Ronda Stryker and William Johnston pay it forward
$20 million gift advances global health research and education

The value of kindness is something Ronda Stryker learned at a young age. When her grandfather Homer Stryker, an orthopedic surgeon and inventor, started a small medical device company in Kalamazoo, Mich., in the early 1940s, he offered free health care to those who could not afford it and employed men and women considered by others to be unhirable. He didn’t have the easiest life, she says, so he was a pay-it-forward kind of person who instilled in her the same ideals. Compassion for others was also a constant topic of conversation at home with her parents and two siblings. “We never had too much or too little, but we always gave a lot. It’s hard not to let some of that rub off on you,” says Stryker, who today is a director of the Stryker Corporation, the global medical technology company founded by her grandfather. Rub off it did. Stryker has been a passionate advocate and strategic philanthropist for several causes, most notably promoting education, empowering women, and fighting sexism and racism. Now she and her husband, William Johnston, have pledged $20 million to Harvard Medical School to advance global health research and education. “I believe that, in my lifetime, we can create a movement and affect real change in billions of people’s lives around the world, particularly women and children who often bear the brunt of the lack of access to health care,” says Stryker, who is a member of the HMS Board of Fellows and Advisory Council on Global Health and Service. "A significant investment in HMS to support current and future leaders in global health, under Paul Farmer’s leadership, will change things for the better. It comes down to kindness to humanity, and if Harvard Medical School can teach and train others to replicate the work Paul and his team do every day, the world will be better for it,” she says.

People & Partnership
Former HMS Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, is deeply grateful to Stryker and Johnston for their generosity and meaningful commitment to global health and to advancing the vision of Paul Farmer, MD ’90, PhD ’90, chair of the HMS Department of Global Health and Social Medicine and the Kolokotrones University Professor at Harvard. "The couple’s support will allow HMS to solidify its foundation of collaborative research, care delivery, and education for global health equity, while also providing crucial flexibility to respond to the needs of the communities it serves, as defined by the people within them. Farmer adds that getting to know the couple has been a genuine pleasure, remarking that Ronda is a thoughtful member of the advisory council and can be counted on to contribute great ideas born out of her significant experience thinking through some of the world’s toughest challenges.

"Ronda spent time with me in Haiti last February to better understand and grapple with the gravity of the problems there. She met a number of our faculty and saw firsthand how her philanthropic support could make a difference. We are tremendously grateful to Ronda and Bill for their friendship, foresight, and partnership,” says Farmer.

"This remarkable gift will enable our faculty within the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine to continue to improve the lives of people throughout the world while also supporting the next generation of global health leaders," says Flier. This gift, which is the largest in the department’s history, will:
• Establish the Ronda Stryker and William Johnston Professorship in Global Health;
• Bolster the careers of junior faculty and fellows by supporting research in fields such as HIV and Ebola and by creating an annual forum in which researchers can receive mentorship and build community;
• Enable students from around the world to enroll in the Master of Medical Sciences in Global Health Delivery program;
• Support the development and execution of projects in the Global Health Research Core that inform patient care; and
• Enhance research and advocacy efforts in global surgery.

Paul Farmer, MD ’90, PhD ’90, visiting Ebola survivor Yabom Koroma and her family in the Mountain Court section of Freetown, Sierra Leone

Ronda Stryker and William Johnston, whose $20 million gift advances the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine's most precious resource: its people

Paul Farmer, MD ’90, PhD ’90, visiting Ebola survivor Yabom Koroma and her family in the Mountain Court section of Freetown, Sierra Leone

Ronda Stryker and William Johnston, whose $20 million gift advances the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine’s most precious resource: its people
Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share the news that we just closed one of the most philanthropic years in Harvard Medical School's recent history, raising $123 million to advance our shared priorities of education, discovery, service, and leadership. This result has also catapulted The World Is Waiting: The Campaign for Harvard Medicine, bringing us 78 percent toward our $750 million goal.

The $585 million raised through the Campaign as of July 31, 2016, includes gifts and pledges from more than 9,000 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of HMS. In this issue of The Benefactor, we celebrate many of these generous donors who are dedicated to helping people throughout the world live longer, healthier lives.

In the area of education, longtime faculty member Ronald A. Arky, MD, has established an irrevocable bequest of $1 million to endow the associate director and advisor post for the Francis Weld Peabody Society.

Our discovery efforts are being bolstered by Henri A. and Belinda Termeer, whose $5 million gift supports early career investigators through the Harvard Program in Therapeutic Science in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital. A $1 million gift from Richard Moskovitz, AB '69, MD '73, and his wife, Nancy, advances research aimed at identifying biomarkers for Alzheimer’s disease.

In the area of service, our cover story celebrates the landmark $20 million gift from Ronda Stryker and William Johnston to advance the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine and its greatest asset: its people. The Commonwealth Fund has also given $1 million this year, and more than $30 million to date, to support the Mongan Fellowship in Minority Health Policy.

We also applaud the leadership and generosity of the HMS Board of Fellows, whose collective gifts of more than $5.5 million celebrate Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, for his nine outstanding years as dean and establish a professorship and student scholarship fund in his honor.

I want to personally acknowledge and thank Barbara McNeil, MD ’66, PhD ’72, AMP ’86, for her service and partnership as acting dean of HMS and officially welcome George Q. Daley, AB ’82, MD ’91, PhD, as the 22nd dean of the Faculty of Medicine beginning Jan. 1. I know they will be remarkable stewards and caretakers of this incredible institution because of their leadership, experience, and passion for their alma mater.

Thank you for your enduring support of our mission and work. Learn more about our Campaign and how you can get involved at hms.harvard.edu/campaign.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Boudreau
Interim Dean for Resource Development

Lisa J. Boudreau

Interim Dean for Resource Development

George Q. Daley, AB ’82, MD ’91, PhD

Chief Research Operations Officer

David E. Golan, AB ’75, MD, PhD

Associate Dean for Communications and External Relations and Chief Communications Officer

Gina Vild

Associate Dean for Institutional Planning and Policy

Michael McGowan

Chief of Staff

Lisa J. Boudreau

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Lisa J. Boudreau
Board of Fellows fetes Flier with gift of $5.5M in his honor

There aren’t many times former Harvard Medical School Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, has been speechless. But that’s precisely the position he found himself in on April 14. At a dinner celebrating his nine outstanding years as dean, Flier was surprised and overwhelmed when Joshua Boger, AM ’75, PhD ’79, announced that the HMS Board of Fellows had raised more than $5.5 million as a tribute to his service.

“I have worked closely with the board during my tenure as dean and count them as my friends,” says Flier, who stepped down as dean on July 31. “By raising this gift in my honor with broad support, the board displayed great generosity. They also chose to honor me in a manner that gives me special pleasure, by creating enduring support for biomedical science and education at the School.”

According to Boger, chair of The World Is Waiting: The Campaign for Harvard Medicine and a member and former chair of the board, Flier understands that sometimes leadership can be lonely and he must focus on what is best for both the present and the future of the institution.

