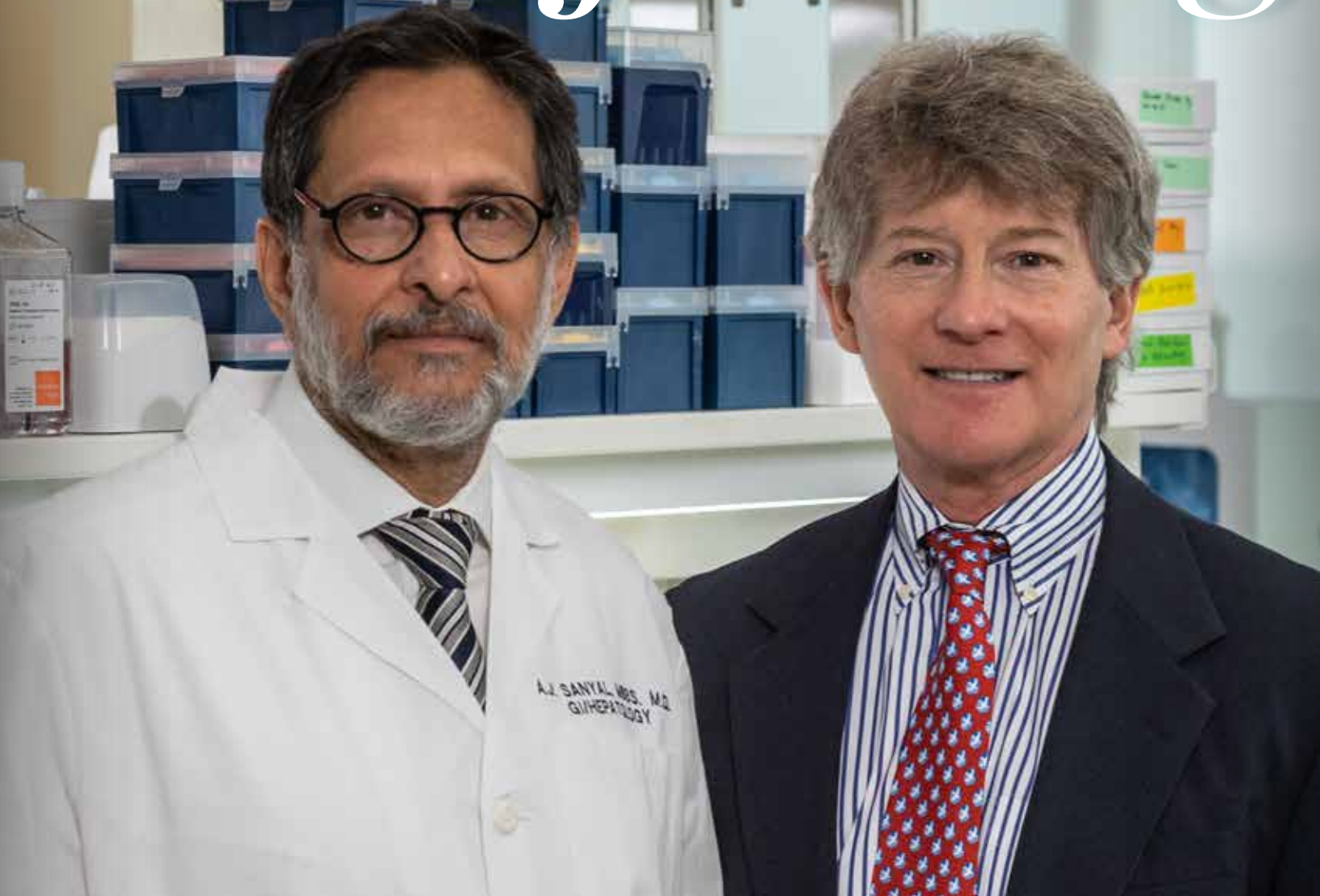


# Chronicle *of Giving*



## A NEW GLOBAL LEADER

\$104 million gift lays the foundation for a transformational liver institute.

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## FAMILY TRADITIONS

A daughter honors her mother, a 1944 School of Nursing alumna, with a scholarship.

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## A NEW RAY OF HOPE

One family's heartache inspired determination to support pancreatic cancer research.

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Dear friends,

Spring remains our favorite season because it represents transformation and renewal. As the days grow longer and warmer, we're sensing the excitement of a new year in full bloom on the MCV Campus, especially as beloved events and traditions return to in-person formats.

As winter's chill fades, we are grateful to feel the warmth of hope. The ongoing challenges of COVID-19 may still require flexibility and adaptability during the months to come, yet we are increasingly energized by the spirit of growth at VCU Health and for a team that has already begun to think beyond the pandemic and to dream about how to address the greatest health care challenges of tomorrow.

Our cover story highlights a truly transformative gift for VCU Health that will elevate and strengthen the health system's leadership at the forefront of liver disease research. The new Stravitz-Sanyal Liver Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health at VCU is a history-making investment for the wellbeing of people here in Central Virginia and beyond at a time when millions of Americans are likely to have issues related to metabolic health.

We also share some of the many moving stories behind the incredible support for student scholarships, advancing pancreatic cancer care and research at Massey Cancer Center, and expanding the Hume-Lee Transplant Center's research efforts to increase access to lifesaving care and improve organ transplant outcomes.

Progress of this scope and measure would simply be impossible without the rich history of generosity and innovation on the MCV Campus, and we look forward to future opportunities to create change and growth for the good of all.



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**EDITOR** | Eric M. Peters

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** | Paul Brockwell Jr.

**DESIGN DIRECTOR** | Penelope M. Carrington

**PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR** | Tyler Trumbo

**CONTRIBUTORS** | Margaret Ann Bollmeier, Ann Deppman, Katherine Layton, Dave Silver, Zaynah Qutubuddin, Ellen E. Spong, Brian Thomas, Mary Kate Brogan and Jackie Kruszewski

The MCV Foundation was established in 1949 to inspire and steward philanthropy that supports the MCV Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University.

The MCV Foundation supports the education, research and clinical care mission of our MCV Campus partners: *VCU College of Health Professions, VCU School of Dentistry, VCU School of Medicine, VCU School of Nursing, VCU School of Pharmacy, VCU Massey Cancer Center and VCU Medical Center.*

The foundation manages more than \$900 million in assets to ensure the MCV Campus remains at the forefront of excellence and innovation in patient care, education and research. Through more than 1,900 funds, the MCV Foundation provides scholarships, professorships, research and program funds to support the lifesaving work occurring at VCU Health.

**ON THE COVER** | Arun Sanyal, M.D., and R. Todd Stravitz, M.D., are the namesakes of the new Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health.

PHOTO: ALLEN JONES, VCU UNIVERSITY MARKETING

**GOING GREEN** | If you prefer to receive a digital copy, email [info@mcvfoundation.org](mailto:info@mcvfoundation.org).



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**Family Traditions** 10

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The foundation honors the legacy of three outstanding leaders on the MCV Campus.





