Something Worth Celebrating—You!

IN JUNE 1991, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford opened its doors to our community. What an incredible journey it has been! While Stanford has always led the way in scientific and medical innovation, what’s possible today is far beyond what we could have imagined 30 years ago. And with the support of donors like you, Packard Children’s Hospital has made extraordinary leaps forward, growing from a small community hospital to one of the nation’s top-ranked children’s hospitals. What took us 30 years to establish has taken many other hospitals around the country more than 100 (or even 150) years. That breathtaking success is because of you!

In this issue of Packard Children’s News, we invite you to celebrate 30 years of hope and discovery (see page 2) and look forward to the promising treatments and cures still ahead.

Meet Mark Skylar-Scott, PhD, who is pioneering a technique so groundbreaking it sounds like science fiction: creating beating heart tissue using a 3D printer. This work might completely change the lives of children like adorable Hassan (see page 6), who was born with a heart defect and may someday need a heart valve replacement.

Next, read how the Hess family turned their experience of loss into a vision of hope for premature babies. Through four decades of giving, they have advanced research and interventions that are saving lives across the globe. The Hesses inspire me—and I know you’ll feel the same.

And I can’t wait to see you soon at our Virtual Summer Scamper! Please join tiny Patient Hero Nataly and her family (see page 24) by signing up to walk, run, or Scamper in your own way at SummerScamper.org. Then gather your entire family to celebrate with us at a fun virtual party on Wednesday, June 30. Summer Scamper is our hospital’s largest community fundraiser, and it wouldn’t be complete without you!

Philanthropy plays an essential role in advancing the best care today and better cures for tomorrow. My heart overflows with gratitude for donors like you, whose generosity transforms health for children and families—in our community and around the world. Thank you, and cheers to many more decades of incredible care and cures at Packard Children’s Hospital!

With gratitude,

Cynthia J. Brandt, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health
In 1991, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford opened its doors thanks to a $70 million donation from Lucile Packard, an advocate for the health of children and expectant mothers, and her husband, David Packard.

IT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST children’s hospitals in the nation to incorporate pediatrics and labor and delivery in one building.

A year later, a heart and lung transplant was performed on a 1-month-old girl—the youngest heart-lung transplant patient ever. Dozens of medical breakthroughs would follow, and many more lives would be saved. Our hospital would become a national leader in bringing new therapies and innovative treatment to the children and expectant mothers who need them most. Your generosity has transformed health for all children and families—in our community and around the world. We look forward to the potential still ahead!

1994: The neonatology team invents a diagnostic instrument for rapid bedside screening for jaundice in newborns.

1996: The Teen Van opens, becoming one of the first mobile health programs in the country to provide free medical care for uninsured or vulnerable youth.

2002: At just 1.4 pounds, Serena Brown of Sacramento is the smallest baby ever to undergo open-heart surgery.

2003: Stanford researchers develop an immune-suppressing drug regimen for children who have received solid organ transplants, allowing kids to avoid steroid drugs and their side effects.

2004: Packard Children’s becomes one of the first pediatric centers in the U.S. to use a Berlin Heart to support children with cardiomyopathy awaiting a heart transplant. The device will benefit countless children over the years.

2005: The Hospital School hosts its first prom—the first of its kind on the West Coast.

2008: A new prenatal test is developed for Down syndrome that carries lower risks to a woman’s pregnancy than amniocentesis.

2009: Child life specialists in the Bass Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Diseases hold the first Girls’ Day Out, giving young cancer patients a chance to relax and be pampered.

30 Years of Hope and Discovery
2011: Million-to-one, naturally conceived quadruplet girls—Audrey, Emma, Isabelle, and Natalie Wang—go home to Redwood City after three months of intensive care.

2013: On Valentine’s Day, 9-year-old Lindsey Bingham (second from right) receives a heart transplant. In all, three of the five Bingham siblings will get new hearts.

2014: Research led by Kari Nadeau, MD, PhD, shows a blood test can determine if patients who have been desensitized to their peanut allergies need to continue eating peanuts daily to retain their tolerance.

2015: The Stanford Chariot Program launches the Bedside Entertainment and Relaxation Theater, providing patients with tools to stay calm as they prepare for procedures and decreasing the need for oral anxiety medications.

2016: Two-year-old conjoined twins Erika and Eva Sandoval are separated in a 17-hour surgery. The girls will return home to Antelope Valley in early 2017 and continue to flourish. They are the fifth set of twins separated by Gary Hartman, MD, MBA.

2017: After multiple relapses of his cancer, 11-year-old Salvador De Leon tries an experimental treatment pioneered by Stanford researchers. They’re investigating ways to make CAR T-cell therapy faster, cheaper, safer, and more applicable to multiple types of cancer.

