

MAGEE



FALL 2018

A PUBLICATION OF MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE & FOUNDATION

HELPING WOMEN AT ALL STAGES OF LIFE



PASSION WITH A PURPOSE:

One Woman's Contribution to the Future of Women's Health

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

Why Women's Health Matters to Society as a Whole

VISION AND INNOVATION:

Bringing Women's Health Care and Research to a Higher Level

MAGEE

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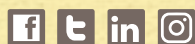
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Featured on cover: Margaret "Peggy" Prine Joy and Eddie the horse.



MAGEE-WOMENS
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



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PASSION

with a Purpose

Margaret “Peggy” Prine Joy doesn’t do anything halfheartedly. She’s a law partner at McCarthy McDonald Schulberg & Joy. She’s an avid horseback rider. (That’s her horse, Eddie, left.) She’s a mother and doting grandmother of three. And on top of all that, she finds the energy to be actively involved with foundations and non-profits throughout the Pittsburgh region. One that’s particularly important to her is Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation.

Peggy Joy’s connection with Magee started in her 20s when she had surgery at the hospital. “I was a patient back in the late 70s on two separate occasions,” she remembers. “I was treated so well and felt so cared for that I was impressed with the place. My mother had had surgery there prior to me, and I always had a very good impression of the hospital. I knew it was a place that cared especially for women. It was confirmed by my own experience.”

Later, in the 80s, Ms. Joy was asked to join the board of Magee-Womens Foundation. Eventually she became a board member of the hospital as well. Through these appointments, Peggy grew more and more engaged, becoming fascinated with the hospital’s clinical work and research enterprise.

“When I came onto the Foundation board, they were helping to raise money for the Research Institute,” she recalls. “That excited me. I felt it was a new opportunity for Magee. I work towards finding the causes of diseases they were treating and perhaps coming up with longer-term solutions.” At this time, Peggy got to know senior researchers such as Dr. Jim Roberts, Dr. Sharon Hillier and others. “They were so impressive in terms of the kinds of work they were doing,” she says. “They were making Magee into a leader of women’s health research. As someone who was always interested in women’s issues in general, that really appealed to me.”



“If we’re going to have progress in women’s health then we have to have a pipeline of young scientists who are excited about that work and incentivized to do that work.”

-Peggy Joy



“The standard of care still has gender-based concepts to it, even though there is more attention being paid to the fact that women do not respond to drugs and surgeries in the same ways that men do all the time. That’s a very important concept that we need to keep working on.”

-Peggy Joy

Ms. Joy’s passion for promoting women’s health has translated into countless volunteer hours as a member of the Board of Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation, including a 10-year stint as Chair of the Board.

Still, she wanted to do more. “I was looking for an opportunity to make a lasting gift, in addition to an annual gift,” says Ms. Joy. She consulted with Dr. Yoel Sadovsky, who suggested sponsoring a lectureship. The idea immediately clicked with her. The Margaret Prine Joy Lecture in Reproductive Sciences was born. “It’s an education piece that I really feel is important. If we’re going to have progress in women’s health then we have to have a pipeline of young scientists who are excited about that work and incentivized to do that work.” The idea of bringing together scientists from the youngest medical students to the most senior people at the Institute also excited Ms. Joy. “To have those people come together in that kind of a forum to discuss their work and be mentored is very important.”

Peggy likes that the lecture is ongoing, held every year on Research Day at Magee, an event where fellows and residents of Magee-Womens Research Institute and UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital gather to showcase their work through oral and poster presentations. She is pleased that her new lectureship joins a second new lectureship, sponsored by Dr. Allen Hogge and his wife, Joan. “The fact that our lectureships are on the same day is a real draw for people,” she remarks.

Reflecting on her long relationship with Magee and the growth of the Research Institute, Ms. Joy believes she’s gotten more out of the experience than she’s given. “It’s been a really exciting opportunity,” she says. “And with the growth of UPMC and the prominence of the University of Pittsburgh Medical School and some of the other pieces that have come to be part of the ecosystem of Magee, it has really launched the Institute well beyond what we ever expected in 1992 when this was started.”

She’s also keenly aware that there’s more work to be done. “The research funding for women’s health is far less robust than for conditions that affect principally men or only men,” she states. “The standard of care still has gender-based concepts to it, even though there is more attention being paid to the fact that women do not respond to drugs and surgeries in the same ways that men do all the time. That’s a very important concept that we need to keep working on. That battle is not over.”

Ms. Joy credits Dr. Roberts and Dr. Sadovsky with keeping the flame burning. To every board meeting or donor event, they bring researchers of all levels to deliver scientific presentations that are both enlightening and inspiring. “I’ve heard many of the researchers speak and had a chance to talk to them informally,” says Peggy. “To see some of them progress from



being junior to mid-level to senior researchers is just terrific. It's a career that you have to be passionate about. They're so excited about the work they're doing and making a difference. It's really inspiring. I think it's one of the most important things we do at our board meetings. It helps us understand why we're doing all the work that we're doing—to advance knowledge and the scientists who do that. That's a very important polestar to always hold on to."

In some ways, it reminds Peggy of how much they have accomplished and how far Magee has come. "Back when I first became involved with Magee, it was primarily an obstetric hospital. That has changed significantly over the years," she says. "Today, we are making progress with diseases that primarily affect women such as lupus, ovarian cancer, pelvic floor issues and aging issues, such as menopause and osteoporosis. Our researchers are informing the clinical population at Magee, too. We're becoming nationally known in these areas, in addition to what we've always been experts at, which is obstetrics and birth."

