# Ja VOLUME 42 | SPRING 2024

# **COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS:** Celebrating 50 Years of Family Medicine Residency

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UPMC LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE



Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees



Keystone Spotlight: Paternostro Cancer Foundation







#### LETTER FROM Patti Jackson-Gehris

We are a community that takes care of our friends, families, neighbors, and each other. That is why I find my role as president of UPMC in North Central Pa. so fulfilling. It gives me the opportunity to get to know so many families, organizations, and partners to improve the health of our community.

Last year, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of UPMC Williamsport and the 100th anniversary of UPMC Muncy — they reminded me of our long-standing mission to extend God's healing love by providing extraordinary patient care. The work of Susquehanna Health Foundation is an essential part of our mission, and I am excited about the future focus on workforce development, innovation, and expansion of services.

A notable example is the funding for the UPMC Williamsport Family

## **Susquehanna Health Foundation**

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Medicine Residency, with its new Rural Residency component that ensures we have strong physicians dedicated to our rural health care needs. At UPMC, we are growing future talent right here, through partnerships with schools and educational institutions. The Foundation and its partners have been able to focus efforts to keep our UPMC workforce well-trained and supported. We have helped our staff advance their training, pursue new careers, and gain new skills. Most importantly, their advanced education benefits our patients.

Running a best-in-class health care system requires top talent on every level. Physicians, nurses, administrators, technicians, environmental service workers, nutritionists, counselors — all kinds of talent are necessary for a highperforming and multifaceted health care system like ours. The most inspiring employee stories I have heard come from support team members, such as the dietary employee who is able to become an LPN or the patient care technician who becomes a registered nurse, all career dreams realized with assistance from the Foundation.

As someone focused on UPMC's mission every day, I take great satisfaction in working so closely with the teams of people who make the exceptional health care happen here. I know firsthand that Foundation dollars your dollars — are spent wisely. I get to know the families who establish endowments in remembrance of loved ones, create scholarships for future health care talent, and contribute funds to support patients in need. I meet and work with organizations and businesses that want to improve the quality of life in the region they call home, not just for themselves and their employees, but for everyone here.

It is a priority at the Foundation to support efforts that create and maintain access to high-quality health care in our region. The Foundation knows this is not done by only investing in important equipment, technology, and buildings. Our growing LPN-to-RN path, tuition-assistance programs, Medical Laboratory Science Program, High School Co-op, wideranging scholarships, and more help keep every level of our health care workforce at the top of their game.

To be here for another 100 years, we will continue to pivot and change to meet the needs of our community. UPMC is committed to offering health care where it is needed, at the highest quality attainable. Through the Foundation, we partner with amazing local businesses and families to create endowments and secure gifts that give our community access to more than just the basics of health care. We strive to provide exceptionally high-quality care because our families, friends, neighbors, and employees deserve nothing less.

Best of health,

Fath Jack - Selvir

Patti Jackson-Gehris President, UPMC in North Central Pa.

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#### A Word From Our Program Director: Dana Kirschner, DO

For five decades, our residency program has been a beacon of growth and opportunity, offering a supportive learning environment that fuels personal and professional development. We train residents to become full-spectrum family doctors with a broad range of skills that enable them to pursue their dreams, become community leaders, and bring innovation to the forefront of medicine. Our strong residency program is an investment in UPMC's future in the region. After completing their residencies here, many of our graduates choose to stay in the area and continue providing these services to our community. This benefits us all.

The UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency provides care for many patients within Lycoming County and the surrounding communities. Our residents and teams are able to care for our patients in many locations - the office, the hospital, labor and delivery, the nursery, and local nursing homes - which enables us to provide the full scope of primary care. We offer many procedures in our offices within the scope of family medicine, including long-acting contraception, joint injections, and dermatology procedures. We also offer clinics

with specialization in prenatal care, colposcopy, osteopathic manipulation, and psychiatry.

In my time here, the residency has seen some memorable milestones. In 2018, we obtained Osteopathic Recognition, a designation conferred by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to programs that demonstrate commitment to teaching osteopathic principles and practices. We also have developed a robust collaboration with the ob-gyn department to improve obstetrics education for our residents, while also providing pregnant persons access to ancillary services within our community.

Looking ahead to the future, we will continue our strong tradition of training well-rounded family physicians so they can follow their passions to practice through the many different opportunities offered within the specialty. This tradition will be balanced by incorporating enhanced technological resources and the needs of learners to come.

**Dana Kirschner, DO**, first came to UPMC Williamsport for a month as a medical student in the fall of 2014. She completed her residency here from 2015 through 2018 before becoming a faculty member in the program. She has been the program director since July 2023.





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# Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence:

The Legacy and Future of UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency

#### A Model Residency Program with a Storied History

Since its first graduating class in 1974, the UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency has been dedicated to preparing doctors to treat a full scope of ailments and conditions in patients ranging in age from newborn babies to senior citizens.

Perhaps no one has a better historical view of how the Family Medicine Residency has grown than **Jeff Verzella, MD**, former program director and current assistant program director, who will be transitioning into retirement later this year. Dr. Verzella is the longest-standing faculty member with the Residency, having landed in Williamsport in 1989 by way of Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, then Fort Bragg, North Carolina, thanks to a U.S. Health Professions Scholarship.

In the spring of 2015, the Residency moved its operations to the Health Innovation Center. Prior to that, it was housed in the basement of the 699 Rural Avenue building across the street from the hospital. "There were no windows to let sunlight in, and as we grew, the quarters became cramped," reminisces Dr. Verzella. "Now we are on the top floor of the Health Innovation Center with expanded teaching facilities. No more having to cross the street in the rain and snow!" Today the hospital, pharmacy, and medical equipment store, as well as the patient care, teaching, and conference rooms, are all under the same roof.

While Dana Kirschner, DO, remembers rotating in the old building as a student, she and her staff are very happy with the current setup of their Residency space. "It's wonderful to have the administrative side and the patient care clinic all in one location," she says. "It allows residents to have even more time to focus on patients and learning."

**Jess Smith, DO**, is in her second year in the program and is a junior chief resident. Among her many responsibilities in that role, Dr. Smith helps with community outreach programs and events. "Making sure residents also have a chance to develop as caring professionals is one of the many ways this program is exceptional," she notes.





Dr. Smith was inspired to choose Williamsport for her residency after doing a rotation here as a medical student. She shared that experience. "They are so nice here. They care about us as people. We have housing available to us in the building, so we can get rest and then jump right into our rotations," says Dr. Smith, who is considering an obstetrics fellowship in the future. "This hospital is bigger than what you would expect for the geographic area, and we are a hub for a lot of smaller areas, so we get to see and do a lot. We are training in a broad spectrum of inpatient and outpatient care that is coordinated and interconnected."

In his 35 years with the Residency, Dr. Verzella has witnessed many remarkable milestones. "We have one of the longest-standing programs in Pennsylvania, and even in the whole northeast," he notes. "We have always had a strong teaching program, but as the hospital has grown, so has the Residency." He sees a strong, steady pipeline of talent coming out of the program and choosing to stay in the area as perhaps the greatest achievement to celebrate on this 50th anniversary.

"I think that family medicine is transitioning to a more outpatient practice. We see an uptick in diseases such as diabetes and emphysema that require that kind of care," says Dr. Verzella. "Because our residency is not in private practice but hospital-based, we teach all aspects. We teach not just outpatient but relevant inpatient work so they are prepared." UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine residents gain an understanding of what to expect from an Inpatient handoff and how to best hand off to other specialists. It makes them more well-rounded family physicians, according to Dr. Verzella.



#### All in the Family

Dr. Verzella has instructed hundreds of residents over the years. They come from all over the United States, and even a few from as far away as Poland and Hungary. There have also been many from the central Pennsylvania corridor. He has even known a couple of residents who were born in the UPMC Williamsport hospital building. "We have had some families with multigenerational residents, too," he adds.

One such legacy story belongs to the Manchester family. **George Manchester, MD**, is now retired. Previously, he served as senior vice president/chief medical officer at Susquehanna Health, and then as a full-time emergency department physician at UPMC Muncy. His daughter **Morgan Manchester, MD**, is a family physician with UPMC Family Medicine in Loyalsock. Both are graduates of the UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency. Dr. George Manchester was a resident from 1979 through 1982. Dr. Morgan Manchester, who was also born at the hospital, was a resident from 2016 through 2019.

"The Residency training prepared me to deal with a lot of different kinds of specialists and helped me be a better advocate for my patients. It also gave me a foundation to build an administrative path from," says Dr. George Manchester. "When Morgan told me she was going there too, I was excited. Family medicine is a great specialty and extremely important to patients."





"Watching my dad's broad skills and the unopposed program in a community hospital were big factors that drew me to family medicine," says Dr. Morgan Manchester. "I got to do a lot of ob-gyn, pediatrics, and emergency department time, which is what I wanted. I still interact with residents as an outpatient preceptor, and I can see the caliber of the program continues to be rigorous."

A true family of caregivers, matriarch **Brenda Terry-Manchester, MSN, CC**, is the director of Women's Health Services for UPMC in North Central Pa., and daughter **Maggie Fantaskey, RN**, is a nurse in UPMC Williamsport's Step Down Unit. Although she does not have a career in medicine, daughter **Meredith Manchester's** work as an attorney has been informed on a regular basis by her family's experiences in health care. In addition to all that the family does through their professional pursuits, the Manchester Family Endowment provides support for women's health needs through Susquehanna Health Foundation.



#### New Rural Residency Program Begins

One in five people live in rural areas. Oftentimes, living in these geographic locations results in a lack of access to adequate health care. Only 1% of residents train in rural areas, and just 11% of doctors serve them. It is no wonder that rural Americans tend to be older and sicker than people in more urban areas, with higher rates of death from heart disease, lung disease, cancer, stroke, injury, and suicide than their urban peers.

"We first considered creating this program about 10 years ago," says John Boll, DO, FAAFP, program director of the new UPMC Rural Family Medicine Residency. "We knew there were health equity issues affecting our very rural communities, but we did not yet have the resources or accreditation for our own program." In 2019, work began to secure federal Rural Residency Program and Development Grant funding, and last year ACGME accreditation was obtained to establish the UPMC Rural Family Medicine Residency. The first students will begin in the program this July.