2018: A new blood test for pregnant women detects with 75 to 80 percent accuracy whether their baby will arrive prematurely. It is now being evaluated for use worldwide.

2020: Less than two weeks after the pandemic hits, our hospital rolls out safety measures around COVID-19 screening, daily team huddles, visitation, and social distancing. Health care workers step up to the challenge, making sure kids return home safely.
KATE AND MOHAMAD MAKHZOUMI say they felt a mixture of “shock and awe” when their son, Hassan, was born with a heart condition called aortic stenosis. It wasn’t the typical newborn experience they had expected, and they were suddenly thrust into discussing complicated surgeries with doctors at some of the country’s top hospitals. Doctors reassured them that their son’s prognosis looked good as long as he had some sort of cardiac intervention quickly. However, after that first step, he would need more procedures throughout his childhood.

Their search ended when they sat down with Frank Hanley, MD, chief of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at the Betty Irene Moore Children’s Heart Center at Packard Children’s Hospital. The Makhzoumis knew they’d found the place they wanted 7-pound Hassan to be.

“We felt like we were picking a care team that would be with our son for the rest of his life, or at least the rest of his pediatric life,” Mohamad says. “Seeing the thought, the caring, and the time that was invested by Dr. Hanley during that first conversation was indicative of the care philosophy that the entire team embodies.”

Hanley introduced the couple to Stanton Perry, MD, and Lynn Peng, MD, who leads the interventional catheterization program. The doctors recommended that Hassan receive a balloon valvuloplasty, which involves inserting a small catheter holding an expandable balloon into the heart and inside the narrow valve. The balloon is expanded to dilate the valve.

The procedure worked! Today Kate describes Hassan as an active 2-year-old who enjoys building “elaborate” houses for his cars and digger trucks with Magna-Tiles and making waffles on the weekends with his sisters, Samira, 4, and Ameena, 5, at their Bay Area home.

Because his condition put him at risk for developmental delays, Hassan was recommended for and enrolled in Packard Children’s Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic. He graduated from the program in March after meeting all his benchmarks.

“A High-Stakes Decision

The Makhzoumi family chose Packard Children’s for their son’s care and their philanthropic support.

BY JODI MOURATIS

“Dr. Hanley said if we were to replace the [heart] valve now, it will be a pig valve. By the time Hassan is fully grown and we replace it for the last time, it will be 3D printed.”

KATE MAKHZOUMI

Another operation, but when?

Hassan continues to visit our hospital every eight weeks for an echocardiogram with Michelle Kaplinski, MD. Mohamad jokes that Kaplinski is the only person outside their household that Hassan has seen since the start of the pandemic.

“We are constantly monitoring. We thought one year without another procedure would be a huge success. It has now been two,” says Kate. “That first procedure went so well.”

And that’s buying Hassan more time before he needs a full heart valve replacement. “I remember that Dr. Hanley said if we were to replace the valve now, it will be a pig valve. By the time Hassan is fully grown and we replace it for the last time, it will be 3D printed,” Kate says. “It dawned on me that so much is going to change between now and when Hassan is 18 years old. That made me feel comforted and hopeful—like this is a problem that can be solved.”

Helping kids like Hassan

3D printing of organ tissues and other cutting-edge science is already happening at Stanford as part of the new Basic Science and Engineering (BASE) initiative (see page 8). Researchers in BASE are working to find cures for life-threatening congenital heart defects like Hassan’s, which led the Makhzoumis to make a donation to advance this promising work.

The Makhzoumi Fund for BASE Innovation will support a cross-disciplinary team of researchers working together to determine whether a genetic mutation causes impaired heart valve function. If it does, they will then work to correct the mutation or facilitate heart valve development that’s halted by the mutation.

“We want to further the research and innovation,” says Mohamad, “and ensure that any family that is in our situation can find their way to the same kind of care we received.”

ANA HOMONNAY

30 Years Caring for Kids

PACKARD CHILDREN’S NEWS | SUMMER 2021

supportLPCH.org
Repairing Broken Hearts

Mark Skylar-Scott, PhD, joins BASE, Stanford’s new multidisciplinary initiative to cure congenital heart defects.

BY MAGGIE COHN

The crown jewel of Mark Skylar-Scott’s new bioengineering lab sits on a four-and-a-half-ton block of granite in the windowless basement of Stanford’s new Biomedical Innovations Building.

IT’S A FUTURISTIC 3D PRINTING SYSTEM—one of only two in the world—and it’s too heavy for an upper floor. Despite the lack of daylight, Skylar-Scott and his team couldn’t be more excited to be there, on a path to a medical breakthrough so transformational it sounds like science fiction: bioprinting living replacement parts to repair the hearts of babies born with congenital heart disease.

