Landmark $90 million gift from Ludwig Cancer Research will enable life-changing advances

Ludwig Cancer Research, on behalf of its founder, Daniel K. Ludwig, has given $90 million to Harvard Medical School to spur innovative scientific inquiry and discovery. This gift reflects a portion of a $540 million gift—reportedly among the largest private gifts for cancer research—divided equally among six Ludwig Centers at academic institutions throughout the U.S.

According to HMS Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, this gift provides a momentous opportunity for the entire Harvard Medical School community to glean new insights into the basic biology of cancer and to accelerate the translation of basic research to improve patient outcomes.

“We recognize that Daniel and Virginia Ludwig were powerful advocates for excellence in cancer research. We are grateful for their generosity and vision, and we are committed to honoring their legacy by strategically applying these new funds to advance the fight against cancer,” says Flier.

This is the second major commitment Harvard has received from Ludwig Cancer Research to support the Ludwig Center, which draws on the combined expertise of faculty members across the HMS Quad as well as its affiliated institutions, including those that collaborate through 18 disease- and discipline-based research programs as part of Dana-Farber/ Harvard Cancer Center. Ludwig Cancer Research began its support for Harvard Medical School in the mid-1990s with a first endowed professorship; this was followed in the succeeding years with a second endowed professorship and, beginning in 2006, with support totaling $60 million for the Ludwig Center at Harvard—funds that included an initial endowment directed specifically toward novel cancer research.

Breaking Down Barriers

The newly expanded Ludwig Center will be co-directed by Joan Brugge, PhD, the Louise Foote Pfeiffer Professor and chair of the Department of Cell Biology at HMS, and George D. Demetri, AB ’78, MD, professor of medicine at HMS and the Quick Family Chair of Medical Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

“Over the last few decades, researchers have done an outstanding job of dissecting cancer through many parallel lines of investigation. Now we need to develop innovative ways to integrate that accumulated knowledge in order to create new and more effective cancer therapies,” says Brugge.

“Through the generosity of Ludwig Cancer Research, we will be able to bring together a diverse cross-section of experts throughout the Harvard cancer community, breaking down barriers that have all too often impeded the integration of knowledge and the kind of transformational advances required to develop new and effective therapies. I am thrilled to be a part of such an exciting collaboration.”

In this time of shrinking public funds for science, Demetri says the impact of this philanthropic funding cannot be overstated. “The research that will be made possible by this gift will bring together teams of leading basic scientists and clinical investigators at Harvard, in a collaborative culture with a network of Ludwig Cancer Research institutions, to turn the best of modern science and technology into new strategies for the diagnosis, treatment, cure, and prevention of cancer and other diseases.”

In many respects, Harvard is uniquely poised to leverage powerful collaborations that span the bench-to-bedside trajectory, adds Flier. “Our campus, along with the Medical School’s affiliated hospitals, houses some of the world’s pre-eminent investigators in basic cancer biology. This gift from Ludwig holds the promise of enabling life-changing advances.”
Dear Friends,

This issue of The Benefactor celebrates the incredible progress being made across Harvard Medicine in the areas of education, discovery, and service. The path-breaking discoveries made here, at the epicenter of the largest biomedical research community in the world, have a ripple effect, impacting the understanding and treatment of disease in the U.S. and around the globe.

It is clear that tackling the biggest challenges in health and medicine today requires a team effort. We are thrilled that so many of the recent gifts highlighted on these pages celebrate the power of partnership—locally, nationally, and internationally—with individuals and institutions that champion the advancement of human health.

Three gifts strengthen the ties between Harvard Medical School and our renowned hospital affiliates. A $90 million gift from Ludwig Cancer Research advances the fight against the disease and supports an expanded Ludwig Center at Harvard—among six centers at academic institutions in the U.S.—co-directed by HMS and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Support from the Evergrande Group establishes the new Evergrande Center for Immunologic Diseases at HMS and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, creating a vibrant hub of cross-disciplinary research and patient care. And the new Ellen R. and Melvin J. Gordon Center for the Cure and Treatment of Paralysis at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and HMS, made possible through a $5 million gift from the Gordons, aims to make major and lasting changes in the understanding, treatment, and possible cure for paralysis.

Fondation Bertarelli is strengthening our international ties, investing $6 million to expand the Bertarelli Program in Translational Neuroscience and Neuroengineering at HMS and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland. A second gift of $3 million establishes the Bertarelli Catalyst Fund for the Dean of HMS, with the goal of spurring new research opportunities across the School.

It is indeed an exciting time at Harvard Medical School. I look forward to sharing more stories highlighting the power of partnership as we work together to alleviate human suffering caused by disease.

Sincerely,

Susan Rapple, Ed.M. ’89
Dean for Resource Development

HARVARD MED-EDS ENLIGHTEN AND INSPIRE

Harvard MED-EDs are a series of short, thought-provoking presentations by renowned Harvard Medical School faculty, alumni, and leadership volunteers. The 2013 MED-EDs marked Harvard’s second installment of the compelling presentations, which covered diverse topics ranging from aging and genetics, to the impact of big data, to the powerful and profound learnings from the Boston Marathon emergency response.