“Jeff takes on that challenge with a keen and creative intellect grounded in total belief in the HMS mission to alleviate human suffering caused by disease. I’ve been most impressed by his selfless devotion to the School,” says Boger, whose gift launched the board’s drive.

Board Vice Chair Gwill E. York, AB ’79, MBA ’84, says that after all Flier has accomplished, there was no question that she would participate in the gift honoring him. “Jeff led the HMS faculty with his graciousness and quiet determination through many changes few thought were possible. A decade from now, he will be remembered as the first dean to set the stage for the next great leap in research and academic education based at HMS,” says York.

Mission in Action

Of the total raised in Flier’s honor, $4 million will establish the Dorothy and Milton Flier Professorship in Biomedical Science at HMS. Named in honor of his parents, the endowed professorship will ultimately bear Dean Flier’s name upon his eventual retirement from the HMS faculty. The inaugural incumbent has not yet been announced but is being selected based on his or her potential for finding a cause of or treatment for disease.

“Having an HMS professorship named for my parents allows me to recognize and celebrate the fundamental role that they played in shaping me as a person and preparing me for whatever I’ve been able to accomplish,” says Flier. “Though they didn’t live to see this happen, I can imagine how thrilled they would have been, and this brings great joy to my family and to me.”

The remaining gift, totaling more than $1.5 million, establishes a scholarship fund, providing need-based financial aid to deserving MD students at HMS. Flier chose to name the fund for Jesse Roth, MD, FACP, his scientific mentor who is the former chief of the Diabetes Branch at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“I entered Jesse’s lab at NIH in 1974 as a novice in research. Through his mentorship and the extraordinary environment that he provided, I left in 1978 having made several discoveries that allowed me to embark on a career at HMS that eventually led to my role as dean,” says Flier.

According to Board Chair John W. Rowe, MD, most deans are remembered for a specific initiative but Flier will be remembered for many.

“For me, the defining feature of Jeff’s deanship has been the breadth of his contributions,” says Rowe, noting that among Flier’s many accomplishments are establishing cutting-edge departments and centers, building a new curriculum, strengthening relationships with HMS-affiliated hospitals, and launching a groundbreaking primary care initiative. “He has introduced numerous, high-quality innovations across the full span of research, education, and practice.”
Advancing minority health

The Commonwealth Fund Mongan Fellowship in Minority Health Policy is creating a ripple effect. Over the last two decades, more than 124 leaders in health policy and public health have been trained through the program and are working to transform health care delivery systems for minority, low-income, and other vulnerable populations across the country.

Established in 1996, the program provides financial assistance to up to five fellows annually who complete academic work leading to a Master of Public Health degree at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health or a Master of Public Administration degree at the Harvard Kennedy School. Participants attend forums and seminars with nationally recognized leaders in health care delivery systems, minority health, and health policy, as well as conduct site visits, engage in shadowing experiences, and complete practicum projects.

The fellowship is named for the late James Mongan, MD, a professor of health care policy and social medicine at HMS and chairman of the Commission on a High Performance Health System who helped to shape the health care debate locally in Massachusetts and nationally as a member of the Carter administration. The Mongan Fellowship is made possible by The Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that aims to promote a high-performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society’s most vulnerable, including low-income people, the uninsured, minority Americans, young children, and elderly adults.

The Commonwealth Fund has given more than $850,000 to HMS in 2016 to support the Mongan Fellowship. Since 1978, the foundation has given more than $21 million to HMS to support a number of programs and initiatives, including several within the Office of Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership (DICP), led by Dean Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH ‘90, MS ’92, MBA, professor of medicine and program director of the Mongan Fellowship at HMS.

David Blumenthal, AB ’70, MD ’75, MPP ’75, president and CEO of The Commonwealth Fund, says he is privileged to have been involved with the Mongan Fellowship both as a mentor and, today, as a funder. In fact, he introduced Reede to Karen Davis, who served as president of the foundation from 1995 to 2012, and together they helped to identify the gaps in minority health leadership and brainstormed the fellowship program to help move the needle.

“The Commonwealth Fund looks forward to continuing to build on the success of the fellowship and to fostering the leadership needed to create a more equitable health care system for all,” says Blumenthal.

Reede is thankful to the foundation for its generous and consistent support and says she is extremely proud of the fellows and their commitment to service. “I have watched them grow to become powerful leaders in advancing health policy and health care delivery systems throughout the nation. Their enthusiasm, determination, and desire to make a true and measurable impact in the world inspires and uplifts me every day,” says Reede.

Meet some of the Commonwealth Fund Mongan Fellows via video and learn more about the program at mfdp.med.harvard.edu/cfmf
Insatiable curiosity drives Termeer gift

Henri A. Termeer has proven that you don’t have to be trained as a scientist to be a biotech pioneer. The Dutch-born entrepreneur studied economics before beginning his career at Baxter International, rising to become CEO of Genzyme from 1981 to 2011, and becoming widely regarded as one of the most influential and innovative leaders in biotech. When asked how he got from there to here, Termeer says he has an insatiable curiosity and belief in what science can accomplish, particularly in the field of health care.

An undeniable expert in attracting and nurturing talent, he’s brought his expertise to bear at Harvard Medical School, where he has provided advice and counsel to former Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, as a member of the Board of Fellows. Termeer has also been instrumental in helping HMS launch the Harvard Program in Therapeutic Science (HiTS), which was established in 2013 to rethink the basic and clinical science needed to discover, develop, and deliver better drugs.

Now he and his wife, Belinda, are extending their generosity to HMS with a gift of $5 million to provide research support to early career investigators. The funding will facilitate deeper collaborations between HMS and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) to advance therapeutic approaches that dramatically improve patient outcomes.

“We have such a tremendously talented environment here so having the ability to support really promising investigators early and directly, independent of other funding, makes a lot of sense,” says Henri Termeer.

A New Model

The Henri and Belinda Termeer Early Career Investigator Fellowship supports physician-scientists with joint appointments at MGH and at HMS in the Laboratory of Systems Pharmacology (LSP). The flagship of the HiTS research program, the LSP applies network-based approaches to the treatment of serious diseases, such as cancer, inflammation, and neurodegeneration. The first fellow, specializing in cancer, is expected to be recruited this fall.

“I don’t think there’s ever been a position quite like this at the medical school,” says Peter Sorger, AB ’83, PhD, head of HiTS and the Otto Krayer Professor of Systems Pharmacology at HMS. “Having LSP-based physician-scientists active in clinical trials, working alongside systems biologists and computer scientists, will allow innovative new ideas to be brought to bear on precision medicine, unmet medical needs, and drug safety.”

This is a model Flier would like to see extended throughout the HMS community. “It brings our strong basic science departments together with the power, capacity, and personnel of our affiliated institutions. The gift will advance therapeutic approaches whose goal is accelerating basic science into important clinical outcomes,” he says.

“It’s not easy to have institutions work together. When you’re an outsider and you see the tremendous talent but also the tremendous hill still to be climbed, you inevitably want to find a way to connect the dots,” says Termeer.