Born to be an engineer

Long before becoming an assistant professor of bioengineering at Stanford, Skylar-Scott grew up in the steel-making center of England, a city called Sheffield, where his dad was a mechanical engineer. “As a teenager,” he says, “I was really interested in using mechanical engineering principles to understand living things and biology—questions like: Why aren’t there any land animals bigger than blue whales? There are simple engineering principles behind why that could never work.”

At that young age, Skylar-Scott already knew he wanted a career using engineering skills to make advances in biology and health care. As an undergraduate at Cambridge University, he spent a year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to explore bioengineering. He was hooked.

After completing college, Skylar-Scott returned to MIT to pursue his PhD, where he used laser-printing techniques to create small biological structures with the vascular networks that living heart tissues require. As a postdoc at Harvard, he succeeded. Using a first-of-its-kind 3D bioprinting system, he produced living tissue one centimeter thick, with its own network of blood vessels to keep it alive. It was a groundbreaking development on the path to creating therapeutically functional tissues.

A focus on babies born with heart defects

Congenital heart defects (CHDs) are the most common of all birth defects. Three out of 10 babies born with a CHD won’t survive to age 18—even if they receive the best available care. While surgery can provide a life-saving fix, it’s often not a lifelong cure.

“It became clear to me,” Skylar-Scott says, “that the most effective way to make an impact with 3D bioprinting technology was to move into the cardiac space.”

“We have reached the limit of what we can do with surgery and conventional tools,” explains Frank Hanley, MD, chief of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery in the Betty Irene Moore Children’s Heart Center and the Lawrence Crowley, MD, Endowed Professor in Child Health. “We need to move beyond treating and managing children’s heart disease to eliminating it.”

Bioprinting and implanting healthy tissues that can grow along with the child will enable long-lasting repairs to damaged hearts, eliminating the need for the multiple surgeries that children with CHDs (like Hassan, see page 6) often endure. And 3D printing is the perfect technology to do it, since it’s able to produce three-dimensional, complex structures with the vascular networks that living heart tissues require.

Last July, Skylar-Scott joined Stanford’s multidisciplinary BASE (Basic Science and Engineering) team of physicians, scientists, and engineers who are working jointly toward one audacious vision: to cure congenital heart disease.

“Parts of the heart can be fixed individually—that will be quicker than trying to create a whole heart. But a whole heart is the dream. It’s probably still decades away. But I see the path to get there.”

“The time is now. Breakthroughs in gene editing, informatics, and bioengineering are propelling us forward with bold new initiatives that we will drive straight to the clinic,” says Marlene Rabinovitch, MD, director of BASE and the Dwight and Vera Danlevie Professor in Pediatric Cardiology. It’s easy to see why Skylar-Scott is inspired by the prospect of providing a long and healthy lifespan to babies who might not otherwise survive. And since the birth of his own baby boy, now just over a year old, he takes it more personally.

“When I see a sick child in the cardiac intensive care unit, I can’t help but think of how lucky we are to have a healthy child,” he says. “Not everyone has that same start in life. But everyone should.”
Christopher Hess lived only a short while, but he has saved countless lives. That’s because Christopher’s legacy inspired a philanthropic commitment spanning more than four decades—one that has moved the needle on prematurity and transformed the future for newborns.

IN JANUARY 1973, Robert “Rob” and Rosemarie Hess were excited to become parents to twins. But when Rosemarie gave birth weeks early, their baby girl, Verena, thrived, while Christopher succumbed to complications of extreme prematurity. It’s a fate that claims too many infants: Premature birth is the leading cause of death in children under age 5 worldwide. Rob and Rosemarie channeled their grief into purpose and began supporting prematurity research at Stanford, in the hope that other parents could avoid what they endured.

Their initial support was modest but meaningful, recalls Philip Sunshine, MD, the twins’ doctor. In addition to caring for at-risk newborns, Sunshine ran the Premature Infant Research Center, founded in 1962 and the earliest foray into prematurity research at Stanford Medicine. Sunshine remembers receiving a heartfelt letter from the couple; he was surprised to find it included a $100 donation to his research. “I started to cry,” he says. “I couldn’t believe they were so generous.”

Their annual donations continued. Physician-researchers in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) were so touched by their giving that they invited the couple for a tour to see their gifts in action. That team included David Stevenson, MD, who would go on to launch Stanford’s Prematurity Research Center and is now senior associate dean for Maternal & Child Health.

“Rob saw in David [Stevenson] the future of neonatology,” Sunshine says. “Rob and David quickly formed a close bond. It was that bond that has been a key ingredient in their continued commitment to our neonatal program.”

A growing dedication

Over the years, the Hess family continued to give generously, as Rob advanced in his career at Raychem, a radiation chemistry company that makes heating and connectivity products. Rob went on to found companies that developed medical devices for interventional cardiology, giving him a nuanced understanding of health care. “Rob always asks good, probing questions—some have even sparked research we have undertaken,” Stevenson says. “You can see his mind spinning on a topic. It sometimes seems like he could be a retired neonatologist.”