TRUSTEE'S CORNER

## For the Long Run

Liz Whalley Buono considers her latest role a dream job for someone whose career spans from registered nurse to pharmaceutical executive to health care attorney. She is chief legal and compliance officer for Phlow, a Richmond-based public benefit corporation reimagining the supply chain for essential medicines through advanced manufacturing, including continuous flow chemistry.

For the past nine years, Whalley Buono has been a trustee of the MCV Foundation, where she chairs the board's Personnel and Compensation

Committee and is a member of both the Governance Committee and the Executive Committee. On the MCV Campus, she has also served on the advisory committees for the School of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing, and on VCU's Real Estate Foundation Board.

### How did you come to serve on the MCV Foundation Board?

I've been involved with VCU Health in one way or another for the past nine years, so I have a deep appreciation for the work being done on the MCV Campus and beyond. One of my previous companies had a great leader, John Luke, who really encouraged us as senior leaders to serve on the boards of various nonprofits and other valuable initiatives in the community. To me, the foundation was a natural fit, given my nursing background and legal work in health care.

### What led you to say yes to serving as a trustee?

The research. My career focus has always been around clinical research and health ethics. I was already so familiar with the work happening at VCU Health that it was truly a gift to be able to support this work by serving on the board.

### What do you enjoy most about your service on the board?

Engaging with and working with my fellow trustees has been phenomenal. The foundation does a great job educating its trustees on the work going on in the health system and the university. They are also tremendous at helping us find ways to support initiatives that we care about deeply.

### Tell us about your work with Phlow.

It's an exciting endeavor for me. Essential medicine shortages are a critical problem in the U.S., and the resulting impacts on economics and health care are staggering. Phlow was founded to address the vulnerability of our U.S. pharmaceutical supply chain. The vast majority of active pharmaceutical ingredients are produced overseas, and our company is aiming to change that through innovative processes and investments that will bring production of critical medicines and drug components to the U.S., including advanced manufacturing here in Central Virginia.

### What do you see as some of the opportunities and challenges facing VCU Health and the foundation board?

The health system has weathered so many challenges well during the pandemic, and while the unsurety of the financial market in 2022 may pose a challenge for all foundations, including the MCV Foundation, there has never been a time when the foundation has worked so well with the university and health system in terms of collaborating on fundraising and reputation building.

### What might people be surprised to learn about you?

I'm an avid distance runner. I've completed 12 marathons in the last 11 or so years. ■



# Rediscovering Great Events

Popular foundation series returns to in-person events in Williamsburg and Richmond.

Fall felt a bit familiar. A panel of experts assembled, a lively discussion ensued, and the foundation’s friends enjoyed regathering in person for the first time since early 2020.

November marked the return of the Discovery Series to Williamsburg and Richmond, and the exploration of an especially timely topic: “Coping with

make an impact on every community we touch,” said Robert A. Winn, M.D., director and Lipman Chair in Oncology at VCU Massey Cancer Center.

Since 2013, the Discovery Series has provided a forum for VCU Health scholars, researchers and clinicians to highlight areas of excellence at VCU Health.

“We are building a team of high-impact researchers who will take the academic prowess that we have to make an impact on every community we touch.”

Cancer, COVID, and Anxiety.” VCU Health experts discussed the psychological challenges for those dealing with long-haul COVID-19 symptoms, the parallels to dealing with a cancer diagnosis, and how research at VCU Health strives to make patients’ lives better.

“We are building a team of high-impact researchers who will take the academic prowess that we have to

What began in Williamsburg as an event for individuals to learn about the latest advances in research, treatment and care has grown to an anticipated and popular gathering of friends. In 2019, the Discovery Series expanded to Richmond.

“We enjoy getting to know the physicians and learning about their research and innovations in patient care,” said Jim White, a Discovery

Society member. “In addition to the physicians, we very much enjoy meeting other Discovery Series members.”

The Discovery Series has also helped introduce VCU Health to new friends. Many attendees continue to support the great research and patient care on the MCV Campus. The Discovery Society was launched in 2016 to honor individuals who contribute annually to a school, unit or program on the MCV Campus. Since 2016, Discovery Society members have given more than \$4 million. Last year, more than \$780,000 was donated to the MCV Foundation by this group.

“We are very pleased to be able to return to in-person events,” said Brian Thomas, the foundation’s vice president and chief development officer. “The Discovery Series has been an important way to build meaningful connections with community members and help educate them about the important research and patient care at VCU Health.” ■



The Discovery Series RVA event featured (L to R) VCU School of Medicine faculty Robert Winn, M.D., director of VCU Massey Cancer Center; moderator Peter F. Buckley, M.D., former dean; Susan Hong, M.D., associate professor, Department of Internal Medicine; and Robert Findling, M.D., chair of the Department of Psychiatry.

Discovery Series RVA attendee Anne Boevé talks with panelist Robert Winn, M.D., director of VCU Massey Cancer Center. Photos: Tyler Trumbo, MCV Foundation

If you are interested in learning more about the Discovery Series and the Discovery Society, please contact Brian Thomas, the foundation’s vice president and chief development officer, at 804-828-0067 or [brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org](mailto:brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org).





(Back, L to R) Shirley Gibson, D.N.P.; Jeanette Cain; Lola Adalakun; and (front, L to R) Ginny Crone; MCV Foundation board member Charles Crone; Michael Tuggle and Jacquelyn Tuggle share a table at the MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch.



(L to R) Joseph D. Wilkins, D.P.T.; Tonya Parris-Wilkins, D.D.S.; MCV Foundation Leadership Council member Jim Revere, D.D.S.; and Michaela Banks are donors and/or scholarship recipients at the VCU School of Dentistry.



Camille Schrier (left), former Miss America and current VCU School of Pharmacy student, and Judith Forehand Starkey, an MCV Foundation board member, shared remarks with the 250 people in attendance at the MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch in March.

## Endowed Scholarship Brunch Returns to the Jefferson

At high noon in late March, an excited crowd assembled in the Jefferson Hotel’s Grand Ballroom for the foundation’s first major in-person event since 2020.

“We were so thrilled to be able to return to hosting this event in person,” said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, the foundation’s president and CEO. “It is particularly gratifying to bring together scholarship recipients with the donors who created those scholarships.”

More than 500 endowed scholarships supported health sciences students on the MCV Campus, and donors created 27 new scholarships since the virtual celebration last year. All told, around \$2.7 million in support was available for students this academic year.

The foundation’s Endowed Scholarship Brunch allows MCV Campus students the opportunity to meet the donors who made their scholarships possible and to share their gratitude for the support and fellowship over a great meal. The event also features perspectives from both a donor and a student.

Two years ago, MCV Foundation trustee Judi Forehand Starkey established a scholarship at the VCU School of Nursing after being inspired by the compassionate care of neonatal nurses she witnessed when touring VCU Health.

“It was very rewarding to me to know that I have helped wonderful nurses, and that they in turn will benefit so many others through their care,” Starkey said. “I was impressed with how easy it was to set up a scholarship, and now I look forward to helping it grow and helping many future nurses. I know firsthand how the foundation takes excellent care of the endowments and all donations, so I am confident this fund will be managed well and have an impact.”