With typical resolve and enthusiasm, Peggy Joy can't say enough about how critical she believes it is to support such efforts at Magee. While she points out that the NIH funds much of the research, she also knows that the budget has declined over the years and that government grants don't cover everything. "There are many important kinds of research enterprises which are not funded by the NIH," she remarks. "Those include certain kinds of start-up funds for investigators to try to do early work that they can later turn into grant requests to NIH. It involves

funding promising investigators who are between grants and have a gap in funding. It's so important that we have individual philanthropy to bridge that gap. It's becoming more and more pressing."

According to Ms. Joy, philanthropists would have to search high and low for a better investment than Magee. "Everybody wants to be with a winner. Everybody wants to support an organization that is going to make a difference, so you know your dollars matter. We are the leader. Period. We are the best in the country, and perhaps the world, at women's health research. For me, that's a real bang for the buck. I like to invest in people that I think have the capacity, will and infrastructure to make some of these discoveries and advances that are going to make a difference. We have a huge hospital right across the street that has about 11,000 births a year and thousands of cases of cancer, pelvic floor and geriatric issues and so on that we can translate these discoveries into right away. Nobody else has that. We are truly unique. So if you want to invest in women's health, this is the place."

Summing up her experience with Magee, Peggy Joy wholeheartedly remarks, "It's so much fun to be involved with this kind of an organization.

The board attracts fantastically talented people whom I would never have met otherwise—all of whom share a passion for women's health. It's a labor of love for me. I've really enjoyed every minute of it."

"Everybody wants to be with a winner. Everybody wants to support an organization that is going to make a difference, so you know your dollars matter."



SEPTEMBER 27

13TH ANNUAL SAVOR PITTSBURGH: A CELEBRATION OF CUISINE

WHERE: Petersen Events Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Proceeds benefit women's and infants' health research at Magee-Womens Research Institute.

Presented by: Coast & Main – Seafood/Chop House and UPMC Health Plan.

To become a sponsor, contact Denise Wickline at dwickline@magee.edu or 412-641-8911.

See our ad on last page.

SavorPgh.com

OCTOBER

SMAIL AUTO CARES PINK RIBBON CAMPAIGN

WHERE: Dealership locations all located on U.S. 30 in Greensburg

During the month of October, Smail Auto Group will donate \$125 for every car sold to support Breast Cancer Research at Magee-Womens Research Institute.

More details at SmailAuto.com

OCTOBER 1

BID FOR HOPE XVII

Check SymbolOfTheCure.com for more details.

Proceeds benefit A Glimmer of Hope Foundation in support of pre-menopausal breast cancer patient care and research at Magee-Womens Research Institute and UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital.

To become a sponsor, contact Diana Napper at diana@symbolofthecure.com or 1-800-454-6746.

OCTOBER 9-10

MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH SUMMIT

WHERE: David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Join Magee-Womens Research Institute at the Magee-Womens Research Summit, an international conference of top scientists, researchers and corporate leaders focused on women's health.

To become a sponsor, contact Nicole Oshurak at oshurakn@mwri.magee.edu or 412-641-3616.

MageeSummit.org

OCTOBER 20, 2018

5TH ANNUAL SUPERCUTS PINK OUT

WHERE: Supercuts in Pittsburgh

Visit any Pittsburgh area Supercuts location and they will donate \$2 of every haircut to support breast cancer research at Magee-Womens Research Institute.

Go to Supercuts.com/salon-locator.html to find a salon near you.

NOVEMBER 15

THE TWENTY-CLUB OF MAGEE-WOMENS HOSPITAL PRESENTS "PREEMIE'S PURSE"

WHERE: Duquesne Club, Pittsburgh, PA

Proceeds benefit newborn medicine and neonatal research at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital and Magee-Womens Research Institute.

To become a sponsor or for more details, contact Michele Franklin at 239-537-3330.

NOVEMBER 30

TRIPLE INDULGENCE: A WINE, CHOCOLATE, SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

WHERE: NOVA Place, Northshore, Pittsburgh, PA

This event kicks off your holiday shopping and intrigues guests with luxury: a vast array of wines & champagnes, tempting bites, a magnificent chocolate fountain, 20+ vendors to shop for that hard to find person and live musical entertainment.

Proceeds benefit prematurity research at Magee-Womens Research Institute in celebration of nationally recognized "Prematurity Awareness Month."

To become a sponsor or be a vendor, contact Ali Grachen at grachena@mwri.magee.edu or 412-641-8931

BidPal.net/ti2018



Three ways to give.
So many lives to touch.

Magee Legacy Society

Making a planned gift to Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation, whether for research, patient care or education, is easy. This gift costs you nothing today and creates a meaningful legacy that touches the lives of so many others in the future.

Bequest

You can remember Magee through your will.

IRA

Name Magee as a beneficiary on your retirement account.

Charitable Remainder Trust

Create an income stream for your life while also making a gift to Magee.

There are many other gift options to choose from including life insurance, gifts of real estate, and gifts of stock. For more information about making a meaningful gift to Magee, please contact Cara Kassabov at kassabovc@mwri.magee.edu or 412-641-5056.