In 1993, the couple established the Christopher Hess Research Fund at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Rob and Rosemarie Hess earned the title of Stanford Associates—an honorary organization of Stanford University volunteers—before Rosemarie passed away in 2009. When Rob later married pharmaceuticals professional Wendy Tomlin, she shared his philanthropic commitment. In the last decade, Rob and Wendy have established three key professorships in neonatal and developmental medicine, pediatrics, and clinical care, helping Stanford become a leader in the transdisciplinary approach that’s needed to tackle prematurity.

(continued on page 12)
Pioneering innovations to save lives

One of the biggest recent innovations by the Stanford research team, made possible by philanthropy, is a simple blood test to predict preterm labor months in advance. The technology can also be used to predict preeclampsia, a hypertensive disorder that triggers preterm birth and can be dangerous and even fatal for pregnant women.

Another significant discovery was the connection between increased inflammation and preterm birth. Clinical trials have now demonstrated that a daily dose of aspirin can lower inflammation during pregnancy, thereby decreasing the risk of preterm labor and preeclampsia.

These groundbreaking solutions to a complex problem could change outcomes for women and babies across the globe, and they are just a few of the advances sparked by philanthropic support. “We couldn’t have made these advances without the Hess family’s support over these past 45-plus years,” Stevenson says. “Their contributions set in motion a sea change in neonatal care. Many of the research breakthroughs that occurred here are now commonplace in NICUs across the country, thanks to their generosity.”

A new landscape

Today, the landscape looks a lot different from when the Hess family lost Christopher. Fifty years ago, a baby born at less than 28 weeks gestational age had a 10 percent chance of survival. It’s now close to 80 percent.

“The progress has been enormous,” says Wendy Tomlin-Hess. “We understood neonatal advances would not happen without the financing of research grants. It was very important for us as a family to continue moving this effort forward.”

The Hess family’s over four decades of philanthropy for maternal and child health at Stanford Medicine has advanced research to a point nobody could have imagined. Their substantial donations empowered Stanford Medicine to create one of the most prestigious and impactful neonatology and fetal medicine centers in the nation. What once was deemed impossible—ending premature births—now seems within reach.

Ten years ago, March of Dimes invested $20 million in seed funding to launch the Stanford Prematurity Research Center. The powerful one-two punch of support from March of Dimes along with the Hess family’s donations gave rise to astounding breakthroughs in predicting and preventing premature births and in caring for premature infants.

Nevertheless, there remains much to be discovered, tested, and implemented around the world. Progress hinges on philanthropy, and the potential is limitless. “What better investment is there than helping babies?” says Sunshine. “You are investing in a person just starting out in the world rather than in someone at the end of their lifetime.”

Sadly, baby Christopher was new to this world and only here for a brief time, but the legacy of his short life lives on and the impact has been immeasurable. “From their loss, the Hess family changed the future for so many,” Stevenson says. “For more than four decades, babies have benefited from their generosity, and that’s just the start. Countless more, here and across the globe, will benefit in the future.”

“We are so very proud of the progress that has been made with neonatal research. It has been a long, incredible journey.” ROBERT AND WENDY HESS
With donor support, new research aims to reduce health disparities.

**By Laura Hedli**

*Longstanding, underlying health disparities* in America became even more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Then, on Memorial Day, the death of George Floyd ignited a nationwide social justice movement against racial bias.

Soon after, Mary Leonard, MD, MSCE, the Adalyn Jay Physician-in-Chief at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford, and her colleagues in the Maternal and Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI) launched a grant program called the Structural Racism, Social Injustice and Health Disparities in Maternal and Child Health Pilot Awards. Including the word “racism” in the title was intentional.

“We believe that those of us who care for children and pregnant women should be at the forefront of addressing racism, social injustice, and poverty as core determinants of health that impact a child for life,” says Leonard, who is also the Arline and Pete Harman Professor, chair of the Department of Pediatrics, and director of MCHRI.

The MCHRI pilot awards of $35,000 are designed to fund year-long projects that address issues of equity. Five inaugural award recipients began work on their projects in January, and more were selected this spring with an award start date of July 1.

“This is scholarship that has always existed, and particularly faculty of diverse backgrounds—Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, and all marginalized cultural/ethnic groups—are often doing this work in addition to all of their other research demands,” says Carmin Powell, MD, who proposed the MCHRI pilot awards, along with her mentor Eric Sibley, MD, PhD. Powell works with underserved communities at Watsonville Community Hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit. “This new MCHRI grant is now being carved out in a very purposeful and intentional way.”