The Rural Family Medicine Residency has two residents per year. Residents spend their first year at UPMC Williamsport, a Level II Trauma Center, learning the basics of practicing family medicine. Their second and third years will be spent polishing their family medicine skills at either UPMC Wellsboro or UPMC Cole. These are critical-access hospitals in rural, underserved communities.

According to Dr. Boll, 19% of doctors stay where they trained. This residency program can be a recruiting tool that helps bring family physicians to regional rural areas that truly need them.

From the UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency side, Dr. Kirschner looks forward to this expansion. "We are excited to welcome two additional first-year residents in June 2024 to the Williamsport campus," she says. "Our goal is to prepare them well to complete their residency in the rural regions and become excellent, well-rounded family physicians who are able to work in resource-scarce areas."

"Susquehanna Health Foundation was phenomenal in supporting the Rural Family Medicine Residency," says Dr. Boll. "This really has been a team effort that has included the people from the Residency faculty, staff, teams, and administrators at every level. And the fact that we can launch this new addition to our phenomenal Residency program during the 50th anniversary year feels fitting."

#### How to Support the UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency

To celebrate the Residency's 50 years of graduating residents, make a gift to support training equipment and residency programs that assist families in need. You can also choose to support the new Residency Endowment, which will allow the program to remain vibrant, innovative, and cutting-edge for years to come. Use the enclosed envelope or donate online at **SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate**.



#### What Is Family Medicine?

Family medicine is a medical specialty that does not focus on one particular organ, disease, or age group. Because family physicians require extensive training to best treat and care for their patients, this specialty necessitates a three-year residency of comprehensive training. Sometimes, residents add fellowships and qualifications in specialty concentrations to their education, such as emergency medicine, surgical obstetrics and gynecology, adolescent medicine, and faculty development.

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), family medicine residents participate in integrated inpatient and outpatient learning and receive training in six major medical areas:

- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Internal medicine
- Psychiatry and neurology
- Surgery
- Community medicine

Family physicians make up most of the primary care physicians today, according to the AAFP. They often practice in rural and underserved communities, playing an important role in raising awareness about health disparities and socioeconomic issues in health care.



# **SMART INVESTMENTS:** Employee Education, Training, and Support

#### Attracting, Retaining, and Nurturing Top Talent

As a cornerstone of our commitment to excellence in health care, Susquehanna Health Foundation proudly supports the recruitment, retention, and education of clinical staff. This support helps ensure our patients receive high-quality care and access, both now and in the future.

In recent years, thanks to donor support, we have created a series of initiatives that invest in employee training and professional development. These provide the funding necessary to grow and retain exceptional health care teams at UPMC in North Central Pa. They include the Clinical Excellence Endowment, tuition assistance for UPMC Williamsport's Medical Laboratory Science Program, several awards and scholarships, funding for needed equipment, and the new High School Co-op Program.















#### Craig Yoder: Home Care Nurse, Dad, and Student

"I run on a lot of determination and coffee these days," jokes **Craig Yoder, LPN**. The fulltime nurse with UPMC Home Healthcare and Hospice Services in Williamsport is also a father of three and currently enrolled in the Allegany College of Maryland LPN to RN Online Program. In roughly 12 to 18 months, Craig will have his degree. "I love what I do, and I will be able to do even more for my patients once I am an RN," he says. "It will also mean a lot for my career and my family's future."

With his wife's support at home and her extra effort with the children, Craig and his family carve out time so he can take online classes and study. Craig's managers and co-workers also extend their support. "My supervisors mentioned the tuition support programs offered by Susquehanna Health Foundation, and they encouraged me to pursue this. I'm really lucky to work where I do."

Craig credits the Foundation with helping to make an RN degree a reality for him. "This is such a wonderful program, and I am so grateful to the Foundation's donors."

#### **Clinical Excellence Endowment**

A strong clinical staff is a key factor to ensuring that patients receive exceptional care and access now and for years to come. In 2018, fundraising began to create the Clinical Excellence Endowment, which supports recruitment, retention, and educational efforts for our clinical staff. This endowment has grown to more than \$1 million and provides funding annually for:

- Retention and recruitment of high-quality physicians and clinical staff
- Educational opportunities, including training on innovative technologies and state-of-the-art equipment
- Advanced degrees to elevate the level of care and develop leadership
- Simulation-based training to improve patient outcomes, safety, and efficiency of heath care services

In 2023, the Foundation began making a real impact with this Endowment thanks to the generosity of nearly 3,000 donors. The Clinical Excellence Endowment's outreach now includes:

- Financial assistance to licensed practical nurses (LPNs) who go to college to become registered nurses (RNs)
- Financial assistance to RNs to help them obtain their medicalsurgical certifications
- Funding for different training mannequins and other learning tools

"We had the opportunity to work with the Foundation to financially assist two of our long-time LPNs as they study to earn their RN degrees, and it was wonderful to be able to help our employees this way," says **Patricia McGee**, **RN, MSN, NE-BC**, director of Magnet Recognition Program® and education, palliative care and geriatric medical specialty. "It was our first time working with the Foundation in this way, and we appreciated what they have done to support not just our nurses but the patients they treat. We all benefit when our staff can fulfill their educational goals."

Pat looks forward to being able to offer more nurses this kind of financial assistance again soon. "We have a very dedicated team, and being able to offer them help so that they can complete their educational goals and licensures means a lot. It helps us retain really good nurses," she says.

#### Laboratory and Pathology Endowment

In addition to the Clinical Excellence Endowment, the Foundation provides tuition assistance for the Medical Laboratory Science Program at UPMC Williamsport. This 12-month, hands-on program integrates clinical laboratory science with practical training in an intensive hospital program. Students receive instruction in the operation of state-of-the-art laboratory instruments as well as in relevant manual procedures. The program is designed to be completed as the fourth or fifth year in a baccalaureate degree program at an affiliated college or university. Students can also earn a Certificate of Graduation from the hospital.

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#### Awards, Scholarships, and Equipment

The Foundation also supports employee education and advancement through the funding of the **Rosalie Kaleda** Scholarship Endowment. This fund supports the future educational pursuits of advanced practice professionals. Employees can also receive financial assistance through the Foundation's residency and nursing awards.

Purchasing important medical equipment not only enables employees to offer patients topquality treatments and diagnostics but provides them opportunities to hone and maintain their skills in the workplace. Recognizing the significance of this, the Foundation extends financial assistance to ensure our employees have access to such essential tools as:

- Point-of-care ultrasounds
- Laboratory microscopes
- SimBaby and SimJunior tetherless simulators for pediatric training
- Live capture video surveillance systems for teaching, training, and process assessment





#### High School Co-op Program

The Foundation also supports a new High School Co-op Program, which was launched in the spring of 2022 to inspire the next generation of nurses and health care professionals in our community. That first inaugural class consisted of three students. To date, 26 students from Hughesville Junior/ Senior High School, Williamsport Area High School, and South Williamsport Area Junior/Senior High School have gone through the program.

Nurse education coordinators **Devan** Guinter and Alison Gower facilitate the High School Co-op Program, a 15week experience that gives students exposure to staff, patients, and the wider world of nursing and health care. They learn how to interact with professionals and patients in a way that classroom-only learning cannot. This immersive experience within the hospital environment gives students opportunities to shadow and learn from a variety of health care teams. The program is tailored to each student's interests. While embedded within various departments during weekly eight-hour shifts, students are mentored by either nurses or patient care technicians. Students are also paid for their time in the High School Co-op Program, and after they complete the course, they are eligible to apply for work as care attendants.

"The students really dive into learning from our staff, and our employees seem energized and eager to show these young people what it is like to work in a hospital," says Pat. "This kind of experience is an interactive way to expose high schoolers to health care careers. It's also much more exciting than most other career programing they are exposed to at that age."

Pat notes that the High School Co-op Program concludes each semester with a graduation ceremony and lunch for students, their parents, guardians, and guidance counselors. She is proud of every one of these students, and she hopes to see many of these bright young people find their way back to UPMC in North Central Pa. when they enter the workforce.

So far, eight students from the program have gone on to pursue health care careers after graduating from high school. The PPL Foundation helped fund scholarships for some of these program graduates. "Whether or not these students end up pursuing lifelong careers in nursing or medicine, this experience will show them what it's really like to be in health care, what it takes to provide high-quality care to patients, and how important community hospitals really are. I am thrilled that our nursing program will have that kind of impact on their lives," says Pat.

> SUSQUEHANNA HEALTH FOUNDATION

THE DONOR REPORT

A note to our donors: If your name has been omitted or misprinted, please notify us and accept our sincere apology.

# SIGNATURE GIFTS

**ATURE GIFTS Signature Gifts** recognizes individuals and organizations who made a commitment to Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of \$100,000 or greater. Donors are listed through **December 31, 2023.** 

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To celebrate 100 years of specialized care for local children, a committee of volunteers raised more than \$135,000 for Pediatric Rehabilitation in Williamsport to support equipment upgrades and program enhancements while also building an endowment to fill future needs.

All funds raised will stay right here in north central Pennsylvania to ensure each child's needs are met today and in the future. Some items purchased by donations include an indoor climbing gym, upgraded speech therapy resources, physical therapy equipment like boxing gloves and inflatable discs, and an overhead gait suspension system.

The fundraising committee was chaired by **Angie Alexander** and **Brian McClintock** and supported by **Heather Allison**, **Matthew Cramer**, **John Engel**, **Scott Lowery**, **Thomas Marnon**, **Marisa Rau**, and **Barry Stiger**.

Since 1923, Pediatric Rehab has provided physical, occupational, feeding, and speech therapy services for children across our region with diagnoses such as cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, spina bifida, autism spectrum disorders, muscular dystrophy, developmental and motor delays, and more. On average, more than 160 children receive specialized and individualized care each week in the clinic, and more than 500 additional children receive services during the school day or early-intervention services in the home or daycare.



# CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

The Cornerstone Society recognizes

individuals who supported Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of

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Matt and Nichole Frye A. William and LaVera G. Gehron Estate Ronald M. Gilbert Jr. Todd and Anna Griffith Paul and Iva Heise \*Harold and \*Joyce Hershberger Ann M. Hocker William and \*Sharon Hoffmann Galen and Judy Houseknecht Andrew and Megan Kelley George and Terry Krezmer Heather and Duane Lamper Herman and \*Molly Logue

#### **Ray and Shelly Mattie**

Glenn C. Mechling Stephen K. Millis and Fred Zercoe In Memory of Agnes Millis Zercoe Thomas and Gloria O'Connell Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Owlett III Tom and Mary Owlett Gary M. and Geneva Small Peck Ms. Ann Pepperman and Senator Gene Yaw Michael Rau and Marisa Rainey Rau \*Lucile W. Reynolds In Memory of Robert E. and William R. Reynolds Mr. and Mrs. George I. Rodgers II Run For Your Heart - William J. Burd

John R. "Jack" and Cynthia A. Schrader John D. Shafer

#### Abram M. and Dorothy M. Snyder Foundation, Inc.

Teresa A. Stackhouse David Tannev Kent and Sharon Trachte James and Monica Turri \*William and \*Marion Waldeisen Dwight and Eunice Waltz Estate Jerry and Barb Wertz Patrick and Jennifer Wilson Roger Yost and Jeff Mowery

#### \$10,000-\$14,999

Anonymous (4) Adam, Angie, Blaise, Naomi, and Brody Alexander Steve and Jennifer Babcock Meg Lamade Beckerman In Memory of Joanne J. "Johnny" Lamade Ronald F. Beckman Jr. Michael and Lori Beiter

\*Phil and \*Joyce Bower \*John L. Jr. and \*Sarah H.B. Bruch In Memory of John L. and Mary Sprout Bruch In Memory of Hugh J. and Ann Phillips Bubb Helen L. Bruner Estate Jim and Carol Burd Rosemary C. Carey Trust Joseph and Patricia Carter \*Steve and Ronna Cassotis Alan and Patricia Cohick Covington Church of Christ (Disciples) Matt and Lisa Cramer Don and Debbie Creamer In Memory of Sister Jean Mohl \*Fred M. and \*Shirley L. Dieffenbach

Annette and Scott DiEugenio James and Susan Dinsmore Timothy and Kelly Douglass \*Mr. and Mrs. John F. Dunham \*Allen and Catharine Ertel

#### **Carol Carson Evans**

\*Garth and Sue Everett Jo-Anne Fawcett Estate Chaplain Dave and Carol Fishel Pat and Sam Fry

In Memory of Ethel L. Chambers \*Joseph B. and \*Lillian M. Gehret David Lee Gemberling \*Evelyn Lunt Gephart, \*Norma Lunt Mullen, and E. LaRue Lunt In Memory of Ruth Lunt Forney Dr. John Grove and Deborah Grove, PhD Darla Hardy Elaine and Keith Harvey Kenneth and Kristie Healy Mark and Rebecca Huffman \*Rob and Barb Hughes John L. Hunsinger The Ronald Insinger Family In Memory of Ronald Scott Insinger \*Paul A. Jarrett **Roger and Denise Jarrett** \*Joe Hume – Promotional Specialists Gloria F. Karchner Catharine L. Keister Patricia W. Kieser James and Elizabeth Lazorka \*Maralyn E. and Richard H. Lloyd

Gloria M. Lundy and Heather L. Macdonald In Memory of Richard H. Lundy Jr.

Pamela J. Lundy Samuel R. Lush Erin Mincemoyer Martinko William J. and Peggy McClain Robert K. and Dorothy White Mertz Barbara J. Michael **Richard and Gina Michael** C. Edward S. and Karen D. Mitchell James E. and Elizabeth Mothersbaugh Andy and Brenda Nichols \*Bill and \*Pat Nichols G. Douglas and Marlene C. Parsell Harry Plankenhorn Foundation Alicia and Eric D. Pohjala Florence Putterman Foundation Brenda L. and Barry K. Rake Joseph and Barbara Reynolds Ronald and Lisa Reynolds Joyce Lundy Rhodes Paul H. and Tacie E. Rooney Jr. Elva M. Schmidt, RN James and Debra Schneider Peter and Linda Schultz Jeri Sims Rita and John Spangler Stony Fork Mennonite Church Carolyn and Elliott Strickland In Memory of Jennifer Hammond Gertrude Strunk Estate \*Robert Schell Ulrich In Memory of Rita C. Ulrich The Eila Elizabeth Umstead Foundation Anthony H. Visco Jr. Luigi Vittorio Estate **Bob and Irenay Weaver** Marion Calvert Wright Estate Jun Yang

Karen and David Young



# **Support That Helps Vital** Health Care Initiatives Take Flight

Collaborating with local businesses has always been a key factor in Susquehanna Health Foundation's success. Synergies are forged with the common goal of building and sustaining top-quality health services and technologies in our region. A wonderful example of this type of Foundation partner is Lycoming Engines. Its inspiring, long-standing commitment and support help UPMC in North Central Pa. build and maintain the health care systems and facilities that are so vital to our community.

#### A Regional Employer, a Long-Time Neighbor

Lycoming Engines specializes in the engineering, manufacture, assemble, test, service, and support of piston aviation engines. Their factory in Williamsport supplies piston engines that power more than half of the world's general aviation fleet, both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. In addition, Lycoming also provides engines for military training schools and other specialized applications.

Lycoming Engines has a long and storied history in this region. The company was founded in Williamsport in 1845 as the Demarest Manufacturing Company, producing products such as sewing machines and bicycles. In 1907, it adopted the county seat name of Lycoming and entered the machining manufacturing business. By 1929, Lycoming Engines had built its first aircraft engine to support the war efforts — a 9-cylinder, 200-horsepower radial engine (the R-680). Fast forward to today, and Lycoming Engines continues to provide cutting-edge certified and noncertified propulsion solutions to the aviation industry. The company holds more than 750 type certificates with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and has produced more than 300,000 piston engines.

Since the late 1980s, Lycoming Engines has been a supporter of the Foundation. "Lycoming Engines is only as strong as its community," says Shannon Massey, senior vice president. "This community, like any other, requires health and medical services for its well-being, preventive

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care, family growth, education, and general care. A community that offers these services also provides additional infrastructure for regional economic and social sustainability. Lycoming Engines contributes to the overall community prosperity in many ways, and supporting UPMC is a great example of this," Shannon says.

Shannon also notes UPMC's support of Lycoming's on-site flu shot clinic as well as the drug and alcohol screening and programs for employee assistance. "Having local access to critical health services for our employees makes a difference for our business. This is just one example of UPMC's commitment to its community," says Shannon.

#### **Supporting Cancer Patients in Williamsport**

In 2022, Lycoming Engines made a \$50,000 donation to the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport. This major gift has had a huge impact on the facility and its patients. This generous gift supported the expansion of Hillman's Williamsport location. "We recognize cancer touches so many of our own, either directly or indirectly, and having a local and well-resourced center is key to powering the solution for well-being and recovery," says Shannon.

"I personally have had the opportunity to meet the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center team and tour their state-of-theart facility," says Shannon. She is inspired by Hillman's dedication to providing vital services to patients. The cancer center is continuously looking for ways to improve the patient experience and is committed to bringing new technology and resources to the Lycoming area. "Going through cancer treatment is already a difficult situation," Shannon reflects. "Reducing the need to travel for patients helps reduce the stress and delays," she adds. "That is a major reason why having an exceptional cancer center within the community is so essential."

#### Supporting the Local Health Care System Makes Good Business Sense

"At Lycoming Engines, we routinely state, 'good safety performance does not happen by luck.' It happens by making it a part of our culture," says Shannon. "This includes practicing good health habits both inside and outside of work. It is why Lycoming Engines values having UPMC's high standards of excellence available for their employees and their families."

The support that Lycoming Engines provides the local health system not only helps patients but helps the area

as a whole. That's because the exceptional health services available here are important to potential employees, and thus a meaningful consideration to candidates being recruited to live and work in the area.

"Lycoming Engines sees the impact of having not only a local health system but one with such outstanding services," says Shannon. That's because the quality of local health networks is part of the decision-making process of employees. "It is a differentiator for someone considering taking a role or remaining with our organization, as they consider how their lives and needs may change for themselves or their family members."

"If the community does not offer quality health care services, at both the basic and specialty levels, it really does matter to job candidates," notes Shannon.

#### Appreciating All that Health Care Workers Do

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Lycoming Engines donated food for UPMC clinical employees. This was a simple gesture to show thanks and support to the community's health care providers, who were on the front lines during the pandemic. While the world seemed to be shutting down during the crisis, essential workers at UPMC were treating the many who fell ill and fighting to save lives. "We too were deemed an essential employer, and our engines were providing the power for airplanes to deliver medical and PPE supplies in remote areas," says Shannon. "We thought, 'Why not provide some supplies of food and good thoughts to our local caregivers, too.'"

#### A True Partnership with a Bright Future

Shannon says the relationship between Lycoming Engines and the Foundation is a true community partnership. Together, the two organizations provide UPMC in North Central Pa. the support necessary to meet the rising health care challenges facing our communities. And the potential for positive impact moving forward is boundless, including opportunities for volunteerism for the Lycoming Engines team members.

"Whether building engines or building better community health care infrastructure, Lycoming Engines is ready to meet the region's needs," says Shannon. Together, the Foundation and the company are poised to bring even more great health care advancements to the area they call home. 18

# **ENDOWMENT GIFTS**

Endowment Gifts recognizes individuals and

businesses who supported Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of \$25,000 or greater to establish an endowment. Donors are listed from **January 1, 2019, to present.** All donations, including endowments, continue to remain local and benefit our region.

#### Benevolent Care

#### \$250,000-\$499,999 Level

Karen Steinbacher Endowment Dave Steinbacher

#### <u>Cancer</u>

#### \$100,000-\$249,999 Level

**Joe and Carolyn Hume Endowment** Joe and Carolyn Hume Estate

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

Ausley Construction Co., Inc. Endowment Ausley Construction Co., Inc.

