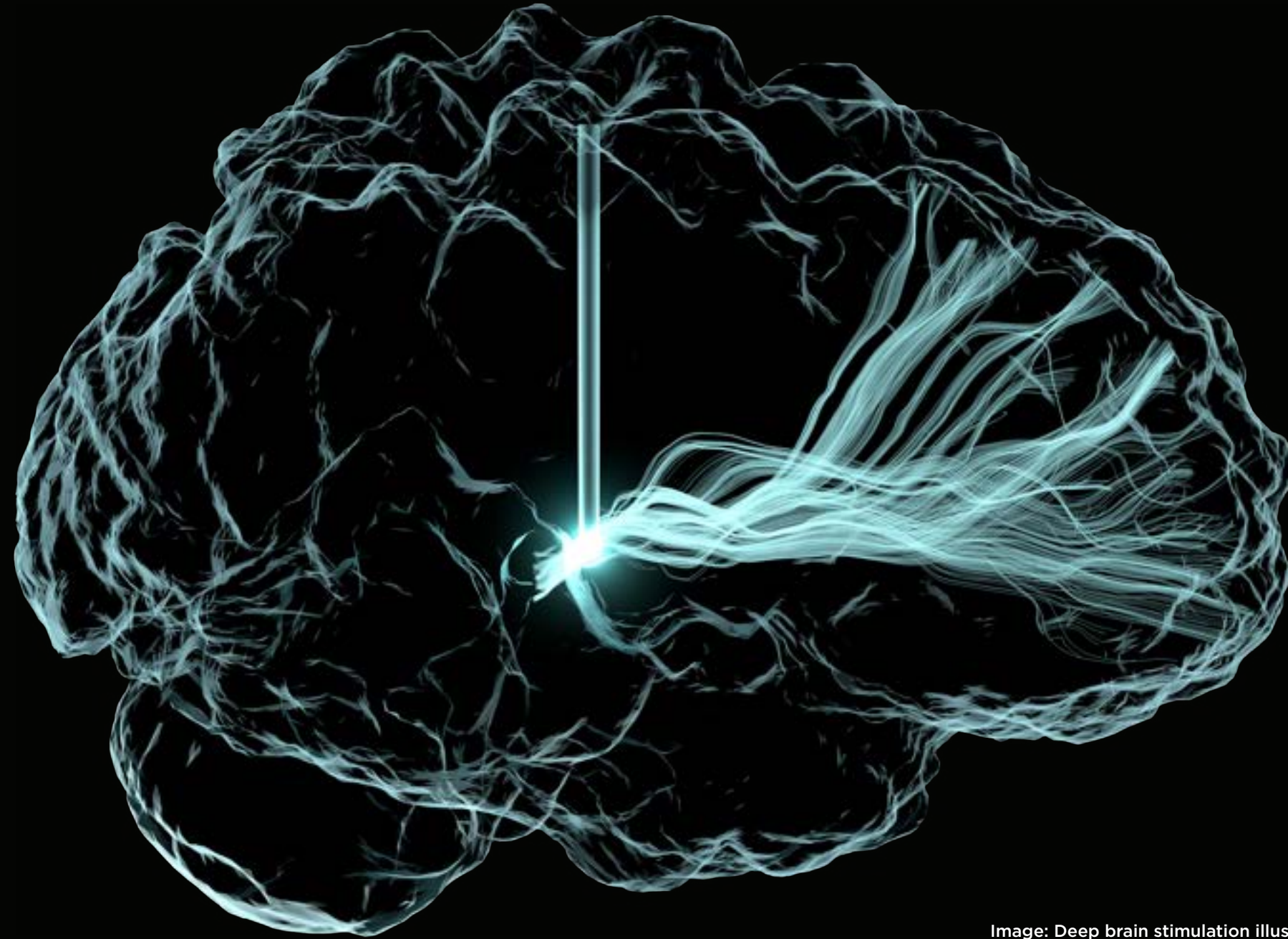


Image: Deep brain stimulation illustration by Andrew Janson, Butson Lab, University of Utah, National Institutes of Health Image Gallery

# Deep Brain Stimulation Offers Hope and Healing

## Grateful Patients Help Baylor Make Strides in the Treatment of Neuropsychiatric Disorders

Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) affects an estimated 2-3 million adults in the U.S. Patients caught in the condition's continuous loop of unwanted obsessions and compulsions find everyday tasks difficult and are therefore often severely debilitated. Now thanks to progress at the Functional Neurophysiology Lab at Baylor College of Medicine, deep brain stimulation (DBS) offers help and hope on the horizon.

"We're seeing significant promise with DBS as a means to help individuals overcome their OCD, making a tremendous difference for them and their families," said Sameer Sheth, M.D., Ph.D., professor and vice chair of Research, Department of Neurosurgery, Cullen Foundation Endowed Chair, McNair Scholar and director of The Gordon and Mary Cain Pediatric Neurology Research Foundation Laboratories at Texas Children's Hospital.

When a patient undergoes DBS, neurosurgeons implant a device akin to a brain "pacemaker" to deliver electrical signals that regulate abnormal impulses and chemicals within the brain. This surgical option is available to the 20-30% of patients with OCD who do not respond

to conventional treatment, including medications and behavioral therapies. DBS shows longer-term durability when compared with other non-surgical neuromodulatory methods.

"Many more patients could benefit from DBS, so it's critical as healthcare professionals to do all we can to develop best practices, raise awareness and increase education about the treatment as a viable option," Dr. Sheth said.

Dr. Sheth's goal of growing awareness and making DBS readily available to patients in need received help from two grateful patient families. Their combined \$150,000 gift supported an international conference at Baylor to advance knowledge around the benefits of using DBS to treat OCD and other mood and anxiety disorders.

*Hear Baylor patient Katie Whitson talk about her personal struggle with OCD and how undergoing DBS was the best decision she ever made.*



Sameer Sheth, M.D., Ph.D., in the operating room during a deep brain stimulation procedure

VISIT US ONLINE

[give.bcm.edu/neuro-dbs](https://give.bcm.edu/neuro-dbs)





# EDUCATION

Image: Mouse retina section blood vessels,  
specimens provided by Joshua Wythe Lab,  
photo by Jason Kirk, Baylor College of Medicine

# Enhancing Innovative Learning

## Huffington Foundation Partners With Baylor to Expand Educational Advancements



A rendering of the Clinical Skills Lab that will be in the new Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower, combining a simulation lab with a traditional-style classroom.

Baylor College of Medicine has been on the forefront of delivering an integrative and collaborative education for more than 120 years. The Huffington Foundation, long-time advocates of Baylor and its work, continues to build upon that legacy with its \$10 million pledge made in 2019 to support education initiatives at the College, of which \$250,000 was used to expand the newly launched Department of Education, Innovation, and Technology.

“The Huffington Foundation has been instrumental in supporting faculty research on key issues in education,” said Nancy Moreno, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department and director of the Center for Educational Outreach.

Department programs address curriculum and faculty development and the implementation of novel interactive courses across all Baylor schools, transforming the College’s approach to learning and discovery. Thanks to the Huffington Foundation’s generosity, the College recruited a new sonographer to expand the point-of-care ultrasound program, an initiative that uses highly advanced technology to better prepare students to deliver high-quality patient care in a more accurate, efficient and affordable way. The gift also enabled Baylor to design and install a new self-service video recording studio that enables faculty to record or livestream high-quality video presentations and develop video modules.

In addition, the Huffington Foundation supports the construction of the new Lillie

and Roy Cullen Tower, one of the nation’s most innovative and interactive learning environments that will combine education, research and hands-on clinical experience for aspiring medical professionals.

The Huffington Foundation’s recent financial gift is only one of many ways the Huffington family has left their mark on the College throughout the years.

“We find it very meaningful to help enable these new educational initiatives and programs and to support Baylor’s vision

of improving health through science, scholarship and innovation,” said Terry Huffington, trustee of the Huffington Foundation and emeritus Baylor Board member.

*Read an in-depth report on the efforts of Baylor’s Center for Educational Outreach.*

VISIT US ONLINE

[give.bcm.edu/huffington](https://give.bcm.edu/huffington)



Baylor physician assistant students practice giving one another ultrasounds.



# From Coast to Coast

## Baylor Alumni Across the Nation Support the Next Generation of Health Professionals

One out of four Baylor College of Medicine students who receive a scholarship is dependent on these funds to attend school, and the average Baylor student graduates with just over \$100,000 in debt without support.

To assist future generations of Baylor students, Baylor alumni – together with members of the community – raised over \$234,000 in scholarship funds as part of Baylor’s 2022 and 2023 alumni reunions.

“I am the first person in my family to attend college and the first in my family to go to medical school,” said Christopher Almendariz, M.D. candidate ’25. “I want to use science as a way to serve patients. It means the world to me that someone is willing to aide me in my journey to become a doctor.”

