

## Baylor heart researcher awarded grant by the NIH

**G**IOVANNI FILARDO, PH.D., MPH, director of epidemiology in the Baylor Health Care System Institute for Health Care Research and Improvement, has been awarded a \$2.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study new onset atrial fibrillation following coronary artery bypass graft surgery.



Dr. Giovanni Filardo

Atrial fibrillation is the most common cause of irregular heartbeat. Chaotic electrical activity in the two upper chambers (atria) of the heart result in the muscle fibrillating, i.e., quivering, instead of achieving coordinated contraction.

Atrial fibrillation may be treated with medications to either slow the heart rate or revert the heart rhythm back to normal. People with atrial fibrillation often take anticoagulants such as warafin to protect them from stroke.

Atrial fibrillation is a common complication of cardiac surgery, occurring in up to 40 percent of patients. Development of atrial fibrillation after cardiac surgery leads to average additional health care costs of \$15,000 to \$20,000 per patient.

“Currently, we do not know what causes post-operative atrial fibrillation, nor how to identify patients at high risk and effectively prevent or mitigate this complication,” explained Dr. Filardo. “These are the questions the study seeks to answer.”

Investigators will look at patients who underwent coronary artery bypass graft surgery at four U.S. hospitals, including Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. The study will provide insights into the prevention and management of post-operative atrial fibrillation, allowing health care providers to improve survival and decrease costs of care associated with the surgery.

The potential public health impact and cost savings are enormous: more than 100,000 people in the United States and 1.5 million people worldwide

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## Baylor receives \$12 million pledge to benefit geriatric patients

**B**AYLOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOUNDATION is proud to announce that the **Deerbrook Charitable Trust** has pledged more than \$12.4 million over the next three years to improve care for geriatric patients.

“As the first baby boomers begin turning 65 this year, there is an increased need to enhance care for the rapidly growing elderly population,” said **Joel Allison**, president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System. “This transformational grant will allow us to develop best practices that will leave a lasting mark on geriatric health care for years to come.”

Deerbrook has a strong interest in advancing care for the elderly. The Trust approached the Foundation with the seed of an idea and called upon Baylor to strategically plan, develop and execute programs that advance the field of geriatric care.



Rosemary Luquire, Dora Bradley, Susan Houston, Remy Tolentino and Dr. Cliff Fullerton

“Baylor has a unique set of resources that perfectly position them for a project of this magnitude and scope,” said **Arthur Sundstrom**, executive director of Deerbrook Charitable Trust. “Their Magnet designation for nursing excellence, visionary leadership, national prestige and innovative culture secured the confidence of the Deerbrook

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## Baylor, Texas A&M join forces to offer medical students rotations in Dallas

**T**O HELP ADDRESS the state’s health care workforce shortage, the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine and Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas are collaborating to establish a new Clinical Training Program in Dallas. This will be the first time in decades the city will have more than one medical school program available for students.

“This new affiliation furthers our mission, and it makes us even more attractive to academically oriented physicians, which is key to providing excellent patient care,” said **John McWhorter**, president of Baylor University Medical Center.

Students enrolled in the program will complete their first two years of medical education at Texas A&M in College Station. The program will provide students with the opportunity to complete the

third and fourth years of their undergraduate medical education at Baylor Dallas, where they will complete clinical rotations in surgery, internal medicine, family medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology.

“A combination of education and hands-on training have long made Baylor’s graduate medical education programs some of the most competitive in the country,” said **Cristie Columbus, M.D.**, newly appointed vice dean of the program. “Now, medical students will be able to take advantage of our program to gain the skills they’ll need to care for the thousands of patients they’ll treat throughout their careers.”

The program will welcome its first cohort of 23 third-year students in December and a comparable number will join them the following academic year. The new affiliation serves as a prime example of

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# 2011 CELEBRATING WOMEN

## Celebrating Women offers hope in the fight against breast cancer

**W**ITH AN EMPHASIS ON HOPE, Baylor Health Care System Foundation hosted its 12th annual *Celebrating Women* luncheon in October at the Hilton Anatole hotel in Dallas. The event, presented for the seventh consecutive year by **Tom Thumb**, raised more than \$2 million to benefit Baylor Health Care System's fight against breast cancer.

"Baylor has been fighting cancer for more than 50 years and treats breast cancer more than any other type of cancer," said Rowland K. Robinson, president of Baylor Health Care System Foundation. "With the dollars raised through Celebrating Women, we will be able to give those fighting breast cancer hope, knowing that they will have access to the best doctors and advanced research, and also hope that someday there will be a cure."

Featured speaker, award-winning actress and breast cancer survivor **Diahann Carroll** charmed the audience of more than 1,200 with stories about her illustrious career and struggle with breast cancer. Since her breast cancer diagnosis in

1997, Diahann has become a vocal advocate for early detection and prevention, encouraging women to get regular mammograms.