From the student perspective, Camille Schrier, Pharm.D. Class of 2024, offered her personal story of how scholarships have made her dreams possible. Two years ago, she was beginning her reign as Miss America 2020 when the pandemic hit. Scholarship support helped finance her education at the VCU School of Pharmacy and gave her a national platform to launch initiatives on drug safety and promoting the sciences for young women.

“I know personally how scholarships make advanced education and careers in health care possible,” Schrier said. “Scholarships have lifted an incredible burden off my shoulders while studying at VCU, and I am thankful for those whose generosity has supported so many students on the MCV Campus.” ■

*If you are interested in supporting an existing student scholarship or starting a new fund, please contact Brian Thomas, the foundation’s vice president and chief development officer, at [brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org](mailto:brian.thomas@vcuhealth.org) or 804-828-0067.*



(L to R) Mason Beazley; Corey Williams; MCV Foundation lifetime honorary trustee Wyatt Beazley III, M.D.; and Fay Chelmos discussed their connections to the VCU School of Medicine at the MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AWARDED  
IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22

**\$2.7**  
million

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS THAT  
SUPPORTED HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS

**528**

ON THE MCV CAMPUS

SINCE LAST YEAR,

**27**

NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS  
HAVE BEEN CREATED



# Family Traditions

Nursing alumna establishes scholarship in memory of her mother, a 1944 graduate of the school.

Carolyn Faber followed in her mother's footsteps when she graduated from the VCU School of Nursing in 1993.

"She loved MCV so much," Carolyn remembers of her mother, Sarah Daniel Faber. "That was the only place she ever wanted to go."

Her mother graduated from the School of Nursing in 1944 and worked for MCV as a registered nurse in the operating room, where she predated the advent of penicillin. She continued her operating room experience and advanced her career as an assistant operating room supervisor at St. Phillip Hospital and worked at the Pine Camp Tuberculosis Sanitorium in Richmond. Later, she met the love of her life at a dance for dental students at an area church.

When James Faber, D.D.S., graduated from MCV in 1951, his career took them across the mountains of West Virginia, where their daughter Carolyn works today as a cardiac intensive care unit nurse in Charleston. Caring runs in the family: Four of Sarah and James' children work in health care and the fifth went into sacred music ministry.

Sarah lived a full and long life, delivering meals to people well into her

80s and inspiring those around her by her example of service and care for others. When Sarah Daniel Faber passed

away at the age of 98 in March 2020, Carolyn and her family felt a fitting tribute for their mother would be to establish a scholarship in her name.

"Education was very important to our mother," Carolyn said. "She was determined to get an education and reared all of us to learn and experience the things she often did not get a chance to growing up. If she didn't know how to swim, we all became lifeguards."

Her mom's determined streak came from facing a number of challenges head-on when growing up poor in rural Brunswick County, Virginia.

"Mom lost a brother at the end of World War II," Carolyn said. "That was a grief she carried with her the rest of her life."

Her mother's family lost farmland during the Great Depression. Other challenges only sharpened her devotion to people and her desire to become a nurse.

Her children hope the Sarah Daniel Faber Scholarship will support students like those enrolled in accelerated bachelor's degree programs through Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC), which now sits on the farmland her family lost, and the family would love to see students from Sarah's beloved home county benefit.

"There's so much need in Brunswick County," Carolyn said. "We first wanted to help someone in need in the county, but we just hope this will allow someone who would not otherwise be able to go to nursing school to achieve that same dream as my mother and me." ■



Sarah Daniel Faber (far left) and Carolyn Faber with her mother. If you would like to support this effort or other student scholarships at the VCU School of Nursing, please contact Pam Lowe, senior director of development, at [plowe@vcu.edu](mailto:plowe@vcu.edu) or 804-827-0020.





A New  
*Ray of Hope*

Inspired by unimaginable heartache, the Geoffrey R. Shultz Chair in Pancreatic Cancer Research will advance research and treatments for pancreatic cancer at VCU Massey Cancer Center.

Geoff Shultz became a father three weeks before he received the grim diagnosis of Stage IV pancreatic cancer. He was 34 years old and in the prime of his life.

“It was the day after Christmas,” recalled his wife Julie Shultz. “We went to our first appointment, where they read the scans, and they basically said he had six months to live and for him to go ahead and get his affairs in order. Right then, we knew we were not where we needed to be to get treated.”

That afternoon, Geoff got an appointment for a second opinion at VCU Massey Cancer. With his family and his new team at Massey by his side, his next 15 months included chemotherapy, clinical trials and — despite a lot of bad news — always hope.



"I remember leaving our first appointment at Massey and having this new sense of energy," Julie said. "There was hope, and a sense that this new team we had just met was not going to give up on us. And they didn't. They felt more like a family in that way."

Geoff faced these challenges with hope and good humor. He adopted a motto for him and the family to "fight cancer, stay positive." The family made t-shirts and hosted a dunking event to rally friends and family around the cause while spreading positivity. His family remembers how Massey's approach to treatment and their culture of care meant the world to the family and often translated into many little moments that made a big impact. Early in his treatment, Geoff recalled his delight at the simple messages of encouragement like a stuffed monkey given as a reminder to "hang in there."

Sadly, Geoff passed away in 2019, but he left behind a beautiful son, a loving family and a legacy of positivity that continues to inspire many.

"He was an amazing dad, husband, son and family member who did not take a moment for granted," Julie said. "Cancer never won in Geoff's mind. He never let it win in our family or with our friends, and he never let it stop him. He rarely missed a day of work. We went on a ski trip, and he skied down black diamonds in between having the most aggressive chemotherapy on the market."



Before and after his cancer diagnosis, Geoff Shutz embraced positivity and lived life to the fullest, especially relishing his role as a new father. His parents Peter and Karen Shutz (pictured with Geoff and his wife Julie and their son Emerson Louis) created an endowed chair in pancreatic cancer research to honor Geoff's memory. His wife Julie also leads a foundation she and the family founded to support pancreatic cancer patients and raise money for research. Photos courtesy of the Shutz family



After Geoff's passing in 2019, Julie, with help from Geoff's friends and family, co-founded the FCSP Foundation ("Fight Cancer Stay Positive") to continue his legacy to raise critical funding for pancreatic cancer research and early detection and to help spread positivity. In 2021, the FCSP dunking event raised \$117,000 to support research efforts. Additionally, the group works to encourage patients and provide comfort and emotional support for those undergoing treatment.

"Pancreatic cancer is the least funded major cancer in this country," Julie said. "It also does not have any type of blood test or pre-screen to identify this cancer before it has already spread, and that's why the odds are so tough."

Despite medical advances in other types of cancers, today, pancreatic cancer has just a 10 percent survival rate over five years, and the area is in dire need of more funding.

That problem continued to bother Geoff's family in the wake of his loss as they worked to build awareness, advocate and fundraise in the community.