Once Baylor students graduate, they automatically become a member of Baylor’s Alumni Association, staying connected with the College and with former classmates and professors to celebrate accomplishments and support Baylor’s mission through events like Alumni Reunion and department receptions.

Most recently, over 170 alumni gathered for the first in-person Reunion in four years for three unforgettable days of connecting, reminiscing and sharing accomplishments as Baylor-trained professionals.



“I have been at Baylor now for almost half a century, including 40 years as chair of the Department of Dermatology, serving four presidents. After completing dermatology training in San Francisco and London, I followed my heart and came back home to Houston, where I graduated from Rice University in 1961, and joined the Baylor College of Medicine faculty in 1974. I have never regretted my decision, and I give to Baylor because I’m proud to be a part of the Baylor family.”

— **John Wolf, M.D., M.A.**  
Professor and Emeritus Chair,  
Department of Dermatology,  
Baylor College of Medicine

# WHY I GIVE



Attendees enjoying the 2023 Alumni Reunion



David and Eula Wintermann

“The David and Eula Wintermann Foundation is honored to partner with Baylor College of Medicine to support Baylor Research Advocates for Student Scientists (BRASS) Scholars.

The young scientists in BRASS are advancing the field of biomedical research and laying the foundation for the future of medicine.”

— **Jack Johnson**  
President,  
David and Eula  
Wintermann Foundation

# WHY I GIVE

### VISIT US ONLINE

Hear Dr. Almendariz talk about his journey to become a doctor.

[give.bcm.edu/next-generation](http://give.bcm.edu/next-generation)

Christopher Almendariz, M.D. candidate '25



The Dr. John and Ruth Belew Endowed Scholarship will provide **tuition and fee support in perpetuity** for generations of Temple campus students.



Garrett Wallis with John Belew, Ph.D., at Baylor University graduation in May 2019

## Honoring the Belew Legacy

### Wallis Family Endows Scholarship to Support Future Students at Temple Campus

Students at the School of Medicine's new regional campus in Temple who demonstrate a love for academics and research will soon have another avenue of financial support thanks to a \$150,000 gift from Baylor College of Medicine Trustee Christopher D. Wallis and his wife, Kristin. Established in honor of Mr. Wallis' aunt and uncle, The Dr. John and Ruth Belew Endowed Scholarship will provide tuition and fee support in perpetuity for generations of students at the Temple campus, which opened in August 2023.

Known to Mr. Wallis as his "Uncle Bubba," John Belew, Ph.D., and his wife have dedicated their lives to higher education. Dr. Belew received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Baylor University and eventually returned to his alma mater to teach and pursue research. Shortly after, Ruth joined the Baylor University theater program, where she taught modern dance and stage movement.

Throughout his career, Dr. Belew recognized the importance of combining research and education in the classroom, believing they reinforced each other. Even at the age of 102, Dr. Belew's quest for knowledge continues as he remains abreast of the latest advancements in chemistry and maintains relationships with many former students and faculty members.

"We envision the Belew Scholar to be a student who exemplifies my aunt's and uncle's outstanding character and empathy for others while possessing a passion for education and research," Mr. Wallis said.

## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

"The biggest thing for me in choosing Baylor was its reputation. To be number one in the state of Texas in terms of NIH dollars just speaks loudly to the quality of the research that's being done. Baylor's focus on research coupled with investments in infrastructure and facilities will allow us to continue to recruit high-quality students who are going to have a transformational experience that will then turn them into high-quality providers who will impact all segments of the community in years to come."

**Todd Reinhart, M.D.**  
Dean, School of Health Professions

School of Health Professions Program Focus:  
Physician Assistant  
Doctor of Nursing Practice - Nurse Anesthesia  
Orthotics and Prosthetics  
Genetic Counseling



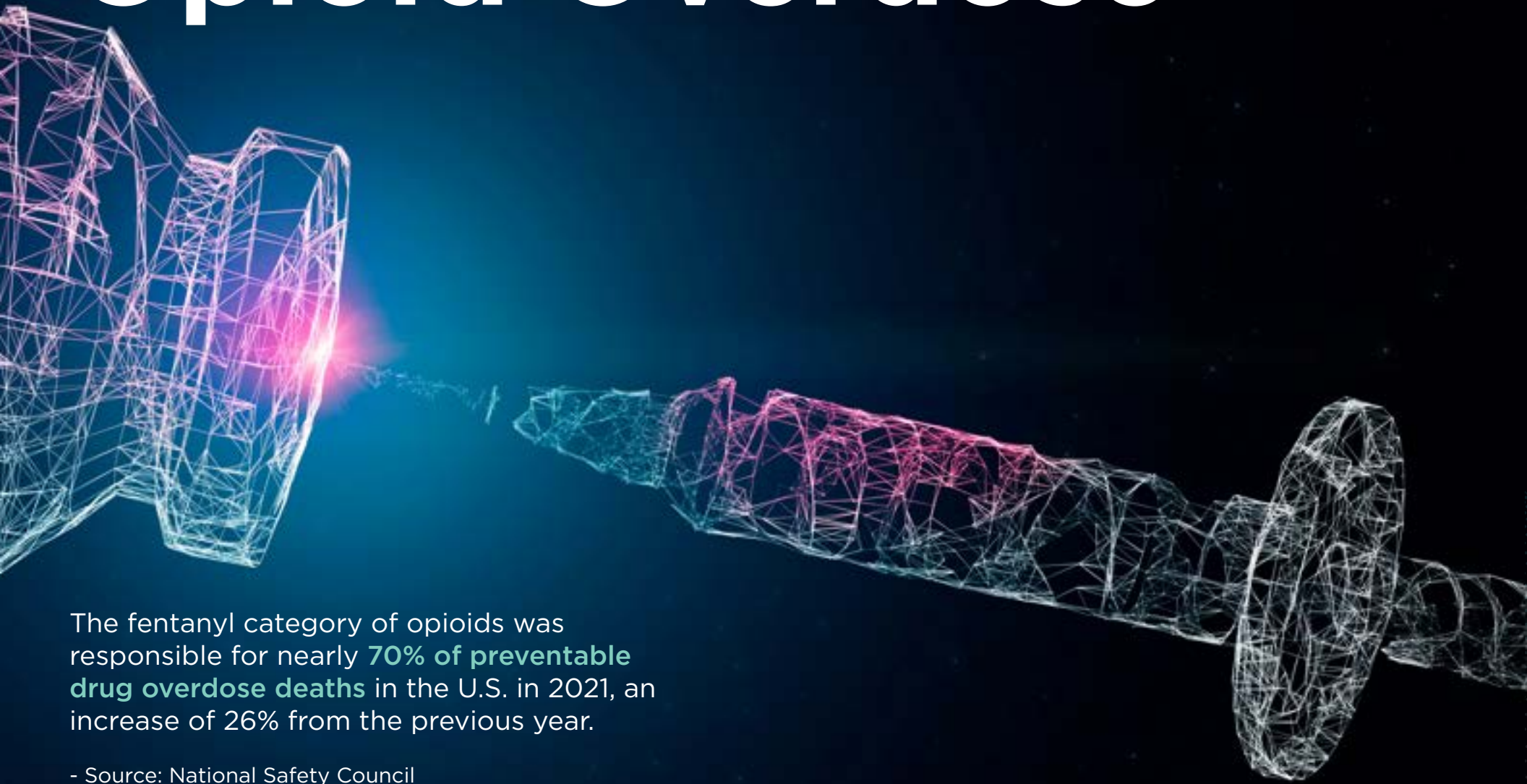
Baylor College of Medicine students practice interactive lessons in the Trauma Simulation Lab.



# RESEARCH

Image: Vessels in a mouse heart  
by Chih-Wei Logan Hsu,  
Baylor College of Medicine

# Vaccinating Against Opioid Overdose



The fentanyl category of opioids was responsible for nearly **70% of preventable drug overdose deaths** in the U.S. in 2021, an increase of 26% from the previous year.

- Source: National Safety Council

## Baylor and the John M. O'Quinn Foundation Partner in Preventing Fentanyl-Related Deaths

Like its namesake, famed Houston attorney John M. O'Quinn, the John M. O'Quinn Foundation has never shied away from a challenge, particularly when helping to solve seemingly unsolvable problems.

To that end, the Foundation has contributed over \$2 million, which includes a recent contribution of \$500,000, to Baylor College of Medicine to support a next-generation solution for one of the nation's most dire health crises: fentanyl-related deaths.

Thomas Kosten, M.D., professor of Psychiatry and director of the Division of Alcohol and Addiction Psychiatry, is developing an anti-fentanyl vaccine that could prevent fentanyl overdoses and help curb the skyrocketing number of deaths as a result. This vaccine creates antibodies to block opioid molecules from entering the brain, thus preventing addictive highs and the biological mechanisms that cause overdoses.