At right: The MED-EDs were moderated by Freda C. Lewis-Hall, MD, DFAPA (center in white and black coat), executive vice president and chief medical officer of Pfizer and a member of the HMS Board of Fellows, and included the following talks and presenters (left to right):

- “Are Placebo Effects Worth Anything?,” by Ted J. Kapchuk, director of the Program in Placebo Studies at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC);
- “What Can Drug Development Learn from Boeing?,” by Peter Sorger, AB ’93, PhD, director of the Harvard Program in Therapeutic Science; “I Wonder Why? How Curiosity Can Cure Disease,” by Rachel I. Wilson, AB ’96, PhD, professor of neurobiology at HMS; “Making Our Data Work for Us,” by Isaac S. Kohane, MD, PhD, co-director of the HMS Center for Biomedical Informatics; “Genetic Superpowers: Changing Your Genome and Environment,” by George M. Church, PhD ’84, Robert Winthrop Professor of Genetics at HMS; “Benjamin Button? The Truth about Aging Reversal,” by David A. Sinclair, PhD, co-director of the Paul F. Glenn Labs for the Biological Mechanisms of Aging; and “The Boston Marathon Bombings: Overcoming Adversity,” by Kevin Tabb, MD, president and CEO of BIDMC.

To view the 2013 MED-ED presentations and videos from previous years, visit youtube.com/harvardmedicalschool and click on the “MED-EDs” featured playlist.
The new Evergrande Center for Immunologic Diseases for studying immunologic diseases

Although it is known that inflammation is a key element of a healthy immune response. It is becoming increasingly clear that chronic inflammation can cause far more than allergies and autoimmune diseases. It is now considered to be a common denominator in the genesis, progress, and expression of many human diseases, such as cancer and neurologic, cardiovascular, and metabolic diseases.

Unfortunately, there has not been a collective effort to bring together experts in medicine and science to understand the basis and role of inflammation in multiple diseases—until now.

The new Evergrande Center for Immunologic Diseases at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) hopes to remedy this by creating a vibrant hub of cross-disciplinary research and patient care that joins leading experts focused on studying the role of chronic inflammation in normal health and during disease.

Support for professorships, faculty, research, and educational activities from Evergrande Group, an integrated industry leader based in China, is making this vision a reality.

“Evergrande’s support holds the promise of transforming our efforts to understand the role of chronic inflammation in health and human disease,” says HMS Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD. “The Evergrande Center for Immunologic Diseases creates collaboration between HMS and BWH that will bring together world experts with a shared goal of translating laboratory discoveries into life-saving therapies.”

Vijay Kuchroo, PhD, Samuel L. Wasserstrom Professor of Neurology, will serve as the center’s director at BWH, and Arlene Sharpe, AB ’75, AM ’76, PhD ’81, MD ’82, George Fabyan Professor of Comparative Pathology, will serve as the center’s co-director at HMS. Together, Kuchroo and Sharpe will lead the center’s basic and translational research programs focused on the role of chronic inflammation in autoimmune, neurologic, and metabolic diseases and the environmental factors that may trigger chronic inflammation. They will partner with the Program in Graduate Education, which coordinates activities and develops new programs to enhance graduate students’ engagement in all aspects of biomedical discovery, to implement a scholarly exchange program with Chinese institutions.

“At Brigham and Women’s Hospital, we are committed to transforming the future of medicine through life-giving breakthroughs,” adds Elizabeth G. Nabel, MD, president of BWH. “I am truly grateful to the Evergrande Group for their visionary leadership in collaborating with Harvard Medical School on vital new discoveries that will improve the lives of people across the globe.”

The center is one of three major University initiatives supported by Evergrande that will catalyze the work at Harvard and will impact people and communities in the United States, China, and throughout the world. Evergrande’s support will also help create the Harvard Center for Green Buildings and Cities at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the Center for Mathematical Sciences and Applications in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Evergrande Group’s board chairman, Hui Ka Yan, says, “These three centers will promote top scientific research and development in related fields. I believe in their unlimited potential, which will give impetus to the improvement of the world’s academic level and the progress and development of human society.”

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**EVERGRANDE CENTER CREATES NEW HUB FOR STUDYING IMMUNOLOGIC DISEASES**

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**CHERNEW NAMED SCHAEFFER PROFESSOR OF HEALTH CARE POLICY**

Michael Chernew, PhD, professor of health care policy at Harvard Medical School and vice-chairman of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, has been named the inaugural incumbent of the Leonard D. Schaeffer Professorship in Health Care Policy at HMS.

Made possible through the generosity of Leonard Schaeffer, the Judge Robert Maclay Widney Professor and Chair at the University of Southern California and member of the HMS Board of Fellows and Health Care Policy Advisory Council, the appointment honors extraordinary accomplishment in research at the intersection of economics and health care.

Schaeffer, who shares a passion with Chernew for understanding and solving the nation’s pressing health care challenges, is a senior advisor to TPG Capital and a partner at North Bristol Partners, a privately held consulting company. He was the founding chairman and CEO of WellPoint, one of the nation’s largest health insurance companies, and its predecessor company, Blue Cross of California, from 1986 through 2004, where he served as chairman through 2005. Schaeffer has held several prominent government positions, including administrator of what is now known as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and assistant secretary for management and budget of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Chernew, whose academic career is focused on understanding the factors that affect health care spending, evaluating innovative payment methods, and advising health care policy organizations, is committed, like Schaeffer, to controlling costs and improving quality of care.