According to Laura Maliszewski, PhD ’09, executive director of HiTS and the LSP, the fact that MGH is HMS’s oldest teaching hospital makes this a natural partnership. “We know how to do first-rate basic research at HMS, and we know we have great doctors in our hospitals, but we didn’t know how to tie the two together,” she says.

Maliszewski and Sorger say the benefits of the partnership are reciprocal. First, it supports trained physician-scientists who are embarking on their research careers, allowing them to fully integrate into HiTS and learn how computational biology tools can be best applied to develop new cancer therapeutics to treat patients at MGH. Second, it brings clinical excellence back to the HMS Quad, exposing students and postdocs to the challenges and excitement of clinical research and inspiring them to tackle transformational approaches to human disease and patient care.

“The LSP’s focus on combining experimental and computational approaches to understanding how drugs work is unique,” says Dejan Juric, MD, director of translational research at the Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies at MGH and an investigator in the LSP. “It promises to change the way we think about and pursue precision medicine in oncology.”

Termeer says the productivity of science has grown significantly over the past two decades, as has the need to span disciplines, and that’s why he has found the work HMS and MGH are doing in this area so intriguing. “The goal is to bring all of these research efforts together, which is tremendously exciting,” says Termeer.

FROM CONCEPT TO CLINIC

Last spring, the 2016 Bertarelli Symposium, entitled “Translating Neuroscience: From Concept to Clinic,” welcomed neuroscientists and neuroengineers from around the world to Harvard Medical School to learn about advances in translational neuroscience. Speakers explored a broad array of topics, from creating interdisciplinary research groups to the final stages of getting a drug to market, with a special focus on two areas: autism spectrum disorders and hearing loss.

Keynote speakers included Susan Hockfield, PhD, president emerita and professor of neuroscience at MIT; Ricardo E. Dolmetsch, PhD, global head of neuroscience at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research; and Al Sandrock, MD ’88, PhD ’86, executive vice president of neuroscience discovery and chief medical officer at Biogen.

Speakers highlighted new research supported by the Bertarelli Program in Translational Neuroscience and Neuroengineering, a joint program of HMS and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)—one of the premier European schools of engineering and science—and emphasized the importance of collaboration between HMS and the biotech industry.

Launched in 2010, the Bertarelli Program establishes partnerships between scientists, engineers, clinicians, and students at HMS and EPFL to accelerate the translation of basic biomedical developments into improved health for people with neurological disorders.

Left (front row, left to right): David Corey, PhD, Bertarelli Professor of Translational Medical Science at HMS; Ernesto Bertarelli, MBA ’93, co-president of Fondation Bertarelli and member of the HMS Board of Fellows; former HMS Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD; Kirsty Bertarelli; and Patrick Aebischer, president of EPFL, pose with Harvard-affiliated scientists and the esteemed symposium speakers.
Reunion reconnects alumni, inspires support

Harvard Medical School is known for attracting the best and brightest students, and Reunion 2016 provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the ripple effect that our alumni have on the world. More than 700 alumni and friends reunited on the Quad for the festivities, and the conversations were plentiful as attendees reminisced and updated one another on their personal and professional accomplishments. Among the guests were writers, professional musicians, primary care doctors, surgeons, researchers, and more, each contributing in their own way to solving the biggest challenges of our time.

Reunion committees, representing more than 100 alumni volunteers spanning six decades, put the special touch on programming and inspired their fellow graduates from classes ending in “1” and “6” to not only come back, but to give back—raising more than $3.6 million in gifts of all types and sizes to help the School advance its priorities in education, discovery, service, and leadership.

In addition to reconnecting with each other, guests rediscovered the School during educational symposia exploring health, medicine, and personal journeys, a tour of the Clinical Skills Center, and the Dean’s Address. There were also ample opportunities to relax, including an elegant gala at the Four Seasons Hotel Boston and dozens of class activities over the weekend, ranging from family picnics along the Charles River to a Second Year Show viewing party.

This year’s Scientific Symposium paid tribute to alumni and faculty award winners, including Lasker Award recipients, a Nobel Laureate, and a MacArthur fellow. The panel spoke on research through hospital collaboration, cancer treatments, brain disorders, and the exploration of mitochondrial function in health and disease.

Alumni from the Class of 1991 spoke on a wide variety of topics during the daylong 25th Reunion Symposium, “From Faking It to Making It: Look Where the New Pathway Has Taken Us!” Alumni participated in panels covering medical science, health policy and education, and even topics beyond medicine, such as teaching empathy and poetry as healing.

Friday was Alumni Day, when all alumni were invited to return to the Quad to participate in the annual meeting of the Alumni Association. The Alumni Day Symposium featured four deans of medical schools across the country—all of whom are HMS graduates—discussing the challenges and opportunities facing medical schools today and in the future, as well as the Dean’s Address.

All Reunion classes participated in the Race for Reunion, which encouraged alumni to make class gifts in honor of their Reunions. The Class of 1956 had the highest Reunion participation, with an overwhelming 73 percent of the class making gifts, and the Class of 1966 won top honors for raising the most funds with more than $1 million in honor of their 50th Reunion.

This year, 14 chairs were named in the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center Amphitheater in honor of Reunion, including two that will carry the inscription “Dedicated to those departed members of the Class of 1966. Their memory lives on,” thanks to a special effort from that class.

View Reunion photo galleries and watch videos of the HMAA annual business meeting and the Dean’s Address at hms.harvard.edu/reunion

ALAN ALDA RECEIVES DAVID MAHONEY PRIZE

Each year, the Harvard Mahoney Neuroscience Institute (HMNI), founded in 1990 by the late David Mahoney and his wife, Hildegarde “Hillie,” awards a prize recognizing individuals who have significantly increased public awareness about brain science and disorders of the nervous system. This spring, the 2016 David Mahoney Prize was given to Emmy Award-winning actor Alan Alda, who hosted the acclaimed PBS series “Scientific American Frontiers” for 11 years.

During the symposium honoring the occasion, Edward F. Rover, JD ’64, chairman and president of The Dana Foundation and member of the HMNI Council, moderated a conversation between Alda and Eric R. Kandel, AB ’52, MD, whose seminal discoveries about the biological basis of memory earned him the Nobel Prize in 2000. Following the symposium, HMNI Council member Steven E. Hyman, MD ’80, director of the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, made remarks over dinner.

Below (left to right): Rover, Alda, Mahoney, and Kandel celebrate the 2016 David Mahoney Prize.
**Endowing a legacy**

Ronald A. Arky, MD, is considered an institution at Harvard Medical School. It’s an appropriate description considering that over the course of 55 years on the faculty, he has mentored thousands of students, contributed to the design of both preclinical and clinical curricula, and was instrumental in the creation of the Cambridge Integrated Clerkship and in the development of combined degree programs such as the MD/MBA.

Arky is the Daniel D. Federman Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Medical Education and was also the last remaining original academic society leader appointed by former Dean Daniel C. Tosteson. He describes the launch of HMS’s society structure as a movement that has grown into a central part of student life and the advisory process at medical schools across the country.