Dr. William J. and Laura H. Martin Endowment Dr. William J. and Laura H. Martin

**Christopher M. and Denise M. Plankenhorn Endowment** Chris and Denise Plankenhorn

#### <u>Cardiac</u>

#### \$50,000-\$74,999 Level

John and Anne Rich Endowment John W. and Anne Rich

#### **Cardiac Rehabilitation**

#### \$100,000-\$249,999 Level

Edward and Sherry McCabe Endowment Edward and Sherry McCabe In Memory of Michael McCabe

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

Patricia J. Rambo Endowment Patricia J. Rambo

#### <u>Clinical Excellence</u>

#### \$100,000-\$249,999 Level

George and Shirley Durrwachter Endowment George and Shirley Durrwachter

Margaret Benner Reese and Charles L. Reese Endowment \*Mike and Barbara B. Hudock

#### \$75,000-\$99,999 Level

**Sue Young Endowment** Friends of Sue Young

#### \$50,000-\$74,999 Level

C&N Endowment C&N Sisters of Christian Charity Endowment Frank G. Pellegrino

In Honor of Sister Judith Blair In Memory of Sister Mary Stephen Christian In Memory of Sister Felice Donelin In Honor of Sister Rosamund Eibach

#### Dr. Hani J. Tuffaha and Family Endowment

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

**R. Edward and Linda Alberts Endowment** R. Edward and Linda Alberts

**Birch and Annmarie Phillips Endowment** Annmarie Phillips

Kenneth and Kathryn A. Smith Endowment Robert P. and Kathleen R. Walker

Susquehanna Community Bank Endowment Susquehanna Community Bank

Paul H. and Margaret M. Walker Endowment Robert P. and Kathleen R. Walker

#### **Colorectal and General Surgery**

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

William P. and Lorraine Manos Endowment William P. and Lorraine A. Manos Foundation

#### **Emergency Medical Services**

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

Dr. Gregory and Mrs. Marilyn Frailey Endowment Greg and \*Marilyn Frailey Robert and Lanea Ruffaner Endowment Robert E. Ruffaner In Memory of Lanea P. Ruffaner

#### <u>Kathryn Candor Lundy Breast</u> <u>Health Center</u>

#### \$100,000-\$249,999 Level

John C. Lundy and Family Endowment John C. Lundy and Family In Memory of Peggy Lundy Edward and Sherry McCabe Endowment Edward and Sherry McCabe In Memory of Michael McCabe

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

Kuzio Family Endowment Keith and Jennifer Kuzio In Honor of Janice D. Kuzio

# FOUNDATION FOCUS | SPRING 2024

## **ENDOWMENT GIFTS**

#### Laboratory and Pathology

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

Dr. Donald J. Leathers Endowment Dr. and Mrs. Donald J. Leathers Dr. Sheldon M. Schwartz Endowment Dr. and Mrs. Sheldon M. Schwartz

#### **Pediatric Rehab**

#### \$100,000-\$249,999

Dr. and Mrs. Albert G. Liddell Endowment Mary Fran Liddell

#### **Radiology**

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

**Dr. and Mrs. Chan Yoon Family Endowment** Dr. Chan Yoon In Memory of Karen Yoon

#### **Rural Health Care Access**

**\$25,000-\$49,999 Level Dr. and Mrs. Zachary Ritter Endowment** Dr. and Mrs. Zachary Ritter

#### **Scholarships**

#### \$100,000-\$249,999 Level

**Rosalie Kaleda Scholarship Endowment** Rosalie F. Kaleda

#### **Special Purpose**

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

Dr. Robert and Phyllis Yasui Endowment Anonymous

#### <u> Trauma and Acute Care</u>

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

The Elefant Family Endowment Dr. and Mrs. Elefant In Memory of Reuven Elefant William P. and Lorraine Manos Endowment

William P. and Lorraine A. Manos Foundation

#### <u>Unrestricted</u>

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

**Charles and Donna Johnson Endowment** Steve and Mary Ann Johnson **John and Jean McDermott Endowment** Steve and Mary Ann Johnson

#### **UPMC Muncy and Muncy Place**

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

Daniel C. Berninger Endowment The Muncy Bank & Trust Company

#### **UPMC Wellsboro**

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

**Bill and Shirley Hebe Endowment** Bill and Shirley Hebe

#### <u>Urology</u>

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

**Dr. and Mrs. David Kurz Endowment** Dr. David and Meghan Kurz

#### Women's Health Needs

#### \$25,000-\$49,999 Level

#### The Manchester Family Endowment

George Manchester, Brenda Terry-Manchester, Morgan Manchester, Meredith Manchester, & Alec and Maggie Fantaskey

#### Donations Empower Cancer Patients – Retaining Control and Their Hair

Since 2021, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport has been providing Cooling Cap Therapy for patients undergoing cancer treatment thanks to the generosity of donors. Scalp cooling technology helps patients retain their hair during chemotherapy. When introduced, Cooling Cap Therapy primarily impacted breast and gynecological cancer patients but has now been proven effective for patients with any solid tumor.

Cooling Cap Therapy could cost each patient up to \$1,850 out of pocket through treatment, but with philanthropic support, this important amenity is completely free of charge to our patients. **More than 137 patients have benefitted from your generosity since the start of the program.** In 2024, we were able to expand the offering to patients at UPMC Wellsboro thanks to support from the **Laurel Health Foundation**. Telling someone they have cancer is never easy. All of my patients worry about their future and about the side effects – especially the possibility of hair loss (expressed by 75% of patients). For those patients, I get to share the hope that cooling caps provide; that there is a possible element of control available to them – at no cost – when so much feels out of control. Thank you to the donors who sustain this program and give hope to our patients.

> - **Dr. Abdalla Sholi**, medical oncologist, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport

SUSQUEHANNA Health Foundation

# BUSINESS & INDUSTRY GIFTS

recognizes businesses that supported Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of \$5,000 or greater. Donors are listed through **December 31, 2023.** 

#### \$1,000,000 +

Anonymous

Ward Manufacturing LLC

#### \$250,000-\$999,999

McCormick Law Firm The Muncy Bank & Trust Company The Park Home, Inc. Verizon Wireless

#### \$100,000-\$249,999

AutoTrakk, LLC C&N **Dominion Foundation** EuroOptic Ltd. First Quality, Inc. Hudock Capital Group, LLC iHeartMedia Jersey Shore State Bank Lamar Advertising of Williamsport M&T Bank **PPL** Foundation PRIMUS Technologies Corp. Reynolds Iron Works, Inc. Shell Exploration & Production Company Silvertip, Inc. Welliver McGuire Inc. Wolyniec Construction, Inc. In Memory of James T. Wolyniec Sr.

#### \$50,000-\$99,999

ABS Building Systems Integrators, LLC Alexander Building Construction Co. Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Bayard Printing Group Ciocca Toyota of Williamsport George E. Logue LLC Gift Box at Muncy Valley Hospital Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. Charity Golf Outing John Savoy & Son, Inc. Larson Design Group Lycoming Engines Pennsylvania College of Technology PPL Electric Utilities Quandel Construction Group, Inc. Ronald McDonald House Charities of N.E.P.A., Inc. Susquehanna Community Bank Weis Markets, Inc. Woodlands Bank

#### \$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous AllOne Foundation ARAMARK Healthcare Ausley Construction Co., Inc. Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP BB&T Beiter's Home Center Construction Specialties, Inc. In Honor of Construction Specialties, Inc. Staff and Families Data Papers/KBF Print Technology **Evergreen Wealth Solutions** Fairfield Auto Group First Citizens Community Bank Forrester Environmental, Inc. Fry's Plastic Gilmour Arts Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. Interior Construction Specialists, Inc. L.F. Driscoll Company, LLC Lundy Construction Co., Inc. Martin Rogers Engineering Consultants Mattel Children's Foundation McCarty-Thomas Funeral Home, Inc. In Memory of Richard G. Thomas McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall Murray Motors - Brian Peace and **Bill Brown** National Fuel Gas Company Foundation Repsol Oil & Gas USA, LLC Santander Bank Shell Appalachia Charity Golf Tournament Stantec Tura L.P.

#### \$15,000-\$24,999

**Business & Industry Gifts** 

**BDA Healthcare Architects** Deerfield Charitable Trust Lezzer Lumber Lundy Industrial Realty, L.P. McDonald's - \*Doug and Frani Doherty Muncy Self Storage Norcen Industries Inc. Pennram Diversified Mfg. Corp., Andrew and Karen Hooker Pittsburgh Penguins Organization Steinbacher Enterprises, Inc. - Dave and \*Karen Steinbacher In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Steinbacher In Memory of Karen Steinbacher Steinbacher Enterprises, Inc. - Matt and Joslyn Dougherty In Honor of Dave and \*Karen Steinbacher Trojan Tube Sales and Fabrications, Inc. In Memory of Jack Decker Williamsport Moving Company Wm. L. Bobinson Concrete

#### \$5,000-\$14,999

Anonymous

American Cancer Society Anthony Visco Jr. Architects Axeman-Anderson Company Bennardi Barberio Dentistry In Memory of Dr. Rudolph Bennardi Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hodrick Realty Billtown Mechanical Corp. Blair Brothers Goldsmiths The Blessing Insurance Agency, Inc. Brodart Co. Central Equipment Company **Clinton County Commissioners** Ruth Croyle and East End Lumber Company Elite Feet, Inc. - Bonnie Dodge EmCare, Inc. Fraternal Order of Eagles -Williamsport Aerie #970 G.R. Noto Electrical Construction, Inc.