This work is essential as law enforcement and public health officials have struggled to contain the fentanyl epidemic raging nationwide. According to the National Safety Council, of the 98,268 preventable drug overdose deaths in 2021, the fentanyl

category of opioids was responsible for nearly 70% of those preventable drug overdose deaths, an increase of 26% from the previous year. In Texas, lawmakers recently passed four bills that were signed into law aimed at curbing fentanyl abuse.

Because of the Foundation's generosity, Dr. Kosten is closer to bringing the anti-fentanyl vaccine to the testing phase, which is critical for obtaining FDA approval.

"We knew we needed to help," O'Quinn Foundation President Rob C. Wilson III said. "Our initial seed philanthropy and now this renewed support has allowed Dr. Kosten and his team to make tremendous progress in the fight against addiction in some of the most underserved communities, something our founder believed in strongly."

In addition to the gift for the anti-fentanyl vaccine, the O'Quinn Foundation also contributed \$500,000 to advance research into Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a rare connective tissue disorder. Year after year, the Foundation continues to be a vital partner to the College by supporting unique approaches to important health challenges.



Thomas Kosten, M.D., professor of Psychiatry and director of the Division of Alcohol and Addiction Psychiatry

# Promise for Children With Brain Cancer

## The Blue Bird Circle Funds Genetic Study Into Seizures and Glioblastoma

What began as a 15-member female outreach group at a local church has blossomed into Houston's oldest and one of its strongest women's volunteer organizations. This year, The Blue Bird Circle celebrates 100 years of donating countless hours and millions of dollars to drive research and advancements in children's neurology.

With its most recent gift to Baylor, The Blue Bird Circle is helping researchers identify and understand a specific gene responsible for treatment-resistant seizures that may accelerate the growth of glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. Baylor studies reveal that the gene's inability to uptake potassium is a significant trigger in the frequency of seizures and tumor

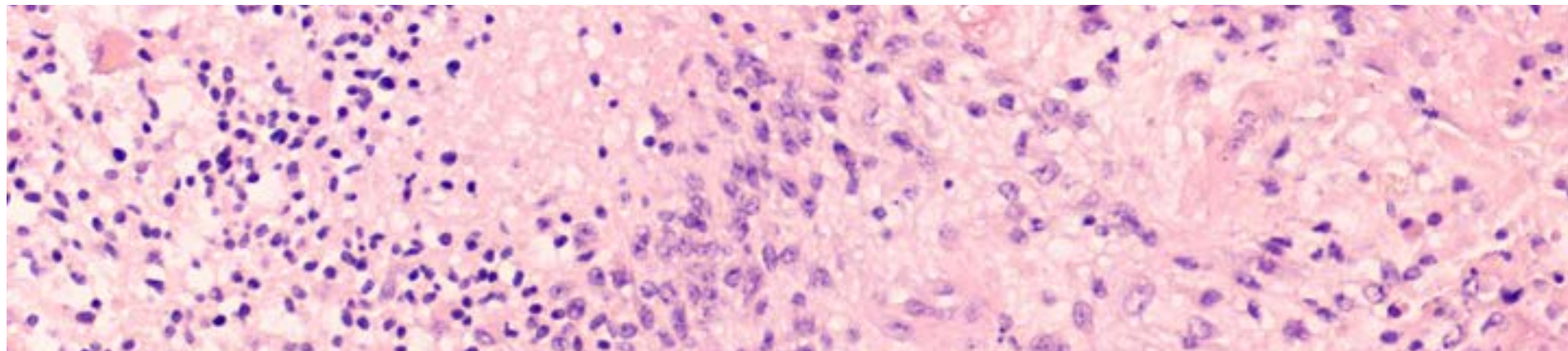
progression, leading to more clues on treatment protocols.

"Today 14% of children are born with a neurological disorder," said Jeffrey Noebels, M.D., Ph.D., director of The Blue Bird Circle Developmental Neurogenetics Laboratory at Baylor. "Support from The Blue Bird Circle allows us to focus on developing new strategies for the early detection and prevention of these disorders, holding promise for tomorrow's child. The Blue Bird Circle is a jewel in the Texas Medical Center's crown."

Like the plumage of their namesake, the group's volunteers are distinct in their signature blue vests as they help staff patient clinics in the medical center and

run their successful resale and consignment shop. Proceeds from the shop have helped them fund initiatives like The Blue Bird Circle Developmental Neurogenetics Laboratory, founded in 1986.

Thanks to the organization's support, the lab has discovered more than 40 single genes that cause epilepsy in children, a disease that affects 70 million worldwide. Baylor has also leveraged The Blue Bird Circle's support for major multi-million-dollar projects funded by the Neurological and Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health and the Human Genome Center.



Microscopic image showing glioblastoma by David A. Litman



Jeffrey Noebels, M.D., and Eli Mizrahi, M.D., with The Blue Bird Circle volunteers

# Wound Healing May Hold the Key

## Herndon Family Champions Baylor's Research Into a Rare Hereditary Connective Tissue Disorder

All too often, rare but debilitating conditions get overlooked for funding, which can discourage researchers from pursuing treatments.

This is the last thing Elizabeth and Rogers Herndon wanted to happen with research into classical Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (cEDS), a rare connective tissue disorder affecting collagen production and resulting in overly flexible joints, fragile skin and, in severe cases, ruptured blood vessels or organ walls.

Having a family member diagnosed with cEDS, the Herndons know firsthand the importance of the groundbreaking research

occurring at the Pamela and David Ott Center of Excellence in Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome at Baylor College of Medicine. The Herndons donated \$100,000 to help Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D., chair of and professor in the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, and the Robert and Janice McNair Endowed Chair and Professor in Molecular and Human Genetics, advance his work examining the molecular events underlying wound healing, which is key to developing a possible treatment for this condition.

With the Herndons' generosity, Dr. Lee and his team are working toward understanding

how cEDS affects bone quality and mass by testing new approaches to boosting collagen expression – advancements that will hopefully bring the team closer to developing treatments for the 1 in 5,000 people impacted by the various types of EDS, including cEDS.

“By partnering with Baylor, we hope to accelerate treatments and meaningfully impact those living with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome,” Mrs. Herndon said.



Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D., and his colleague work together in human genetics research.

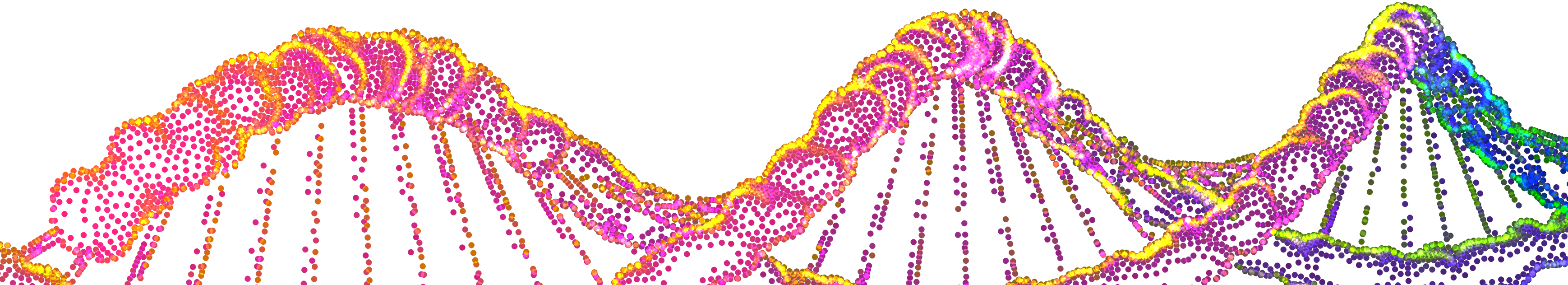


“Hines is committed to Houston, as the home of our global headquarters for more than six decades. The medical research being conducted

here has a far-reaching, worldwide impact.

Baylor's Center for Cardiometabolic Disease Prevention is addressing a global crisis affecting millions through cutting-edge research and state-of-the-art patient care, which is crucial to addressing this growing health concern and improving lives.”

— **Jeffrey C. Hines**  
Chairman and Co-CEO, Hines



WHY  
I GIVE

# Out-of-the-Box Thinking for Pediatric Cancer

## Wipe Out Kids' Cancer Funds Novel Immune Cell Research

Every 32 minutes, a child is diagnosed with cancer – devastating news that shakes families to their core. Now, thanks to a \$97,000 commitment from Wipe Out Kids' Cancer (WOKC), families will have hope for a novel treatment approach.