"In the war against cancer, we have the ability to arm ourselves with knowledge," said Diahann. "Education is a powerful tool. By taking action and doing something positive, fear is replaced with hope."

*"We know the only way we can sustain excellent cancer care in our community is to continue to invest in our staff, physicians and scientists."*  
**— Rowland K. Robinson**

The event, chaired by **Fredye Factor** and **Sarah Losinger**, recognized **The Ernestine and Bradley Wayne Family** with the **Circle of Care Award**. The award is given to those who have served as advocates, volunteers, educators or donors and have made a difference in the campaign against breast cancer. **The Joan and Andy Horner Family**

served as this year's honorary chairmen. **Kimber Hartmann**, **Angie Kadesky**, **Daffan Nettle**, **Cathy Coughlin** and **Sophia R. Johnson** were this year's underwriting chairmen.

Funds raised at this year's Celebrating Women luncheon will be used to create a **Celebrating Women Education Fund**, which will support the training of the next generation of nurses, oncologists and breast surgeons at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. Over the last 12 years, Celebrating Women has raised more than \$18 million for the fight against breast cancer at Baylor. These gifts have been focused in four main areas, enabling Baylor to invest in research, capital and technology, patient-centered programs and the education of medical leaders.

"We know the only way we can sustain excellent cancer care in our community is to continue to invest in our staff, physicians and scientists," said Rowland. "We will make investments today to secure the future health of our daughters and granddaughters by training medical leaders with the ability to treat, or maybe even cure breast cancer." ☕



Jonathan and Devon Wayne



Sue Wayne Strauss and Lisa Schlachter



Jack and Aileen Pratt



Pam and Vin Perella



Debbie Oates and Vicki Rippeto



John and Linda McFarland, Sara and David Martineau



Tucean Webb, Karen Halsell, Fredye Factor, Sarah Losinger, Lindalyn Adams and Margo Goodwin



Kimber Hartmann, Daffan Nettle and Angie Kadesky



Linda Custard, Ruth Altshuler, Becky Bright and Linda McFarland



Diahann Carroll and Connie Yates



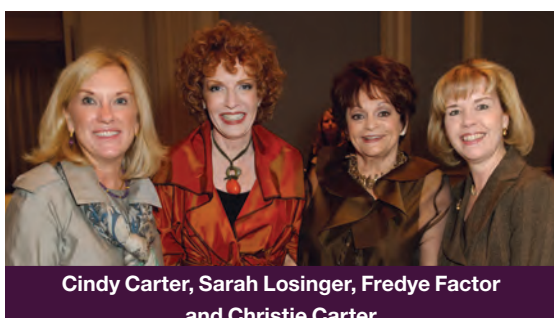
Dr. Leonard and Peggy Riggs



Rowland K. Robinson, Diahann Carroll and Joel Allison



Tommy Horner, Andrea Horner, Andy Horner, Peggy and Tim Horner



Cindy Carter, Sarah Losinger, Fredye Factor and Christie Carter



Joel Allison, Sarah Losinger, Fredye Factor and Rowland K. Robinson



Cathy Coughlin and Sophia R. Johnson

# Smokers need not apply at Baylor

**J**OEL ALLISON, president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System, has reinforced Baylor’s commitment to wellness. “We want to be a good role model to our patients and the communities we serve,” he said. “For too long, we’ve been in the sickness business. It’s time to be in the wellness business.” Starting January 1, 2012, Baylor will be the first major employer in North Texas to stop hiring nicotine users.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers smoking the No. 1 preventable cause of death in the United States. Tobacco use is responsible for about one in five deaths annually. The habit can lead to heart disease, emphysema, lung cancer and other costly health problems.

“I think the future of health care lies in preventing illness,” said Joel. “Baylor is committed to establishing and promoting wellness initiatives that contribute to a healthier lifestyle for our patients and our community.”

In 2007, Baylor took the first step in deterring the use of tobacco and creating a healthier environment for patients, visitors and employees by implementing a tobacco-free campus policy.

Baylor has a history of encouraging healthy lifestyle choices and personal wellness for its employees. In 2007, Baylor launched its award-winning wellness program, *Thrive*, designed to help employees maintain and improve their lifestyle with diet, exercise and preventive health care. *Thrive* offers a wide variety of free wellness-related services for Baylor employees and their spouses, including: weight management, stress management, fitness, tobacco cessation and nutrition. In the past four years, Baylor employees have lowered their health risks and have collectively lost more than 18,000 pounds and exercised more than 83,000 hours.

“It’s time to make getting and staying healthy more of a priority,” said Joel. “This new policy is just another way Baylor strives to set the standard for health and wellness in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.”