## **BUSINESS & INDUSTRY GIFTS**

Herman and Luther's The Herman O. West Foundation Hermance Machine Company Houseknecht's Machine & Tool Co., Inc. J and M Construction Specialty, Inc. Keystone Bingo Supply, Inc. Keystone Data Systems, Inc. L3Harris Electron Devices The Liberty Group M & R Contracting. Inc. Marcellus Shale Coalition MetalKraft Industries. Inc. Mid-State Beverage Co. - Don and Betty Jo Heim Montgomery Plumbing Supply Company Pappy Jack's Winery

PATHS, LLC Patterson-Brandt, Inc. Penn Cabling Services, Inc. Penn Recycling, Inc. Pine Ridge Construction Management PMG Advisors, LLC R&L Housing Associates, Inc. Schneider Valley Farms Dairy In Honor of Schneider Valley Farms Dairy Employees Gene and Mary Ann Schurer & Pam Keefer - Aquarius Pool & Patio, Inc. SelecTrim Corporation, James Wood and Marcus Annicelli SERVPRO of Broome County Shavlor's Ponds & Patios

Stanley Black & Decker State Farm Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak Stevens & Lee, P.C. Sunbury Motors Susquehanna Oral & Facial Surgery and Dental Implant Center Susquehanna Paper & Sanitary Supply Corporation Tory Leather **Van Campen Motors, Inc.** Wayne Township Landfill Wellsboro Electric Wellsboro Rotary Club West Pharmaceutical Services

Sher Properties, Inc.

# **Friends of UPMC Wellsboro**



ach year, *Friends of UPMC Wellsboro* dedicate their fundraising campaign to support a pressing health care need facing the community. For decades, donations have purchased vital medical equipment. This year, what *Friends of UPMC Wellsboro* supported is equally as important the well-being of local health care workers.

The 2023 Friends of UPMC Wellsboro Annual Campaign raised more than \$39,000, including C&N's \$4,500 in matching funds, to directly show staff how valued they are by providing morale boosters and tokens of gratitude such as appreciation lunches and coffee carts. Gifts will also support health care staff by supplying the patient amenities they request to enhance the care they so proudly provide. Two pieces of equipment *Friends of UPMC Wellsboro* will provide are blanket warmers to comfort patients before and after surgery and a bladder scanner to expedite patient care.

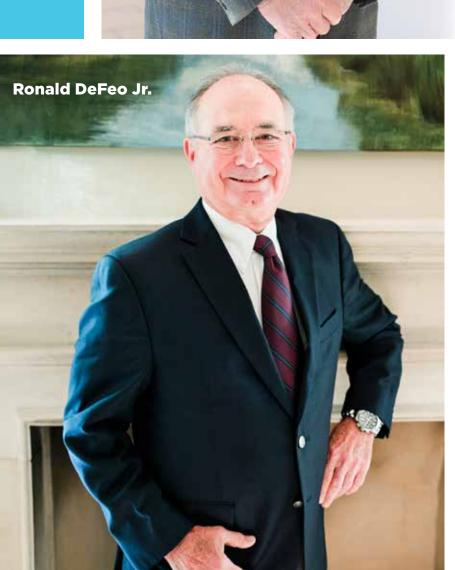
Over the past few years, hospital staff faced unprecedented challenges and have shown unwavering commitment in service to our community. As a result, burnout in health care workers has risen tremendously since the pandemic, leading to staffing shortages as medical staff leave the field of patient care across the nation especially in rural communities.

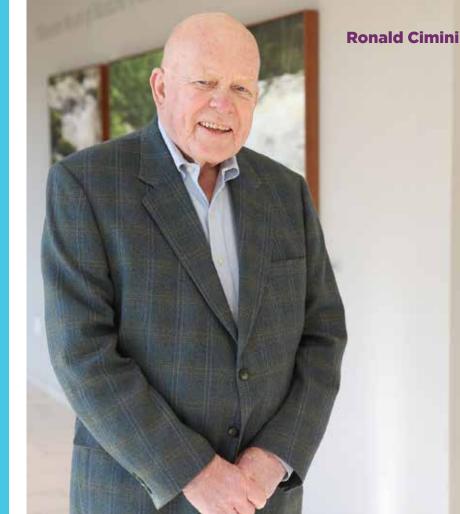
*Friends of UPMC Wellsboro* are committed to preventing this trend locally.

Wellsboro residents **Tom and Deb Rudy** served as the 2023 Honorary Chairs alongside committee members **Roger C. Bunn, Rachel Domarew, Jack Eckman, Bev McKnight, Anne McNaight, Larry Nesbit, June Rudy, Sue Sticklin,** and **Ann Vayansky**.



# Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees





On Friday, May 17, UPMC will honor **Ronald Cimini** and **Ronald DeFeo Jr.** with Lifetime Achievement Awards, recognizing their tremendous impact on health care, the community, and the local health system.

#### **Ronald Cimini, Philanthropist Award**

Ronald Cimini has made his life's work about giving back to others through philanthropy, volunteerism, and engaging with the community. As a Williamsport native, Ron chose to establish himself as a business owner and entrepreneur by opening Tory Leather on Commerce Park Drive in 1976. After more than 40 years at the helm, he sold the business and committed full-time in his retirement to serving others.

Ron has always had a passion for service and being actively involved in making the community a better place. He has led and supported community initiatives by helping the community continue to attract people to settle here and raise their families. Ron has served in countless leadership roles in organizations, such as president of the Rotary Club and as a board member of River Valley Regional YMCA and First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania. He has also received numerous recognitions for his life's work, including the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Small Business of the Year Award and Leadership Lycoming's 2020 Donna Bastian Leadership Lycoming Community Service Award.

"Ron's commitment to the community and serving others has been exceptional," says **Chad Eberhart**, chief executive officer, River Valley Regional YMCA. "He has dedicated his time and passion to lead, support, and serve the YMCA to ensure we can focus on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. His leadership has helped the YMCA expand and

#### **Ronald DeFeo Jr., Trustee Award**

Ronald DeFeo has experienced many successes in his professional life, in a career with Lonza that spanned more than three decades and as an entrepreneur with RVD Consultance. But, when you meet him, you'd never know it. Ron has a heart for philanthropy and volunteerism. He's the type of person who is always looking to make the most of every day and opportunity, and when not working, he enjoys giving back to the community.

Through the years, Ron and his family have immersed themselves in community activities, and he has served on the boards of various organizations, including the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Williamsport Country Club, and First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania. The family's goal has been to do their part to expand the area's quality of life.

Ron has always had an interest in health care, and through his service work has contributed to ensuring quality health care is accessible in Williamsport and the surrounding communities. He served for nearly 30 years as a board member during times of immense change for the health system, including on the Williamsport Hospital Board, Williamsport Hospital Foundation Board, and the founding board of Susquehanna Health Care Alliance, which became Susquehanna Health. Ron was also a member of the Partner Selection Committee, which was responsible for merging Susquehanna Health with UPMC in 2016. In addition to Ron's work with the Susquehanna Health Board, he merge to better serve the needs of surrounding communities, and his lead gift helped to build the new Williamsport Branch YMCA. He is a wonderful advocate, donor, and leader, and this honor bestowed upon him by UPMC and Susquehanna Health Foundation is well deserved."

"Ron is a loyal and deeply committed volunteer to the causes that align with his values," says **Jennifer Wilson**, president & CEO, First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP). "Many nonprofits, including the FCFP, have been fortunate recipients of his generous gifts of time and charitable contributions. A past chairman of the FCFP Board of Directors, his leadership and dedication have been impacting our organization and the countless nonprofits we support for a decade."

In addition to his volunteerism and charitable giving in the community, Ron, his late wife, **Rosie**, and the Cimini family are major financial contributors to Susquehanna Health Foundation, recognized as members of the Cornerstone Society and at the Signature Gifts Level.

In recognition of his proven record of exceptional generosity through direct financial support while encouraging others to give generously, UPMC and Susquehanna Health Foundation will honor Ron Cimini with the Philanthropist Lifetime Achievement Award.

has served on the Susquehanna Health Medical Group Board of Directors and the Williamsport Lycoming Community Foundation Advisory Board, and was chairman of numerous committees, most importantly to him, the Patient Satisfaction and Quality Committee.

"As a member of the Board for the Susquehanna Health Care Alliance and a key leader in the partner selection committee in 2016, Ron's vision and leadership provided the insight and perspective in both circumstances that led to the enhancement of health care in our community," says **Davie Jane Gilmour**, chair, UPMC Williamsport Board of Directors, and vice chair, Susquehanna Board of Directors. "His support of quality care and the organization's mission always guided his work and was evident in the outcome."

In addition to their volunteerism, Ron and his wife, **Jeanne**, are major financial contributors to Susquehanna Health Foundation, recognized as members of the Cornerstone Society for their monetary gifting and the Legacy Society for their future planned gifts. They have been giving to the Foundation for more than 30 years.

In recognition of his exemplary service, selfless giving, and commitment to the goals of UPMC in North Central Pa., UPMC and Susquehanna Health Foundation will honor Ron DeFeo with the Trustee Lifetime Achievement Award.

# CADUCEUS SOCIETY The Caduceus Society recognizes physicians who

made a commitment of \$2,500 or greater to Susquehanna Health Foundation. Donors are

Dr. and Mrs. Mark D. Beyer

listed through **December 31, 2023.** 

#### \$500.000+

Dr. and Mrs. Francis M. Powers Jr.