In addition to his steadfast commitment to his students, Arky has been a generous philanthropic supporter of HMS. His most recent gift—a $1 million irrevocable bequest—commemorates his nearly three-decade tenure as advisory dean and director of the Francis Weld Peabody Society. This gift will establish the Arky Family Associate Director and Advisor of the Francis Weld Peabody Society, and he hopes his gift prompts other donors to endow positions for the dedicated individuals who lead these important learning communities.

Arky was thrilled that the inaugural incumbent is his longtime colleague Beverly Woo, AB ‘70, MD, associate professor of medicine at HMS and primary care internist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He calls her an exemplary mentor for students, a wonderful physician, and a positive female role model.

Woo says that it is an extraordinary honor and privilege to be named the Arky Family Associate Director and Advisor of the Peabody Society.

Dean for Medical Education Edward M. Hundert, MD ’84, describes Arky’s impact on HMS as profound. “One of the things that makes Ron stand out is his generosity,” he says. “His many professional contributions, his extraordinary humanity, and his kind financial support will help keep the legacy of the Peabody Society alive for generations to come.”

Arky describes his time at HMS as extremely satisfying, and he looks forward to the next step in his career as co-director of the School’s Medical Student Performance Evaluation.

In May, Council Chairman Jordan J. Cohen, MD ’60, welcomed members and select guests to the 26th annual event at the Harvard Club of Boston and thanked them for their foresight, generosity, and commitment to HMS. Nancy J. Tarbell, MD, dean for academic and clinical affairs and the C.C. Wang Professor of Radiation Oncology, moderated the evening’s panel, “Drug Discovery: Beyond the Silver Bullet,” which explored how doctors prescribe the right drug, at the right dose, at the right time. The conversation featured Peter K. Sorger, AB ’83, PhD, Otto Krayer Professor of Systems Pharmacology at HMS and head of the Harvard Program in Therapeutic Science, and Dejan Juric, MD, director of translational research at Massachusetts General Hospital’s Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies and a member of the HMS Laboratory of Systems Pharmacology.

Left (left to right): Juric, Tarbell, and Sorger convene in the Harvard Club of Boston’s stunning Harvard Hall to discuss targeted drug therapies and the complexities of the drug-development process.
Moskovitzes advance Alzheimer’s disease research

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, one in nine people age 65 and older in the U.S. has Alzheimer’s disease. Further, total payments for the overall care of people living with this neurodegenerative disease and other forms of dementia are estimated to be $236 billion in 2016. Statistics aside, the human toll on patients, family, and friends is devastating.

What if doctors could identify those at greatest risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease and diagnose them before symptoms started? If the medical community could better understand how the disease is likely to progress—and determine how individual patients are likely to respond to specific drugs—perhaps they could target it early on, before mental decline occurs.

Researchers in the Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center (HNDC) are looking to do just that. Deep Phenotyping: A Longitudinal Alzheimer’s Biomarker Program is a collaboration between Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH), and Massachusetts General Hospital designed to aid in earlier and more accurate disease diagnosis and to develop a range of biomarkers that can be used to monitor response to therapy.

The Rick and Nancy Moskovitz Foundation provided initial funding when the program was conceived in 2014 and has recently made an additional gift to propel its progress. “After an intensive review of worldwide research in Alzheimer’s disease, the work at Harvard stood out for its scope and productivity. We ultimately made a multi-year commitment to supporting this program contingent upon meeting periodic goals, which have been exceeded at every interval. We are impressed with how nimble this team has been in its speed of designing and implementing studies,” says Richard Moskovitz, AB ’69, MD ’73.

To date, researchers have been focused on securing additional study participants, conducting follow-up visits for existing volunteers, and boosting their range of biospecimens and clinical and genetic data as they work to establish a repository to help identify and predict clinical changes associated with the progression of Alzheimer’s disease.

Investigators are using some of the most advanced imaging, biochemical, and stem cell tools available to pursue biomarker discovery and validation, as well as developing and testing the usefulness of this information.

“As we hit the halfway mark of this important project, progress has been exciting. The project is very practical in nature, starting from strong basic neuroscience we are working hard to develop assays and tests that will be of real-world value to individual Alzheimer’s disease patients and those at risk for developing the disease. Our emphasis is on better diagnostic and prognostic tests and a personalized medicine drug discovery approach,” says Adrian Ivison, PhD, executive director of the BWH Neuroscience Center and director of translational research at the HNDC.

The potential result of this work will be a set of tools and techniques that will enable better identification and understanding of the earliest changes associated with the onset of Alzheimer’s disease, how the disease progresses, and whether patients with certain genetic backgrounds respond differently to drug treatments.

“We are impressed with how nimble this team has been in its speed of designing and implementing studies.” —Richard Moskovitz, AB ’69, MD ’73

Propelling the future of global surgery

The problems of global surgery will not be fixed by a few people; they require a unified effort. Mark Shrime, MD, MPH ’11, PhD ’15, understands this acutely. As research director of the Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC) at Harvard Medical School and assistant professor of otolaryngology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, he believes that training the next generation of academic global surgeons is crucial to progress.

Shrime and PGSSC Director John Meara, MD, DMD, MBA, the Kletjian Professor of Global Surgery, envision and are working to achieve universal access to safe and affordable surgical care and anesthesia. The PGSSC’s work helping to lead the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery has resulted in the collection of surgical data from more than 60 ministries of health around the world and the implementation of national surgical plans in more than a dozen countries to date.

Building upon its $4 million gift in 2015, the Steven C. and Carmella R. Kletjian Foundation has now given $100,000 to support Shrime and the PGSSC.

Carmella Kletjian, founder and co-director of the foundation, says that when she asked Meara how they could best support his work and the program’s immediate needs, his answer was simple: Mark Shrime.

“As a surgeon, academic researcher, and mentor, Mark certainly embodies our mission to invest in entrepreneurial leaders working toward global health equity. We are confident that his work and the work of those he inspires will go a long way toward improving access to safe, sustainable surgical care around the globe,” says Kletjian.

For Shrime, this gift is incredible. “By allowing me to focus on my research and mentoring objectives, it will free me to commit my energies to applying the findings of the Lancet Commission to surgical systems around the world.”
Family foundation memorializes distinguished HMS alumnus

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that the purpose of life is “to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

This was the essence of the late John “Jack” Templeton Jr., MD ’68, who made lasting contributions to the world through his medical career, his role as a foundation president, and as a devoted family man.

As a pediatric surgeon and trauma program director at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Templeton touched the lives of countless patients and their families. His second career at the helm of the John Templeton Foundation, created by his father, facilitated support for advancing human progress through breakthrough discoveries.

His wife, Josephine “Pina” Templeton, says Jack was appreciative of the education he received at Harvard Medical School and that her husband felt that it was important to give back to the school that helped him to achieve his goals. It was this belief that prompted her and her daughters to make a $500,000 unrestricted gift to HMS in his memory through his own family foundation, the Psalm 103 Foundation.

“Jack and I were raised to be grateful for what we had and to share in ways that make the world a better place,” says Pina Templeton. “These are lessons we have tried to share with our children and grandchildren. Being able to make gifts that they can see reinforces this important message.”