"We need to move forward and to find new ways to predict, prevent and treat cancers," said Karen Shutz, his mother. "That is the only way to ensure other people would never have to suffer the excruciating loss and the pain."

This spring brought new hope to the fight when Geoff's parents Peter and Karen Shutz made a \$1.5 million gift that also engaged VCU's Glasgow Incentive, which matches the gift with money from the Glasgow Trusts. Combined with the matching funds, this gift will create an endowed chair in pancreatic cancer research. The endowed chair will support expanding research efforts and assist the cancer center with opening up more treatment options at Massey.

"We wanted to express our appreciation for everything

Massey did to care for Geoff and to also provide hope for others in the future," said Peter. "We hope it attracts highly qualified professionals that can dedicate their talents and time to working on a cure for pancreatic cancer."

Geoff's family knew they wanted to create an enduring tribute to support Massey in his name, and both Karen and Peter were impressed when learning about opportunities to make a big difference and to elevate efforts to fight pancreatic cancer.

"Geoff cared a lot about Massey," Karen said. "Even before he got sick, he started working on the idea to give something with each paycheck to support cancer research. This seemed like the perfect way to have him remembered — to be sure we were continuing Geoff's wishes to support cancer research."

The family said they were inspired by the idea of doing something to help Massey be able to offer the best available treatments for pancreatic cancer and to build off Massey's strength to make it a leading place for pancreatic cancer research and care.

"It is just overwhelming to think that Geoff's story will be shared forever in the name of pancreatic cancer research and advocacy," said his wife Julie, "and his memory will help inspire patients and families with the story of someone who never gave up and stayed positive through all of it." ■

If you would like to support pancreatic cancer research at VCU Massey Cancer Center, please contact Michelle Adcock, Massey's chief of development operations, at [madcock@vcu.edu](mailto:madcock@vcu.edu) or 804-828-1187.





# A New Global Leader

At \$104 million, the largest gift in VCU's history lays the foundation for a new liver institute

Arun Sanyal, M.D. (left) and R. Todd Stravitz, M.D.



Inside leading academic health systems across the nation and world, centers focused on heart disease, cancer and diabetes are commonplace and essential, but what patients don't have access to at most of these leading health systems are multidisciplinary institutes focused on the human body's most unsung organ — the liver. Announced in February, a transformational \$104 million gift from the Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation is addressing that international deficit by laying the foundation for the Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health. The institute will build on the success of nationally recognized hepatology and liver transplant programs at VCU Health. The MCV Campus and VCU Health have been a beacon of research and care in this field for nearly 50 years.

The gift is the largest in VCU's history, the second largest publicly shared gift in Virginia, and the largest publicly shared

“It is urgent that we engage in more research to find better treatments, and we must also educate society about the many causes of liver disease.”

gift for liver research in U.S. history by a factor of four.

With the help of these resources, the Stravitz-Sanyal Institute will fortify VCU Health as a global leader in research and education around liver diseases and metabolically driven disorders, and as a model of how to care for patients with these conditions.

“Right now, the only cure for end-stage liver disease is a liver transplant ... and nine to 10 people die for every one person who makes it to transplant,” said Arun Sanyal, M.D., who serves as the institute's inaugural director and has practiced hepatology at VCU Health for nearly four decades.

“Our goal is to seamlessly integrate scientific discovery into clinical care, ultimately improving the health of the people we serve here in Virginia, as well as those suffering from liver disease around the world.”

The generous donor whose family foundation helped to make this vision a reality knows Dr. Sanyal well. Todd Stravitz, M.D., was a clinical professor, hepatologist and Dr. Sanyal's VCU Health colleague for 30 years.

“Arun is, quite simply, the most recognized liver physician in the world,” Dr. Stravitz said. “He will attract the best people because of personal relationships that he's developed over the years all over the world.”

Dr. Stravitz said the new institute is greatly needed and will meet various needs because of its focus on such a vital piece in the entire human body's well-being.

“The liver is a complicated organ and is responsible for thousands of different reactions,” he said. “It plays a role

in all of digestion, some hormonal function, and regulatory function whereby all organs fail if the liver isn't working

properly. So, we often are driven to the point of having to replace the liver as a form of therapy, but that is not a very attractive treatment.”

Dr. Sanyal agrees, and said that pursuing new tools and tactics in the fight against liver disease will be paramount. “It is urgent that we engage in more research to find better treatments, and we must also educate society about the many causes of liver disease — which cut across every stratum of society — and reduce the stigma,” Dr. Sanyal said. “Alcohol is not the only cause of liver disease, but many people don't know this.”



Arun Sanyal, M.D.,  
inaugural director of the  
Stravitz-Sanyal Institute  
for Liver Disease and  
Metabolic Health

## LIVER DISEASE: A LEADING FACTOR FOR THE **DECLINE IN LIFE EXPECTANCY** IN THE UNITED STATES

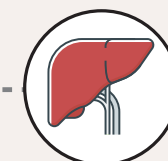
THE IMPACT STARTS HERE

# \$104 MILLION GIFT

TO FUND THE NEW STRAVITZ-SANYAL INSTITUTE FOR LIVER DISEASE AND METABOLIC HEALTH



TRAINING THE  
NEXT GENERATION  
OF LIVER EXPERTS



FINDING  
ALTERNATIVES TO  
LIVER TRANSPLANTS



INVESTING IN  
GENE THERAPY  
RESEARCH



DOUBLING  
OUR CAPACITY  
FOR CARE



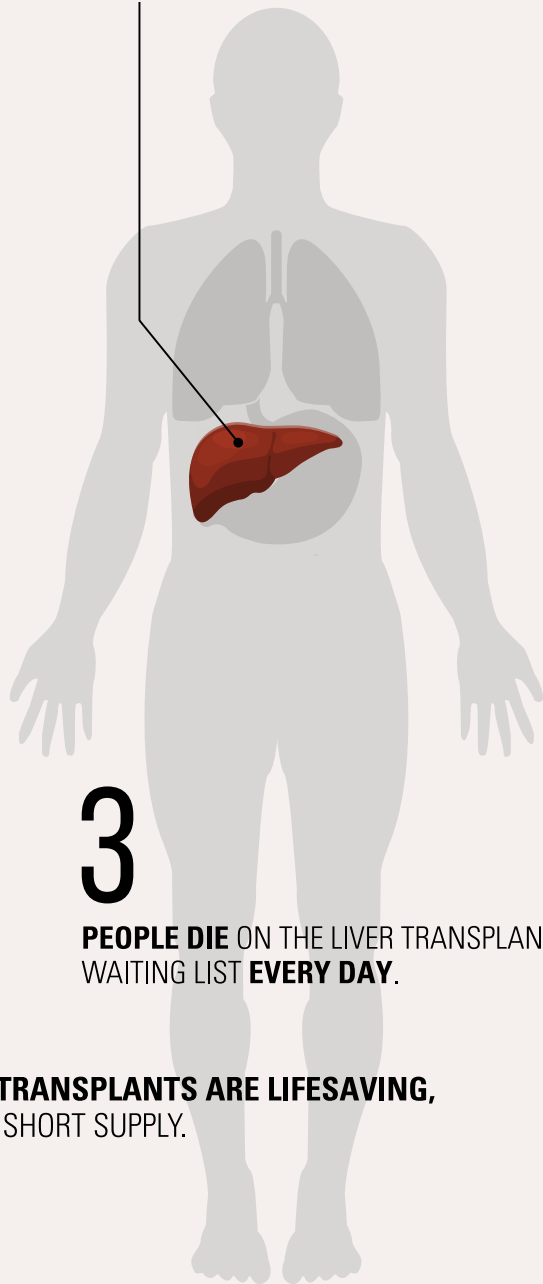
CREATING NEW  
DIAGNOSTICS  
AND TREATMENTS



1 BILLION



PEOPLE **WORLDWIDE** HAVE SOME FORM OF LIVER DISEASE. IT CUTS ACROSS THE FULL SPECTRUM OF SOCIETY.