Dedicated to helping families facing cancer and to funding research toward a cure, WOKC supports work led by Nabil Ahmed, M.D., M.P.H., professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy at Baylor College of Medicine and a pediatric oncologist-hematologist at Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center, that shows an improvement in the T-cell population (white blood cells) and their ability to kill cancer in general.

Once proven beneficial, this research can quickly be implemented into the clinical setting. The work holds promise for

improving treatments, increasing positive outcomes and one day finding a cure for a range of childhood cancers.

Every  
**32**  
minutes  
a child is diagnosed  
with cancer.

WOKC pursues less invasive and effective treatments for pediatric cancers and supports research studies like Dr. Ahmed's that may not initially receive funding but have potential for improving the lives of children with cancer.

"Pediatric cancers are very different and much more rare than adult cancers. As a result, they do

not receive the attention and support they deserve," Dr. Ahmed said. "By supporting out-of-the-box thinking, programs like WOKC are critical to sustaining pediatric cancer research efforts."

## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

"Baylor has the quality and depth of science and a culture of seeking fundamental discovery, and a diverse community that it serves clinically. It was an attractive opportunity to be part of this, grow it and grow with it, and to impact underrepresented patients with the insights. Specifically, I was attracted to Baylor because of its work on cellular engineering/immune effector therapy, in precision medicine, especially in genomics and in breast cancer, and its incredible work in trying to deliver equitable care to all Houstonians, throughout Texas and also globally."

**Pavan Reddy, M.D.**  
Director, Dan L Duncan  
Comprehensive Cancer Center



Image: Bone cancer cell by Dylan Burnette and Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

# New Frontiers in Neuronal Activity

## Annual McNair Symposia Bring Together Brightest Minds in Neurosciences

The intersection of neuronal activity and the development of certain kinds of brain cancer as well as how artificial intelligence serves as a window into brain function took center stage at the 10th and 11th annual McNair Symposia, hosted by the McNair Medical Institute at Baylor College of Medicine.

In 2007, The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation pledged \$100 million to Baylor with the intention of recruiting talented scientists and physician scientists from around the world to the Texas Medical Center (TMC) as McNair Scholars. Now under the auspices of the McNair Medical Institute, McNair Scholars pursue collaborative and transformational research at Baylor in cancer, diabetes and neurosciences, the latter of which is the focus today. The McNair Foundation also established the McNair M.D./Ph.D. Scholars program, which is designed to train highly motivated students who split their time between conducting biomedical research and caring for patients. The McNair M.D./Ph.D. Scholars program celebrated its milestone 25th anniversary at the most recent symposium.

At the annual symposium, McNair Scholars and McNair M.D./Ph.D. Scholars share their latest discoveries and engage in scientific

dialogues with the TMC community. They are selected to present at the symposia in order to share their knowledge with other scientists and pursue opportunities for collaboration.

Internationally renowned experts Michelle Monje, M.D., Ph.D., professor of neurology

and neurological sciences at Stanford Medicine and an expert in the development of brain tumors, and Matthew Botnivick, M.D., Ph.D., senior director of Research at DeepMind and honorary professor in the Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit at University College London, delivered keynote lectures at each symposium.



McNair Scholar Francois St-Pierre, Ph.D., reviews a poster presentation with a Baylor College of Medicine graduate student at the 10th annual McNair Symposium.



Image: Cultured hippocampal neurons derived from post-natal day 0 mice, specimens provided by Joanna Jankowsky Lab, photo by Jason Kirk, Baylor College of Medicine

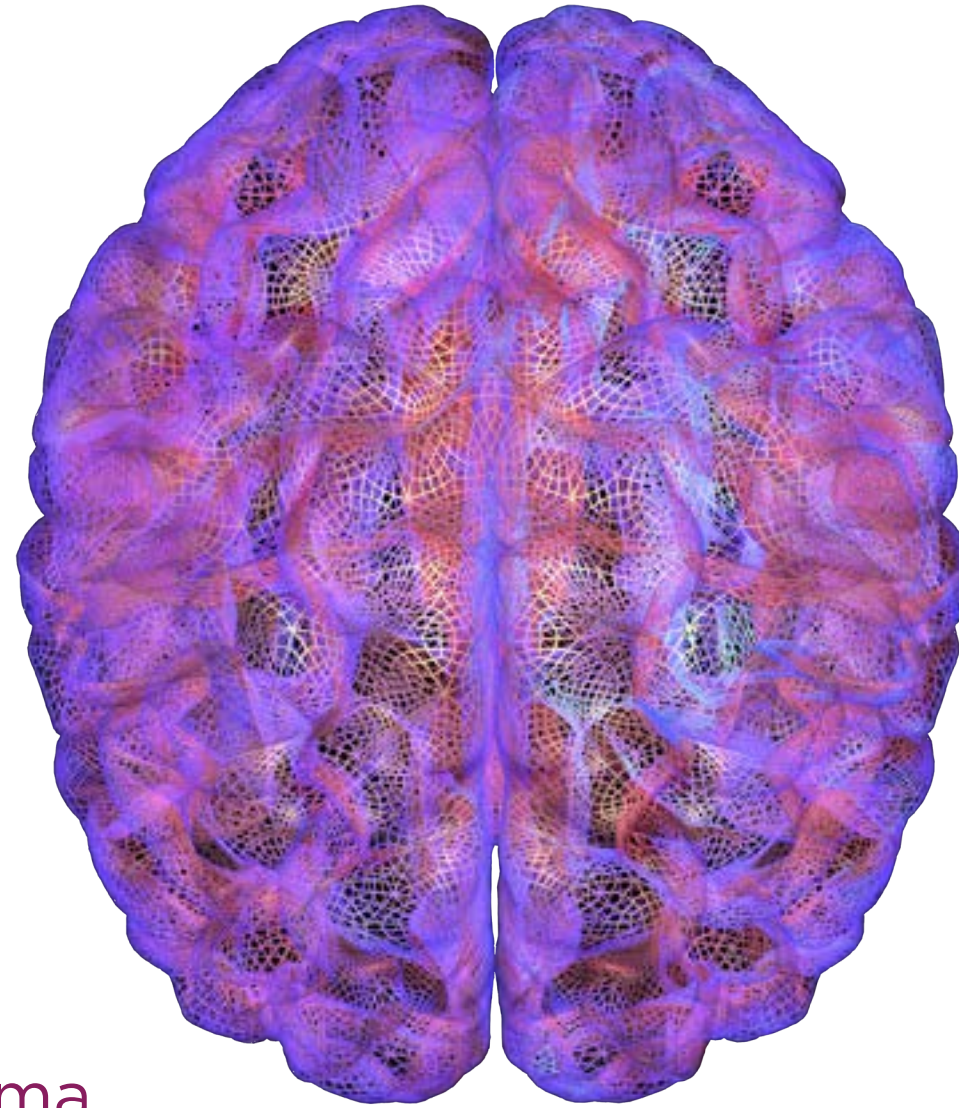


# COMMUNITY

Image: YFP-labeled neurons color-coded for depth in tissue using  
Lightsheet microscopy. Specimens and photo provided by  
Russell Ray Lab, Baylor College of Medicine

# Fueling Next-level Brain Cancer Research

Chevron and Its Community Patrons Pay It Forward at the Pump to Help Fight Glioblastoma



Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D., Jamie Nicole Anastas, Ph.D., and Ganesh Rao, M.D.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2023, almost 25,000 people in the United States will be diagnosed with brain tumors, the most common being glioblastoma, and nearly 20,000 will succumb to their cancers. That's why more than 30 Chevron locations branded Star Stop and Danny's Market partnered with Baylor to fuel a new day of hope for young people impacted by brain cancer.

From mid-November to the end of December 2022, 5 cents of every gallon purchased from designated Baylor-branded pumps at 33 select stations went to support brain cancer research. The effort raised more than \$50,000 from donations made possible by station partners, including the Feroz Panjwani Family (Star Stop) and Danny Zalta (Danny's Market).

Baylor is a national leader in brain cancer research and patient care, specifically through the work of Ganesh Rao, M.D., Marc J. Shapiro Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, in partnership with Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D., Dr. Russell J. and Marian K. Blattner Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and director of the Center for Cancer Neuroscience. Together, they are leading Texas' first Center for Cancer Neuroscience, focused on deciphering how the brain microenvironment influences, and is influenced by, glioblastoma, a type of cancer that can form in the brain or spinal cord. Baylor researchers discovered, for instance, that glioblastoma cells use the nervous system's neural network as a

"highway" to other parts of the brain and hide from the body's immune system.

Leveraging expertise and scientific resources available only at Baylor, Drs. Rao and Deneen are working to uncover causes and identify therapeutic targets leading to better treatments and preventive approaches for glioblastoma.

This work also was supported by the TLC2 Foundation. Foundation founder Terry Chandler was diagnosed with glioblastoma in April 2017 and passed away just three months later. Giving to Baylor helps honor her legacy as well as support critical research.