#### \$250,000-\$499,999

Dr. Barbara Heere and \*Dr. Bernard **Butkiewicz** 

#### \$100,000-\$249,999

Anesthesia Associates of Williamsport \*Dr. and Mrs. Albert G. Liddell Dr. and Mrs. Rodwan and Zokaa Rajjoub Dr. Hani and Eiman Tuffaha

#### \$50,000-\$99,999

Jean and John Burks In Memory of Joseph R. Calder, MD Dr. and Mrs. David J. Lopatofsky Dr. and Mrs. George A. Manchester Dr. and Mrs. Zachary Ritter

#### \$25,000-\$49,999

Jack and Dottie Bailey Dr. John and Donna Becker Dr. and Mrs. E. Lee Bellinger Dr. Jill A. Burns Dr. and Mrs. Scott D. Croll Dr. Ronald E. DiSimone Dr. and Mrs. Elefant Greg and \*Marilyn Frailey Dr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Gandy Dr. Michael C. and Dr. Heather J. Gerst Dr. David and Meghan Kurz \*Dr. Ted and Jane Larson Jr. Dr. and Mrs. Donald J. Leathers Dr. William C. and Beverly H. McCauley Dr. and Mrs. Alexander R. Nesbitt Drs. Timothy and Kathleen Pagana Dr. and Mrs. Sheldon M. Schwartz Dr. and Mrs. Donald D. Shaw \*Dr. and Mrs. Gordon A. Shaw

In Memory of Joseph R. Calder, MD Susquehanna Urologic Associates Dr. Fadi and Jessica Sweiss Dr. and \*Mrs. Lawrence Tama Dr. Chan Yoon

#### \$15,000-\$24,999

Anonymous Darius Abadi. DO Dr. and Mrs. Victor P. Becker Dr. and Mrs. William R. Beltz Drs. David and Susan Borys Christopher and Susan Branton Drs. Brian and Jenny Broaddus Dr. Michael and Lydia Busada Michael Desiderio, DO, and Darcie Desiderio, DNP, CRNP Dr. Perry W. Doan Chervl Marceau and Dr. Michael Marceau Dr. Matthew and Ashley McClain Dr. and Mrs. Anthony M. Nespola Dr. Timothy and Debbie Pastore Dr. Shailesh and Deanna Patel Jim and Peg Redka Dr. and Mrs. Warren L. Robinson Dr. and Mrs. Sandeep and Maria Sagar Dr. Phyllis Scott Dr. Mohammad and Mrs. Margaret Shafique Dr. Robert and Sandy Silberg Dr. Donald J. and Susan Sweeney Williamsport Pathology Association

#### \$10,000-\$14,999

Anonymous (3) Thomas R. and Keri L. Albright Karen and Michael Belenko Dr. and Mrs. Paul W. Braunegg Jr. Dr. Tom and Rebecca Burke Dr. and Mrs. Leonard R. Collins Daniel J. Glunk and Margrit M. Shoemaker Dr. and Mrs. Edmund P. Guelig Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Heilmann Dr. and Mrs. Michael V. Hoffman Dr. Renuka Kakarala and Dr. Sai B. Sajja Dr. Charles D. Lamade Morgan Manchester Dr. and Mrs. David B. Nagel Drs. \*Naresh C. and Anita Nagpal Donald and Diane Nardone Dr. Christine K. Nolan Dr. and Mrs. Harshad Patel Dr. Christopher Reilly and Dr. Teresa Bianco Dr. René and Diana Rigal Keith and Pam Shenberger In Memory of Lynn A. Overdorff Jr. In Memory of Ann L. Shenberger

Dr. Thomas C. Smith and Suzanne Dively-Smith Dr. Mohammad Tahir Dr. and Mrs. F. Ardell Thomas UPMC City Medical Staff Dr. Richard and Mrs. Sharon Walter

#### \$2.500-\$9.999

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Weber

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# **Young Philanthropist**

Cali Levi, a high school senior from McElhattan, held a car show for her senior project and directed the proceeds to support patients undergoing cancer treatment at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport. She added to this amount with proceeds from her personal baking company, Baked by Cali.

"My decision to contribute to the local cancer center is deeply rooted in the values instilled in me by my grandfather, who emphasized the importance of supporting community organizations that make a significant difference in people's lives. This spirit was passed down to my mother and, in turn, to me. Additionally, the cancer center's services have been a source of aid for several of my family members, further reinforcing my commitment to its mission," shares Cali.

Donations such as Cali's support patient amenities including cooling cap therapy, blanket warmers, patient lunches during treatment, and more.

Thank you to Cali for her support, and we wish her the best of luck as she pursues a degree in Architectural Engineering at Penn State University this fall.



# **2023 Foundation Impact Report**

In 2023, thousands of lives were impacted because of your selfless support of health care in our region.

You enhanced the patient experience by funding life-changing equipment such as newborn incubators, rehabilitation equipment, and a CPR device. Nearly 500 patients could afford to travel to their cancer treatments or weren't forced to choose between medicine and food thanks to your support of the Benevolent Care Fund. More than 60 patients reduced their hair loss during chemotherapy thanks to donors funding cooling cap therapy. Because of you, The Gatehouse doors stay open, Nurse-Family Partnership provides guidance to at-risk mothers and babies, and Heartworks offers children a safe place to process grief.

Staff furthered education to bring new services to our region and enhance vital services such as nurse examinations for sexual assault survivors. LPNs advanced their degrees to become RNs thanks to donations to our **Clinical Excellence Endowment**. These are just a few of the needs you fulfilled this year, while also securing the future of health care by establishing endowments and designating Susquehanna Health Foundation in your will.

The numbers below are just part of the story. Look for our donor and patient stories throughout the year to find out what's happening next.

# Foundation Contributions





1,120

individuals, organizations, and foundations supported us





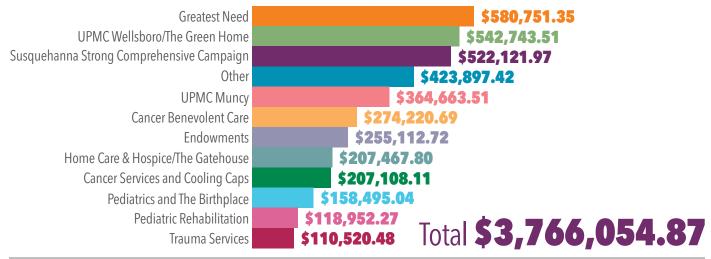
donated from planned gifts





UPMC in North Central Pa. employee and medical staff contributions

# **Donor-Directed Contributions by Fund**



# **Donate to Make a Wish Come True**

Susquehanna Health Foundation asked our department leaders to share their wish lists — items that operational funding cannot cover this year. The Foundation is asking the community to provide the necessary funds, or a portion of the funds, to purchase the items below. If you would like to make a gift to purchase one or more wish list items, please enclose your check in the magazine's attached envelope and note which item(s) you wish to fund. You also can make a gift at SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate and note in the comments section which item(s) you would like to fund.



**Emergency Food Boxes** *UPMC in North Central Pa.* 

Last October, a new program was rolled out at UPMC Williamsport — emergency food boxes were made available on-site to provide patients in extreme need with a box of nonperishables upon discharge. The program quickly expanded to outpatients and our other hospitals. The boxes also contain contact information for additional assistance and community resources. The need is expected to exceed 120 boxes this year. Your gift will provide one patient with an emergency food box.

\$20



#### **Baby Doll for Dementia Patients** *Muncy Place – The Willows*

Residents in the memory care unit, The Willows, and those with a dementia diagnosis have been known to greatly benefit from having life-like baby dolls. In fact, residents frequently appear much happier, are less agitated and anxious, and tend to wander less. The dolls can often increase cooperation with receiving care and overall activity level. Your gift would provide one doll for a resident at Muncy Place.



\$100

#### **Tea for the Soul** Nursing Floors at UPMC Williamsport

The chaplains have piloted Tea for the Soul gatherings for staff in the intensive care unit to provide refreshments, spiritual and motivational resources, and the presence of a chaplain. This is part of an initiative to prioritize our staff and their mental well-being. Your gift would provide one Tea for the Soul gathering for staff.



\$200

#### Scholarship for Student Athletic Trainer Workshop Sports Medicine

Every summer, our athletic training team puts on workshops for local students interested in learning more about becoming an athletic trainer. Your gift would remove the financial barrier for a student in need, allowing them the opportunity to attend the week-long workshop at no cost.



\$500

#### **New Bereavement Program for Women Experiencing Loss** *Women's Health Services*

UPMC in North Central Pa. would like to start a formal Bereavement Program and Bereavement Support Group focused on helping women who experience fetal loss during pregnancy or postpartum infant loss. This initiative would provide women the tools and support they need while grieving. Your gift would help launch this support group and fund the first six months. Helpful kits will be provided to support the women's physical needs at home.

The Keystone Society lists those who make a

commitment to contribute \$250 or more annually to Susquehanna Health Foundation. Listed below are all Keystone Society members through **December 31, 2023.** 

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continued on page 32



n January of this year, the Paternostro Cancer Foundation achieved a new milestone by delivering its 1,000th Harnessing Hope care bag. This is just one of many highlights in the organization's 12-year history. Each new achievement in cancer-patient support spreads the love and light of a very special father and daughter.

The Paternostro Cancer Foundation's steadfast dedication to patients at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport has been the key to its success, according to **Krista Paternostro Bower, MPA, CAE**, chairman and founder of the Foundation. With four impactful

programs, the organization makes a difference every day in honor of Krista's late sister and father. The Paternostro family launched the **Team Kass Foundation** in 2013 to honor the life and memory of **Kathleen Paternostro Morgan**.

"Kass was a vibrant 39-year-old woman living a full life when she was diagnosed with cancer in 2011," says Krista. "Watching her fight cancer, sitting next to her, and holding her hand through the toughest moments life can serve up forever changed me. Kass was the epitome of grace, faith, and hope along her cancer journey. Our conversations during that time are forever embedded in my heart." Krista was overwhelmed with the new reality she and her family faced. She did not know what to do, who to talk to, or how to navigate it. At that time, she felt incredibly lost.

In the weeks leading up to Kass' passing, Krista shared the idea of

creating a cancer foundation with her sister. Kass encouraged Krista to do it. "My heart tells me she saw it as a vehicle for her daughter, Josie, who was only four at the time, to always remember her," she says.

The family patriarch, **Thomas Paternostro**, worked tirelessly on Team Kass initiatives and was one of its chief fundraisers and advocates. "Our dad was the one person we all leaned on during that time. His unwavering faith in God and Heaven, and his strength and conviction that we could make it through these rough waters, helped us all to heal," says Krista.

Very unexpectedly, Thomas passed away just three days after receiving his own cancer diagnosis in September 2014. "He was a great

man, a devoted and loving father who was passionate about life," says Krista. "He taught me, through his life of service, what it means to make a difference."

When her father passed away, Krista wondered if she and the family could keep Team Kass going. Instead of giving up, she drew upon the strength and perseverance she had learned from her father and championed on. She remembered one of his frequent sayings: "When the doors no longer open, try the windows."