Magee-Womens
Research Institute
& Foundation

mageewomens.org



WHY WOMEN HEALTH MATTERS



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COO, Health Services Division



RICHARD BEIGI, M.D., MSc.
Professor of Reproductive Sciences,
Chief Medical Officer
UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital



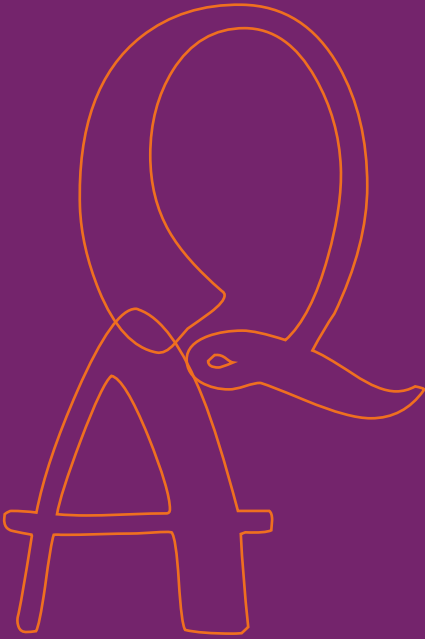
ROBERT EDWARDS, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital

A photograph of three women from behind, embracing each other in a park. The woman in the center has long dreadlocks and is wearing a pink shirt. The woman on the left has long curly hair and is wearing a floral patterned top. The woman on the right has long blonde hair and is wearing a light blue shirt. They are standing on a grassy area with trees in the background.

WOMEN'S MATTERS

A Roundtable Discussion

Today, more than ever, women's health is in the spotlight. *What progress is being made? What obstacles still exist? And what does the future hold for the health of women?* Here, you'll find responses from some of UPMC's most knowledgeable, forward-thinking leaders in the realm of women's health.



WE KNOW THE HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL WOMAN IS IMPORTANT. BUT WHY DOES WOMEN'S HEALTH IN GENERAL MATTER TO SOCIETY?

Leslie C. Davis: Women have so many roles and responsibilities in our society. Beyond the traditional roles of mother, wife, and daughter, women are a significant part of the workforce. In their families, women are making important decisions impacting their family's diet, health care choices, and finances. By improving and focusing on the health of women, we are in turn improving the health of the entire population.

DR. RICHARD BEIGI: In addition to being roughly half of the population, women are also the backbone and fabric of most societies. So women's health is incredibly important for the society's health as well.

DR. EDWARDS: Without healthy women, you don't have healthy families. In terms of development, women are very important for their role biologically and sexually. But they also have a tremendous impact on defining where and how care is given for their children, parents, in-laws, and spouses. So if we don't have engaged women, particularly as mothers and caregivers, then care is not optimally provided.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE CARE OF WOMEN AND ADVANCING THEIR HEALTH?

DAVIS: Much of women's health is focused on reproductive health. While that certainly is a component, women are so much more than that, and our approach to women's health is so much more than that. One of the universal challenges I find is that women aren't making their health as much of a priority as they should. We are often so focused on the needs of others that we fail to take proper care of ourselves in seeking preventive or routine care.

Women experience unique health care challenges that benefit from excellent diagnosis and treatment, backed by focused research. Several chronic conditions, such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the leading causes of death for women. I think it is important that women make their own health a priority.

EDWARDS: Women with conditions that would lend themselves to prevention often forego preventive treatments because they're too involved with making sure their families get proper health care. I also think women in minority or socially economically disadvantaged populations often don't seek out health care because of resources, stigma, or fear of financial burden. That's why it's so important to have insurance options and financial support for underserved and socially disadvantaged and minority populations that may not have access to resources. We've been partnering with UPMC Health Plan, the state Medicaid program, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to try to improve the infrastructure for supportive health care for women in the community. That includes studying health services and the impact of new technology that may be able to improve the plight of underserved populations, such as mobile device applications and internet-based initiatives, particularly for younger women and those with pregnancy complications. We are investing in technology across our health system to engage women in maintaining their own health.

BEIGI: We've made a lot of progress in the last few decades, but in terms of scientific investigation, we're really just beginning to understand the differences between males and females. We need to better understand how those gender differences translate into health challenges or benefits. Most of the research up until about 20 years ago was almost exclusively done on males, and it doesn't always translate directly over to females. Gender difference can drive a lot of scientific differences that can have major health implications for not only how we treat but also how we investigate and prevent disease. The progress has been dramatic, and we want that momentum to continue.

HOW IS RESEARCH PLAYING A PART IN IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH?

BEIGI: Research is uncovering gender-specific differences that we didn't know were there. The more research you do, the more you learn. Those findings can help justify why it's important to continue to prioritize these efforts. The research also has important policy implications for equity between men and women. It's also helping to shape policy around women's health and women's health research.

DAVIS: Research is paramount to improving women's health. Clearly men and women experience illness differently. Through research, we are focused on making discoveries and advancing knowledge in many areas, including breast cancer genomics and personalized therapies, reproductive biology, HIV immunization and prevention, fertility preservation, and clinical pelvic floor research. These lead to treatments that are truly life changing. The announcement of the UPMC Immune Transplant and Therapy Center is also a testament to the priority that UPMC places on research to make clinical advancements possible.

EDWARDS: Women's health is one of the most progressive health lines within UPMC. We're studying and adopting new measures for health care prevention using data analytics. Now we're moving into artificial intelligence technology, working with innovative companies and individual products coming out of CMU and Pitt, where we can perform trials around analytics and patient engagement. We're also very invested in bio-repository development. We now have bio-specimens to go with our outcome data. The hope is that we'll be able to identify new predictive biomarkers that will lead to improved outcomes for women who are cared for by the UPMC Health Services line.

**“IT IS CRUCIAL THAT WE FOCUS ON
EMPOWERING WOMEN TO MAKE THEMSELVES –
AND THEIR HEALTH CARE – A PRIORITY.”**

– Leslie C. Davis





“WITHOUT HEALTHY WOMEN, YOU DON’T HAVE HEALTHY FAMILIES.”

- Dr. Edwards

IS THERE MORE RESEARCH BEING PERFORMED THAN IN THE PAST?

EDWARDS: Yes, but it’s been a long haul. The NIH had a female director in the 90’s, and she brought some initial attention to improving women’s health research. Just recently with the changes in health care economics, the importance of women’s health has really come to the forefront. There’s been a resurgence and expansion of women’s health investment and support. Hospitals now understand the importance of women’s health for their overall function. I think there’s a national trend, an increased interest in women’s health. Hopefully that goes with increased expenditures in women’s health, as well.