## The Health Benefits of Quitting Smoking

Time Since Last Cigarette	Health Benefit
20 minutes	Heart rate drops to normal
12 hours	Carbon monoxide level in bloodstream drops to normal
Two weeks to three months	Heart attack risk begins to drop and lung function begins to improve
One to nine months	Coughing and shortness of breath decrease
One year	Added risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker’s
Five to 15 years	Stroke risk is reduced to that of a non-smoker’s
10 years	Lung cancer death rate is about half that of a smoker’s; risk of cancers of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, kidney and pancreas decreases
15 years	Risk of coronary heart disease is back to that of a non-smoker’s

# Baylor, Texas A&M

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Baylor’s longstanding commitment to medical education leadership, a legacy begun in 1903.

“Affiliating with one of the fastest-growing medical schools in the country is an exciting opportunity for students, for Baylor, and for our patients and community,” noted Dr. Columbus. “This boosts our graduate medical education programs by developing qualified future applicants. And since many physicians establish practice where they train, this agreement should help Baylor maintain a highly skilled, robust medical staff well into the future.”

Since 1993, Dr. Columbus has served as the assistant director of medical education in addition to holding teaching positions at Baylor Dallas. She will lead academic activities for current students and faculty that support the college’s mission of excellence in education, research and health care delivery.

Dr. Columbus earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology from The University of Texas at Austin and her medical degree from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. She then completed her internship, residency in internal medicine and fellowship in infectious diseases at Baylor Dallas.

# Honor others with a gift in the holiday spirit

**B**AYLOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOUNDATION has a way to share the spirit of the holiday season with friends, family and Baylor Health Care System – all at the same time.

Just make a donation of \$25 or more to Baylor

Health Care System Foundation in honor of a friend or family member, and that person will receive a beautiful holiday tribute card telling them of your gift.

For more information, contact the Foundation at 214.820.3136 or [thetorch@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:thetorch@BaylorHealth.edu).



Donations of \$25 or more will receive a beautiful holiday tribute card



## From the President

### Transformation

I just left a meeting where I heard a very sobering presentation entitled, *The Transformation of America’s Hospitals*. The word ‘unsustainable’ was used repeatedly referring to the:

- Size of the federal budget deficit
- Annual increase in the Medicare budget
- Percentage of health care spending to GDP
- State Medicaid programs
- Transfer of costs to employers and consumers

Coincidentally, I just finished Jim Collins’ latest book, *Great by Choice*. He identified seven companies that significantly beat their industry peers during unstable periods.

The message I heard from both sources is that financial markets, technological advances, government legislation and competition are all out of our control. Aside from our attitudes, almost everything is ultimately out of our control.

But, when you have a tangible point of focus that begins with a clear vision and mission, it concentrates the mind. That focus keeps a team moving forward despite confusion, uncertainty, chaos and even those daunting ‘unsustainables.’

During its 108-year history, Baylor has successfully transformed itself over and over. Today is not different. Despite challenges, our organization looks forward to the opportunities created out of the chaos we will face over the next few years.

Medical advances have resulted in our living longer. Many of us will be diagnosed with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma and others. However, we won’t necessarily be ‘sick.’ Baylor caregivers work endlessly to assist our older patients manage such illnesses so they can stay in the game to either work, visit a grandchild or whatever it may be.

We recently received a *transformational* pledge of \$12 million to support our efforts with our older patients. The Deerbrook Foundation has a passion for advancing care for the elderly. This passion has been translated into initiatives at Baylor that will advance the field of geriatric medicine. We are most grateful for Deerbrook’s generosity and the confidence in Baylor that it represents.

Thanksgiving is my favorite time of year. Recently, a friend approached me and asked for my thoughts about what I am most grateful for. This made me reflect on how truly fortunate I am.

I am grateful for:

- Butterfly kisses and big hugs from grandbabies
- Caring souls
- Friends who make me laugh
- Values taught by my parents
- A family who shares both good times and tough times together
- Summer sausage, rat trap cheese, saltine crackers and a cold beverage on a front porch during a Texas summer sunset

What are you most grateful for?

Rowland K. Robinson  
President  
Baylor Health Care System Foundation  
[Robinson@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Robinson@BaylorHealth.edu)

## GIFT PLANNING

## The Bradley family's legacy of generosity

FOR DECADES, **Billye Bradley** and her late husband, **Earl Bradley**, turned to Baylor Health Care System not only for their medical care, but also for charitable giving and their estate planning. Over the years, the Bradley family has been a loyal supporter of Baylor, using their generous gifts to express their love for Baylor and appreciation for the care they have received here.

In 1989, they established a significant charitable remainder trust that will benefit nursing research and education. When the trust matures, the assets will be used to establish the **Earl and Billye Bradley Memorial Endowment Fund**.