At left (left to right): Schaeffer and Chernew commemorate the appointment following a dinner featuring remarks by leading health care policy scholars Harvey Fineberg, AB ’67, MD ’71, MPP ’72, PhD ’80, president of the Institutes of Medicine, and Alan Garber, AB ’76, AM ’77, PhD ’82, MD, provost of Harvard University.
Fondation Bertarelli’s $9 million gift aims to unravel complexities of the human brain

Helen Keller, AB 1904, said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” This is particularly true in the fields of science and medicine, where collaboration is critical to understanding disease, solving medical mysteries, and improving and saving people’s lives.

Driven by the power of scientific teamwork, Fondation Bertarelli has given $6 million to expand the Bertarelli Program in Translational Neuroscience and Neuroengineering at Harvard Medical School and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland (EPFL). A second gift of $3 million establishes the Bertarelli Catalyst Fund for the Dean of HMS, with the goal of enabling key research opportunities at the School.

Launched in 2010 with an initial $9 million gift, the Bertarelli Program established partnerships between scientists, engineers, clinicians, and students at HMS and the EPFL—one of the premier European schools of engineering and science—to accelerate the translation of basic biomedical developments into improved health for people with neurological disorders. This new investment will continue to inspire neuroengineering advances by bringing basic and clinical investigators together with experts in device design for sensory and other neurologic systems. It also will create new and broader opportunities for innovation.

“The strength of the program is in what it achieves as a whole—facilitating and encouraging scientists and medics from wholly different disciplines, backgrounds, and locations to work together,” says Ernesto Bertarelli, MBA ‘93, co-president of the foundation with his sister, Dona Bertarelli, and a member of the HMS Board of Fellows.

“I look, for example, at the work being done on paralysis and hearing problems, and I am heartened and excited by the fact that we have different research programs, from the two universities, working together and combining specialties, all with a common goal. It is how science should be,” says Bertarelli.

Beyond the Sum of Its Parts

What is neuroengineering? According to David Corey, PhD, professor of neurobiology at HMS and director of the Bertarelli Program at HMS, answering this question was one of the primary considerations in designing the program. “It combines engineering, neurology, and neuroscience, yet it becomes more than the sum of its parts by focusing on new solutions for neurological and psychiatric disorders and seeking neuroscience knowledge that will be useful for patient care immediately rather than down the road. In just two years, it is clear the program is delivering on that vision,” he says.

From multi-photon imaging microendoscopes that can diagnose hearing loss in the cochlea to robotic and molecular methods that can help restore function after paralysis due to spinal cord injury, the third annual Bertarelli Symposium highlighted the kind of collaborative, pioneering advances the program’s creators intended to stimulate.

It also highlighted initial findings from the first six research grants awarded through the Bertarelli Program. In following these projects over the past two years, Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, says he has been incredibly impressed with the way investigators from very different disciplines have united to solve clinical problems in imaginative ways.

“They are using the best basic science from their respective fields to accomplish what none could have done on their own,” explains Flier. “We are delighted at the continued generosity of the Bertarelli Foundation. This type of forward-thinking support is exactly what’s needed to help us continue to unravel the profound complexities of the human brain.”
When we study paralysis as a comprehensive disease model, it’s clear the impact is incredibly broad, severely inhibiting the quality of life for millions of individuals, many of whom are suffering silently with little hope for improvement,” says Zafonte. “Thanks to this generous support from the Gordons, this new center will be a beacon of discovery and hope.”

Greenberg adds that HMS’s expertise starts at the lab bench and expands to the clinic. “The more we investigate the fundamental biology of neurological damage, the stronger our clinical interventions will be. The establishment of this new center will enable those of us at the Medical School to engage even more productively with our outstanding colleagues at Spaulding. We’re delighted at this opportunity.”

Collaboration & Impact

The Gordon Center will enable researchers and clinicians from Harvard and Spaulding to collaborate with scientists from across the country and the world to expedite novel therapies and potential cures for the 1 in 50 Americans, according to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, affected by paralysis.

In addition to contributing to the current knowledge base through research studies, the center will convene an annual meeting of investigators to share results and review accomplishments. Zafonte and his team will also seek new ways to deliver care and share information with the broader community of people with disabilities.

“I cannot think of any greater cause than people’s health in all parts of the world, and Harvard Medical School is at the forefront of solving some of the greatest medical challenges of our time,” says Ellen Gordon, who is a member of the HMS Board of Fellows and Systems Biology Advisory Council. “My family and I are incredibly hopeful about this partnership and the positive impact it will have, particularly on those affected by paralysis and nerve damage.”

NEW CLINICAL SKILLS CENTER OPENS

Harvard Medical School has opened a new Clinical Skills Center in the Tosteson Medical Education Center. Situated on the building’s ground floor, the 7,500-square-foot center is now the home for both teaching and assessing clinical communication and physical exam skills. It is also the site in which second- and third-year students take their required, multi-station Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs). Faculty also use the center to develop clinical teaching skills.

The space features clinical exam and simulation rooms, orientation rooms, and a central room housing monitors and controls for the many cameras that are used for observation and videotaping during exams and classes.

“This center provides a realistic venue for medical students to develop the clinical examination and communication skills essential for physicians and for faculty to assess those skills,” says Jane Neill, associate dean for medical affairs, research, and administration, and a driving force behind the new center. “One of the wonderful things about this space is that we’ve tried to be respectful of the history that has occurred in this building. Until 2003, the space was occupied by a surgical research lab where research conducted by Dr. Joseph Murray, MD ’43, resulted in the first kidney transplant in 1954 and a Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1990,” Neill said.