DAVIS: It is different research, certainly. It is not just what is happening in laboratories; it is what is happening in clinical settings, too. Clinical trials focused on women are relatively new, yet the differences between men and women in clinical decision-making are very important. Significant progress is under way, much of it spearheaded right here at Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI), UPMC, and at the University of Pittsburgh. This dedicated research focus on women will help to refine treatments specifically targeted to the unique characteristics of females.

We have learned that diseases sometimes manifest differently in women than in men. For example, the symptoms of heart attack can be different in men and women. The classic signs—the chest pain or discomfort—many women don’t have. Instead, they might experience shortness of breath or extreme fatigue. Our MWRI researchers are currently using pregnancy as a lens to understand heart disease in women throughout their life span. Our hope is to identify women at highest risk and guide new interventions to help them.

ARE YOU FINDING THAT THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS IS MORE INTERESTED IN WOMEN’S HEALTH?

BEIGI: There’s been a dramatic change in the last 20 years on some of society’s opinions and outlooks on gender health issues. It’s very refreshing to see that some of the barriers to those conversations don’t even exist at this point. We’re living in a time when women’s health has come forward aggressively onto the national stage. It’s a very interesting and exciting time to be involved in women’s health and women’s research and how they relate to women’s health care policy.

DAVIS: The collective force and collaboration shared by UPMC, MRWI, and Pitt is truly unique and because of our partnerships, we hold a unique position as a global influence. We are, proudly, the leader in women’s health research and we continue to attract the world’s most respected and renowned clinicians and researchers specializing in women’s issues. We seek to inform and educate the community through educational programs, fellowships, internships, and trainee grants in which young researchers are given the opportunity to work on significant projects impacting women’s health, from pregnancy issues to the opioid crisis.

HOW HAS MAGEE CHAMPIONED WOMEN'S HEALTH, AND HOW WAS IT POSITIONED TO DO THIS?

BEIGI: Magee-Womens has been the go-to place for women's health in the tri-state area for over a hundred years. Over the last 20 years, we've also developed a world-class academic institution and environment. The UPMC and Magee-Womens Hospital administrative leadership works closely with the MWRI leadership. As we continue to go forward, I'd like to see those relationships get even stronger. In the last few years, we've tried to think about ways to leverage the talent and skills that we have at both of these institutions that sit across the street from each other. We've begun to think about how we can take it to the next level. There are some very exciting conversations happening.

EDWARDS: Magee has always been a well-known brand, but it was the vision of Irma Goertzen in the early 1990's that transformed Magee from a good clinical training program into a national center of preeminence for women's health research. With the building of the Magee-Womens Research Institute and the formation of the Foundation, our dedication exclusively to women's health, pregnancy outcomes and infants has put us in the top tier for women's health research nationally.

DAVIS: We have championed women's health since our inception. It is the fabric of what we do, and the services we provide. We have a very strong partnership with MWRI. The relationships among scientists and physicians at MWRI and Magee focus on advancing the care of women. Today, MWRI and Magee are home to more than 100 faculty members who collaborate with dozens of affiliate researchers located throughout the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon campuses. This collaboration enables us to examine women's health from all perspectives, resulting in breakthroughs for science and for society.

HOW HAS UPMC BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF MAGEE'S MISSION?

DAVIS: UPMC, Magee, and MWRI all share a common goal of developing cutting-edge technologies and novel concepts. Working together, we have made considerable progress in accelerating advances in women's health and gender differences. To UPMC, Magee is synonymous with being a leader in women's health care. Outpatient services throughout our network are branded as Magee to emphasize the quality care we provide. UPMC's announcement of three new specialty hospitals also highlights our commitment to specialty care.

EDWARDS: UPMC has been very generous in underwriting the formation and the sustainability of the Magee-Womens Research Institute over the years. Now UPMC is providing matching funds for a period of time for our philanthropic fundraising drives that will essentially double the philanthropic investment of our endowment, which we critically need. UPMC has always been a major advocate for women's health. Both UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Magee are important regionally and nationally. UPMC recognizes that. Together with the Hillman Cancer Center, we form a triad of the basis for specialty care at UPMC.

DO YOU THINK MAGEE HAS A REPUTATION FOR ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEALTH?

BEIGI: Absolutely. Magee is looked at as one of the premier, if not the most premier, women's health institutions in the country and maybe in the world. Not only does it have a reputation for excellent care, but people are also beginning to recognize how great the efforts are in investigation and discovery. That's how the hospital and MWRI work to each other's benefit. Top-notch clinicians and clinician investigators want to be here in this field because they understand how strong our commitment is. Dr. Edwards has been successful at recruiting premier investigators to help further the mission of both institutions.



EDWARDS: I think the newfound interest in promoting the welfare of women within our society—and making sure there’s justice in how they’re treated—will have a secondary impact on the importance of Magee in the public eye. Magee wants to be seen as a true family-centered and patient-centered hospital provider network. While our patient satisfaction scores, particularly for our physicians, are outstanding, we’re still working to improve our patient experience. Integrating and sharing information with the primary care network and other providers in the system, particularly for moms and babies, is an important link. We’re working to improve those communications so that we’re not only the best place to go when you’re sick, but also the best place to go when you’re in a healthy pregnancy.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH?

DAVIS: I have no doubt that women’s health issues will continue to be at the forefront of our health care conversations. UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital and MWRI have made considerable progress in accelerating advances with regards to research and treatment in women’s health and gender differences. Our goal is to continue to expand on existing research projects and foster new collaborations related to advancing the science of women’s health. It is vital that we build upon our knowledge gained from our previous research including cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, sexually transmitted infections, opioid use disorders and issues related to pregnancy. It is also crucial that we focus on empowering women to make themselves — and their health care — a priority.