Baylor-branded pumps support brain cancer research.

# Caring for Ukrainian War Victims

## The Ben Taub and Henry J.N. Taub Foundation Helps Advance Patient Care, Education and Research at Home and Abroad

The generosity of longtime donor, the Ben Taub and Henry J.N. Taub Foundation, is helping amplify Baylor's impact at home and abroad near the battlefields of Ukraine. The Foundation has been a consistent supporter of the Henry J.N. Taub Department of Emergency Medicine, which provides care at Ben Taub Hospital, one of the only Level I trauma centers in Harris County. The H. Ben Taub Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, one of the preeminent departments of physical medicine and rehabilitation in the United States, has also benefited from its steadfast support.

Part of the Foundation's latest contribution to the H. Ben Taub Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is being used to assist in establishing rehabilitation centers of excellence in Poland and Ukraine

to provide prosthetic and orthotic care to soldiers, civilians and children affected by the ongoing conflict. Jared Howell, M.S., CPO, LPO, FAAOP, director of the Center for Prosthetic and Orthotic Care and Clinical Innovation and assistant professor in the H. Ben Taub Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, is leading this effort along with Peter Lim, M.B.B.S., professor in the H. Ben Taub Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

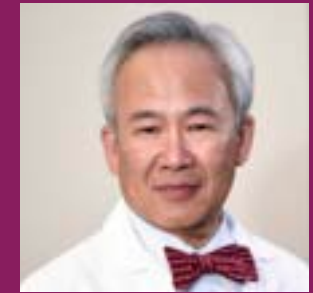
Mr. Howell, Dr. Lim and other rehabilitation specialists in the Department are collaborating with prosthetists and orthotists from Poland and Ukraine, including providers from rehabilitation centers such as the Superhumans Center, the UNBROKEN Rehabilitation Center and the Polytrauma Center of Excellence. Together, they are developing standards,

providing training and creating long-term sustainable care models that enhance and expand care to vulnerable populations.

Through this collaboration, specialists were able to successfully treat and provide prosthetics to the project's first group of Ukrainian soldiers last fall. In the future, these rehabilitation centers will help treat the tens of thousands of individuals with war-related trauma, amputation and movement limitations in the region.



A patient practices walking with his prosthetic in the H. Ben Taub Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.



"Our Family Foundation, Hae-Ahm (Sea-Rock) Foundation, was created to support programs for the underserved,

locally and globally. Our initial funding given to the H. Ben Taub Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation was to develop a program to help train healthcare professionals treating the injured from Ukraine. The faculty at Baylor College of Medicine is deeply committed to helping those in need in our local and global communities. The College needs continuing philanthropic support to recruit and retain top-notch faculty and to initiate programs to improve the health and well-being of those we serve."

— **Michael Y. Lee, M.D., MHA, CPE**  
Director, Hae-Ahm (Sea Rock) Foundation, Professor and Chair, H. Ben Taub Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine

# WHY I GIVE

# Taking a Bite out of Food Insecurity

Alexander Estate Gift and Generous Community Members Help The GRAB Food Pantry Support Students in Need

Imagine the exhaustive hours of study as a medical student learning basic human physiology, histology, anatomy and biochemistry

in the classroom and additional hours in the lab dissecting cadavers and mastering the anatomy of the human body. Then there are the clinical rotations in emergency rooms or outpatient clinics that come later as students move through their journey as tomorrow's healthcare providers and researchers, not to mention trying to find a community of peers who will walk through the tough journey with them for the next four years.

Now imagine accomplishing those endeavors on an empty stomach. Cognitive abilities significantly decline when students are hungry, affecting the ability to read, write, remember details and problem-solve, all of which are critical skills for future healthcare professionals.

Research suggests that at least a third of all college students are food insecure, and almost 20% of Baylor students experience food insecurity, meaning without support

they do not have access to sufficient food to meet basic needs. Through generous donor support, The GRAB (Grocery Resource at Baylor) is a way to confidentially provide students with nonperishable food and snack items at no cost to them, including canned meat,

canned fruits and vegetables, beans, pasta and pasta sauce, cereal, peanut butter and jelly, and protein and snack bars.

Generous community donors and estate gift support from donor Rosalie Alexander have made The GRAB a reality in addressing this pressing and often undiscussed need.

More than 100 students from the School of Medicine, School of Health Professions and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences received support from The GRAB each month in its first year.

*You can support students with food insecurity today.*

**SUPPORT HERE**

[give.bcm.edu/the-grab](https://give.bcm.edu/the-grab)

More than 100 students receive support from The GRAB each month.



Volunteers prepare bags of food for Baylor students.



“While we have had our challenges over the years, Peggy and I have been richly blessed in many ways. We look for ways to give back to those

around us and to organizations that make a difference in people's lives. Baylor College of Medicine is one of those organizations. Through my close association with the College for more than two decades, I have observed that Baylor is one of the most efficient, productive and best stewards of resources of any organization I know. Peggy and I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the ongoing Baylor mission.”

— Dean and Peggy Graves

WHY  
I GIVE



“Rockwell Fund, Inc. (RFI) supports comprehensive and coordinated human services that help improve outcomes for low-

income individuals, families and communities. RFI believes that promoting healthcare for people affected by racial, ethnic and/or economic inequities in access to care will improve the health and quality of life of underserved communities.”

— **Ronald Lewis**  
President and CEO,  
Rockwell Fund, Inc.

WHY  
I GIVE

## Changing the Conversation

### The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation Invests in Curbing Anti-Science Rhetoric and Research

Historically, doctors and scientists have been among the most-trusted professionals in the U.S., seen as experts in health by those for whom they provide care. However, growing distrust in long-established institutions, often spurred by online trolls and media personalities, has eroded the public’s adherence to sound medical advice regarding vaccines and disease prevention measures.

The effects of these harmful messages can have dire consequences. For instance, during the delta and BA.1 variant waves of the pandemic, more than 200,000 unvaccinated Americans died of COVID-19 after a safe and effective vaccine became available. This is especially concerning to Peter Hotez, M.D., Ph.D., dean of Baylor’s National School of Tropical Medicine.

The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation is providing generous funding for Dr. Hotez to hold the nation’s first anti-science summit. The purpose is to gather national thought leaders who specialize in a diverse array of fields to craft messages to help counter anti-science and anti-vaccine messages.

The Mitchell Foundation’s support will contribute to stemming the preventable

loss of life from concerted disinformation activities emerging from both domestic and international actors, by helping Dr. Hotez and his colleagues disentangle anti-vaccine activities from those with harmful agendas. It is vital to the public health and security of the nation to find ways to manage, mitigate and defuse anti-science organizations and messaging to reduce harmful public health consequences.



Peter Hotez, M.D., Ph.D.