At right: Neill (right) gives members of the HMS Board of Fellows—(left to right) Howard Cox, MBA ’69, Christiana G. Bardon, MD ’88, MBA ’03, and Charles M. Farkas, MBA ’80—a tour of the new center and some hands-on experience with the simulation mannequins.

The Clinical Skills Center and its signature spaces are available for naming. For more information, contact Sandy Sedacca at 617-384-8462 or sandra_sedacca@hms.harvard.edu.
The Warren Alpert Foundation Prize honors physicians and researchers whose work has led to the prevention, cure, or treatment of a disease or disorder that afflicts mankind. This year’s three distinguished scientists were honored for their seminal contributions to the concepts and methods of creating a genetic map in the human and of positional cloning, leading to the identification of thousands of disease genes and ushering in the era of human genetics.

The honorees are David Botstein, AB ’63, PhD, Anthony B. Evnin Professor of Genomics at the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics at Princeton University; Ronald W. Davis, PhD, director of the Stanford Genome Technology Center and professor of biochemistry and genetics at Stanford University School of Medicine; and David S. Hogness, PhD, Rudy J. and Daphne Donohue Munzer Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Developmental Biology and of Biochemistry at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Estate gift supports cultivation of the best doctors, researchers, and students

Florence McGuire Roe, a dedicated philanthropist and art lover, named Harvard Medical School as a beneficiary of more than $100,000 from her estate. Upon her recent death at the age of 102, HMS received this unrestricted gift to support the priorities and ultimate success of the School.

“Unrestricted gifts like Florence McGuire Roe’s enable the School to make strategic investments in those areas that create the greatest impact,” says Wesley Benbow, MBA, interim executive dean of administration and chief financial officer.

“With the help of gifts like these, Harvard Medical School can continue to cultivate the best doctors, researchers, and students who are changing the face of medicine,” Benbow adds.

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“In the year of the centennial of the birth of World War II, the School is particularly proud to receive a gift that will support our cultivation of the best doctors, researchers, and students,” says Wesley Benbow, interim executive dean of administration and chief financial officer.

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Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation strives to unravel the mysteries of autism

Imagine being locked in your body, unable to express yourself or communicate with those around you. You can pinch your neighbors to gain their attention, but then you are deemed anti-social. Your behaviors are just reactions to not being able to communicate. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 88 American children is identified as being on the autism spectrum each year. Although the incidence is lower for those on the autism spectrum with little or no speech, the majority of those classified as autistic have some problems producing speech.

Not too long ago, autism was a complete mystery, but now research is delivering some answers. The Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation (NLMFF) is committed to unraveling the secrets of the disease and improving the lives of people with autism with a gift of more than $500,000 to fund research by Bernardo Sabatini, BS ’91, MD ’95, PhD ’99, Takeda Professor of Neurobiology at HMS, and his lab team.

Sabatini believes that a brain area called the basal ganglia plays a central role in the pathogenesis of autism and, when altered, could be responsible for disease characteristics, such as behavioral inflexibility, motor stereotypy, and fractured language development.

“Support from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation has allowed us to pursue a new idea for which we have essentially no preliminary data,” says Sabatini. “Even though one normally assumes that the symptoms of autism arise from changes in higher brain areas, perturbations of highly conserved and evolutionary ancient brain areas, such as the basal ganglia, may be equally as important in understanding autism.”

In addition to funding Sabatini’s novel work, the gift also establishes a postdoctoral fellowship supporting research by Yevgena Kazarovitskiy, PhD, who was motivated to join Sabatini’s lab to acquire cutting-edge, functional tools for analysis of synapses, cells, and circuits.

“The mission of the foundation is to allow people with autism to communicate with their family, friends, and peers, ultimately helping them to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives,” says Clarence Schutt, PhD ’77, director and chief scientific officer of the NLMFF.

Eliott Appointed to Gragoudas Professorship in Ophthalmology

Dean Elliott, MD, associate director of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (MEEI) Retina Service, has been named the inaugural incumbent of the Stelios Evangelos Gragoudas Professorship in Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School.

Made possible by the MEEI Board of Directors, the professorship honors Evan Gragoudas, MD, the Charles Edward Whitten Professor of Ophthalmology at HMS, a world authority on the diagnosis and management of intraocular tumors. Currently bearing the name of Gragoudas’ father, the professorship will be renamed in Evan’s honor upon his retirement from MEEI in recognition of his years of exemplary service.

Eliott, the incumbent, is a leader in vitreoretinal surgery with a well-established research program focused on the development of novel approaches to combat retinal disease. He has been a principal investigator on several clinical trials centered on diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal detachment, and surgery for complex retina-vitreous disorders.

At right (left to right): Stelios Gragoudas joins Elliott and Joan W. Miller, MD, Henry Willard Williams Professor of Ophthalmology and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at HMS and chief of ophthalmology at MEEI and Massachusetts General Hospital, for the program commemorating Eliott’s achievement.

Society master leads by example

Ron Arky, AM ’81, MD, the Daniel D. Federman, MD Professor of Medicine and Medical Education and master of the Francis Weld Peabody Society, has been involved in medical education for more than five decades. An integral part of HMS’s society structure—the innovative system started by former Dean Daniel C. Tosteson that divides students into five academic societies upon matriculation—he serves as an academic advisor to approximately 160 students.

In an effort to perpetuate the concept of these “learning communities,” Arky has established a $300,000 charitable gift annuity that will ultimately create the Marie and Ronald Arky, MD Endowed Mastership Fund for the Francis Weld Peabody Society at Harvard Medical School.