EDWARDS: It’s exciting to see the ability of patients to engage in their own health care in ways that weren’t possible before we had new technologies. I’m a cancer researcher and clinician, and the cancer patients that I see now are much more informed by being able to search and identify trials, new technologies and new modalities on the Internet. We’re seeing that across women’s health. New technology like smart phones and personal devices are revolutionizing health care delivery in a way our traditional infrastructure and mechanisms can’t. Women and patients are benefitting from their own engagement and their own knowledge base in a way that’s going to affect their outcomes. If I had to point to one thing that’s most exciting as a health care provider working in a major health care system, it’s the transformational and disruptive impact that technology is having today.

BEIGI: It’s a very exciting time for women’s health. The progress we have made in the last two decades is going to continue. There’s a great deal of energy around furthering these initiatives. UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital is committed to being highly successful and to shaping the future.

HOW IMPORTANT IS PHILANTHROPY TO CONTINUING WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH?

EDWARDS: Without philanthropy, we’d have no program. For much of what we do, including in my own research, the initial seed for funding clinical trials and bench research almost always comes from a philanthropic gift. Often it’s a designated donor gift – someone who was afflicted with women’s cancer and wants to have a role in doing something about the disease to help the next generation of women. I can point to countless initiatives that are now fully mature that got their start through donor philanthropy, including philanthropy from UPMC. These gifts generate a return for women’s health by enhancing our ability to have cutting edge therapies available for women that may lead to new approaches in the future. Some of the work that’s come out of Magee is impacting women nationally, including HPV vaccines and pioneering work in ovarian cancer. Our interest in high-risk cancer prevention strategies and the use of telemedicine and new technology to make screening services available to those in the community may be our next great contribution to the region. And it all comes out of investments that initially started with donor philanthropy.

DAVIS: Philanthropic support is an essential component to further the work of MWRI and Magee. Investments in Magee and MWRI enable research that directly affects patient care today and that contributes to the growing body of women’s health knowledge that creates healthier tomorrows for countless women and their families.

“BY IMPROVING AND FOCUSING ON THE HEALTH OF WOMEN, WE ARE IN TURN IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION.”

- Leslie C. Davis



For more information about supporting women’s health research and care, visit mageewomens.org/donate



**A NEW
CONFERENCE
THAT PRIZES
VISION &
INNOV
ATION**

In October of this year, a pioneering event will happen in **Pittsburgh, PA**. Hundreds of scientists, researchers, doctors, and academics will gather to create a vision for changing the course of women's health that will pave the way for exciting innovations that could affect the health of humankind.

nine months
9-9 
ninety years

“This \$1 million prize is designed to stimulate collaborative research between a scientist here at MWRI and another scientist in the region, country or world.”




**Magee-Womens Research
Institute (MWRI) will
present the first Magee-
Womens Research Summit,
a conference that has high
hopes for re-imagining
everything from aging
to how early human
development intersects with
precision medicine.**

“What differentiates this summit from others on women’s health is that we’re not only talking about the current state of scientific research and achievements, but we’re also discussing the future of women’s health,” says Yoel Sadovsky, M.D., Executive Director, Magee-Womens Research Institute. “We’re trying to understand how early human development, the differences between males and females, and the process of aging can illuminate aspects of women’s health that can lead us to new research opportunities in the future. Most conferences have plenty of data to share and they promote scientific discussions. But this summit will focus on a vision for the future. Researchers are taking what they’ve done so far, and thinking more about the potential of new, exciting ideas that will change the course of women’s health and take it to a higher level.”

The Summit will host 30-40 speakers from around the world who are experts in women’s health or reproductive sciences. They will be featured in different types of talks, from keynotes and TED Talk-style presentations to panel discussions and breakouts. Sadovsky has worked to attract speakers and listeners from many disciplines, encouraging the sharing of knowledge and different approaches to women’s health. “We’re hoping to create a network for collaboration,” Sadovsky states. “It’s a unique opportunity for the top researchers in the world to partner together and inspire each other with innovative ideas that can be the foundation for future breakthroughs in research.”

No institution is better positioned to lead the discussion than MWRI. A global leader in early human development, reproductive biology, and women’s health, researchers from MWRI already collaborate with some of the largest names in health care around the world. The Institute has built a repository of information that’s unmatched, including one of the largest pregnancy databases and the largest cancer registry in the country. MWRI also has the benefit of a strong relationship with UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, a large university-affiliated academic medical center in the U.S., which is renowned for excellent clinical care. “We’re going to establish a compelling, urgent focus on women’s health that



positions Pittsburgh and Magee-Womens Research Institute as leaders in innovation and health care. Our work will in turn help to elevate the rest of the field,” says Sadovsky.

During the Summit, discussions will explore the concept of 9-90. This research initiative investigates the impact of 9 months of pregnancy on 90-plus years of health in men and women. In addition, attendees will develop a better understanding of the origin of human health, women’s disease risks, sex differences that affect development, precision medicine, and the definition of wellness.

Another area of discussion will be aging and how it affects health. “Aging starts prior to delivery,” says Sadovsky. “The placenta ages before birth. Ovaries may age prematurely due to disease. Other systems may age prematurely leading to conditions we’re trying to prevent. We want to think about aging in a different way to see how we can use that information across a woman’s lifespan.”