3

PEOPLE DIE ON THE LIVER TRANSPLANT WAITING LIST **EVERY DAY**.

**LIVER TRANSPLANTS ARE LIFESAVING, BUT IN SHORT SUPPLY.**

**A GLOBAL NEED**

Approximately one out of three adults in the U.S. has excess fat in their liver, and one out of 20 has enough fat that it scars the liver over time, leading to cirrhosis and liver cancer and ultimately causing the liver to shut down.

By better managing liver disease, physicians not only prevent related deaths, but they reduce the ill effects of high blood pressure, diabetes, heart and kidney disease and even Alzheimer’s disease.

Left untreated, the buildup of fat in the liver can cause inflammation, scarring (fibrosis) and full-blown cirrhosis, which leaves the liver permanently damaged. Patients typically are diagnosed when the disease is advanced and a transplant is the only option.

In 2021, a national study led by Dr. Sanyal provided the first clear picture of the true rates of outcomes in those with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and showed that people with advanced liver scarring caused by obesity, diabetes and related disorders are dying of the disease.

Published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the research brings new urgency to tests for liver disease, particularly for those with type 2 diabetes, and creates a road map for future treatments of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease — treatments that could prevent the need for liver transplants.

The Stravitz-Sanyal Institute will enable Dr. Sanyal to build on this and other work by strengthening existing programs that span translational science and developing the infrastructure to support precision medicine approaches.

“By bolstering collaborations with neurosciences, cardiology, critical care, renal disease, infectious disease, endocrinology, psychology, addiction medicine and transplant sciences, the institute will promote research that explores multifaceted aspects of liver disease and its interconnectedness to health, recovery and wellbeing,” said Art Kellermann, M.D., senior vice president for VCU Health Sciences and CEO of VCU Health System.



Todd Stravitz, M.D., and his family’s foundation made a \$104 million gift to VCU in February. Photos: Allen Jones, VCU University Marketing

**THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY**

“I want to make sure this institute shines, does good for patients, and that the world benefits from the work that’s done here, but I don’t take any credit for that,” said Dr. Stravitz. “This is my family’s gift over generations, and I’m a very lucky guy because I was able to choose what I wanted to do with it.”

Margaret Ann Bollmeier, MCV Foundation president and CEO, said that an extraordinary gift like this one can change a field of research.

“We are so excited about the medical breakthroughs this gift will ignite,” she said. “There may be a day in which liver transplants are rare and liver disease is treated in completely new ways — and these changes will be the result of passion, vision and philanthropy here on the MCV Campus at VCU Health.”

Dr. Stravitz added that choosing where he made a gift was as important as choosing what he wanted to accomplish.

“VCU is a cohesive group of people who want to do the right thing for patients. We all seem to be on the same page and that’s a cool feeling — I’m not sure that’s the case everywhere,” he said. “VCU has never turned a patient away because they couldn’t pay — it’s never been about the bottom line here. I’m hoping this gift will enable research in the lab and at the patient’s bedside, and ultimately, patients will benefit.”

Sanyal has no doubt about how patients will benefit. “Our institute will end up saving hundreds of thousands of lives in this country,” he said. “And perhaps millions around the world.” ■

It will also advance VCU Health’s ability to care for patients and their families with liver disease and metabolic disorders, said Patricia Sime, M.D., chair of the Department of Internal Medicine.

“The cutting-edge translational research fostered by the institute will enable us to develop new diagnostics, therapies and preventive strategies to relieve the tremendous burden of liver and metabolic disease globally,” Dr. Sime said.

The gift also funds two endowed chairs, the Arun J. Sanyal Endowed Professor of Medicine and the Phillip B. Hylemon Endowed Professor of Medicine and Microbiology.

*If you are interested in learning about ways to align with and support the Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health, contact Priscilla Cash, senior director of development at the School of Medicine, at 804-827-4933 or [priscilla.wiggin@vcuhealth.org](mailto:priscilla.wiggin@vcuhealth.org).*



## Transplant Center Receives Grant to Support Lifesaving Research

Even after a record-breaking year, the future is looking brighter for organ transplants at VCU Health’s Hume-Lee Transplant Center.

A new grant from the Richmond-based Richard S. Reynolds Foundation promises more support for research on increasing access to lifesaving transplants and improving organ transplant outcomes.

The \$350,000 grant creates the Gupta-Levy Transplant Research Initiative, named for current Hume-Lee transplant physicians Gaurav Gupta, M.D., and Marlon Levy, M.D. The Reynolds Foundation carries the name of Richard S. Reynolds, the founder of Reynolds Metals, and was established by his wife, Julia Louise Reynolds, following his death in 1955. It has awarded more than \$60 million in funding to a range of causes, from art and the environment to science, education and health care.

“We are grateful to the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation’s ongoing commitment to scientific research that improves the health of many,” said Dr. Levy, director of the Hume-Lee

Transplant Center. “Their investments have been critical to the success of projects at the transplant center and across VCU to save and improve lives in the communities we serve.”

The Reynolds Foundation grant will support three research projects led by Hume-Lee aimed at improving the evaluation of donor kidneys so fewer organs go unused, expanding research on blood tests that may show which patients are more prone to rejection, and expanding gene expression-based molecular assessment prior to kidney transplantation. It will also develop a seed fund to support young researchers and pilot projects in kidney transplant research.

“Those of us associated with the foundation are aware of the life-altering and lifesaving work of the Hume-Lee Transplant Center,” said the foundation’s president, Richard S. “Major” Reynolds III, grandson of the

family’s patriarch and brother of the late Virginia Lt. Gov. J. Sargeant Reynolds. “Through the national reputation of programs on the MCV Campus, as well as through personal experience of family and friends, we are familiar with the quality of the treatment provided. Aiding in the expansion of their work through research is exactly the kind of thing our foundation likes to do.”

The Reynolds grant, paid over four years, includes a \$250,000 challenge grant to encourage other donors to support transplant research. While the initial \$100,000 is directed at expansion of the three current projects, future funds will help VCU grow its kidney transplant studies with aspiring researchers.