“HMS is unique. Despite our vastness, we’re able to split students into finite groups that allow for an intimate relationship that isn’t possible otherwise,” Arky says. In addition to serving as the hub of each student’s learning process, societies have additional benefits, according to Arky, including influencing the curriculum and nurturing social interchange and contact between students and faculty.

Arky is proud that more than 66 medical schools around the country have adopted the HMS structure and describes his role of master as the ultimate relationship. “I get to play a role in the development of a group of amazingly talented students and follow their success. It’s extremely satisfying,” he says.

“This gift will help keep the legacy of the Peabody Society alive—a legacy to which Ron has dedicated himself every day as he instills in our students the lessons behind Francis Weld Peabody’s memorable words: ‘The secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient,’” says Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD.

“I understand that without funding, things like societies won’t exist. I hope to set an example,” Arky adds.
Amplifying anti-aging research

Sirtuins are a family of seven genes found in organisms, ranging from yeast to humans, that serve to protect from diseases of aging and aging itself. Today, scientists believe that activating more than one of these natural anti-aging defenses may ultimately reverse aging and extend healthy lifespan.

It is no surprise then that these potent genes are a primary focus of research for David Sinclair, PhD, professor of genetics and co-director of the Paul F. Glenn Laboratories for the Biological Mechanisms of Aging at Harvard Medical School. Now his work is being advanced with a $600,000 gift from Mathilde and Bertrand Thomas via the Caudalie Foundation, the philanthropic arm of their Bordeaux, France-based skincare company.

“We heard about Professor David Sinclair 10 years ago because we were both studying the benefits of resveratrol,” explains Mathilde Thomas, who subsequently invited him to speak at a scientific symposium on resveratrol in Paris. “After meeting him and discussing some of his latest research on sirtuins, we knew we wanted to help further his work. We truly admire what he is doing.”

With this funding, Sinclair will pursue research into a new set of molecules that activate sirtuins and may signal novel ways to reverse biological aspects of aging. This work holds considerable promise to improve human health by slowing the progression of aging and age-related diseases, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.

“The cost of anti-aging molecules is extremely high at present,” says Sinclair. “Without this generous support from the Thomases and the Caudalie Foundation, we would not have been able to study them on a large scale.”

Iconic HMS leader lends support to School priorities

Perhaps no one is more familiar with Harvard Medical School than Daniel D. Federman, AB ’49, MD ’53. Having spent nearly his entire professional career in the Longwood Medical Area and on the Quad, serving as the Carl W. Walter Distinguished Professor of Medicine, dean for medical education, senior dean for alumni relations and clinical teaching, and other key roles at HMS and its affiliates, Federman has touched the lives of nearly every HMS student since 1960.

“My dreams for my career are bound with Harvard,” says Federman. His love for the institution is evident as he effortlessly talks about everything from the history of the Medical School to his admiration for the students and faculty—past and present.

This long history with the School makes Federman’s unrestricted gift of $100,000 even more significant, serving as a testament to his confidence in Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, to direct the funds where they’re needed most.

Dean Flier states that roughly 5 percent of gifts to HMS each year are unrestricted. Such flexible funding is critical for the School’s leadership to be able to act nimbly to address the emerging opportunities in science and medicine.

“There is nobody who embodies Harvard Medicine as well as Dan. Whether he’s teaching, serving as an administrator, working as a clinician, or inspiring us with his legendary eloquence, his contributions are unmatched,” Flier says. “This gift not only benefits the School, but it is also deeply meaningful on a personal level.”

A steady supporter of current students through his gifts to the Alumni Fund, Federman adds, “There are many needs here, and I wanted to have an impact. I can only hope that others will emulate my actions.”
Alumnus propels the power of critical thinking

Lowell Youn, MD ’64, credits Harvard Medical School with helping to build a foundation for his professional success. Now a clinician in San Francisco, Calif., he thinks back fondly on the strong basic science curriculum at Harvard.

“Even though I chose to pursue a career in patient care, the research background that I developed while pursuing my medical degree provided me with invaluable critical thinking skills,” he says. Youn believes Harvard excels at giving students a well-rounded education, explaining that medical professionals spend their careers working in a specialty, but their underlying critical thinking abilities apply across the board.

To support the next generation of medical students as they develop their own analytic abilities and to express his gratitude for the education he received at HMS, Youn established a charitable gift annuity (CGA). This gift vehicle allows him to support his alma mater while also generating fixed income for life and a charitable tax deduction.

“Anyone can give money to charity, but a CGA allows you to give more, thanks to the reciprocal benefits,” says Youn, adding that as the cost of medical education continues to rise, he hopes to have a positive impact on students and their debt.

SAMUELS NAMED JOSEPH PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGY

Martin Samuels, MD, chairman of the Department of Neurology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) and professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School, has been named the first incumbent of the Miriam Sydney Joseph Professorship in Neurology at HMS.

Samuels, an internationally known clinical neurologist with expertise in the relationship between neurology and general medicine, maintains an active clinical practice at BWH and is consistently sought for consultation on complex neurological problems. His career-long research focus is on the nervous system and its effect on organs as well as the brain’s ability to cause or prevent disease. In addition to a robust clinical and research career, Samuels has been lauded for his contributions as an educator, and was the first recipient of the Harvard Medical School Faculty Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

The professorship honors the memory of Samuels’ parents and was established through the generosity of Samuels’ colleagues, friends, and BWH. Upon his retirement from HMS, the professorship will be renamed the Martin A. Samuels Professorship in Neurology in his honor.