Barbara McNeil, MD ’66, PhD ’72, AMP ’86, acting dean of HMS and the Ridley Watts Professor and chair of the Department of Health Care Policy, describes Jack as a distinguished HMS alumnus. She also recalls his contributions to HMS and his friendship to his classmates during their first year at HMS together. She says the entire HMS community has been enriched by his example, not only through his philanthropy but also through his longtime service on global health and health care policy-focused advisory councils. “Jack’s steadfast commitment to improving health and wellness, both nationally and internationally, is inspiring. We are humbled that his family chose HMS to honor his memory,” says McNeil.

Alumnus exemplifies the power of foresight and generosity

For Mark S. McMahon, MD ’86, it is never too early to plan for the future. An esteemed orthopedic surgeon with a successful private practice, McMahon still worried about his financial outlook post-retirement. The solution he found was a deferred gift annuity (DGA)—a charitable giving vehicle that generates fixed income for life.

“I would encourage anyone who is concerned about their retirement years, those like me without adequate savings or a pension plan, to consider a deferred gift annuity,” says McMahon.

“It provides you with a much-needed tax deduction during your high-income years, plus you have the opportunity to invest your money with the Harvard endowment and its world-class money managers.”

McMahon looks back on his time as a medical student fondly. “HMS had a huge impact on my career, and I have always been compelled to give back,” he says.

In celebration of his 30th Reunion earlier this year, McMahon set up his seventh DGA with a gift of $100,000. Collectively his gifts will provide vital unrestricted support, affirming HMS’s flexibility to address emerging opportunities in science and medical education.

McMahon’s most recent gift also honors Daniel D. Federman, AB ’49, MD ’53, the Carl W. Walter Distinguished Professor of Medicine and one of the School’s most loyal and beloved faculty members. Federman was dean for medical education during McMahon’s time as a student and left an indelible mark.

“Dr. Federman is a constant at Harvard Medical School,” says McMahon. “Faculty, mentors, students—even curriculums—come and go, but Dan has always been there. He is an icon of a great institution.”

FAREWELL, BUT NOT GOODBYE

At a campus event in June, family, friends, students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Tosteson Medical Center atrium to celebrate and share memories of former Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, honoring his nine outstanding years as the 21st dean of Harvard Medical School.

Speakers included Flier’s wife, Terry Maratos-Flier, MD, associate director and advisor of the Francis Weld Peabody Society; Edward Hundert, MD ’84, dean for medical education and Daniel D. Federman, MD Professor in Residence of Global Health and Social Medicine and Medical Education at HMS; Sandra L. Fenwick, president and CEO of Boston Children’s Hospital; Paul Farmer, MD ’90, PhD ’92, Kolokotrones University Professor and chair of the HMS Department of Global Health and Social Medicine; student Elorm Akawame, MD ’18, MPP ’18; and Alan Garber, AB ’77, AM ’77, PhD ’82, provost of Harvard University and the Mallinckrodt Professor of Health Care Policy at HMS. All spoke as representatives of the numerous groups within the HMS community that have been influenced and inspired by Flier’s accomplishments as dean.

Left: Flier, who will remain a member of the faculty, receives a rousing ovation from grateful members of the HMS community during the public celebration of his deanship.
In brief

The following grants of $250,000 or more support Harvard Medical School faculty members in their work to alleviate human suffering caused by disease.

The Louis E. Wolfson Foundation is giving more than $280,000 to help HMS students with demonstrated financial need to pay for tuition through institutional loans. Over the last 30 years, the Wolfson Foundation has given more than $10 million to support deserving HMS students.

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund has awarded grants totaling more than $100,000 over two years. For Herbert Kaufman, MD ’56, his time as a student at Harvard Medical School is not defined by hours spent in the classroom or on clinical rounds. It is far more than the education he received; it is about the attitudes he encountered. Kaufman can recount myriad stories of remarkable faculty interactions, like when he wanted to learn about tissue cultures. Hoping that this knowledge would help him get a job at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Kaufman approached Nobel Prize winner John Enders, AM ’22, PhD ’30, for guidance. Enders immediately agreed to be a mentor, leading Kaufman to not only get the NIH job but to discover a groundbreaking therapy for herpes virus keratitis, marking the first treatment of any human disease caused by a virus and, in effect, opening up the field.

The American Heart Association has awarded Alfred Goldberg, AB ’63, PhD ’68, professor of cell biology, receiving $300,000 over two years from Cure Alzheimer’s Fund for his research investigating proteasome functions—particularly the activation of the 26S proteasome—and molecular mechanisms for the treatment of this neurodegenerative disease.

The Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard is supporting research by Ulrich von Andrian, MD, PhD, the Edward Mallinckrodt Jr. Professor of Immunopathology and director of the Center for Immune Imaging at HMS, into the regulation and function of immune cells in health and disease.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is granting more than $300,000 to support Stephen Lory, PhD, professor of microbiology and immunobiology, and Thomas Alexandre, PhD, research fellow in microbiology and immunobiology, for their work seeking novel antibiotics to combat the bacteria that commonly cause lung infections in cystic fibrosis patients.

The Ellison Foundation has received $250,000 in funding from the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation for his work probing new targets and mechanisms for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

Emulating an attitude of encouragement

For Herbert Kaufman, MD ’56, his time as a student at Harvard Medical School is not defined by hours spent in the classroom or on clinical rounds. It is far more than the education he received; it is about the attitudes he encountered. Kaufman can recount myriad stories of remarkable faculty interactions, like when he wanted to learn about tissue cultures. Hoping that this knowledge would help him get a job at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Kaufman approached Nobel Prize winner John Enders, AM ’22, PhD ’30, for guidance. Enders immediately agreed to be a mentor, leading Kaufman to not only get the NIH job but to discover a groundbreaking therapy for herpes virus keratitis, marking the first treatment of any human disease caused by a virus and, in effect, opening up the field.

The faculty at Harvard Medical School treat their students as equals. Equally as smart, capable, and talented, they simply don’t know as much yet,” says Kaufman. “Where else could I have studied with and received guidance from world-renowned scientists and clinicians like it was nothing? I was always treated like a colleague, and that is exceptional.”

It is this philosophy—one of openness and encouragement—that Kaufman took with him to the University of Florida and Louisiana State University, where he built leading ophthalmology departments and won numerous awards for his teaching. Pointing out that all medical knowledge becomes outdated within a few years, Kaufman challenges his students to have the curiosity and drive to answer the unanswered questions.

Now, through a $512,000 charitable gift annuity (CGA), Kaufman and his wife, Maija, are helping to support HMS’s commitment to train the next generation of scientific leaders and medical healers.