Recently contemplating leaving Baylor a bequest in her will, Billye started thinking about how much fun it would be to see what her gifts could do while she's still living. This October, Billye expressed her generosity once more, sending a \$1 million check to the Foundation with a sticky note attached, "I hope I got the zeros right."

That legacy of philanthropy has been passed on to the next generation, as well.

This spring, son **E.T.** and his fiancée, **Anna Taylor**, traveled to Baylor so she could undergo testing when she feared she had breast cancer. While anxiously sitting in the waiting room of the Darlene G. Cass Women's Imaging Center, E.T. witnessed discussions between another patient and the center's staff – the patient clearly didn't have the means to pay her bill. Fortunately, Anna was given a clean bill of health, but E.T. couldn't stop thinking about the other patient.

He was so thankful that Anna was cancer free that he was inspired to share his gratitude with others who are battling breast cancer. He asked if Baylor had a way to help people who can't afford their care.


In the spirit of thankfulness, E.T. could think of no better wedding present for Anna than a gift that offers hope to other women and



Billye Bradley, E.T. Bradley and Anna Taylor

families. At the Celebrating Women luncheon he surprised Anna with her wedding gift, a \$100,000 donation to the **Celebrating Women Gift of Life Fund**.

For the Bradleys, philanthropy has been a way of life, and the impact it has made on Baylor's patients seems nearly endless.

For more information on planned giving, contact Cynthia Krause at [Cynthia.Krause@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Krause@BaylorHealth.edu) or 214.820.7928. 

## Connection with Baylor, history

LUKE MOONEY's connection to Baylor Health Care System was established early in his life, when Luke was a boy.

His aunt, **Sally Mooney**, who was like a second mother to him, was head of housekeeping at Baylor for more than two decades. His cousin was **Ken Mooney, M.D.**, a longtime urologist at Baylor.



Luke Mooney

Luke, who attended Texas A&M, served in the army before a long career with Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

There was often danger in the job, but it didn't concern Luke. "It's all in a day's work," he would say. That work also tied him to the crime of the century.


On November 22, 1963, just hours after **President John F. Kennedy** was assassinated, Luke discovered **Lee Harvey Oswald's** sniper's perch on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building. For years afterward, Luke gave talks about the happenings of that day, and the clothes he wore were donated to The Sixth Floor Museum. He also appears in several books and videos for sale there.

For more than 60 years, Luke and his wife, **Erma Lee** have come to Baylor for their medical care. Luke passed away in December 2010 after two years of fighting prostate cancer, but his connection to Baylor continues.

In appreciation for their care, he and Erma Lee, who have referred to themselves as "Baylorites," established two gift annuities that will create the **Luke and Erma Lee Mooney Endowment for Adenocarcinoma Research**.

The gifts were made to honor **Richard Wood, M.D.**, a surgeon who treated Erma Lee for lung cancer.

"I am thankful for the compassionate care Luke and I have received from the physicians and nurses at Baylor, in the past as well as the present," said Erma Lee. "The expertise and grace with which we have been cared for is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten."

For more information about planned giving, contact Cynthia Krause at 214.820.7928 or [Cynthia.Krause@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Krause@BaylorHealth.edu). 

## Pledged gift to benefit geriatric patients

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trustees and reinforced that Baylor was the natural choice to lead this ambitious project."

"Deerbrook challenged us to consider how health care could be delivered more effectively to the elderly population," said **Rosemary Luquire, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, NEA-BC**, corporate chief nursing officer at Baylor. "Based on this challenge, we have developed a multi-pronged program that will improve care of the elderly population in hospitals, nursing homes, patients' homes and through the education of future caregivers."

Rosemary worked with **Cynthia Krause**, vice president at the Foundation to forge a collaborative effort among Deerbrook representatives, Baylor clinical leaders and Foundation employees. Together they took Deerbrook's vision and created several innovative new programs.

This extraordinary commitment will help advance elder care in many ways. It will allow

*"This transformational grant will allow us to develop best practices that will leave a lasting mark on geriatric medicine for years to come."*


– **Joel Allison**

Baylor to: 1) create specialized geriatric nursing education programs; 2) refine a comprehensive volunteer program for hospitalized older patients; 3) create education and best practice partnerships with skilled nursing homes; 4) create a consortium with regional geriatric experts in nursing universities throughout North Texas; and 5) assess risks for chronically ill patients and refine a transitional care model to reduce their hospital readmissions and emergency room visits.

The findings from these initiatives will be

presented in research publications that could result in improving care for geriatric patients. Baylor will freely disseminate best practices, educational programs and teaching tools developed from these programs with nursing schools, health care organizations as well as through virtual centers of learning throughout the country.

"We are incredibly grateful for Deerbrook Charitable Trust's extraordinary pledge and visionary leadership," said Rowland K. Robinson, president of Baylor Health Care System Foundation. "They presented a challenge that required Baylor to respond with innovation, insight and boldness, and we are excited about the opportunity this provides to create real breakthroughs in patient care."