The exchange of new ideas from thought leaders isn’t the only attraction to this event. The Summit also features the first ever “Magee Prize.” This grant, which is the largest of its kind in the world, is for collaborative, bold, and transformational research in any area of inquiry within the reproductive sciences. “This \$1 million prize is designed to stimulate collaborative research between a scientist here at MWRI and another scientist in the region, country or world,” states Sadovsky. “We want them to work together on an innovative, creative research aspect of women’s health that cannot be funded by traditional funding mechanisms. When you apply for an NIH grant, you have to have preliminary data. Sometimes a researcher will be inclined to take a more conservative approach to make sure that the funding is awarded. Here, we’re looking for something other than what we’ve seen before. As a byproduct, we establish Pittsburgh as a hub for that kind of bold research.”

Criteria for the prize are rigorous, and must include a component of early human development, and/or a longitudinal,

lifespan approach to any project within the reproductive sciences and women’s health. The research must be collaborative and trans-disciplinary. And it must be novel in concept or methodology, involving new models or drugs, and ideally based on a high-risk and high-reward approach. The winner(s) of the award will be announced at the Summit, and the money will be split between the scientists.

Funding for the prize is provided by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, which was inspired by MWRI’s focus on women’s health and its impact on population health. “The RK Mellon Foundation has been fully engaged from the inception,” says Sadovsky. “Not only from an economic point of view, but also from a conceptual point of view. We want to work together to make sure the prize truly establishes a field that’s critical to humankind and establishes Pittsburgh as a leader in that field.” He adds, “Foundations give grants, but to have a \$1 million grant from Pittsburgh to focus on women’s health globally is unique.”

Through the Magee-Womens Research Summit and Magee Prize, MWRI has the opportunity to put women’s health front and center on a global stage. It is a chance to create a healthier, longer lifespan for men and women today and for future generations. And it’s only the beginning. “We want to keep the conversation going for years to come,” says Sadovsky. “When I’ve talked to researchers, they love the concept, the vision, the prize, and the fact that we’re not just doing a traditional conference. They know that we’re the largest research center for women’s health in the country. But we’re taking it to a higher level and we are making Magee a beacon to inform the scientific world about issues critical to health. That’s what everyone is so excited about.”

To learn more about the Magee Summit and for information on attending, visit MageeSummit.org.



9-90™ is a groundbreaking study that looks at how pregnancy impacts our lifelong health—from 9 months to 90+ years. The program creates an infrastructure for bringing together researchers from different disciplines, from geneticists, biologists, and epidemiologists, to people who study decisions. In each issue of *Magee Magazine*, we look at some current questions the investigators are tackling.

For more information on how you can make a donation to continue this kind of groundbreaking research, visit mageewomens.org/donate



Dr. Janet Catov
Associate Professor,
Department of
Obstetrics, Gynecology
& Reproductive Sciences
and the Department of
Epidemiology, University
of Pittsburgh

What is the focus of your research in the 9-90 study?

We're trying to understand what pregnancy can teach us about heart disease in women later in life. There are profound vascular adaptations that are required to support a healthy pregnancy that can be seen on the maternal side of the placenta, for vascular impairments that might be a clue to people who are going to progress to hypertension, or masked hypertension, in the years after pregnancy. We're also bringing women in for a research visit 8-10 years after pregnancy. We're teaching them to measure their blood pressure at home using a valid home blood pressure device. We're leveraging this opportunity of pregnancy as a "stress test" that might help us understand who is at risk for heart disease and also what are some of the mechanisms that might link problems in pregnancy to heart disease later in life.

How does the placenta shed light on a woman's health?

There's a fetal side of the placenta, and there's also a maternal side. There are profound vascular adaptations that are required to support a healthy pregnancy that can be seen on the maternal side of the placenta, and we hypothesize that even small impairments might be an early marker of a woman who may have some underlying higher risk for vascular disease down the road. During this biologic stressor that we call a normal healthy pregnancy, the placenta might give us a diary about how the underlying vascular health of that mom during pregnancy might be important for her long-term health.

Does being at Magee make it easier to find and follow these women?

Absolutely. We have a registry with all the clinical data of births at Magee going back to 1995, including information about the placenta if it was evaluated. While we have this rich clinical data, we also have the ability to reach out to folks who had a baby at Magee 8-10 years ago and ask if they'd like to be a part of our study. So we have great data and a stable population. We also have the excellent reputation of Magee. You put those pieces together, and we have such a powerful place to study these lifelong associations that are in the 9-90 spirit.

What is next in your research as it relates to 9-90?

In the future, we'd like the chance to begin to test interventions. If we can recognize risk factors for heart disease at the time of pregnancy, what can we do to actually change that course? How can we take that information and test some new interventions to improve a woman's health in the immediate term, as well as help her future pregnancies and reduce her risk for heart disease later in life. Because we're at Magee, it gives us a great opportunity to do that kind of work moving forward.

How important is funding to your research and other projects under 9-90?

With its foundation, one of the other benefits at Magee is that philanthropy often supports the most innovative, new ideas. To acquire large grants, we need very compelling preliminary data that says we have a new, promising idea. It's often philanthropic dollars that help us do our proof of principle for the next, best, innovative breakthrough.

CEO Update

IMAGINE a world in which science can accurately predict, in utero, a person's risk for developing disease a half-century later – then mapping out strategies that reshape the course of that future.

IMAGINE science that correctly identifies different outcomes for men and women based on the complex genetic choreography that is unique to each sex.

IMAGINE a society in which doctors reverse chronic diseases, long before symptoms ever appear.

**DOES THIS WORLD SOUND LIKE
ONE YOU WANT TO LIVE IN?**

At Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation, we are working every day to bring that world one step closer to reality. But we cannot do it alone. Our supporters and donors are an integral part of our efforts to advance translational research and strengthen our excellent patient care. We also have a rich history of open collaboration with researchers from institutions across the country and around the world. This October, we are hosting a research summit to accelerate our efforts.