“There are many, many other projects we are developing that could really change the landscape for kidney transplantation,” Dr. Gupta said, “not only in Virginia, but around the world.” ■



If you would like to support treatment and research at VCU Health’s Hume-Lee Transplant Center, please contact Niles Eggleston, assistant vice president for development, at 804-828-2112 or [niles.eggleston@vcuhealth.org](mailto:niles.eggleston@vcuhealth.org).

A grant from the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation will support three projects led by Hume-Lee transplant physicians Gaurav Gupta, M.D., and Marlon Levy, M.D. Photo: Dan Carrigan, VCU Health Hume-Lee Transplant Center





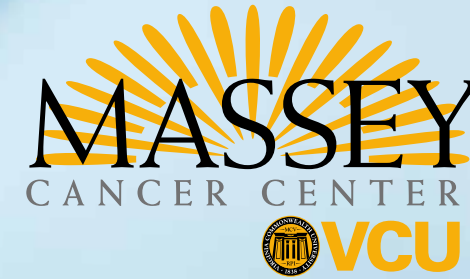
### SILVERMAN FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD FUND REACHES \$1 MILLION

The Joel J. Silverman, M.D., Faculty Research Award fund has grown to more than \$1 million thanks to dozens of donors and the Margaret Branch and Arthur Graham Glasgow Trust, which has provided 1:1 matching funds for gifts of \$25,000 or more.

The fund named for Dr. Silverman, who is former chair of the VCU School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry, supports junior faculty as they pursue research to find more effective treatments and cures for mental illness in people of all ages. The outpouring of support is a testament to the impact Dr. Silverman has made on patients, students and the field of psychiatry over his 45 years on the MCV Campus.

In 2016, the MCV Foundation Board of Trustees recognized Dr. Silverman's success in securing funding for the Department of Psychiatry and presented him with the Robert Irby Award. Dr. Silverman has been a valued partner of the foundation, and many current and former MCV Foundation trustees have made generous contributions to this research fund named in his honor. ■

*For information about supporting the Silverman Faculty Research Award, contact Nathan Bick, senior major gift officer at the VCU School of Medicine, at 804-827-0387 or [nathan.bick@vcuhealth.org](mailto:nathan.bick@vcuhealth.org).*



### MASSEY COMPLETES FIRST OF TWO MATCHING GRANT CHALLENGES FOR ADULT OUTPATIENT PAVILION

The Cabell Foundation and the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation are committed to excellence in health care and have made generous matching grants totaling \$1.25 million in support of VCU Massey Cancer Center's outpatient clinic in VCU Health's new Adult Outpatient Pavilion.

The Adult Outpatient Pavilion houses an array of specialties as well as diagnostic testing, medical imaging, a pharmacy and a laboratory. There is a separate Massey entrance and five floors dedicated to outpatient clinical oncology services in the 17-story, 615,000-square-foot building.

The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation's matching challenge for Massey was part of a larger commitment to the MCV Campus, and Massey completed its portion in February with \$500,000 in donations that were matched dollar-for-dollar. Now, a challenge grant from The Cabell Foundation aims to match \$750,000 in donations before December. The combined potential \$2.5 million impact will further ensure patients who come to VCU Health for cancer care will receive the best available treatments delivered by leading oncology care providers. ■

*For information about helping Massey meet the Cabell Foundation matching challenge, contact Tom Maness, associate vice president for development for health sciences and the MCV Campus, at 804-828-4179 or [temaness@vcu.edu](mailto:temaness@vcu.edu).*





# Businesses Rally for Harper's Hope

Fundraisers support ALS efforts at VCU Health.



The Main Street Homes Golf Tournament raised \$45,000 for the Harper's Hope Fund for ALS. This annual event has raised more than \$260,000 and honors Bobby Quinn, who passed away in April 2021 after a courageous battle with the disease. Photos: Tyler Trumbo, MCV Foundation

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is one of health care's most heartbreaking challenges for the patients and families affected. The progressive neurodegenerative disease, commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, is unsparing as it affects motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, ultimately leading to death. The average life expectancy for ALS patients is only two to five years.

While there is no cure for the disease, one Central Virginia effort continues to bring hope to patients with ALS and their loved ones and has inspired several community organizations. Harper's Hope Fund for ALS was founded in 2014 by Vic Harper and his family to raise support for ALS research and patient care programs at VCU Health. The fund enhances ALS clinical programs, helps educate

the public about the disease and supports innovative research.

The impact of ALS has resonated with several Richmond-area organizations and businesses, including Main Street Homes, Meadowbrook Country Club, the Quinn Group and Sedona Taphouse, all of which have organized fundraising events to support the Harper's Hope Fund in recent years. Overall, these community-led efforts raised over \$50,000 for Harper's Hope in 2021. These efforts helped honor the legacies of beloved colleagues and friends and increased the total raised since 2014 for the Harper's Hope Fund to nearly \$900,000.

"This support has allowed us to expand our offerings to patients," said Kelly Gwathmey, M.D., who began leading the VCU Health ALS clinic in 2019. "The clinic initiated three large-scale drug studies, including one that was activated in August, and has seen one of the highest enrollment numbers in the country."

Another project that benefited from the fund's support involves a clinical assessment of the geographic distribution of ALS in Virginia, which improved community outreach and

education about the disease.

A second dedicated ALS research coordinator was hired from proceeds of the fund, positively impacting patient access to research opportunities like clinical trials.



"My entire team and our patients have benefited greatly, thanks to the all the good work Harper's Hope has done to raise funds and increase overall awareness for ALS in the community," Dr. Gwathmey said. "We remain grateful to Anne Harper and her family for their continued passion and commitment to improving the lives of ALS patients at VCU Health." ■

In summer 2021, Sedona Taphouse held their annual Steak Out Night for Harper's Hope Fund for ALS and raised \$1,124. Noah McMordie, a manager at Sedona Taphouse, presented the check to (L to R) Anne Harper, Frances Derrer, Brian Thomas, Jerry Creehan, Sue Creehan and Laura Renaud Yawman.

If you would like to support Harper's Hope Fund for ALS, please contact Bernadette O'Shea, senior director of development for neurosciences at VCU Health, at [bernadette.oshea@vcuhealth.org](mailto:bernadette.oshea@vcuhealth.org) or 773-718-5668.





PHOTO: PENELOPE M. CARRINGTON

## Challenge Honors Former Dentistry Dean

Supporting clinical research in dentistry on the MCV Campus is the vision behind a fundraising challenge.

In his 10 years as dean of the VCU School of Dentistry, David Sarrett, D.M.D., built a robust dental research program focused on important issues like infection control and cancer treatment.

“We’re proud of that, but those areas of research are well-supported by organizations like the National Institutes of Health,” Dr. Sarrett said. “Day to day, though, the bread-and-butter clinical dentistry

questions on how well various filling materials work, or questions about new techniques that provide better outcomes, that research is not well funded.”

The potential impact of the research Dr. Sarrett describes is especially pronounced when patients face situations such as tooth decay or require reconstruction after injuries. These are physically, mentally and emotionally painful situations, so understanding what the best solutions and tools are — and how to best implement them — can be life-changing.