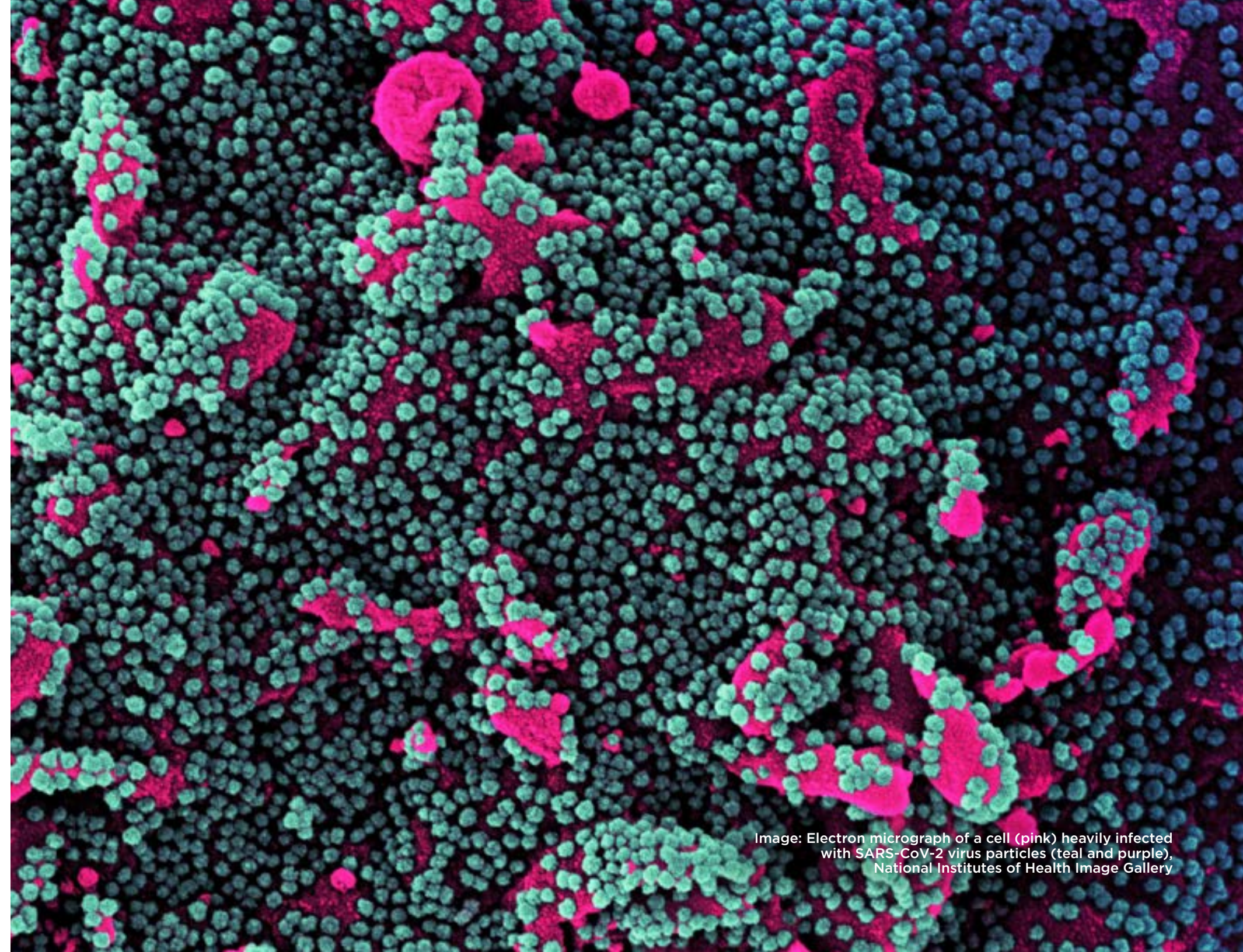


Image: Electron micrograph of a cell (pink) heavily infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus particles (teal and purple), National Institutes of Health Image Gallery

# THE PARTNERSHIP

Image: BPAE cell labeled for microtubules (white)  
and actin (magenta), photo by Jason Kirk,  
Baylor College of Medicine



Each year, donors participate in unique opportunities that align to the annual giving society's four pillars: education, advocacy, volunteering and giving.

Baylor College of Medicine's annual giving society, The Partnership, brings together deeply committed supporters who actively work to help power the future of health. In 2022, The Partnership recognized 1,206 individuals and organizations who gave \$1,000 or more cumulatively to Baylor during the year.

Partnership contributions help further Baylor's mission. Last year, the group's generosity supported Baylor School of Medicine's new regional campus in Temple, Texas, and supported COVID-19 research. Partnership support also advanced patient care specific programs and research.

*Download The Partnership brochure.*

DOWNLOAD HERE

[give.bcm.edu/the-partnership](https://give.bcm.edu/the-partnership)

# President's Circle Reception

## Donors Support Baylor in Tackling One of Tomorrow's Biggest Health Challenges



Image: Enterobacteriaceae, intestinal microbiome

A global problem is looming on the horizon: the waning effectiveness of antibiotics, one of the greatest triumphs of modern medicine. The rise of drug-resistant bacteria and their potential to cause rampant infections are a real threat - and a challenge Baylor is committed to addressing.

Anthony Maresso, Ph.D., the Joseph L. Melnick Chair of Virology and associate professor in the Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, shared his solution with over 30 members of the President's

Circle, the premier group within The Partnership, Baylor's giving society. At a gathering at the home of Kimberly and David Dominy, Dr. Maresso indicated that by 2050, as many as 10 million people per year may die from multiple drug-resistant bacterial infections worldwide.

Dr. Maresso and his team in Baylor's Tailored Antibacterials and Innovative Laboratories for phage ( $\Phi$ ) Research (TAIL $\Phi$ R) are harnessing the power of a unique class of viruses, known as bacteriophages, to combat the rise of drug-resistant bacteria and provide personalized

treatments for infections. As a spinoff of this work, the new biotech venture PHIOPEN launched in 2023, a world-first technology platform that mobilizes the natural power of bacteriophages to tackle critical and life-threatening infections.

In attendance were Lawrence and Linda Levy, donor advisors of the Levy-Longenbaugh Fund, who are passionate about innovative research and directed a donation of \$250,000 from the Fund to support Dr. Maresso's TAIL $\Phi$ R initiative.

*To learn more about this initiative, see story on p. 57.*



Anthony Maresso, Ph.D., speaks to President's Circle donors in the home of Kimberly and David Dominy.



From left: Damian W. Young, Ph.D., honored patient Carol Ahles, patient family Judy Grant and Nickole Moore, Joshua M. Shulman, M.D., Ph.D., and Paul Klotman, M.D.

# PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

## On The Frontline

### Donors Inspired by Baylor's Work to Treat Alzheimer's, Parkinson's Diseases

Neurodegenerative disease is a daunting challenge for patients and their caregivers. Baylor's Joshua M. Shulman, M.D., Ph.D., and Damian Young, Ph.D., are working to ease those challenges for people living with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Baylor's On The Frontline speaker series featured Dr. Shulman, director of the Baylor Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases (CAND), and Dr. Young, associate director of the Center for Drug Discovery at Baylor, where they shared with over 170 Baylor donors and friends the challenges of progressive neurodegenerative diseases, the potential for personalized treatment with precision therapies and the importance of philanthropy in advancing this vital work.

Guests also heard from two patient families who shared how Baylor's research helped them better navigate these diseases.

Hosted by Baylor President, CEO and Executive Dean Paul Klotman, M.D., the event was generously supported by The Partnership. Inspired by the work being accomplished at Baylor, the ZESS Fund generously pledged \$100,000 to support the CAND.

*Hear two patient stories from On The Frontline or make a gift in support of this work.*

WATCH HERE

[give.bcm.edu/partnering-for-health](https://give.bcm.edu/partnering-for-health)



Damian W. Young, Ph.D., on stage at the On The Frontline speaker series



# Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

The Partnership and College leadership hosted President's Circle donors at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as a special show of gratitude for their generous giving. Donors got to cheer on Baylor in the chuck wagon races and enjoy a night of food, fun and music from the award-winning country artist Luke Bryan.

# Cookies and Conversation

In a virtual discussion with Partnership donors, Sharmila Anandasabapathy, M.D., professor of medicine in Gastroenterology and vice president of Global Health, shared how Baylor is developing innovative technologies to better diagnose and manage disease in underserved communities around the world. Conversation attendees received Tiff's Treats cookies delivered directly to them to enjoy during the presentation.

# Food for Finals

In December, volunteers with The Partnership hosted the fall Food for Finals to show appreciation and support for Baylor students. Amy Waldorf, Partnership volunteer chair, and others served more than 200 students pizza during the week of exams.

"The students were so gracious and kind to us and each other. It was truly an honor to be there," Ms. Waldorf said. "Knowing we made their day just a little better makes it all worth it."