The Kaufmans’ CGA also provides immediate financial benefits to the couple—generating fixed income for life. “In addition to helping Harvard Medical School, this gift will greatly improve our lifestyle as we age,” says Kaufman.
Alumni Fund upholds HMS traditions, fuels new ventures

There are 1,782 reasons to give to Harvard Medical School. In fact, strong alumni support remains one of the School’s most steadfast and proud traditions. Annual gifts to the Alumni Fund— which includes gifts of less than $100,000 from HMS alumni for any purpose—in fiscal year 2016 totaled nearly $4.2 million from 2,642 donors. These gifts are put to immediate use to advance the School’s mission and priorities of education, discovery, service, and leadership. In 2016, Alumni Fund support helped to:

- Provide financial aid to the 80 percent of HMS students who qualify for it;
- Advance neurobiology research, including deepening our understanding of how the basal ganglia interact with cognitive centers in the brain and how drugs that treat schizophrenia work;
- Reshape learning spaces to complement a medical curriculum redesigned for the 21st century;
- Establish a new Program in Aging and Disability within the Department of Health Care Policy to investigate the complex social and economic impacts of the shifting age profile of the U.S.;
- Expand educational offerings within the Center for Bioethics, including a core required course for medical students; and
- Much, much more.

For Shira Simon, AB ’04, MD ’11, MBA ’12, who has given every year since her graduation, it’s important for others to be able to enjoy the remarkable experience she was fortunate enough to have had at HMS. She demonstrates her appreciation by giving back in her own small way, been a loyal Alumni Fund donor for nearly 40 years. Why? He wants to help uphold HMS’s need-blind admissions policy and support financial aid so that future medical students have the freedom to choose the specialty they’re most passionate about, like primary care, without fear of accumulating huge loans.

“It is not so much about the monetary amount but rather the symbolic gesture of recognizing that Harvard Medical School played such an integral part in our lives—and always will. Any amount helps to sustain this wonderful institution,” says Simon, a neuro-ophthalmology fellow at the University of Iowa who volunteers as co-chair of the HMS Recent Grad Committee.

David W. Nierenberg, AB ’72, MD ’76, chief of the section of clinical pharmacology and toxicology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and an associate dean at Dartmouth Medical School, has been a loyal Alumni Fund donor for nearly 40 years.

Alumni Fund Chair Tamara R. Fountain, MD ’88, who is an ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeon in private practice on Chicago’s North Shore, says she has never forgotten the role HMS played in her professional life.

“We all benefited so much from the generosity of alumni who came before us. We should pay that favor forward to students who come after us,” says Nierenberg, who also volunteers as a class agent, served on his 40th Reunion Committee, and whose daughter graduated from HMS in 2011. Alumni Fund Chair Tamara R. Fountain, MD ’88, who is an ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgeon in private practice on Chicago’s North Shore, says she has never forgotten the role HMS has played in her professional life.

“As chair of the Alumni Fund, I hope to help ensure that future generations of bright, eager, and passionate medical students will have the same chances I had. I invite my fellow graduates to recapture the honor, the opportunity, and the duty we all felt when Harvard Medical School launched our careers so many—or not so many—years ago,” says Fountain.

DID YOU KNOW

80% OF HMS STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID?

Meet one of them:

“Financial aid played an instrumental role in deciding where I would attend medical school. HMS provided me not only with an incredible opportunity, but also the ability to pursue it without financial hardship.”

—Michael Nguyen, MD ’18

Consider a leadership gift to support need-based financial aid

Contact Aasha Francis at 617-384-8803 or aasha_francais@hms.harvard.edu to learn how you can support the next generation of leaders in science and medicine.
Setting the stage for discovery

At Harvard Medical School, the path to research breakthroughs and lifesaving cures starts with collaboration. Interdisciplinary teams of cell and computational biologists, geneticists, immunologists, molecular pharmacologists, neurobiologists, and social scientists mine the depths of basic science to understand biology’s most complex systems.

The brain—containing roughly 100 billion neurons, with 100 trillion connections among them—is perhaps the most challenging of these systems. Through effective partnerships, HMS has the ability to navigate this complexity and leverage it to unlock the biological riddles of neurodegenerative diseases.

Understanding the promise of shared insights across the HMS basic science community, Edward B. “Ned” Goodnow has given $500,000 to establish the ADAM10 Research Fund. The fund forms a novel research team led by Stephen Blacklow, MD, PhD, the Gustavus Adolphus Pfeiffer Professor and chair of the Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, and Wade Harper, PhD, the Bert and Natalie Vallee Professor and chair of the Department of Cell Biology.

This gift advances investigations into the structure and cell biology of ADAM10, a gene that Blacklow and Harper believe plays a vital role in protecting amyloid material that causes plaques—suspects in cell death and tissue loss—in patients with Alzheimer’s disease.

“Support from Ned Goodnow allows my lab to join forces with the Blacklow lab, taking full advantage of our individual strengths to address central, unanswered questions concerning ADAM10 structure and function, and may ultimately set the stage for the development of novel therapeutic approaches,” says Harper.

“I hope that my contribution is one small piece in the discovery of treatments to slow or arrest the progress of Alzheimer’s,” says Goodnow, whose wife, Dianne, was diagnosed with the disease in 2007.

Blacklow says that support from Goodnow will make a critical difference in HMS’s ability to pursue a high-risk, high-reward project like ADAM10, and he hopes that this type of pioneering funding will serve as a model to others.

“Innovative scientific inquiry lies at the heart of progress in research, yet traditional funding agencies typically expect proposals to include extensive preliminary data in order to lessen the riskiness of their commitment. Thus, there is a Catch-22 in traditional funding agencies that can often squelch innovation instead of enable it,” says Blacklow.

Personal struggle propels novel Alzheimer’s research

Alice D. Weiner was a remarkable woman. Graduating from the Ohio State University and Columbia University with degrees in computer programming, she went to work at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI). She was later recruited by the Department of Defense to improve computer precision for the B-29 Superfortress—one of the largest U.S. aircrafts in operation during WWII and known for its pioneering technology.

After years of working on highly classified projects, Weiner retired from SRI to raise her daughter, Elizabeth. Steadfastly committed to her family, she also became an award-winning photographer and expert doll maker, even writing a successful book on the subject.

Weiner struggled with Alzheimer’s disease for many years. On her 93rd birthday, just two weeks before her passing, she asked her husband of 71 years, Arthur G. Weiner, to fulfill two requirements on her behalf: start a school to support underprivileged children and fund promising Alzheimer’s research to prevent others from suffering the way she had.

Now an advocate for the treatment of Alzheimer’s patients living in long-term care facilities, Arthur G. Weiner wasted no time in satisfying her wishes, opening the Alice D. Weiner School for Children in southeast Texas and establishing a research fund at Harvard Medical School to advance the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease with a gift of $200,000.

Extensive investigation led Weiner to discover the novel aging research being done by Bruce Yankner, MD, PhD, professor of genetics and neurology and co-director of the Paul F. Glenn Center for the Biology of Aging at HMS. “My hope is that we find a solution to Alzheimer’s, and I believe that Dr. Yankner is the man closest to it,” Weiner says. “He is working tirelessly to rid the world of this terrible, heartless disease.”

Yankner says that the generosity of donors, such as Weiner, enables his lab to pursue risky but potentially important new avenues of research. “Mr. Weiner’s contribution to this effort comes at a critical juncture in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease, when new technology and conceptual advances have the potential to make a difference for patients.”
Faces of HMS

1. On Class Day, members of the Class of 2016 make their way from the steps of the Gordon Hall of Medicine to the tent on the HMS Quad for the day’s festivities, as they transition from students to doctors.