The Magee-Womens Research Summit has a simple, yet profound mission: to chart a course for tomorrow's precision-based medical research innovations that will lead to a healthier, longer lifespan for humankind. It will shape the national agenda on women's health and deliver our future vision of women's health to the world. Partnering across sectors and domains will be critical to our efforts. In attendance will be scientists, researchers, and experts in the fields of health care, pharma, life sciences and technology. It will be the premier forum for scientific exchange, designed to ignite the imagination of scientists from both developed and developing nations to enhance the health and wellness of women and infants worldwide. Together, we will accelerate our progress in translating discovery into disease diagnostics, treatment and prevention strategies that reflect a fundamental shift to a more proactive and personalized approach that will enable us to identify diseases at a very early stage, long before the onset of symptoms.

The centerpiece of the summit will be the award of the Magee Prize, a \$1 million prize for collaborative and transformative women's health research. Funded through the generosity and support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, it is the largest prize of its type anywhere in the world. Just as the Summit overall will serve as a clarion call for the most innovative ideas worldwide, the Magee Prize aims to invigorate the historically underfunded field of women's health research and inspire bold, collaborative, and innovative research now and far into the future. It will fund a collaborative team whose unique research in reproductive sciences and women's health will improve lives globally.

The winners will be announced at the Magee Prize Dinner on October 9, an exclusive affair that will celebrate and highlight the critical role women's health research plays in building a better world for us all. We are honored to have Lara Logan, a journalist with "60 Minutes" and former CBS News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, as our keynote speaker for the evening. Her journalistic efforts both overseas and in the United States have earned her a variety of awards and honors, including multiple

Emmy Awards, several Murrow awards, an Overseas Press Club Award, the Daniel Pearl Award, Glamour Woman of the Year, five American Women in Radio and Television Gracie Awards, and electronic journalism's highest award, the duPont-Columbia University Silver Baton. Lara's experience and expertise will jumpstart a powerful and important conversation about the future of health for women across the world.

Through the Summit, we will not only raise awareness for these issues, we will help fast-track efforts to attract the resources, political support, and intensive scientific research required to capture new discoveries and provide benchmarks. With your help, participation and support, the inaugural summit will serve as the foundation for launching a coordinated global strategy to accelerate the pace of discovery and improve the lives of women, infants and communities around the world. It's all happening October 9-10 in Pittsburgh. Be sure to join us. You can learn more and register for both the summit and the Magee Prize Dinner at MageeSummit.org.



Michael J. Annichine, President & CEO
Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation

84 Lumber Knows Women Rock

When it comes to good corporate citizenship, 84 Lumber has built its reputation from the ground up.



MAGGIE HARDY MAGERKO
Owner and President, 84 Lumber

In 2016 alone, 84 Lumber donated more than 1.3 million to a variety of charitable causes, including the Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation (MWRIF), through its Building Hope program.

HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN? It starts with the employees at each of its 250+ locations and is embraced by leadership. Throughout the company, there is a commitment to help those individuals and organizations most in need, and a vision for making a positive impact. When deciding which organizations and events to support, “first and foremost, we take a look at our associates and our customers and try to determine the best investments that we can make to benefit them and their loved ones,” says Ashley Macik, 84 Lumber Public Relations Manager. “Since we are an organization that spans the country, we are interested in supporting causes that will positively impact the nation and even the world, and supporting research that can lead to breakthroughs in health care.”

84 Lumber has a long history with MWRIF. Since 1999, the company has sponsored events and fundraisers including the Magee’s Celebration of Women, Magee’s birthday party at Kennywood, The Twenty-Five Club of Magee-Womens Hospital, and Savor Pittsburgh. “Magee is a leader in women’s health in the Greater Pittsburgh area, and the organization has touched the lives of many of our associates, customers, and their families and loved ones,”



Ashley said. “In the medical and research community, 84 Lumber recognizes that there are challenges that cannot be overcome without community and corporate partnerships, so we are proud to support research that will result in health care improvements.”

84 Lumber has been a dedicated supporter of Women Who Rock, the annual benefit concert dedicated to empowering Women in Music through educational workshops, performance opportunities and networking events that raise funds for women’s and infant’s health research. They have a special connection to the event: their owner and president, Maggie Hardy Magerko, is a woman who rocks in the corporate world.

“She is passionate, dedicated, and fearlessly committed to success. Maggie took over the leadership of 84 Lumber in 1992 from her father and company founder, Joseph A. Hardy III, at an age when most women are just starting their career. At 26, she was showing her business smarts and proving her toughness. Under Maggie’s leadership, 84 Lumber is a nationally certified Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) company and was named on Forbes 2016 and 2017 Lists of America’s 250 Best Midsize Employers. Maggie created a department, Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE), within 84 Lumber with the goal to proudly represent our organization as a woman-owned business.” With an inspiring woman leading the organization, it was a natural fit. “We saw this event as an opportunity to support and advocate for other strong, accomplished, fearless women for a great cause,” Ashley explained.

Women Who Rock was an invigorating experience for all, from performers to attendees to supporters. For those attendees from 84 Lumber, “it was wonderful to see an all-female line-up of talented musicians, and incredible to hear the stories of women who have been supported and strengthened by the work that Magee-Women’s Research Institute is doing and to know that 84 Lumber has the privilege of contributing to making a difference in women’s health. You could feel the energy and the fun in the room, and also the admiration that the women in attendance had for one another and their passion for women’s health care. We believe the most important part of the event is community, and how it encourages both corporate and personal advocacy for women’s health.”