For more information about nursing and geriatric initiatives at Baylor, contact Cynthia Krause at 214.820.7928 or [Cynthia.Krause@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Krause@BaylorHealth.edu) or Sarah Burdi at 214.820.4721 or [Sarah.Burdi@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Sarah.Burdi@BaylorHealth.edu). 

## Baylor welcomes surgeon in living donor liver transplantation

**B**AYLOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM welcomed **Giuliano Testa, M.D., FACS, MBA**, to the Annette C. and Harold C. Simmons Transplant Institute at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

Dr. Testa specializes in living donor liver transplantation for both adult and pediatric patients and is the new surgical director of living donor liver transplantation at Baylor Dallas. He comes to Baylor from the University of Chicago, where he was director of liver transplant and hepatobiliary surgery.



Dr. Giuliano Testa

"The Baylor Annette C. and Harold C. Simmons Transplant Institute is one of the premier transplant programs in the country," said Dr. Testa. "I am excited about the opportunity to develop a comprehensive liver transplant program that offers transplant surgery for both adult and pediatric patients using all treatments available including cadaver, living donor and split-liver transplantation."

Liver transplantation is the replacement of a diseased liver with a healthy liver allograft and is

a well accepted treatment option for end-stage liver disease and acute liver failure. During living donor liver transplant surgery, the donor begins surgery first. Using the split-liver technique, the surgeon removes a portion of the donor's liver and prepares it for transplant. Then, another surgical team removes the diseased liver, replacing it with the portion of liver from the living donor. The living donor's liver regenerates to full size within a few weeks of surgery, and there is no long-term impairment of liver function. The transplanted portion also regenerates, increasing until it's the appropriate size for the recipient's body.

Each year, people with liver diseases die waiting for a transplant, and the wait time for a deceased donor liver continues to increase. Living donor liver transplant offers an alternative to waiting for a deceased donor liver and eliminates the uncertainty many organ transplant candidates face as they wait for a suitable organ. Its main benefit is timeliness because it decreases the risk of complications and death while waiting for a match.

In addition, living donor transplantation offers physicians a tremendous opportunity to study innovative strategies that would minimize the need for immunosuppression medication and increase organ transplantation tolerance.

"The holy grail is doing transplant without the use of immunosuppression," said Dr. Testa. "Living donor transplantation offers us the ability to research how to best prepare donors and recipients before surgery to prevent organ rejection and eliminate the need for immunosuppression."

Living donor liver transplantation is a new option for any person on the liver transplant waiting list at Baylor Dallas. Baylor Dallas is one of only two transplant programs in Texas offering living donor transplantation.

Surgeons on the medical staff at Baylor Dallas and Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth have performed more than 3,500 liver transplants.

Dr. Testa graduated from the University of Padova Medical School in Italy and cultivated his interest and training in transplant surgery during his transplant fellowship at Baylor from 1996 to 1998. He received additional training in live donor transplantation under the tutelage of transplant pioneer **Christoph Broelsch, M.D.**, in Germany. His experience in the field of living donor liver transplantation dates back to 1998 when he helped start the first European living donor program.

For more information about transplant initiatives, contact Melissa Dalton at 214.820.2705 or [Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu).

## FOCUS ON RESEARCH

### The promise of personalized medicine

**G**ENOMIC RESEARCH is a powerful driver for discoveries that will have a dramatic impact on health care. In response, Baylor is forming the Precision Medicine Institute, which encompasses work at the Baylor Kimberly H. Courtwright and Joseph W. Summers Institute of Metabolic Disease, Baylor Institute for Immunology Research and Baylor Gastrointestinal Cancer Laboratory.

The precision medicine institute could immediately improve the ability to predict which among several treatments is going to be the most effective. Until recently, physicians would try one medicine and, when it didn't work, move on to the next. Now, because of the coalescence of technology, together with sequencing the genome, investigators will be able to further patient-based research so that physicians can make more informed treatment decisions based on the actual molecular profile of an individual patient.

Researchers with Baylor Institute for Immunology Research have led the way in developing advanced platforms that contribute to personalized medicine initiatives, including a novel strategy for genetic testing that can help establish the diagnosis, inform on disease staging or severity, and assist in optimal, individualized drug and therapy selection in patients with complex illnesses.

For instance, analyzing patients' blood profiles offers a means to investigate the immunological mechanisms relevant to diseases on a genetic level. Such studies provide a basis for the

discovery of clinically relevant biosignatures that can be used to monitor the patient's response to therapy and enable the physician to optimize treatment in a personalized manner.