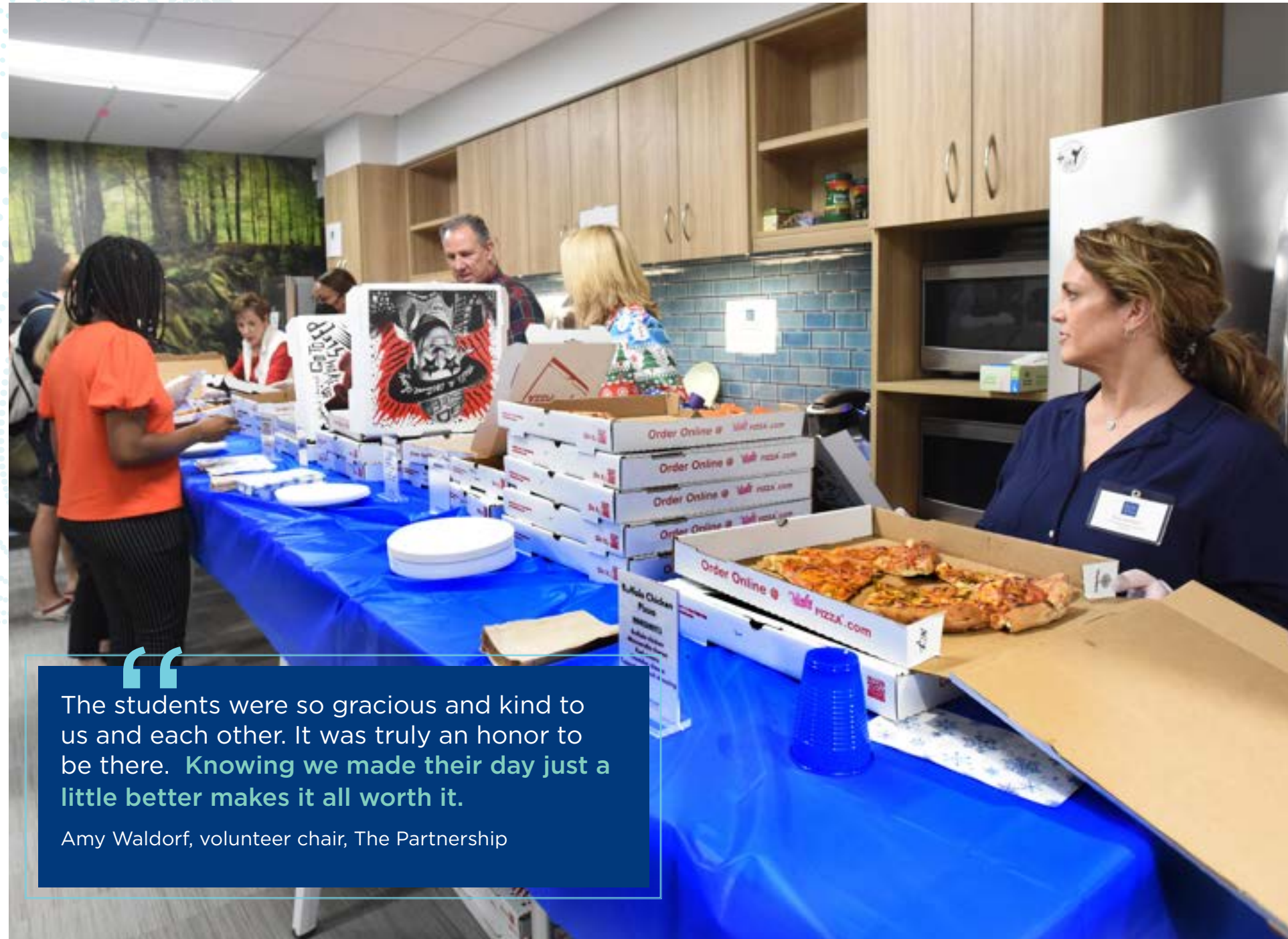
Students shared their gratitude for the event, which helped them better focus on their studies and provided opportunity to reconnect with friends and peers.

"Food and socialization mean a lot at this stage," one student commented. "It helps us out mental health-wise, so thank you for your kindness. It has a good impact."

LEARN MORE

[give.bcm.edu/the-partnership](https://give.bcm.edu/the-partnership)

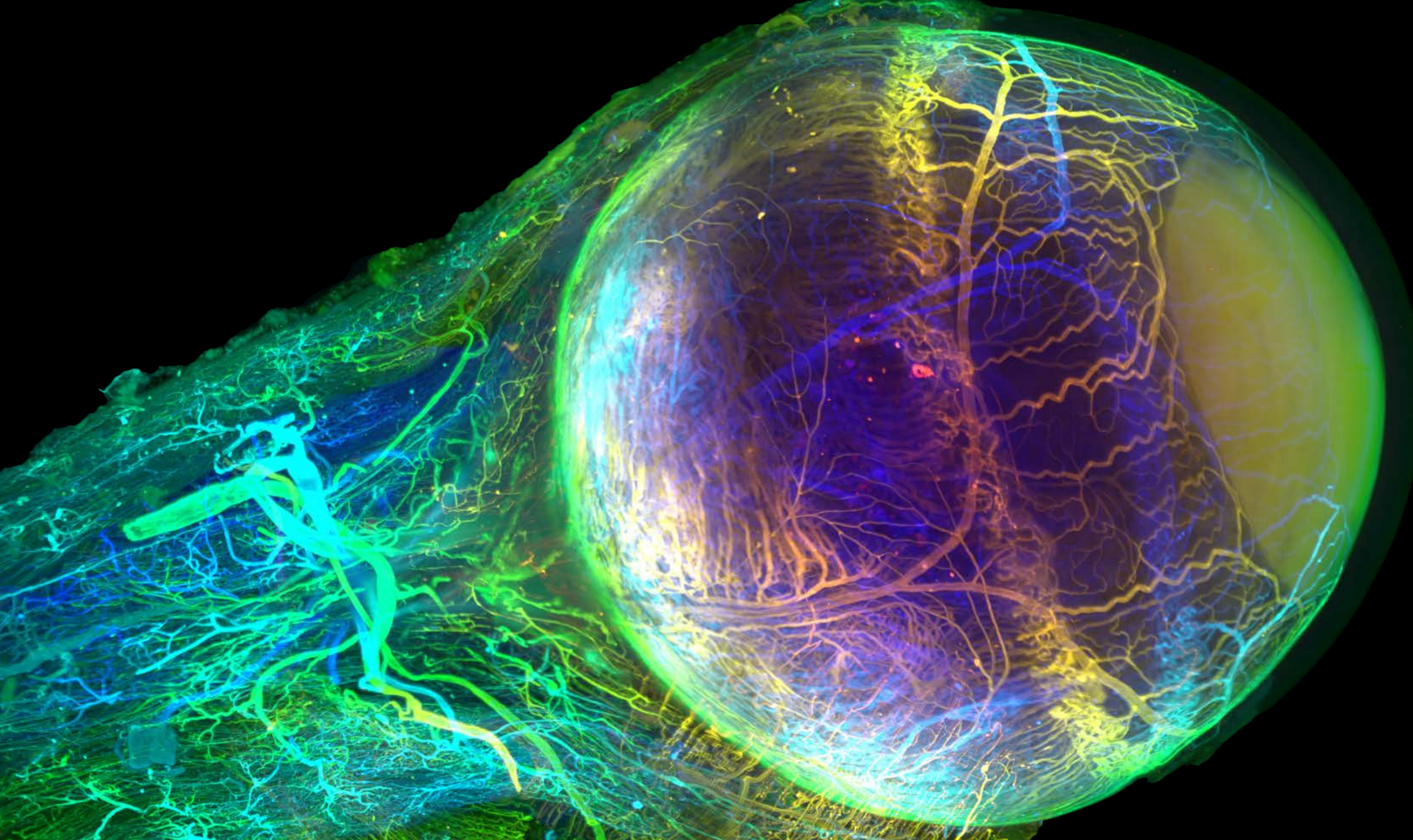
*We invite you to become part of this dedicated group of supporters and enjoy behind-the-scenes opportunities to learn from and engage with Baylor's top minds. More importantly, your giving helps improve health for people locally and around the world.*



The students were so gracious and kind to us and each other. It was truly an honor to be there. **Knowing we made their day just a little better makes it all worth it.**

Amy Waldorf, volunteer chair, The Partnership

The Partnership volunteers hosted the fall Food for Finals to show appreciation and support for Baylor students.



# A LOOK AHEAD

Image: Vessels in a mouse eye  
by Chih-Wei Logan Hsu,  
Baylor College of Medicine

# Building for the Future



## Baylor Receives \$30 Million Lead Gift to Construct Transformative Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower in New Health Sciences Park

Healthcare and life sciences are a driving force in Houston's economic success. Houston has more than 1,760 life sciences companies, healthcare facilities and research institutions – employing almost 395,000 workers – a force larger than the city's energy sector. Central to that activity is the Texas Medical Center (TMC), the largest medical complex in the world. The TMC is continuing to expand its impact with \$3 billion in construction projects underway. Adding to this expansion is Baylor College of Medicine's construction of the Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower.

Lillie and Roy Cullen had a vision to establish one of the nation's top-ranking medical schools in Houston, believing that no matter how many hospitals would eventually be built, the TMC could not thrive and significantly advance care without a superior medical school to feed it. In 1947, the couple helped fund the

construction of the first Baylor College of Medicine building, beginning to realize their vision and setting the TMC on a trajectory few would have believed possible at the time.

Decades later, that vision continues to evolve thanks to one of the largest combined philanthropic gifts from The

Cullen Foundation, The Cullen Trust for Health Care and The Cullen Trust for Higher Education. With their \$30 million commitment, the three organizations will help construct the first tower in Baylor's new Health Sciences Park, a planned 800,000-square-foot hub for collaboration and innovation. The Park will integrate medical education and research, all right next to Baylor's premier patient care facilities, allowing trainees to enhance their classroom learning with lab and clinic experience and encounter patients directly impacted by the work they are doing every day.

When completed in 2026, the new 503,000-square-foot Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower will house ultramodern learning spaces that integrate classroom education with research and clinical experience. As well, The Cullen Tower will sit adjacent to the TMC's Helix Park and the Baylor Center for Medical Innovation, adding exposure to biotech industry partners and commercialization opportunities. The new learning experience Baylor is building weaves all of these elements together, revolutionizing the model for how students learn, collaborate and thrive.



Above: A rendering of the team-based Active Learning Theater in the new Cullen Tower


Left: The Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower will integrate classroom education with research and clinical experience.