The family decided to expand the Foundation's mission and purpose, and they renamed it the **Paternostro Family Foundation** in 2015. From their grief sprang new directions for the Foundation. Honoring them together in this way made a beautiful tribute to a beloved father and daughter, Thomas and Kass. As the organization grew in outreach within the community, the name changed once more in 2019 to the **Paternostro Cancer Foundation**.

With well-earned pride, Krista extolls the wonderful programs that the Foundation provides to cancer patients and their families. When first formed, the Team Kass Foundation focused primarily on supporting mothers with young children in honor of Kass' fight. It evolved over the years to meet even more needs of cancer patients in the community. When the American Cancer Society was forced to reduce its services and eventually close its local office. the Foundation took the initiative to assist both patients currently undergoing treatment and those who have completed treatment.

When COVID-19 hit, the Foundation was there with accelerated support for financial assistance. "Our trusted

relationship with the [UPMC Hillman] Cancer Center fosters honest conversations regarding patient needs, and as needs change, we try to find a way to fill that gap," Krista says.

"I know that we all suffer loss in this life. I have always been a believer that everyone has a story. For me, losing Kass followed by the unexpected loss of our dad truly changed who I am and the direction and shape of my life," says Krista. "Kass' beautiful life inspired me to do this work. Our dad's life was a powerful example of service and excellence that showed me how to be successful."

In her day job, Krista is the CEO of the Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants based in Alexandria, Va. As busy as she is, she still makes time to helm the Foundation, which is completely volunteer-operated. It is a lot of work but deeply rewarding. Community support for their four programs has been heartwarming. The cards and letters received from the families they have helped over the years keep Krista and her team committed and energized. Connecting meaningfully with so many people during their own unique cancer journeys never fails to inspire Krista. "Cancer is how we met, but love and mutual understanding are how and why we're forever bonded."

Susquehanna Health Foundation is beyond grateful to the Paternostro Cancer Foundation for its donations and support of our patients. The Paternostro Cancer Foundation's partnership with UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport has left a lasting impact on the lives of so many patients and their families.

#### Paternostro Cancer Foundation Programs

Harnessing Hope Bags: Since 2014, the Foundation has been delivering cancer care bags to newly diagnosed patients at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport. The idea for this program came from Krista's mother, who observed that Kass liked to have certain things with her when she went to treatments, particularly chemotherapy. The program has distributed more than 1,000 bags since its inception.

**Essence of You:** In 2021, the Paternostro Cancer Foundation partnered with Susquehanna Health Foundation to provide health and wellness sessions six times a year for patients receiving cancer care at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport. What began as a Zoom program during COVID-19 has evolved into impactful in-person sessions.

**K-2 Head Covers:** Since 2019, the Foundation has partnered with Arrow & Thread Handmade Designs to provide two free custom-made head covers for cancer patients. These garments mean so much to patients experiencing hair loss as a result of their cancer treatment, particularly women.

Utility Assistance: Since 2015, the Paternostro Cancer Foundation has made direct payments to utility companies on behalf of local families in need of financial assistance. The patient navigator at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport connects patients who qualify for the program with the Foundation. To date, this program has provided more than \$94,000 in direct support to more than 425 local families.

continued from page 29 \$500-\$999 Thomas W. Dempsey Michelle M. Deuel Stephanie T. Deviney Candy and Steve Dewar Linda Dibble Tawyana Dinsmore Ronald and Beatrice Dreese Jim and Terry Dunlap Molly J. Durland **Charles and Erin Edmonds** Edward Jones - Tom Breneisen Sharon L. Emick Brian M. Engel Lori Englert Alec and Maggie Fantaskey Robin and David Fink Fischer Insurance Agency Julie E. Foresman Susan M. Forney Clifford M. Frost Howard L. Fulmer Jr. Tom and Linda Gamble Rvan Gardner and Erica Trimble James and Lorraine Gates Lynel P. Gaunt Sarah Gensel Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour George and Patricia Girio June E. Grant Brenda M. Hagedorn Katherine Hart Stephanie Heck Harry Hefty Darlene Hepler Becky Hess High Company LLC Highland Photography Studio Kathleen C. Hill Janet Hillyard Amanda L. Hitchcock Taren Hornberger Billie Jo Houtz \*Rob and Barb Hughes Dr. Victoria and Jason Hurwitz The Huskin Family J&K Venter Family Giving Fund Miriam L. Jackson

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SUSQUEHANNA HEALTH FOUNDATION





# Ladies Night Out with Patti

Last November, the Foundation hosted an event for female major donors to meet UPMC in North Central Pa. president **Patti Jackson-Gehris** and celebrate their generosity together. To kick off the holiday season, women decorated a fresh wreath to take home, designed by local florist **Sharon Faust**. More than 100 ladies joined the Foundation team at Herman & Luther's, whose owners graciously donated the venue to make the night possible.

The Foundation team looks forward to hosting an event again this fall!



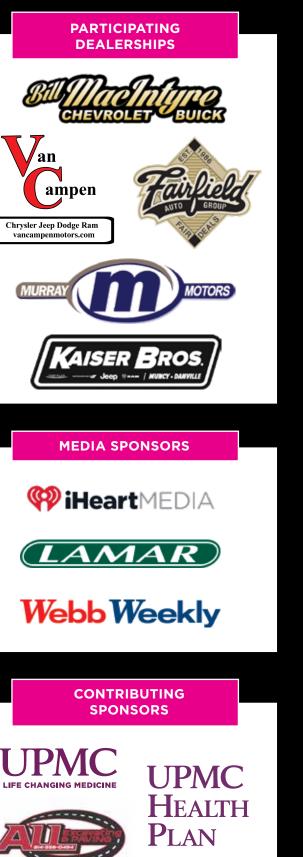






SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate

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# DRIVE FOR A CAUSE



ach October, car dealerships throughout north central Pennsylvania team up with Susquehanna Health Foundation for Drive for a Cause. Participating dealerships donate \$25 to UPMC's Kathryn Candor Lundy Breast Health Center in Williamsport for every new or used car sold.

The sixth annual event in 2023 raised \$14,375 to support the fight against breast cancer in our communities. Since the start, Drive for a Cause has raised more than \$107,000 for breast health services at UPMC in North Central Pa. This event also serves as a reminder for women to have their annual screenings — early detection saves lives.

"Drive for a Cause gives local women access to life-changing breast health services," says **Sherry Watts**, president, Susquehanna Health Foundation. "We are grateful for the dealerships and donors who ensure women receive the specialized care they need to detect and fight breast cancer, right here, close to home."





# YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK: Trauma Bay Video Recording Technology Improves Health Outcomes

Learning from Video Recordings to Help Save Lives

Let's go to the videotape," is a popular television sportscaster refrain that took on new meaning for the Trauma Services team at UPMC Williamsport in January of this year. That's because of a video recording system made possible through a donation from the **William P. and Lorraine Manos Foundation**. This technology will enable health care teams to evaluate what happens in the emergency room trauma bays after resuscitations occur, allowing them to make critical improvements to processes and procedures. This will lead to quality initiatives that will foster better patient outcomes.

This video technology is an invaluable educational opportunity for trauma teams, who are rarely afforded a chance to carefully observe the overall process in real-time while they are treating a patient. "Trauma is unpredictable and chaotic in the moment that we are treating," says **Ronen Elefant, MD, MBA, FACS**, medical director, Trauma Services, and chief, Acute Care, UPMC in North Central Pa. "With the surveillance camera system, we get a chance to go back and see what happened during those intense moments. We can get a bird's-eye view of how things unfolded and learn so many valuable things." Evaluating actual patient resuscitations after an event allows Dr. Elefant and his team to promote:

- High-quality care
- Educational opportunities
- Critical thinking skills
- Adherence to practice management guidelines and trauma protocols
- Updates to protocols and guidelines based on evidence-based trauma care

All this will facilitate continuous performance improvements that will benefit patients and their families in the relatively new trauma center of UPMC Williamsport.

#### Bringing Trauma Video Surveillance Technology to UPMC Williamsport

UPMC Williamsport initiated the process to become a designated Trauma Center and earned Level II Trauma Center accreditation from the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation in September 2021. In its short history, patient volume has increased by more than 32%, serving more than 5,200 patients. Responding to a real need in the region, Level II designation signifies that the hospital's standards for timely and quality trauma care are among the highest in the United States.

The Trauma Center serves 12 counties in north central Pennsylvania, which span 2,500 square miles. This degree of trauma care is a vital resource to have in the region, with the next closest trauma center located 45 minutes away from Williamsport, in Danville.

Dr. Elefant was a part of the rigorous process to bring this Level II designation to UPMC Williamsport, and he is very pleased that the Trauma Center was gifted the surveillance video system. "This equipment benefits the whole medical system here. Every unit and department stands to gain from the metrics we are able to collect," he says. "Very few trauma centers have this advanced technology, and we are lucky to have community donors appreciate its importance."

#### **Every Second Counts**

When in the midst of a chaotic, highpaced resuscitation, trauma team members work at incredible speeds with well-choreographed intensity. A split second taken to look around and observe the details can impede their work to save lives. But remembering all those details afterward might not be easy. The video system, activated upon the patient's arrival, allows the trauma service and emergency room staff a second chance to audit and assess processes and mechanisms after the fact.

The multidisciplinary team of experts available around the clock is prepared for the unexpected, and every role counts. Being able to go through the play-byplay of a resuscitation to determine what

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is working well (and what is not) weighs the scale toward improved outcomes, according to **Krysta Wagner, MBA**, director, Operations for Emergency Services, Trauma, and Acute Care, UPMC in North Central Pa.

#### How It Works

Williamsport is just the third UPMC trauma center to have a trauma video system installed, with the first two being Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and UPMC Mercy, also in Pittsburgh. Each trauma bay uses two live-capture cameras and speakers to record resuscitations, says Krysta. After a resuscitation, only those with surveillance privileges review the footage, looking for adherence to protocols, evidence-based practices, and opportunities to improve assignments and safety. They are looking for things that they can adjust, add, or otherwise improve moving forward, raising questions such as:

- Was the workup of the patient done in an appropriate manner?
- Should any additional interventions have been done prior to leaving the trauma bay?
- Was any unnecessary time spent in the trauma bay?