**Working together to overcome inequities**

The pilot awards are designed to support research that not only documents disparities but also aims to understand why racial disparities exist and takes action. Community involvement is a key element.

“To have a true impact on inequities, you really need to work with the communities that are affected to understand their perspectives and to also understand which questions are important to even ask,” says Anisha Patel, MD, MSPH, who serves as co-chair of the grant program with Lisa Chamberlain, MD, MPH.

Stanford investigators will work with partners such as nonprofit organizations, school systems, and policymakers to gather data and then use that data to change policies and practice.

One grant recipient, Sharon Chinthrajah, MD, will partner with the Food Equality Initiative, an organization that works to increase people’s access to allergy-friendly and gluten-free foods. Children with food allergies living in low-income households and relying on nutrition assistance programs are at increased risk of exposure to food allergens and have more frequent life-threatening reactions, says Chinthrajah. The study will evaluate whether fresh produce deliveries and one-on-one nutrition counseling can improve food allergy management among these patients.

This research is made possible by donors to the Children’s Fund, which supports programs and services that are not covered by insurance but are vital to the well-being of patients. Thirty-five cents of every dollar goes to research through MCHRI. We are so proud to partner with donors like you in this important work.

**Inaugural Awardees**

COVID-19 Household Transmission and Social Determinants of Health in Pregnancy

Natali Aziz, MD, MS
Clinical Associate Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology (Maternal-Fetal Medicine)

Patient Evaluation of an Anti-Racism Perinatal Tool

Erica Pasciuollo Cahill, MD, MS
Clinical Assistant Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology (Gynecology & Family Planning)

Improving Racial Diversity in Our Food Allergy Programs

R. Sharon Chinthrajah, MD
Clinical Associate Professor, Pulmonary, Allergy & Critical Care Medicine

Measuring Children’s Early Vocabulary Using Large-Scale Data from Diverse Families

Michael C. Frank, PhD
Associate Professor, Psychology

Telehealth Delivery to Change the Paradigm of Care Delivery in Children with Type 1 Diabetes

Priya Prahalad, MD, PhD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Pediatrics (Endocrinology and Diabetes)

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**Confronting Racism Head-on**

With donor support, new research aims to reduce health disparities.
During an unprecedented year, you and 11,966 other donors gave a total of $103 million to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and the child and maternal health programs at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Your invaluable support helped protect patients and advance research through the pandemic. Thank you!

- **751** babies received care in our NICU.
- **1429** patients expressed their feelings about the pandemic through art therapy.
- **1,429** patients expressed their feelings about the pandemic through art therapy.
- **Virtual Summer Scamper-ers** raised more than $370,000.
- **We were named a top 10 children’s hospital by U.S. News & World Report.**
- **148** children and their families participated in our Pediatric Weight Control Program.
- **Care-A-Van for Kids drove 396 patients to medical appointments.**
- **Music therapists provided 4,474 sessions.**
- **Chaplains made 10,231 bedside visits to provide comfort.**
- **1,285 individuals received care from our Teen Van.**
- **2 new germ-zapping robots were deployed in our hospital thanks to donor support.**
- **40% of our patients benefited from financial assistance.**
- **3,904 patients participated in shows aired by the Broadcast Studio.**
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**Baby bonanza!**

Our hospital welcomed 4,486 babies into the world, including four sets of twins in 32 hours!
Thank You NOTES

Every day, donors like you make gifts of all sizes to build a healthier future for children and expectant mothers. Your support makes our hospital a special place for our patients and families, and we are tremendously grateful.

Frederick Gardner Cottrell Foundation Supports Innovation in Pediatrics

MEDICAL DEVICES designed for children lag behind adult technologies. To speed up pediatric medical device research and development, the Frederick Gardner Cottrell Foundation made its first gift to the University of California San Francisco-Stanford Pediatric Device Consortium (PDC).

The PDC brings together two top Bay Area children’s hospitals and universities to offer financial support, coaching, and connections to guide health innovators in taking pediatric devices to market—and to the children who need them most. The PDC is funded by the FDA but also relies on support from generous donors like the Frederick Gardner Cottrell Foundation.

Thanks to the $900,000 gift from the Frederick Gardner Cottrell Foundation, the PDC can support even more promising projects, bringing the most innovative technologies to our youngest, most vulnerable patients.

Champions Spread Joy During the Pandemic

OUR COMMUNITY STEPPED UP over the holidays to ensure that kids at our hospital could still enjoy being kids—despite restrictions put in place during the pandemic. To protect the health and safety of patients and their families, our hospital couldn’t accept toy donations. Companies such as Groq Inc. and Latham & Watkins LLP, schools including Saint Clement Catholic School, and other young philanthropists like 9-year-old Stella Sieck (above) helped give a gift to every child who visited our hospital during the holiday season.