After 43 years in the field, 28 years at VCU School of Dentistry and 10 years as dean of the school, Dr. Sarrett sees an immense opportunity to move this important area of research forward. In 2021, Dr. Sarrett and his wife Beth made a \$100,000 gift to establish the Sarrett Clinical Research Fund to support restorative dentistry and dental materials research at the school.

“These are the most common problems that dentists experience, and that patients experience when things don’t work well,” said Dr. Sarrett, who retired from the faculty this spring. “So, I think it’s vitally important that we have independent funding sources for this type of research.”

The Sarretts have issued a challenge to School of Dentistry alumni and friends to match their gift and vision. In honor of the former

dean’s decades of service, the couple and the school have set a goal to raise an additional \$100,000 to expand the fund’s impact on dental research.

The fund will support both faculty and students, igniting passion in future dentists and attracting to Richmond the brightest minds in restorative dentistry and dental materials research.

“This funding is important because, to be a national leader in dental education, we have to be part of clinical and translational research,” said Sompop Bencharit, D.D.S., Ph.D., director of clinical research at the School of Dentistry. “You can test material and tools on the benchtop, but when you apply the research in the patient care setting, you directly improve patient outcomes.”

The fund also will provide opportunities for researchers to complete early-stage projects that better position them to receive the limited national funding that is available for this type of research.

Kelsey Freeman is a Class of 2022 dentistry student who has worked with Dr. Sarrett on several projects.

“I am so grateful that we have donors,” she said. “It tells me that someone is rooting for us, rooting for the students, for us to be better, to become great clinicians, and that people really care about where dentistry is going.” ■



David Sarrett, D.M.D., former dean of the VCU School of Dentistry, and his wife Beth are challenging donors to match their gift in support of dental research.

*If you are interested in honoring Dr. Sarrett by contributing to the Sarrett Clinical Research Fund at the VCU School of Dentistry, contact Gloria Callihan, J.D., associate dean and director of development and alumni relations, at 804-828-8101 or [gfcallihan@vcu.edu](mailto:gfcallihan@vcu.edu).*



## Health Professions Scholarship Honors Legendary Disability Advocate

A new scholarship at the VCU College of Health Professions is the first in the university's history to provide support for students in the rehabilitative counseling program.

James Rothrock, former commissioner of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, spent his career advocating for people with disabilities. A sledding accident as a teenager left Rothrock paraplegic, yet anyone who met him most remembered Jim for his booming laughter and indomitable spirit.

"He had a great sense of humor and was extremely caring," said Christine Reid, Ph.D., a professor in the college's Department of Rehabilitative Counseling.

Rothrock was a leader and advocate for people with disabilities. He was present

at the White House in the Rose Garden in 1991 when President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law, and he worked tirelessly on behalf of Virginians with disabilities and older adults.

In March 2021, Rothrock died after a brief battle with cancer. Soon after, many of his colleagues wanted to start an effort to honor him with a scholarship in his name. Rothrock, who earned his master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the college, served as commissioner of the Virginia Department for Aging and

Rehabilitative Services from 2002 until his retirement in 2018. He also taught as an adjunct instructor for the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling, bringing his expertise and lived experience with disability to the classroom. His son Sam also graduated from the college with a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling.

"He was a strong supporter of our department and the profession of rehabilitation counseling," Dr. Reid said. "He helped empower people with disabilities and removed barriers so they can live the lives they want to live."

The effort to honor Rothrock came together quickly. By fall 2021, the scholarship was fully endowed, and the Jim Rothrock Legacy Scholarship will be awarded annually to VCU students based on their financial need, with preference given to students who intend to work with people with disabilities.

“He helped empower people with disabilities and removed barriers so they can live the lives they want to live.”



"He was a wonderful model for people to follow of how to advocate for people with disabilities," Dr. Reid said. "He was somebody who made sure things happened by providing support to make them happen." ■

*If you would like to support the Rothrock Legacy Scholarship, please contact T. Greg Prince, Ed.D., senior director of development at the College of Health Professions, at [tgprince@vcu.edu](mailto:tgprince@vcu.edu) or 804-828-7247.*

▲ James Rothrock with his wife Jane at a Richmond Squirrels baseball game. Photo courtesy the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services





## Nursing Alumna Supports Education Through Scholarship and Planned Gift

Nursing professionals were in short supply before the pandemic, and the strains of providing care during COVID-19 have intensified a nationwide shortage. That particular challenge caught the attention of Barbara Brown, Ph.D., a 1970 graduate of the VCU School of Nursing.

“Nursing education is expensive, and nursing programs are always stretched for funds,” Dr. Brown said. “Nursing programs also have to keep up with the changing technologies. It’s not a one-time investment and there are yearly costs, such as ensuring simulation labs used to train nurses offer state-of-the-art instructional tools.”

Dr. Brown wanted to do something after years of seeing the problem grow. Her first step was to create an endowed scholarship to help keep a nursing education within financial reach for students. With the scholarship, she also wanted to honor her close friend and classmate, Barbara Dunn, Ph.D., for her many years of volunteer service and advocacy for the School of Nursing. The two met 50 years ago at the School of Nursing, and Dr. Dunn has been instrumental in making sure their tight-knit group of friends remains close.

“A big part of nursing is bringing people together,” Dr. Brown said, “So, with this scholarship, I wanted to say thank you to Barbie for 50 years of keeping us together and to help VCU continue to provide a quality education.”

Dr. Brown also made a planned gift by designating the School of Nursing as a beneficiary of her individual retirement account (IRA). The process, she said, was easy and clear. She chose to leave her gift unrestricted so that future leaders of the School of Nursing could apply the gift where it would make the biggest impact on educating the next generation of nurses.

“There will never be enough nurses,” Dr. Brown said. “Supporting the VCU School of Nursing will help ensure it has the resources necessary to provide the best possible nursing education.” ■



### GIFT PLANNING: HOW CHARITABLE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS WORK

Charitable beneficiary designations offer a simple way to make a big difference. By naming the MCV Foundation as a beneficiary on one of your accounts, a gift will come directly to the MCV Foundation to be used in the manner you have directed.

You can name the MCV Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plans, IRAs, life insurance or commercial annuities. These accounts are not controlled by the terms of your will but, instead, are passed along through a beneficiary designation. Beneficiary designations supersede the terms of your will, so it’s important to always keep them up to date.

Charitable beneficiary designations are one of the most popular ways to make a meaningful gift. They are simple to set up and allow you to maintain control of your assets during your lifetime and modify your plans as needed. In addition, your gift passes outside of probate and is excluded from your estate for tax purposes. Many alumni and friends who plan to leave gifts for individuals and the MCV Foundation in their estates choose to designate pretax accounts, like traditional IRAs, for the MCV Foundation and to leave less heavily taxed assets to heirs.