2. Following the Class of 1958 Commemorative Lecture May 25, keynote speaker James J. O’Connell III, MD ’82 (left), president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and assistant professor of medicine at HMS, signs a copy of his book, “Stories from the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor,” for Hisham Nasif Younis, MD ’16. The lecture was established by classmates in honor of their 50th Reunion as a gift to the graduating class each year to reinforce the idealism, humanism, and nobility of medicine.

3. Ludwig Center at Harvard Co-directors George D. Demetri, AB ’78, MD, director of the Center for Sarcoma and Bone Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Joan Brugge, PhD, Louise Foote Pfeiffer Professor of Cell Biology at HMS, join former Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, for the center’s first symposium last November. One of six such centers across the U.S., the Ludwig Center at Harvard was made possible by a gift from the Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Fund for Cancer Research and focuses its work on resistance to cancer therapies.

4. Left to right: Lee Nadler, MD ’73, dean for clinical and translational research and the Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Professor of Medicine at HMS; Shirley Malcom, PhD, head of the education and human resources programs for the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and Lydia Villa-Komaroff, PhD, a board member of ATCC, Cytomix/ST, and the Massachusetts Life Science Center, participate in the Leadership and Faculty Development Program Conference in May, one of a series of programs commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership’s Minority Faculty Development Programs.

5. Peng Sheng, CEO of Evergrande Health (second from right), meets with core faculty from the Evergrande Center for Immunologic Diseases at HMS and Brigham and Women’s Hospital—including (left to right) Diane Mathis, PhD; Christophe Benoist, MD, PhD; Center Director Vijay Kuchroo, DVM, PhD; Center Co-director Arlene Sharpe, AB ’75, AM ’76, PhD ’81, MD ’82; Ana Anderson, PhM ’99, and Center Executive Director Adrian Ivinson, PhD—following the center’s third annual symposium.

6. The Global Clinical Scholars Research Training Program Class of 2015–2016 gathers on the steps of the Gordon Hall of Medicine on June 2. The one-year, blended-learning program is offered through HMS’s Office of Global and Continuing Education.

7. Shyam Akula, from the HMS Class of 2020, receives his White Coat from William Taylor, MD, associate director and advisory dean of the William Bowneast Castle Society, on Aug. 5.

8. Robert Austin, PhD, leads a lecture on performance management June 9–12 at the Primary Care Case-Based Program, the first executive education offering from the HMS Center for Primary Care.

9. On Match Day in May, Jacqueline Boehme, MD ’16 (left), celebrates with a classmate after learning she will spend a year doing preliminary studies at Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by her residency in anesthesiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

10. This summer, 13 Italian university and medical students participated in internships in HMS laboratories as part of the Armenise-Harvard Foundation Summer Fellows program. Now in its seventh year, the program gives Italian students the opportunity to experience research in another country.
JOHNSON NAMED YOUNG FAMILY PROFESSOR OF WOMEN’S HEALTH

Paula A. Johnson, AB ’80, MD ’84, MPH ’85, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, chief of the Division of Women’s Health at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and professor of epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, was named the first incumbent of the Grayce A. Young Family Professorship in Women’s Health at HMS. She held the post until July, when she transitioned to her new position as president of Wellesley College.

The professorship is made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor and currently bears the name of Johnson’s mother. It will ultimately be named in honor of Johnson, a renowned and innovative leader who has earned international acclaim for improving the health of women through her experience as a physician, researcher, teacher, and expert in public health and health policy.

Johnson founded the internationally recognized Mary Horrigan Connors Center for Women’s Health and Gender Biology at BWH and served as its executive director. The center has attracted a world-class team of clinicians and researchers committed to innovating and accelerating life-changing advances in the care and treatment of diseases that disproportionately affect women, such as Alzheimer’s, cardiovascular disease, depression, and lung cancer.

Supporting collaboration

As a success businesswoman and entrepreneur, Cynthia A. Fisher, MBA ’90, doesn’t need to be convinced of the value of collaboration. The managing director of WaterRev, LLC, and founder and former CEO of the cord blood stem cell banking company ViaCord, Inc., has been a longtime supporter of systems biology research. Now, as a member of the Harvard Medical School Discovery Council, she is extending her support to the University’s clinical and translational science center, Harvard Catalyst, with an unrestricted gift of $250,000.

In fact, it’s the collaborative approach that’s drawn her to both of these areas. Just as systems biology brings together different perspectives and disciplines to examine disease, Harvard Catalyst works to foster the same spirit of cooperation as it strives to translate research into cures.

Established in 2008, NIH-funded Harvard Catalyst provides free resources, training, and tools to researchers across all of Harvard’s schools and affiliated hospitals.

“Harvard Medical School is the convener; we are the hub,” explains Lee Nadler, MD ’73, director of Harvard Catalyst, Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Professor of Medicine, and dean for clinical and translational research at HMS. “Generous support from donors like Cynthia helps Harvard Catalyst bring together the right people to collaborate as they confront the serious issues that will continue to impact health care over the next 50 years.”

Fisher says HMS can break down silos and foster integrated research to ultimately improve clinical care for patients. “I am optimistic that there will be historic and revolutionary change in the life sciences in the near future, and I hope that my support will help the School seize the opportunity,” she says.

Improving health care systems for all

Since its founding in 1988, Harvard Medical School’s Department of Health Care Policy has been a pioneer, investigating today’s critical policy issues and teaching those who will help shape tomorrow’s policy decisions.

One of the few medical schools with an academic department dedicated to health policy, HMS caught the attention of Joel Freedman, president of Paladin Healthcare Capital, LLC, and co-founder of Avanti Health Care Markets and Regulation Lab. "Harvard Medical School has been at the forefront of science and medicine for a couple hundred years now, but the fact that 30 years ago they had the foresight to include health care policy as part of their core work is truly visionary," says Freedman.

A founding member of HMS’s Advisory Council on Health Care Policy, Freedman and his wife, Stella, are committed to transforming care delivery for underserved and disadvantaged communities. Believing that the School has the clinical and economic depth to help those who need it most within their own communities and care centers, the Freedmans are giving $100,000 to support the HealthCare Markets and Regulation Lab.

"This gift from Joel and Stella Freedman leverages much of the work that our department does, particularly with regard to disseminating our policy work in a variety of critical areas, including the care of the disadvantaged and the aging," says Barbara McNeil, MD ’66, PhD ’77, AMP ’86, acting dean and the Ridley Watts Professor and chair of the Department of Health Care Policy at HMS.

"Under the strong leadership of Barbara McNeil and other distinguished faculty, including Michael Chernew, Harvard Medical School’s Department of Health Care Policy has become a leading force in innovation at the policy and clinical level," says Freedman. "It is a quite a privilege for me to be associated with a department that has the potential to achieve equal access to quality care for all.