These Champions for Children each hosted a “Virtual Toy Drive,” raising monetary donations totaling more than $75,000 for the Recreational Therapy Fun Fund. The Child Life and Creative Arts team uses the Fun Fund to provide safe gifts for patients spending the holidays at our hospital, and year-round to continue the fun.

Elizabeth and Bruce Dunlevie Make Transformative Gift to Improve the Health of Mothers and Babies

ELIZABETH AND BRUCE DUNLEVIE made an $80 million gift to launch a bold new clinical and research program that will transform the health of mothers and babies. The gift will help advance the science and practice of maternal-fetal medicine and fund new facilities to increase access to care.

“My journey with this hospital started as the mother of a child who needed life-saving care, and my family is forever grateful for Lucile Packard’s vision and the care teams who ensured this hospital was here for us when we needed it,” says Elizabeth Dunlevie, who is board chair at the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health and a board member at Packard Children’s Hospital. “With this gift we want to help ensure access to Packard’s quality of care for all mothers and babies, across socioeconomic boundaries, now and in the future.”

The Dunlevies’ gift provides $50 million to launch a transformation of the 1st floor of the hospital’s West building. Over the next few years, the hospital will build a new state-of-the-art labor and delivery unit with 14 private suites. For mothers requiring hospitalization prior to delivery, the hospital will also build a dedicated maternity antepartum unit. The new units will enhance the patient experience while supporting the most complex maternal and fetal care.

Their gift also provides $30 million to further develop a world-class Maternal-Fetal Medicine program. With nearly two-thirds of the expectant mothers at Packard Children’s Hospital being high-risk, there is potential to do more for mothers with underlying conditions such as heart disease, cancer, epilepsy, and diabetes, and for pressing obstetrical issues including preterm labor, placenta accreta, hemorrhage, and cesarean delivery prevention.

Auxiliaries Members Rise to the Challenge

THE AUXILIARIES ENDOWMENT provides more than $1 million to programs across Packard Children’s Hospital each year. In 2020, the Association of Auxiliaries Board put forth a challenge match for their endowment. The support was incredible with 70 Auxiliary members and friends making commitments totaling more than $523,000—and each dollar received a 10 percent match.

We are grateful to the following donors who made commitments and will receive recognition in the West building of our hospital: Marilyn and Arden Anderson, Patricia Barr, Patricia Parrish Davis, John Ryon Davis, Esther Ellis, Joyce Frankenber, Legacy member), Anne M. Fuller, Michael and Cathy Murphy Gagliasso, M. Jean Gorman, Angie Hollman, and Ethel and Paul Meyer.

“The impact of this incredible gift will be felt for generations, for the mothers and babies we help and, perhaps even more importantly, for those we will never have to treat because of new discoveries and cures made possible by this investment,” says Paul King, president and CEO of Packard Children’s Hospital and Stanford Children’s Health.

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Auxiliaries Members Rise to the Challenge

THE AUXILIARIES ENDOWMENT provides more than $1 million to programs across Packard Children’s Hospital each year. In 2020, the Association of Auxiliaries Board put forth a challenge match for their endowment. The support was incredible with 70 Auxiliary members and friends making commitments totaling more than $523,000—and each dollar received a 10 percent match.

We are grateful to the following donors who made commitments and will receive recognition in the West building of our hospital: Marilyn and Arden Anderson, Patricia Barr, Patricia Parrish Davis, John Ryon Davis, Esther Ellis, Joyce Frankenber, Legacy member), Anne M. Fuller, Michael and Cathy Murphy Gagliasso, M. Jean Gorman, Angie Hollman, and Ethel and Paul Meyer.

“The impact of this incredible gift will be felt for generations, for the mothers and babies we help and, perhaps even more importantly, for those we will never have to treat because of new discoveries and cures made possible by this investment,” says Paul King, president and CEO of Packard Children’s Hospital and Stanford Children’s Health.
AIM Youth Mental Health Helps Young People Get Treatment Faster

LEARNING THAT THEIR TEEN has an eating disorder can be difficult and deeply troubling news for parents. Even more daunting for families is finding that they’re unable to get access to care when they need it due to high demand for care and long wait times at specialty centers, which have worsened during the pandemic.

AIM Youth Mental Health, a nonprofit dedicated to finding and funding promising youth mental health research, generously donated $50,000 to fund a research project at the Stanford University School of Medicine to study delivery of care to more families by using telehealth.

“Just like we need the science to find vaccines for COVID-19, we need the science to find better treatments for mental illness,” says Susan Stilwell, founder of AIM Youth Mental Health. “While talking about young people’s mental health is important, it is not enough. We need to find the answers, and we have to fund the science—the research—that is so desperately needed right now.”