This research is already making its way to the bedside and impacting patients' lives. Director of clinical rheumatology **John Cush, M.D.**, and **Virginia Pascual, M.D.**, principal investigator at Baylor Institute for Immunology Research, recently treated a patient who suffered from acute



Dr. John Cush

rheumatoid arthritis. After traditional therapies had failed, Drs. Cush and Pascual reviewed the patient's blood samples to look for markers that would point toward treatments that had been successful on other patients. The physicians were able to identify a medication that was predicted to be effective, based on the patient's biosignature. After seven months of

treatment, the patient is virtually pain-free, able to walk on her own and dance at her wedding.

Dr. Cush is a leader in clinical and translational rheumatology research with more than 25 years of experience in rheumatic care, clinical trials, novel drug development and translational investigation. He is committed to advancing the understanding and treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases through his work with the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research and his research in precision medicine.

"The hope is that one day physicians will be able to take a patient's blood sample and decide the correct course of treatment the first time," said Dr. Cush.

For more information, contact Sarah Burdi at [Sarah.Burdi@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Sarah.Burdi@BaylorHealth.edu).

### NIH grant

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undergo isolated coronary artery bypass graft surgery each year.

"Even taking the conservative estimate of 20 percent of those patients developing atrial fibrillation, the results of this study stand to improve survival for 300,000 people and save as much as \$6 billion in health care costs annually," said Dr. Filardo.

Dr. Filardo's initial project was funded with a \$13,500 seed grant from Baylor's Cardiovascular Research Review Committee (CVRRC) in Spring 2009. CVRRC funding is 100 percent philanthropy-based; when donors contribute to cardiovascular research, the money goes into funds that support investigator-initiated research like Dr. Filardo's. The CVRRC meets twice a year to evaluate the scientific merit of research proposals in the cardiovascular field; identify proposals that meet established research criteria; and recommend which physician-led research projects should receive funding from Baylor Health Care System Foundation.

"Funding from the CVRRC was critical in allowing me to develop preliminary data and include my findings in the NIH grant proposal," said Dr. Filardo.

"We are extremely proud of the pioneering research conducted by Dr. Filardo and all our scientists and physicians," said **Bradley Leonard, M.D., FACC**, chair of the Cardiovascular Research Review Committee. "The pursuit of discoveries that will benefit patients' lives, not just in North Texas, but globally, continues to position Baylor as a leader in clinical research."

Dr. Filardo joined Baylor Health Care System in 2004, following completion of his Ph.D. in epidemiology with a concentration in cardiovascular epidemiology at Yale University.

For more information about heart and vascular initiatives, contact Ellen Dearman at 214.820.7877 or [Ellen.Dearman@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Ellen.Dearman@BaylorHealth.edu).

## Grand Rounds® raises \$290,000 for graduate medical education

**M**ORE THAN 200 GOLFERS helped Baylor Health Care System Foundation raise \$290,000 to support graduate medical education programs at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas by playing in the 10th annual **Grand Rounds® Golf Tournament** on October 3 at Northwood Club in Dallas.

Following the day's rounds, players enjoyed dinner and a golf talk with guest speaker **Hank Haney**. Hank, recognized worldwide as one of the foremost authorities on the game of golf, has had the pleasure of teaching the best golfer in the world, Tiger Woods, and one of the worst, Charles Barkley. He shared stories from the road, his teaching philosophy and his strategies for success.

A total of 56 companies and individuals provided sponsorships of Grand Rounds. **Duke Realty**, **Allscripts** and **Truman Arnold Companies** were the event's platinum sponsors, with **Citigroup** and **Park Cities Bank** providing gold sponsorships.

The event, presented by **Bank of Texas**, provides critical funding for graduate medical education at Baylor Dallas, which currently trains more than 230 residents and fellows each year in 37 specialty and subspecialty programs. Baylor Dallas has been ranked as a top 10 teaching hospital in the nation for overall quality, and *Consumer Reports* has recognized the medical center as having the highest patient satisfaction of any teaching hospital in the country. Support of graduate medical education through Grand Rounds helps ensure the future of graduate medical education at Baylor and main-

tains a valuable health care asset for the North Texas community.

"Excellence in patient care and research begins with excellence in medical education," said Rowland K. Robinson, president of Baylor Health Care System Foundation. "Our goal is to help secure the future of our community by training the best and brightest minds to practice safe, quality, compassionate health care."

With donor support, Baylor Health Care System Foundation currently provides funding for 28 residents and fellows at a cost of more than \$1.9 million.

For more information, contact Andrea Steiger at 214.820.2699 or [Andrea.Steiger@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Andrea.Steiger@BaylorHealth.edu) or Ann Ratliff at 214.820.8176 or [Ann.Ratliff@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Ann.Ratliff@BaylorHealth.edu).