At left: Samuels presents a rose to his daughter, Marilyn Samuels Sommers, and others for their unwavering support throughout his life and career.

ONE NIGHT, FOUR CITIES

Harvard Medical School alumni came together in January for the 4th annual Recent Graduate Winter Reception. Though the event has been held exclusively in Boston in the past, this year it was expanded to include graduates of 2005–2013 in three additional cities.

The Boston festivities were hosted by Sachin Jain, AB ’02, MD ’06, MBA ’07, at Alibi and featured special guest Carla Fujimoto, assistant director of student affairs at HMS, in Los Angeles, at the Village Idiot, hosts were Jack Casey, MD ’05, and Chris Russell, AB ’00, MD ’07, in New York City, at Harlow Restaurant, the host was Phil Williams, MD ’09, and in San Francisco, at The Delancy Street Restaurant, the host was Laura Tarter, AB ’00, MD ’05, with special guest Alumni Council President Laurie Green, AB ’72, MD ’76.

At right: Boston host Jain (center) reconnects with fellow HMS graduates (left to right) Robert Meisner, MD ’08, Jennifer Woo Baidal, MD ’07, Debbie Bennett, MD ’08, and Ziad Obermeyer, MD ’08.
The following grants directly support Harvard Medical School faculty members in their work to alleviate human suffering caused by disease.

**The ALS Therapy Alliance** has given nearly $760,000 to support three distinct projects under the direction of George Church, PhD '84 (below), Robert Winthrop Professor of Genetics; Robin Reed, PhD, professor of Cell Biology; and Adrian Ivinson, PhD, director of translational research at the Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center to advance research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

**The Adelson Medical Research Foundation** has given more than $390,000 to support research by Joan Brugge, PhD, the Louise Foote Pfeiffer Professor and chair of the Department of Cell Biology, aimed at targeting adaptive responses to cancer therapies in an effort to overcome drug resistance.

**The Biogen Idec Foundation** has given $690,000 to support HMS's Innovation Grant Program under the direction of David Van Vactor, PhD, professor of cell biology and director of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program, Harvard's largest life sciences PhD training program. The gift promotes research innovation among pre-doctoral students.

**The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP)** has awarded a $450,000 Program Grant to Johan Paulsson, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Systems Biology, who serves as principal investigator on a study aimed at understanding the fundamental limits of cell growth. HFSP promotes intercontinental collaboration and training in cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research focused on the life sciences.

**The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative** has awarded more than $350,000 to R. Paul Johnson, MD '84, a professor of medicine at HMS and director of the New England Primate Research Center, to propel his work into the development of a non-integrating HIV vector vaccine for AIDS.

**Felicia Knaul, AM '92, PhD '95, associate professor of global health and social medicine and director of the Harvard Global Equity Initiative, has been awarded a $250,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to develop a global report on expanding access to care and control for women’s cancers in low- and middle-income countries.**

The Searle Scholars Program supports the independent research of exceptional young faculty in the biomedical sciences and chemistry. Christopher Harvey, PhD, assistant professor of neurobiology at HMS, has been named one of 15 Searle Scholars in 2013 and has received a $300,000 grant to deepen his understanding of how decision-making and working memory behaviors are implemented by neuronal circuits in the mammalian cortex.

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**Stirling Churchman, PhD, assistant professor of genetics, has received a New Scholar in Aging Award from the Ellison Medical Foundation. This $400,000 grant will advance her work into understanding the mitochondrial gene expression landscape of S. Cerevisiae, a species of yeast, during aging and life span extension.**

**KELLY NAMED TO SPALLIN PROFESSORSHIP IN PSYCHIATRY**

John F. Kelly, PhD, director of the Addiction Recovery Management Service at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), associate director of the Center for Addiction Medicine at MGH, and associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, has been named the inaugural incumbent of the Elizabeth R. Spallin Professorship in Psychiatry in the Field of Addiction Medicine.

The professorship is made possible by the generous support of an anonymous donor whose philanthropic commitment exemplifies the donor’s trust in MGH and HMS to advance the field of addiction medicine.

Kelly’s clinical and research work focuses on addiction treatment and the recovery process, including specific research on the effectiveness of mutual-help groups as adjuncts to formal care. The professorship title honors Kelly’s mother, an inspirational figure in his life, and will be renamed the John F. Kelly Professorship in Psychiatry in the Field of Addiction Medicine upon his retirement.

At left (left to right): Margaret Reay, the incumbent’s sister, and A. Eden Evins, MPH ‘05, director of the Center for Addiction Medicine and associate professor of psychiatry at HMS, were among many friends, family, and colleagues who gathered to celebrate Kelly’s appointment.
Herbst encourages students to “ask why”

With his 55th reunion approaching, Arthur Herbst, AB ’53, MD ’59, decided that it was time to give back. In 1949, Herbst received a scholarship to attend Harvard College. Upon completing his undergraduate degree in physics, he then joined the Navy, serving two years as a line officer during the Korean War. Following his service, Herbst applied for admission and was accepted to Harvard Medical School. Though he did benefit from a G.I. Bill, he was also aided by generous donor support received for research he conducted while a medical student.