The Freedmans have also given a second $100,000 gift to support aging research at HMS, explaining that gaining a better understanding of the diseases that affect people in their later years may not only improve quality of life, but will have a profound impact on the greatest financial challenge facing the U.S. health care market: our aging population.
Making blindness a thing of the past

An estimated 285 million people worldwide are visually impaired—39 million are blind and 246 million have low vision—according to the World Health Organization. Of those living with blindness, 82 percent are age 50 or older.

Although concerted efforts have been made to decrease preventable or curable causes of visual impairment, the increasing elderly population in the U.S. means that many more people will be at risk due to chronic eye diseases and aging processes.

In 2002, at an early age, Soozin White experienced this threat firsthand after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of glaucoma. Unfortunately, available treatments caused severe side effects with no improvement in the disease’s progression.

It is White’s hope that in her lifetime blindness will become a part of history. “All people will have the gift of sight from the start of life to the end,” she says.

Determined to help preserve every individual’s “golden years,” White has given $200,000 to Harvard Medical School through two deferred gift annuities to establish the Soozin White Research Fund. When the gift annuities end, the fund will provide critical, current-use support to fuel promising discoveries in neurobiology and stem cell research, with particular focus on understanding the underlying causes of glaucoma and the means by which the optic nerve may be regenerated.

“I evaluated many institutions before making my gift to Harvard Medical School, and the breadth and depth of research being conducted here is incomparable,” says White. “Plus, the focus on global collaboration and cross-pollination across disciplines allows the School to amplify the public benefit.”

White urges others to consider charitable gift annuities, pointing out they not only have the potential to improve the lives of others, but provide valuable tax advantages to support the long-term care people often need as they age.

Bequest strengthens Karnovsky family legacy

Ann Karnovsky, AB ’52, EdM ’60, PhD ’73, and Manfred L. Karnovsky, PhD

Ann Karnovsky, AB ’52, EdM ’60, PhD ’73, and Manfred L. Karnovsky, PhD, were lifelong members and supporters of the Harvard community. A child psychologist in Cambridge, Mass., Ann was a loyal Radcliffe alumna and leadership volunteer. Manfred built his career primarily on the other side of the river, teaching biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology at Harvard Medical School for more than 50 years.

Manfred was also known for his tireless effort to strengthen connections between HMS and the larger University. He taught undergraduate courses in biochemistry for many years, served on both the HMS and FAS faculties, and, when Harvard leaders balked at the cost, he donated the funds needed to create what is now known as the Longwood Medical Area Shuttle.

According to their son, Daniel Karnovsky, AB ’87, HMS was the center of the Karnovskys’ professional and social lives, and their experiences at the School inspired them to establish the Manfred L. Karnovsky Fellowship Fund in 1996 to benefit graduate students in the Division of Medical Sciences.

“My father was a man of science and believed strongly in the power of skeptical inquiry and investigation,” says Daniel Karnovsky. “He recognized that funding for graduate students, those pursuing research as a career, is scarce and he wanted to change that.”

After a long and distinguished career, Manfred passed away in 1999, after which Ann continued the family’s relationship with both HMS and the Karnovsky fellows, who mattered deeply to her. “Having the opportunity to learn about the graduate students and their work was enormously gratifying to my mother,” says Daniel Karnovsky. “Equally important was keeping my father’s memory alive by sharing stories of who he was and what he achieved.”

Now, with Ann’s passing in 2014, HMS has received another substantial contribution from the Karnovsky estate, further strengthening the family’s endowed fellowship fund and legacy at HMS. “I think my parents would be tremendously proud of what they have created,” says Daniel Karnovsky. “Already the fund has supported young scientific leaders for 20 years, and its balance and impact continue to grow thanks to the generosity of family and friends who understand the importance of scientific research.”

Randolph appointed Bertucci Associate Professor of Otolaryngology

Gregory W. Randolph, MD, director of the General Otolaryngology Division and the founder and director of the Division of Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, has been appointed the inaugural incumbent of the Claire and John Bertucci Professorship in Otolaryngology in the field of Thyroid Surgical Oncology at Harvard Medical School.

The professorship is made possible by John Bertucci, director and chairman of MKS Instruments, Inc., and his wife, Claire.

Randolph has been a part of the Harvard Medical community since completing his residency in otolaryngology at Mass. Eye and Ear. His goal has been to improve treatment for thyroid cancer patients. Randolph has been instrumental in the development of new techniques to monitor the recurrent laryngeal nerve during thyroid surgery, to protect the motor function of the larynx, and preserve a patient’s voice. In addition to educating practicing surgeons, Randolph established the first otolaryngology thyroid and parathyroid fellowship in the country to educate future surgeons and specialists.

Left (left to right): The Bertuccis and Randolph celebrate the establishment of the professorship that will continue to advance the field of thyroid surgical oncology.
JOIN US CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 20
Center for Primary Care 5th Anniversary Celebration
Join us at the Harvard Club of Boston at 6 p.m. as we celebrate the Center for Primary Care’s accomplishments over the last five years and recognize outstanding professionals in the field. The event includes remarks from Harvard University Provost Alan Garber, AB ’77, AM ’77, PhD ’82, a poster session, networking, and more. Contact Danielle Lebedevitch at 617-432-1678 or email danielle_lebedevitch@hms.harvard.edu for more information.

October 21
HMSLXX: 70 Years of Women at HMS
Join us for this celebration recognizing important milestones for women at HMS, including the 70th anniversary of the admittance of women students, 10th anniversary of the Archives for Women in Medicine, and appointment of the 250th woman as a full professor. The event will begin at 2 p.m. with a series of symposia and culminate with a keynote address and festive dinner. This is a ticketed event. For more information, visit hms.harvard.edu/HMSLXX or contact Emma Hastings at 617-384-8520 or email hmsalum@hms.harvard.edu.

November 12
Alumni AAMC Reception in Seattle
Do you live in the Seattle area or are you planning to attend the American Association of Medical Colleges’ (AAMC) annual meeting there? Join us for an HMS alumni reception from 6:15–7:45 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Seattle. Formal invitations will follow. Contact Emma Hastings at 617-384-8520 or email hmsalum@hms.harvard.edu for more information.

November 17
What Are We Waiting For? Estate Planning Event
Join us at 4:30 p.m. at the Harvard Club of Boston for this presentation hosted by Eleanor Shore, AB ’51, MD ’55, MPH ’70, and featuring Anne Katsas, Esq., JD ’99. We will discuss the basics of estate planning so that you can create or update your plan to support you, your loved ones, and the causes that matter most to you. For more information, contact Danielle Hernon at danielle_hernon@hms.harvard.edu or 617-384-8507.

March 7
Hollis L. Albright, MD ’31 Symposium
Join HMS Dean Designate George Q. Daley, AB ’82, MD ’91, PhD, and renowned HMS faculty members at 4:30 p.m. in the New Research Building for this 16th annual symposium highlighting groundbreaking initiatives in education, discovery, and service at HMS. Contact Alie Chase at 617-384-8596 or email albright@hms.harvard.edu for more information.

View all upcoming HMS events at http://hms.harvard.edu/calendar. Can’t join us in person? Visit our Podcast Library at http://hms.harvard.edu/podcasts or the HMS YouTube Channel.