#### Why It Works

Surveillance video auditing has shown that trauma centers are able to manage resources appropriately, learn, and educate step-by-step. The technology can also help reduce the time taken:

- For resuscitation overall
- To get a patient a CT scan
- To get a patient into an operating room
- To get a patient to the point of emergency room discharge

Reducing the time taken for these types of procedures without diminishing the level of care helps improve survival rates, particularly for the most severely injured patients. This is true both from within and from outside of a dedicated trauma center, says Dr. Elefant.

Trauma team performance can be enhanced through the auditing and

assessment of video. "To be clear, this is not a tool to grade individual performance or for any kind of punitive purposes," says Dr. Elefant. "To the contrary, the video system is used to help improve how we support our team to ensure the best possible patient outcomes and consistent processes." Leadership skills are honed through understanding all the facets of what occurs in the moment of a resuscitation. "Being able to observe technical and nontechnical skills has been shown to be particularly important," Dr. Elefant notes.

According to Krysta, current evidence suggests that video recording of trauma resuscitations has great merit with respect to the education of health care providers, clinical research, and quality improvement. "This video recording tool offers a unique environment for the future education of trauma team staff," she notes. The system will allow team members within Emergency and Trauma Services to promote high-quality care, education, and critical thinking skills. Additionally, it will positively impact future practice management guidelines and trauma protocols, promoting evidence-based best practices in the treatment of traumatically injured patients.

Before becoming a Level II Trauma Center, about 40% of patients had to transfer to another health care facility to get the care they needed, says Krysta. "Today, transfers are infrequent because UPMC has expanded to a tertiary center where patients can obtain the care they need close to home." The video recording system has a far-reaching impact on those specialties that support the Level II Trauma Center as well, providing data to support improved handoffs and preparedness.

#### Always Confidential and Private

Dr. Elefant emphasizes that the video recordings are only reviewed by those with surveillance privileges and are not used for any type of employee evaluations. Neither are they available to anyone outside of the reviewers. The video is not available for educational courses, not for staff or patients, not for insurance companies or administrators, and not for legal professionals. "We take privacy, confidentiality, and HIPAA laws very seriously, even within our own system," says Krysta. "When the review is done, the videos are erased."

Krysta says that the video surveillance equipment was a vision of the Trauma Center that the Foundation championed, connecting them with generous donors who understood the needs of this type of emergency care.

"The Foundation was a matchmaker, connecting our trauma center with donors whose support resonates with their values or personal experiences," says Krysta. "We are going to save more lives, improve more lives, from what we learn from the video recording program. It's rewarding."

#### What Is Trauma Resuscitation?

When patients come to the trauma center, they are experiencing an extreme health emergency. Trauma resuscitation is the act of correcting the physiological dysfunction a patient experiences through some form of trauma. Resuscitation is an essential function in emergency departments, intensive care units, and trauma surgery.

Common incidents that lead to trauma resuscitations in the UPMC Williamsport Trauma Center include motor vehicle accidents, falls, and blunt-force injuries, according to Dr. Elefant and Krysta.

Because trauma resuscitations are by nature resource-intensive and time-pressured occurrences, medical institutions can benefit greatly from video recording systems that allow them to analyze, collect data, and improve how they treat patients in the critical moments of trauma treatment.

# **LEGACY SOCIETY** The Legacy Society recognizes those who made a planned

or estate gift to Susquehanna Health Foundation. The "past" designation distinguishes our members who have passed away but whose estate or planned gifts to the Foundation reflect the lasting legacy they left to help others.

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Managed by third parties, DAFs allow donors to contribute assets, gain immediate tax benefits, and recommend grants over time, simplifying philanthropy and enhancing strategic planning. Key benefits include centralized giving, immediate tax deductions, potential investment growth, personalized grant timing, privacy options, and fostering family philanthropy.

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In conclusion, DAFs offer a strategic, flexible, and efficient means for impactful giving, encouraging engagement with experienced advisors for maximum benefit.

The information above is for educational purposes only. Please consult a qualified tax professional prior to implementing any of the strategies discussed.

To see if DAFs are right for you, or for more information, scan the QR code or visit www.SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/DAF

Andrew C. Harris, CPWA<sup>\*</sup>, CEPA<sup>\*</sup>





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[1] https://www.nptrust.org/philanthropic-resources/philanthropist/highlights-from-the-2023-daf-report/



Includes all contributions not listed in other giving levels.

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# new doctors

By bringing the best physicians and advanced medical treatments to our region, UPMC delivers on its promise to provide high-quality, patient-centered care.

#### David Ambrose, DO Cardiology / 570-321-2800

Dr. David Ambrose received his medical degree and completed his internship and residency in osteopathic medicine with Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also completed a fellowship in noninvasive cardiology with Deborah Heart and Lung Center, Browns Mills, N.J. Before joining UPMC, Dr. Ambrose practiced noninvasive cardiology with Geisinger Medical Group in Port Matilda, Pa. He sees patients at UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute locations at 740 High St., Suite 2001, Williamsport, and 610 High St., Lower Level, Lock Haven.





#### John Braca, MD, FAANS Chief, Neurosurgery / 570-321-2820

Dr. John Braca received his medical degree from New York Medical College, Valhalla. He completed his residency training in neurological surgery with Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Ill., and his fellowship training in endovascular and cerebrovascular surgery with Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine, Carmel, Ill., and spine surgery with Loyola University Medical Center. Dr. Braca is board-certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery and is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. He is a neurosurgeon and chief of neurosurgery for UPMC Neurological Institute and hospital services in central and north central Pennsylvania. As chief, Dr. Braca has clinical oversight of eight UPMC Neurological Institute locations serving Annville, Carlisle, Harrisburg, Hershey, Lancaster, Mechanicsburg, Spring Grove, and Williamsport.

#### David Cousins, MD Radiation Oncology | 570-979-4346

Dr. David Cousins received his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, and completed his residency in radiation oncology with the University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville. He sees patients at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, 1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport.





#### Jeffery Gilbert, DO Cardiology / 570-321-2800

Dr. Jeffery Gilbert received his medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine and fellowship training in cardiology with Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey. Most recently, Dr. Gilbert practiced noninvasive cardiology with Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. He sees patients at UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute locations at UPMC Wellsboro, 32 Central Ave., Wellsboro, and 416 South Main St., Mansfield.

#### Andrew Glunk, MD Emergency Medicine

Dr. Andrew Glunk received his medical degree and completed his residency in emergency medicine with Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia. He sees patients at UPMC Williamsport, 700 High St., Williamsport.



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#### Matthew Kiley, MD Emergency Medicine

Dr. Matthew Kiley received his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine, Miramar, Fla., and completed his residency in emergency medicine with HCA Florida Brandon Hospital, Brandon. He sees patients at UPMC Williamsport, 700 High St., Williamsport.

#### Emily Rowlands, DO Emergency Medicine

Dr. Emily Rowlands received her medical degree from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Lewisburg, and completed her residency in emergency medicine with Conemaugh Memorial Hospital, Johnstown, Pa. She sees patients at UPMC Williamsport, 700 High St., Williamsport.





#### Thomas Scott, DO Cardiology / 570-321-2800

Dr. Thomas Scott received his medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed an internship with Penn State Geisinger Medical Center, and his residency with Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. Dr. Scott additionally completed two fellowships with Geisinger Medical Center — one in cardiovascular disease and the other in interventional cardiology. Before joining UPMC, he served as the director of cardiac catheterization laboratories and the interventional cardiology fellowship program, and he practiced as an associate in cardiology, interventional cardiology, and endovascular interventions with Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. Dr. Scott sees patients at UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute locations at 740 High St., Suite 2001, Williamsport, and 2370 Old Turnpike Rd., Suite 4, Lewisburg.

#### Daniel Schuler, DO Primary Care / 570-326-2447

Dr. Daniel Schuler received his medical degree from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Blacksburg, Va., and completed his residency with UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency. He sees patients at UPMC Primary Care, 175 Pine St., Suite 200, Williamsport.



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#### **Robert Strony, DO**

#### Senior Medical Quality Officer, Medical Groups / Emergency Medicine

Dr. Robert Strony received his medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency training in emergency medicine with Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. He is board-certified and a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians. In addition to his clinical training and education, Dr. Strony obtained his Physician Executive MBA from the University of Scranton. Before joining UPMC, Dr. Strony held a clinical leadership role with Geisinger Health Plan and worked as an emergency services physician with Geisinger Health System in Danville.





#### Michael Su, MD Primary Care | 570-326-2447

Dr. Michael Su received his medical degree from Jagiellonian University School of Medicine, Krakow, Poland, and completed his residency in family medicine with Morristown Medical Center, Atlantic Health Systems, Morristown, N.J. Dr. Su also earned a law degree from Fordham University School of Law, New York City. He sees patients at UPMC Primary Care, 175 Pine St., Suite 200, Williamsport.

#### Santisree Tanikella, MD Pediatrics / 570-368-3321

Dr. Santisree Tanikella received her medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, and completed her residency in pediatrics with the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, associated with Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y. She also completed a fellowship in integrative medicine with the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine, San Diego, Calif. Most recently, Dr. Tanikella practiced pediatric integrative medicine with Geisinger in Lewisburg. She sees patients at UPMC Outpatient Center, 900 Plaza Dr., Montoursville.





#### Jesse Torbert, MD Orthopaedic Trauma / 570-321-2020

Dr. Jesse Torbert received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio, and completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery with the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. During his residency, Dr. Torbert was awarded a place in the Clinician Scientist Development Program, reserved to a select group of outstanding researchers in the field of orthopaedic surgery. He also completed fellowship training in orthopaedic trauma at R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Baltimore, Md. Dr. Torbert is board-certified in orthopaedic surgery with the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He also holds a degree in biomedical engineering from Case Western Reserve University School of Engineering. Dr. Torbert sees patients at UPMC Orthopaedic Care, 1705 Warren Ave., Williamsport.



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