“The cost of medical education has become increasingly prohibitive,” Herbst says. By establishing the Arthur L. Herbst Endowed Research Fund with a gift of $100,000 primarily from his IRA, he hopes to assist highly motivated students. “My goal is to provide a student who has a question with the opportunity to experience the excitement of searching for an answer,” he says.

Today, Herbst is a pioneer in the field of women’s cancers. His question: Why were vaginal adenocarcinomas, which were almost unknown in young women, suddenly being found in girls as young as 14? He said he and his colleagues found their groundbreaking answer by establishing the link between mothers who had taken diethylstilbestrol (DES), a synthetic estrogen, during pregnancy, and the small percentage of their young daughters who developed these rare and unusual cancers.

250 genomes, 125 diverse human populations

Understanding the past helps to inform the future. David Reich, AB ’96, PhD, professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School, has become one of the world’s experts on using genetic data to study the past. His research into human origins has helped to deepen society’s understanding of populations and the genetic roots of disease.

Now a gift of more than $600,000 from the Simons Foundation is accelerating this work. As principal investigator of the Simons Genome Diversity Project—along with co-principal investigators Nick Patterson, PhD, a senior computational biologist at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and Svante Pääbo, PhD, director of genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology—Reich is sampling two individuals from 125 populations across the globe to elucidate the history and natural selection of human populations and to identify important parameters in the search for disease-causing genes.

What sets this apart from other genome projects is its focus on extremely diverse populations—from Native Americans and African tribes to indigenous people of New Guinea and the Andaman Islands—that harbor within them great additional diversity and history beyond those deemed medically or economically important.

“Dr. Reich’s project will advance our understanding of human genetic diversity and human variation. The data set will be analyzed by the three collaborating labs, but it will also be available to all scientists from around the world, which will greatly amplify its value,” says Marian Carlson, AB ’73, PhD, director of life sciences at the New York City-based Simons Foundation, which was established in 1994 to advance the frontiers of research in mathematics and the basic sciences. “This data set on human genetic diversity will allow us to address fundamental and really interesting questions on the nature of humans and their history.”

When all data sequencing and analysis is complete, it will be released as part of the Amazon Public Data Project and will be available for download via cloud computing by anyone who is interested. According to Reich, it would not have been possible to collect a data set of this size without support from the Simons Foundation.

“The availability of this generous funding means that we have been able to quickly collect a deep genome sequencing data set of diverse populations that is an order of magnitude bigger than any data set of this type published to date,” says Reich.
Hitting a home run for area students

What do the Boston Red Sox and Harvard Medical School have in common? Not only do they have storied histories and traditions, both are committed to serving the community, particularly underserved students. Now the two are teaming up to take that commitment to the next level.

The Red Sox Foundation, the team’s official charity, has given $100,000 to support HMS’s Project Success, which has been in operation for 20 years and offers paid, full-time, summer biomedical research internships to underserved 11th- and 12th-grade students in Boston and Cambridge who are interested in science and math. In addition, John Kaneb, AB ’56, a Red Sox partner and CEO of HP Hood, has given $20,000 to support the program. This combined gift doubles the number of students accepted into Project Success each year.

“This gift from the Red Sox Foundation and John Kaneb will help advance Harvard Medical School’s commitment to the community by offering students a hands-on summer research experience under the mentorship of our scientists and researchers,” explains Joan Reede, MD, MPH ’90, MS ’92, MBA, dean for diversity and community partnership.

This harsh reality has also influenced Mahal’s commitment to the community. Growing up in Madera, Calif., Mahal says that the financial aid package he received helped make medical school a reality for him. His desire to enter the health care field can be attributed to his upbringing. “Many members of my community fall victim to crushing poverty, which often leaves families with poor access to health care,” he says.

Lifting the burden of student debt

Phyllis Gardner, MD ’76, P ’09, ’17, and her husband, Andrew Perlman, MD, PhD, P ’09, ’17, both believe that the students attending Harvard Medical School will shape the future of science and medicine. To support the next generation, the pair have given $150,000 to the scholarship fund they established in 2010.

“We want to ensure that HMS continues to accept the best and brightest students, regardless of their ability to pay,” says Gardner.

One of the Phyllis Gardner Andrew Perlman Scholars is Brandon Mahal, MD ’14. Born and raised in Madera, Calif., Mahal says that the financial aid package he received helped make medical school a reality for him. His desire to enter the health care field can be attributed to his upbringing. “Many members of my community fall victim to crushing poverty, which often leaves families with poor access to health care,” he says.

This harsh reality has also influenced Mahal’s experiences at HMS. During his pre-clinical years, Mahal conducted outreach with students from disadvantaged backgrounds interested in medical careers. During his clinical years, he focused on examining the issue of health care disparities and worked closely on the development of the cross-cultural curriculum at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, which will be incorporated as part of the graduate medical education coursework. He is currently conducting prostate cancer research at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and, ultimately, plans to pursue a career in radiation oncology.

Students like Mahal are the reason Gardner and Perlman have made HMS a philanthropic priority. “We feel our personal support makes a difference— not only for the students at HMS, but for their future patients as well,” says Perlman.

KANE FELLOWSHIP HONORS GIFTED JUNIOR FACULTY

The John and Virginia Kaneb Fellowship was established in 2006 by the Kanebs to recognize junior faculty members with great promise in their fields. John and Virginia serve as members of the Harvard Medical School Board of Fellows and Virginia also serves as a member of the Systems Biology Advisory Council.