Moms Support Heart Patients and Their Families

THREE MOMS whose babies were born with heart defects created the Hearts of Harvest Foundation (HOHF) more than 20 years ago. “Our son Erikson’s care at Packard Children’s Hospital required us to temporarily be housed nearby, and we depended on family to help us with the financial challenges,” says HOHF Executive Director Becki Brown. “Soon I felt a strong calling in my heart to help other families who would go through the same agonizing experience, who didn’t have the extra financial resources needed when their child is critically ill.”

Since then, their support of our hospital’s Betty Irene Moore Children’s Heart Center and Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit has helped countless families pay for transportation, lodging, and other essential needs.

Thank you, AIM Youth Mental Health, for helping families to receive the care they need!

Thankful for a Dedicated Auxiliaries Leader

WE THANK NANCY LARSSON for her three years of volunteer service as president of the Association of Auxiliaries for Children, comprising nearly 1,000 members who span the Bay Area.

Nancy’s compassion, creativity, and positive attitude exemplify the core values that established the Auxiliaries more than 100 years ago. Whether serving as president, helping families in the hospital’s Treatment Center Waiting Room, or decorating patient rooms, Nancy’s tireless dedication as a volunteer is not just a passion; it is a way of life.

We are humbled by Nancy’s service and grateful for her efforts that have enhanced care for countless patients and their families.

Taube Philanthropies Endows Professorship in Global Health

TAD AND DIANNE TAUBE made a generous $2 million gift to establish the Taube Professorship in Global Health and Infectious Diseases at the Stanford University School of Medicine. It was matched with an additional $2 million from Andi Okamura and Jeff Chambers, chair of our hospital’s board of directors.

The first holder of this prestigious endowed professorship is pediatrician Yvonne “Bonnie” Maldonado, MD (right), one of the world’s top experts in infectious diseases. “We are proud to establish this professorship to advance care for children everywhere and to advance science,” says Tad Taube, chairman of Taube Philanthropies. “Dianne and I are thrilled that Dr. Maldonado, a world-class researcher, will be the initial holder of the Taube endowed professorship.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Maldonado became a key player at the forefront of Stanford Medicine’s clinical response and research efforts. “I am very honored to be the first holder of the Taube Professorship in Global Health and Infectious Diseases,” says Maldonado. “This support will help my team to further our mission of protecting kids around the world from illnesses—some of which are totally preventable and treatable. Although it’s especially challenging right now with COVID-19, the work we are doing is helping others couldn’t be more fulfilling and exciting.”

The Taubes have made other generous gifts totaling over $48 million, including naming the Tad and Dianne Taube Pavilion at Packard Children’s Hospital and funding research on pediatric cancer, youth addiction, concussions, and pediatric neurodegenerative disease.

The Dollingers Fund Research to Find Clues to a Rare Illness

WHEN A CHILD CLOSE TO THEM showed a sudden, dramatic, and seemingly inexplicable behavior change, Tara and Dave Dollinger were surprised by how difficult it was to get a diagnosis to explain the abrupt transformation.

After struggling for 10 years to comprehend and treat this sudden-onset psychiatric disorder, the Dollingers’ loved one arrived at Stanford University and met Jennifer Frankovich, MD, MS, who identified the illness as pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS). A pioneer in PANS research, Frankovich co-founded the Immune Behavioral Health Clinic at Packard Children’s Hospital in 2012, the first clinic of its kind in the country. She and her team have gained a better understanding of PANS since then, but much remains unknown.

In response, Tara and Dave Dollinger donated $2.4 million to establish the Tara and Dave Dollinger PANS Biomarker Discovery Core, an expanded biorepository of data, blood, and tissue samples from patients at the Stanford PANS clinic. The PANS biorepository will be open to all basic science researchers—even those outside of Stanford—who will use these samples to build a molecular map of PANS. The data they collect will lead to better diagnostic and treatment strategies.

We are thrilled about the opportunity to expand our clinical database and biorepository,” says Frankovich. “It will enable us to advance patient care and produce research to guide clinicians around the world as they care for patients with PANS and related disorders. Thank you to Tara and Dave for this significant investment in our work.”

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In the NEWS

Pediatric Transplant Program Receives Top Recognition

STANFORD CHILDREN’S HEALTH is ranked as a national leader for pediatric organ transplantation, according to recent data from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients. Our center is first in the Western United States in organ transplant volume in patients 18 years and younger, and third nationwide. In 2020 alone, 20 pediatric transplant recipients. Our center is first in the Pediatric Transplant Program Receives Top Recognition.

Carlos Esquivel, MD, PhD, FACS (center), the Arnold and Barbara Silverman Professor in Pediatric Transplantation, leads one of the largest and most experienced liver transplant teams in the nation.