*If you are interested in learning how to make a planned gift through a beneficiary designation that supports the MCV Campus, please contact Ann Deppman, assistant vice president for gift planning at VCU, by calling 804-828-7370 or emailing [deppmana@vcu.edu](mailto:deppmana@vcu.edu).*





**JOANNE  
KIRK HENRY**  
1945-2022

JoAnne Kirk Henry, Ed.D., a former MCV Foundation trustee

and nursing leader, died January 18, 2022.

Born in Providence, R.I., Dr. Henry became a registered nurse at St. John's Queens Hospital. Her nursing education also included a B.S. degree from the University of Virginia and a master's degree from New York University. She earned a doctorate in higher education administration from U.Va and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Henry was the Theresa A. Thomas Professor in the VCU School of Nursing and served as associate dean. She also directed the VCU Office of Health Policy and received VCU's Distinguished Service Award and the Presidential Medallion in honor of her work. In 2003, she began her first of several terms on the MCV Foundation Board of Trustees.

Her knowledge of women's health and community activism and her belief in collaboration enabled her to work effectively to improve the health and well-being of families in need.

"She was a master strategist and politician — essential skills for success in the complex organizations she led or helped lead," said Barbara Dunn, Ph.D., RN, a friend and colleague. "I admired her patience, kindness and emotional intelligence."

**Hermes Kontos, M.D.**, former dean of the VCU School of Medicine and the first CEO of the VCU Health System Authority, died December 5, 2021 at the age of 87.

Born in Lefka, Cyprus, Dr. Kontos earned his medical degree from the University of Athens School of Medicine and a doctorate from MCV's Department of Physiology. He was internationally recognized as a physician-scientist for his research in cerebrovascular physiology, and he published over 200 manuscripts and book chapters.

He began his career at MCV in 1960 as a resident in internal medicine and later played an integral role in strategically aligning the academic and clinical vision of VCU. He later was dean of the VCU School of Medicine and served as VCU's senior vice president for health sciences and CEO of the VCU Health System Authority when it was created.

"Dr. Kontos' legacy lives on through the work of the tens of thousands of health care professionals trained and the hundreds of thousands of patients whose lives have been saved or changed for the better, thanks to his leadership," said Art Kellermann, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences at VCU and CEO of VCU Health. "As the latest successor in the dual role he created, he left huge shoes to fill that I vow to grow into every day."



**HERMES KONTOS**  
1933-2021

**WALTER  
LAWRENCE JR.**  
1925-2021

Walter Lawrence Jr., M.D., died November 9, 2021, at age 96.

Born in Chicago in 1925, Dr. Lawrence attended medical school at the University of Chicago and completed his residency at Johns Hopkins University, followed by additional training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he remained on staff for 10 years and went on to perform New York City's first kidney transplant.

Dr. Lawrence served his country in both the U.S. Naval Reserve and in the U.S. Army as chief of surgery for the 46th Army Surgical Hospital in Korea. In the early 1960s, he was recruited to lead a new Division of Surgical Oncology at the Medical College of Virginia. In 1974, he became the founding director of Massey Cancer Center, a role he held for more than a decade.

Throughout his life and career, Dr. Lawrence fought repeatedly for social justice and health equity, tirelessly advocating for inclusivity in the medical workforce and championing the increased enrollment of minority patients in clinical trials.

"The real mark Dr. Lawrence leaves behind is the mission to help those less fortunate than ourselves and to ensure that health and cancer burdens are not carried more heavily by some," said Robert A. Winn, M.D., director and Lipman Chair in Oncology at Massey. "Make no mistake, this mission that drives us here at Massey is one we will fight for every day in the name of Walter Lawrence."



## Pharmacy Heritage Trail Wins National Recognition

In 2021, the American Institute on the History of Pharmacy honored the School of Pharmacy's Heritage Trail for its notable contributions to preserving and celebrating the history of pharmacy.

"Virginia has a rich pharmacy history, going back over 400 years," said Joseph DiPiro, Pharm.D., dean of the VCU School of Pharmacy and McCalley Chair. "By learning from the Heritage Trail, our students and future pharmacists are

building on the work of many generations who came before them."

Among old bottles, tins, mortars and pestles, visitors also get a glimpse of the human stories behind the School of Pharmacy, such as how much students paid in annual tuition in 1898 (\$120) and the careers of notable graduates.

The idea for the trail came from alum and pharmacy historian Al

Schalow. The installation was completed in 2021 with support from several partners.

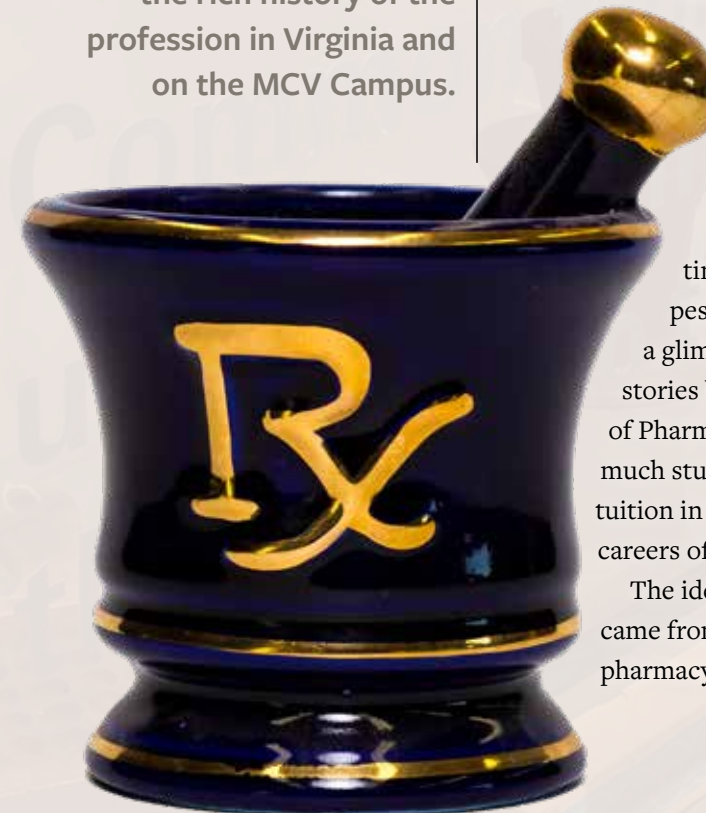
"We were excited to support the creation of the Heritage Trail," said Margaret Ann Bollmeier, the MCV Foundation's president and CEO. "Our board felt the trail would provide a nice history of the School of Pharmacy that would be inspirational to current students and recognize the contributions of former students and faculty."

The trail includes a timeline of major events in the history of pharmacy, as well as information about key individuals and moments from the school's history.

"History teaches us not just about the past, but about the present, and is a guide to the future," Dean DiPiro said. "We welcome everyone to come to the lobby of the Smith building to view our collections and stories." ■

*If you would like to support the VCU School of Pharmacy, please contact Louie Correa, the school's senior director of development, by emailing lacorrea@vcu.edu or calling 804-828-3016.*

Exhibit illuminates the rich history of the profession in Virginia and on the MCV Campus.





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