The 2013–2014 Kaneb Fellows represent outstanding researchers in the fields of neurobiology and cell biology: Chenghua Gu, PhD, assistant professor of neurobiology at HMS, and Stephen Liberles, AB ’94, AM ’96, PhD ’00, associate professor of cell biology at HMS.

Above: In January, John Kaneb, AB ’56, and Virginia Kaneb (center) joined Gu (left) and Liberles (right) for a luncheon with HMS faculty and Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD. The intimate event allowed the benefactors and beneficiaries to meet, discuss the fellows’ research, and honor the Kanebs’ generosity for funding the prestigious fellowship.
Faces of HMS

WWII veteran leaves lasting legacy with unrestricted support

Ralph M. Fox graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1942, a year marked by the looming crisis of WWII. Nearly every member of that class joined the reserves of either the Army or the Navy, and Fox was no exception; he served as a U.S. Navy medical officer.

When Fox returned from the war, he was ready to embrace the opportunities he put on hold and begin his medical career. After completing post-graduate work at the University of Michigan, he opened an ophthalmology practice in Birmingham, Mich., which he ran with pride for 30 years before retiring.

Today, Fox’s legacy of service endures through a $100,000 bequest from his estate for unrestricted use by HMS. Flexible gifts like his allow Dean Jeffrey S. Flier, MD, to direct funds where they are needed most, ultimately bridging the gap between revenue and the costs of operating the School.

Throughout his life, Fox kept the Medical School in his heart, attending reunions and submitting class notes in the years that he was unable to return to the East Coast. In one of his final reunion reports, Fox wrote: “All in all, I have had a good life with much satisfaction and feel that I have been very blessed.”

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1. At the 74th Annual Soma Weiss Student Research Day, Lisa Lian, DMD ’16 (right), shares the findings of her research project, "Health Weight Intervention Pilot Study in the Pediatric Dental Setting," with Gordon “Buck” Strewler, MD ’71, HMS professor of medicine and master of the Walter Bradford Cannon Society.
2. Darrell Kirch, MD, president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges, gives the keynote address at the Primary Care Innovations Conference, arguing that primary care professionals are especially well positioned to lead positive change in emerging health care delivery models that seek to administer patient-centered, team-based care.
3. Center for Primary Care Director Russell Phillips, MD, speaks with attendees at the third annual Primary Care Innovations Conference, held in Boston in October. Supported by the anonymous donor who established the center, the conference focuses on advances in primary care education and draws hundreds of clinicians and students in the health professions.
4. The Ghahreman Khodadad Symposium on Aggressive Behavior and Excessive Selfishness, funded through a gift by Khodadad (pictured) and his sons, was held in December and featured a keynote address by David J. Anderson, AB ’78, PhD, Seymour Benzer Professor of Biology at the California Institute of Technology.
5. A cohort of the Giovanni Armenise-Harvard Foundation’s Career Development Awardees met in Trento, Italy, last fall to discuss their research, compare notes, and mentor younger members. The program, established by the late Count Giovanni Auletta Armenise, fosters the development of outstanding, early-career scientists currently working abroad so that they may fulfill their potential and make significant contributions to their fields of research in Italy.
6. Sandor Frankel, JD ’69, a trustee of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, addresses panelists at the Helmsley Symposium, held in February at Harvard Medical School. The symposium spotlights the pan-Harvard community of researchers whose work on Crohn’s disease is being funded via the Helmsley Pilot Grants Program and whose collective expertise is enabling significant progress toward understanding and treating this devastating illness.
May 5
Hubel Memorial Symposium
Join us from 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the New Research Building for "Eye, Brain, and Vision," a symposium honoring the life of Nobel laureate David Hunter Hubel, MD, John Enders University Professor of Neurobiology, Emeritus. Robert H. Wurtz, PhD, an NIH distinguished scientist and chief of visuomotor integration at the National Eye Institute, will present a perspective of the field of vision neuroscience. Additional speakers include Hubel’s past trainees and collaborators.

May 8
Ezekiel Hersey Council Dinner
The Ezekiel Hersey Council recognizes alumni, alumnae, and friends who have created a life income gift or included HMS in their estate plans to continue the School’s tradition of excellence for future generations. Members are invited to attend a recognition dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the New Research Building, featuring a presentation by David A. Sinclair, PhD, entitled, “Aging: How Close Are We to Turning Back the Clock?” Formal invitations to members will follow.

May 29–30
Reunion
This year we celebrate HMS classes ending in 4 and 9. Alumni and guests are invited to return to campus for the festivities, including a gala, class-specific events, symposia from faculty and alumni, the Dean’s State of the School Address, tours, and more. Learn more at hms.harvard.edu/reunion or contact Chelsea Keating at 617-384-8520 or hmsalum@hms.harvard.edu. Ensure you’re receiving the latest event information by updating your email address at alumni.harvard.edu.

August 4
Alumni Reception in Honolulu
If you live in Hawaii or are planning to attend the National Medical Association’s annual meeting there, don’t miss the HMS alumni reception. Details are forthcoming.

November 7
Alumni Reception in Chicago
Do you live in the Chicago area or are you planning to attend the Association of American Medical Colleges’ (AAMC) annual conference there? Don’t miss the HMS alumni reception Sunday evening at the Hyatt Regency Chicago from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

View all upcoming HMS events at http://hms.harvard.edu/calendar. Can’t join us in person? Download our Harvard Medical Labcasts at http://hms.harvard.edu/podcasts or visit the HMS YouTube Channel.