“To really change the future of health, we need a space where our educational programs prepare our students for the ongoing evolution in healthcare,” said Baylor President, CEO and Executive Dean, Paul Klotman, M.D. “We are immensely grateful to the trustees of the Cullen organizations for their dedication to our shared vision for education, research and patient care. The Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower will nurture talent, spark brilliance and enable breakthroughs that improve quality of life for patients from all over the world and all walks of life. The Cullen Tower is not just a building – it is the future of healthcare.”

The Cullen Tower will include a state-of-the-art anatomy lab, teaching labs, and a simulation center to offer immersive, hands-on learning opportunities before students conduct their first clinical rotations. Small group and studio classrooms and large capacity, high-tech theater-style event space will facilitate active learning, while the innovative research space supports big data analytics, an increasingly vital tool in the future of scientific discovery and personalized patient therapies.

While the building may be part of Baylor’s footprint, the knowledge gained and the progress made to advance medical breakthroughs will belong to the TMC, the Houston community and far beyond. The Cullen Tower will serve as a place to foster connection, collaboration and compassion.

“  
As a great-grandchild of Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen, I know how proud they both were of Baylor and the TMC.  
Cullen Geiselman Muse, Ph.D.  
Chair, The Cullen Trust for Health Care



READ DR. MUSE’S BLOG  
[give.bcm.edu/building-the-future](https://give.bcm.edu/building-the-future)

“As a great-grandchild of Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen, I know how proud they both were of Baylor and the TMC,” said Cullen Geiselman Muse, Ph.D., chair of The Cullen Trust for Health Care.

“Now, 75 years after the dedication of the Cullen building, Baylor is entering a new era of educational excellence. My family and I are honored and grateful to support this new building and the aspirations of present and future trainees. We cannot wait to see what new beginnings will come from inside the Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower,” she said.

“My grandparents’ bold vision for serving Houston was to help establish the world’s greatest medical center, and for that, the TMC needed to recruit a top-notch medical school, which Baylor continues to be,” said Corbin Robertson, Jr., former chair of the Baylor College of Medicine Board of Trustees and chairman of The Cullen Trust for Higher Education. “That is why our family has supported Baylor for five generations.”



A rendering of the Center for Space Medicine in the new Cullen Tower promoting group collaboration

Gifts to The Cullen Tower total \$100 million – \$30 million from Cullen entities, with an additional \$12 million from The DeBakey Medical Foundation, \$10 million from the Huffington Foundation and more than \$45 million from Baylor’s Board of Trustees members and community donors including the M.D. Anderson Foundation, the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation, Maire and David Baldwin, Polly and Murry Bowden, Ronda and Greg Brenneman, The Elkins



From left: Corbin J. Robertson, Jr., chairman of The Cullen Trust for Higher Education, Wilhelmina Robertson, chairman of The Cullen Foundation, Paul Klotman, M.D., and Katherine Cullen McCord, trustee, The Cullen Trust for Health Care

Foundation, Claudia and Fred Lummis, and Jeri and Marc Shapiro.

“The Cullen Foundation’s work focuses on improving the quality of life of all people in Houston,” said Beth Robertson, board chair of The Cullen Foundation. “Investing in education and healthcare are vital components of that mission. Baylor College of Medicine has always served Houston in this way, and we are proud to partner once again with this great institution.”

“The new Cullen Tower will serve as the foundation for developing the next generation of physicians and scientists whose discoveries and talent will power the

future of health and continue to position Houston and the TMC as the world’s epicenter for solutions to humankind’s most devastating diseases,” Dr. Klotman said.

*Visit The Cullen Tower website to watch an animated fly through of the building.*

VISIT THE WEBSITE  
[give.bcm.edu/cullen-tower](https://give.bcm.edu/cullen-tower)

# Thank You to Those Who Generously Donated to The Cullen Tower

Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation

Dr. John F. and Rachel P. Anderson

A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Family Foundation

Jamie Bailey

Maire and David Baldwin

Mr. and Mrs. Greg D. Bassett

Ben Taub and Henry J.N. Taub Foundation

Polly and Murry Bowden

Biykem Bozkurt, M.D.

Ronda and Greg Brenneman

Cathy and Bob Brewton

The Cullen Foundation

The Cullen Trust for Health Care

The Cullen Trust for Higher Education

The DeBakey Medical Foundation

Mary E. Dickinson, Ph.D.

Joe and Michelle Doty

The Elkins Foundation

Sarah and Doug Foshee

The Hackett Family

Caroline and Larry P. Heard

Hobby Family Foundation

Huff Family Foundation

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Austin King, M.D.

Drs. Paul and Mary Klotman

Claudia and Fred Lummis

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, Inc.

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Thomas J. Rosenbalm, M.D.

The Honorable Lee H. Rosenthal and Mr. Gary L. Rosenthal

Jeri and Marc Shapiro

Transwestern

Vivian L. Smith Foundation

Mr. Christopher D and Mrs. Kristin A Wallis

Stephanie and Keith Young

\* As of May 24, 2023



A rendering of a courtyard in the new Cullen Tower

# Science + Start-ups = Better Health

Anchoring Healthcare Innovation and Research Discoveries at Dynamic One in TMC Helix Park

What happens when scientific innovation moves in with start-up companies in the world's largest medical center? Discoveries that usher in a new era of healthcare and excellence in patient care. In June 2024, the Baylor Center for Medical Innovation (BCMi) – Baylor's first center dedicated to transforming human health through innovation and partnership with the

private sector – will open in the Texas Medical Center (TMC) Helix Park's Dynamic One building.

Located outside the boundary of TMC's original campus – and thus, its non-profit restrictions – Helix Park can set up for-profit companies in the biotechnology industry. Anchoring the park's 335,000-square-foot space that blends

Watch a brief video about the TMC's new city center, TMC Helix Park.

WATCH HERE

[give.bcm.edu/anchoring-healthcare](https://give.bcm.edu/anchoring-healthcare)



A rendering of the new Texas Medical Center Helix Park

commercial life sciences and curated retail with affiliated academic and healthcare institutions, Baylor will lease lab and office space with the goal of concentrating highly innovative labs, focused on novel diagnostics and therapeutics with space to build start-up companies.

The Park will open a world of opportunities for Houston as it continues to evolve as a leader in biotechnology and medicine, driving forces behind the city's future. Establishment of Helix Park will help make Houston a desirable location for some of the best and brightest minds in the world to live and work.

"Baylor College of Medicine moved to Houston in 1943 and was the first institution built in the Texas Medical Center," said Paul Klotman, M.D., president, CEO and executive dean of Baylor. "Our researchers and scientists will have the opportunity to access the uniquely concentrated research environment being developed at TMC Helix Park, facilitating the continuing advancement of innovation and compassionate care."

Within Helix Park, Baylor will initially house three of its leading BCMi programs – each with significant potential for commercialization to directly impact patients. The Therapeutic Innovation Center (THINC) bridges Baylor's expertise in RNA and the gene control problems that can result from RNA abnormalities with drug discovery to produce therapies and cures for diseases like COVID, Alzheimer's, heart disease and cancer.

The Alkek Center for Metagenomics and Microbiome Research seeks to understand how microbes living on or within the body impact health and disease. With studies spanning the globe, the Center has already created Diversigen, a company that helps scientists and healthcare entities with microbiome analysis using molecular techniques and informatics.

The Center's work also gave rise to TAILΦR or Tailored Antibacterials and Innovative Laboratories for phage (Φ) Research, the third BCMi program at Helix Park. TAILΦR uses customized viruses called bacteriophages to combat the growing global threat of antimicrobial resistance. This collective launched PHIOPEN, a company designed for bacteriophage screening and production for personalized patient therapies.

Ultimately, through BCMi, Baylor aims to cultivate and strengthen industry and academic partnerships and collaborations to accelerate new discoveries and bring healthcare solutions to the community.

*Watch a video about TAILΦR's innovative science using bacteriophages against deadly antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections.*

WATCH HERE

[give.bcm.edu/anchoring-healthcare](https://give.bcm.edu/anchoring-healthcare)



A rendering of an Active Learning Theater in the new Cullen Tower

## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

"Growing up in Houston and attending Baylor College of Medicine for medical school, I have always considered Baylor my academic home. I wanted to come back to Baylor (from Columbia University) for its unique combination of academic rigor, collegiality and expertise in genetics and psychiatry. The diversity and scale of the Texas Medical Center also provides a unique opportunity to engage in large-scale, cutting-edge population genomics research."

**Anthony Zoghbi, M.D.**  
Chief, Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Psychiatric Genetics

Primary Research Focus:  
Translating genomic insights into improved clinical care  
Disease risk prediction  
Novel therapies for neuropsychiatric disorders



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