Joel Allison, Larry Gekiere,  
Norm Bagwell and Fred Ball



Wally Reed, Steve Harris, Jerry Jackson,  
Rick Gump and Chuck Davis



Hank Haney (second from right) with Baylor  
residents (from left) Dr. Gates Colbert,  
Dr. Amanda Abramson and Dr. Clayton Vandergriff



Rowland K. Robinson,  
Hank Haney and Joel Allison



Dr. Edwin Boren Jr., Dr. David Kim,  
Dr. Gary Webb and Dr. Eric Benson



Don Dunbar, Roger Davis,  
Rich Couturier and Steve Holle

## PHYSICIAN PROFILE

JEFF SCHUSSLER, M.D., FACC, FSCAI, FSCCT

**J**EFFREY SCHUSSLER, M.D., FACC, FSCAI, FSCCT, is a cardiologist and the medical director of critical care on the medical staff at Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital. An interventional and general cardiologist, Dr. Schussler graduated from medical school at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He completed his internship, residency and fellowship at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. A large portion of Dr. Schussler's time is spent seeing patients, but he also spends as much time as he can teaching, writing and giving talks related to cardiology and cardiovascular topics.

**What Foundation project are you passionate about?**

I am passionate about medical education and have been an active part of both the general medical training program and especially the cardiovascular disease fellowship. I serve as an attending once a year at Baylor Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital, and have also been one of the internal medicine attendings. I continue to have

fellows and residents rotate with me on a one-on-one basis, and look forward to the new relationship that we have established with Texas A&M.



Dr. Jeff Schussler

**What do you think is the most important thing you can share about Baylor?**

I believe that Baylor strives to be the best hospital system through dedication to the patients, commitment to education and by attracting a highly motivated and caring group of physicians to its campuses.

**If you had to describe Baylor in three words, what would they be?**

Caring, healing, teaching

**Are there any research projects you are involved in that you would like to discuss?**

We're currently evaluating a large group of patients with Broken Heart Syndrome, a temporary heart condition brought on by stressful situations, such as the death of a loved one, and evaluating differences and similarities in their clinical presentation, treatment and cardiac characteristics. We hope to find some new insight into the cause of this syndrome.

**What inspires you?**

People inspire me who continue to do their best and keep a positive outlook, despite significant obstacles. I find inspiration in many of my patients and their families.

**Tell us about your education and professional background.**

I went to college at Emory University. I was an English major, and still love to write. I knew that I was interested in the medical field, so I ended up with a double major in English and Biology. After college, I attended UT Medical Branch at Galveston and then finished my training at Baylor Dallas.

**What are your hobbies or interests?**

When I'm not working, I enjoy bicycle riding. Weather permitting, I love to ride around White Rock Lake.

**Describe your family.**

I come from a family with many physicians. My father and two of my siblings are in medical professions, as was my late uncle.

**What are the top three things you've achieved in your lifetime?**

1) Found a partner to share my life; 2) had children; and 3) learned to cook great pancakes.

## ON THE BOARD

ROBERT BARNES JR.

**R**OBERT V. “BUDDIE” BARNES JR. is a construction executive with 45 years of experience in the industry. He currently serves as chairman of the board and CEO of Dee Brown, Inc., where he has worked for 43 years and helped develop the company from a local specialty contractor to one of the largest masonry and stone specialty contractors in the country.

Buddie has a long connection to Dallas; he grew up in East Dallas and his paternal family has roots in the city dating back to the 1840s. In fact, a distant relative, **John Neely Byran**, was the founder of Dallas. Buddie and his wife of 44 years, **Debby**, have three children and seven grandchildren.

### What brought you to Baylor?

I originally joined the Baylor Health Care System as a board member of the Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation. After serving three terms and retiring as board chair, I was asked to serve on the Foundation board. This relationship has given me an opportunity to better understand the medical system and allowed me to represent one of the finest medical care systems in the country.

### To what do you attribute your success?

Hard work: I never said I could not do something and saw each opportunity I was given through to the finish. The greatest motivator I ever had was when someone would say, “here is a job to do, but I don’t think you can get it done.” For me that was like throwing gas on a fire; look out because I was coming through and you didn’t want to be in the way.

### What do you think is the most important thing you can share about Baylor?

If you have any health issue, I do not feel that you can find a better place to be. The staff is the best and the care has always exceeded my expectations.

### What differentiates Baylor from other health care organizations?

For me it is the feeling that the physicians, nurses and staff all care about you and the care you receive.

### What is one of your favorite connections to the Foundation?



Robert Barnes Jr.

I will always remember the times **David Burgher** and **Bruce Collins** went to pray and called on family and friends while they were at Baylor. They have touched so many people, and I do not know if they really understand how comforting it is to have them visit for a few minutes and in a lot of cases, pray for healing with these people.

We are really blessed to have them as part of our team.

### I’m most proud of ...

I think that having been successful with my vocation has allowed me to give back to the community that originally helped me become successful. I really want to help the next generation take their first step toward a successful life so that some day they might in turn do the same. After all, I think we should leave this life having made our community a better place to live than the way we found it.