In case you missed it …

There is also groundbreaking collaboration between the pediatric stem cell transplant and kidney transplant teams to treat Schimke immuno-osseous dysplasia (SIOD), an extremely rare genetic disease that affects multiple systems in the body. Alice Bertaina, MD, PhD, leads the stem cell transplant team. So far, Stanford Children’s Health has treated three patients with SIOD—including brother and sister Kruz and Paizlee Davenport of Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

“We are very optimistic that this unique approach to treating SIOD could be used to treat other rare genetic diseases in the future and are excited to begin exploring the possibilities,” says Bertaina.

New Division Chiefs Join Packard Children’s Hospital

EARLIER THIS YEAR, physician-scientist and clinician Lawrence “Lance” S. Prince, MD, PhD (left), was appointed division chief of Neonatal and Developmental Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine, as well as professor of pediatrics. He is also serving as co-director of the Johnson Center for Pregnancy and Newborn Services at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford.

“I am thrilled to join Stanford Children’s Health, which is not only an epicenter of medical discovery and advancement, but also a place where care is delivered with the utmost compassion and support for families,” says Prince.

Last August, physician-scientist Tanja Gruber, MD, PhD (right), was appointed division chief of Hematology, Oncology, and Stem Cell Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine at the School of Medicine, and director of the Bass Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Diseases.

“Stanford is an incredibly inspiring place, and I look forward to working with all the physicians and scientists here to develop new treatment approaches and bring them to patients,” Gruber says.

Major Awards for Cancer Researcher and Her Team

CRYSTAL MACKALL, MD, professor of pediatrics and medicine, received two major awards as an individual scientist this spring. She was honored with the American Association for Cancer Research-St. Baldrick’s Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pediatric Cancer Research in recognition of her “pioneering contributions to the fields of pediatric oncology, immunology, and immunotherapeutics.”

From the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Mackall, who holds the Ernest and Amelia Gallo Family Professorship, received the 2021 Pediatric Oncology Award and Lecture, given to an individual who has contributed “outstanding scientific work of major importance to the field of pediatric oncology.”

In addition, the American Association for Cancer Research honored the St. Baldrick’s Foundation-Stand Up 2 Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team, co-founded in 2013 by Mackall, with the 2021 Team Science Award. The award recognizes the scientific team judged to be most accomplished in all facets of cancer research.

“We are very proud of the accomplishments of our team over the last eight years,” says Mackall.

Heart Patient Gives Back

WHEN YOUNG TRANSPLANT recipient Athena Tran received a wish from Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area, she decided to donate the $5,000 to the Hospital School and Pediatric Advanced Cardiac Therapies (PACT) Program at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford.

Athena was diagnosed with a rare heart condition called restrictive cardiomyopathy in which the heart becomes stiff and is unable to function properly. Four years ago, she received a life-saving heart transplant at Packard Children’s. During her time at our hospital, the Hospital School made a significant impact on Athena. In collaboration with the Palo Alto Unified School District, the school provides a fully accredited academic curriculum and enrichment programs to patients.

“I was already given such a huge gift. I’m so fortunate and so blessed to be able to have this new life,” Athena says. “Giving back is the least that I could do to thank people for what they’ve done for me.”

Trials Use Experimental Therapy for Deadly Childhood Brain Cancer

A CLINICAL TRIAL at Packard Children’s Hospital is under way to assess the effectiveness of a type of cell-based therapy called CAR T-cells in tackling diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), a tumor that has historically proven resistant to all conventional therapies.

The first patient started treatment last June. The CAR T-cells in the trial are for patients with a specific mutation in their tumor in a gene called H3K27M. This mutation increases the amount of another marker found on the tumor cells, called GD2. Therefore, the CAR T-cells are designed to target GD2.

“We are monitoring subjects on the trial very, very closely in the inpatient setting and have built multiple safety measures and algorithms into the trial, as well as performing frequent neurological exams and regular MRI scans,” says Michelle Monje, MD, PhD, associate professor of neurology, and leader of the clinical trial.

If CAR T-cell therapies are proven to be safe and effective in patients with DIPG, they could present a new treatment option.
“My son Pablito couldn’t come into the hospital because of COVID-19. My wife and I took turns between being with him or with Nataly at Packard Children’s. Even though they never met him, the Child Life team gave us books and toys to give to Pablito, and helped us explain what was happening in the hospital. In January, we finally came home—he was so excited to meet his baby sister!”

PABLO, DAD TO PABLITO AND NATALY, A HEART PATIENT

Humans of Packard Children’s

Facebook.com/ HumansOfPackardChildrens

After six months and Nataly’s three open-heart surgeries, the family of four is reunited at home and celebrating Nataly in Virtual Summer Scamper on Wednesday, June 30.

Watch their sweet video at supportLPCH.org/Nataly

Join us for the virtual 5k, 10k & kids’ fun run benefiting Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford.

June 30, 2021

Sign up today at SummerScamper.org