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR 84 LUMBER AND ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH MWRIF? As Ashley put it, “We pride ourselves on maintaining the spirit and values that 84 Lumber was founded upon, while evolving and growing to address the challenges the construction industry faces today. Maggie’s energetic approach and aggressive goals have been critical success factors in 84 Lumber’s operation and growth. She strikes a delicate balance between maintaining 84 Lumber’s traditional approach to doing business, and adapting to meet the ever-changing needs of our customers.” As the challenges and environments change, “she is committed to the success of our company and associates, while providing heartfelt support to our associates, their families, and her own family.” Supporting women and their families and communities through the Magee-Women’s Research Institute & Foundation is part of what makes it such an inspiring corporate citizen, and part of what makes 84 Lumber rock.

New Magee-Womens Research Institute Faculty Fellowship Will Foster Inquiry, Curiosity

If the ovary didn't work correctly, none of us would be here," says Dr. Anthony Zeleznik, a principal investigator and professor with Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. "Studying how the ovary works is such a fascinating line of inquiry – understanding how the body can operate with so much precision under the right circumstances. It's a critical area of research, and one that is endlessly interesting."

Dr. Zeleznik has dedicated the majority of his research career at MWRI to studying control of the ovary. When he isn't overseeing his laboratory, he has taught medical students at the University of Pittsburgh and mentors MWRI's junior researchers and clinical faculty. And it's his commitment to both research and mentorship that led him to create the MWRI Faculty Fellowship, a fellowship to be funded by MWRI faculty that is designed to foster young researchers at the beginning of their careers.

"Starting this fellowship is my way of giving something back to an organization that has given so much to me," Dr. Zeleznik said. "In my career, the only limitation I ever had was myself. There are very

few jobs you can say that about. I became involved in a great area of research that allowed me to continuously tackle new areas of inquiry, and I want to help to provide that opportunity to younger generations."

Since 1978, Dr. Zeleznik has taught thousands of students and mentored many researchers. When asked what the most important quality a student can possess is, Dr. Zeleznik says "a willingness to learn, every day. You need to not be afraid, and understand there are different ways to learn. And you need to be willing to be the first to try something."

THE TRAINING GOALS OF THE MWRI POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP INCLUDE:

- Performing meaningful basic, translational or clinical research that leads to enhancement of scientific knowledge
- Developing effective oral and written communication skills
- Acquiring the skills needed for independent research
- Learning skills needed for successful grant writing
- Developing effective teaching skills
- Understanding laboratory management and organization
- Incorporating responsible conduct (including ethics, safety and regulatory compliance) into all research activities



Dr. Zeleznik has lived his own advice. He moved from the National Institutes of Health to Pittsburgh before MWRI existed in order to work at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital as the first basic researcher in a clinical department. “The idea was to have someone begin to foster an atmosphere of basic research in a clinical setting. I was in the right place at the right time.” He spent significant time teaching for the University of Pittsburgh’s medical school, and was the first Director of the In Vitro Fertilization Laboratory, a position he held for 15 years. This latter position allowed him to apply his knowledge of reproductive biology to the clinical arena and, together with his clinical associates, resulted in the first successful birth of an in vitro conceived baby in the Pittsburgh area and over 500 more during his tenure as Director.

Dr. Zeleznik is scaling back his time at MWRI to spend more time with his grandchildren, and to travel, ski, fish and play golf. He will still be overseeing research and helping students, and the fellowship is his way of continuing a legacy of mentorship and student training. Dr. Zeleznik notes “that without fellowship support during my education and early training, there would be no way that I would be where I am today.”



“I believe most people generally want to help others – it’s something I’ve had the privilege of doing for 40 years. My hope is this fellowship will support curiosity and creativity in future generations of women’s health researchers.”

– Dr. Anthony Zeleznik



MWRI is one of the largest recipients of grants from NIH, which is a testament to the important role the work of our researchers and staff do every day to advance women's health. Congratulations to the following researchers for their grant awards.



Steffi Oesterreich, PhD., received a 5-year, \$1.5 M R01 from NCI entitled "FGFR4 – A druggable mediator of endocrine resistance in breast cancer."



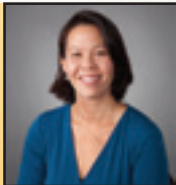
Mellissa Mann, PhD., received a \$458,000, 2-year R21 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development entitled "ICR-Independent Establishment of Domain Imprinting."



Tim Canavan, M.D., MSc, and our ultrasound group received a 1.5 year, \$51,000 grant from Samsung, supporting a multicenter international trial on fetal weight predictions over a broad range of gestational ages using 5D limb Vol technology.



Steffi Oesterreich, PhD., received a Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition entitled "Unique in vivo models to study mutant estrogen receptor in breast cancer."



Lan Coffman, M.D., PhD., received a 2-year, \$100,000 grant from the Mary Kay Foundation entitled "Investigating the role of Carcinoma-Associated Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Ovarian Cancer Metastasis."



Jerry Schatten, PhD., received a \$1.9 million, 5-year R25 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse entitled "Frontiers in Addiction Research and Pregnancy."

Alison Nagle (Adrian Lee, PhD. lab) received a 1-year, F31 grant entitled "Credentialing IGFR1 pathway activation as a novel therapeutic target in e-cadherin deficient breast cancer."

Maisa Feghali, M.D., M.S., received a 1-year, \$75,000 Bridge Award from the Foundation for SMFM/ ABOG Bridge entitled "Metabolic Analysis for Treatment Choices in Gestational Diabetes Mellitus."

Kelley Lynne Baumgartel, RN, PhD, mentored by Francesca Facco, received a \$57,000 1-year F32 grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research entitled "The Sleep Experience of Mothers with Hospitalized Preterm Infants and Subsequent Breast Milk Profiles."



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Learn more at www.mageesummit.org.