### Why are you passionate about Baylor?

During my time with the Baylor Institute of Rehabilitation, I watched so many examples of how God and skilled physicians work together to heal the most serious of injuries. We saw a Dallas police officer who had been seriously injured regain his health. My son’s good friend was critically injured in a car accident, broken and in a coma. **Mary Carlile, M.D.**, was able to have him transferred from a hospital in Oklahoma to Baylor Rehab and as a result of the excellent care he received, he lives a very rewarding life today. ☺



## From the Chairman

**O**ver the years, I have observed that a thankful heart never leads you astray. Despite the challenges and travails that we encounter, a thankful approach always discloses the many blessings that we enjoy.

I am blessed many times over, as I presume most are, in that I have a wonderful family, extraordinary friends, a strong faith, and the benefits of having been born in the greatest nation on earth. I likewise feel blessed to be a small part of the Baylor Health Care System.

As fall turns to winter, and the end of 2011 approaches, it seems appropriate to reflect on the blessings that Baylor extends and those that it has received. In this region, the Baylor Health Care System is a preeminent institution for the delivery of safe, high quality, compassionate health care to all those in need. In that regard, I am grateful to the talented physicians, skilled nurses and other health care professionals, dedicated administrators, and all those committed to the Baylor mission.

Of course, we know Baylor Health Care System would not be the remarkable institution it is without the extraordinary generosity of vast numbers of individuals and organizations. And in that regard, Baylor has been blessed this past year by the completion of the Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center, an accomplishment made possible by significant and widespread generosity.

I am thankful as well for the generosity of the Deerbrook Charitable Trust. As I am sure you noticed on the first page of *the torch*, Deerbrook has committed more than \$12.4 million to improve care for geriatric patients, one of our largest, fastest growing and most important constituencies. That gift has the power to significantly enhance patient care and transform lives.

It is notable that this year employee giving was almost \$1.9 million, a record level. Also, the **Grand Rounds** Golf Tournament raised significant funds for medical education, and the **Celebrating Women** luncheon continued to produce important funding to help fight breast cancer.

Continued support from great numbers of large and small donors make a critically important difference for the Baylor Health Care System, and for that we all should be exceptionally grateful. As the year comes to a close, I encourage each of you to consider a gift to an area of care where you have an interest. You will feel the gratification that comes from knowing you made a difference for someone in need, and all those involved with Baylor will be thankful for your generosity. ☺

Erle Nye

Chairman, Board of Directors  
Baylor Health Care System Foundation

## Pitts’ benefit featuring The Blues Brothers raises \$125,000 for Baylor Waxahachie

**S**TATE REP. JIM PITTS understands the importance of having trusted health care providers in local communities, and for more than 95 years, Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie has brought quality care to Ellis County and surrounding areas.

“Good, local health care is a critical service needed in every community,” said Rep. Pitts, whose district includes Waxahachie, and Ellis and Hill counties. “I want to donate funds to local health care organizations because people want their medical needs treated close to home.”

At an annual party hosted by Rep. Pitts at The House of Blues in Dallas on the weekend of the Texas-OU game, \$125,000 was raised for Baylor Waxahachie. This year, guests were treated to a performance by **The Blues Brothers** featuring **Dan Aykroyd** and **Jim Belushi**.

“Rep. Pitts has been a great supporter of Baylor,” said **Joel Allison**, president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System. “He understands what hospitals like Baylor

Waxahachie mean to the communities they serve. The hospital not only provides safe, quality health care to area residents, it is a major employer and a valuable community resource.”

In 2010, the event raised \$100,000 for Baylor Waxahachie—funds that are being used for continuing education for staff and future expansion of health care services.

Recognizing the rapid growth of Ellis County, Baylor Waxahachie is ready to extend its footprint in the community. Baylor Health Care System has purchased land at the intersection of Interstate 35E and U.S. Highway 287 for future expansion – a continuing

commitment to provide quality care to Ellis County and its neighbors far into the future.

Baylor Waxahachie was recently named one of Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals® based on its overall organizational performance in 10 areas including quality of care, patient satisfaction and financial performance.

For more information about supporting Baylor Waxahachie, contact Melissa Dalton at 214.820.2705 or [Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu). ☺



Dan Aykroyd, Rep. Jim Pitts and Jim Belushi

**A**NN RATLIFF landed her first job as a fundraiser by chance. She was hired by a two-year technical college as assistant to the president to handle public relations – until the president called her into his office one day and asked her to manage the college’s capital campaign.

“I was shocked,” said Ann. “Up to that point, the most fundraising I had ever done was asking someone to pledge a dollar for me to complete the annual turkey trot.”

Ann discovered she really enjoyed fundraising and worked for years at a number of higher education institutions across Texas, including The University of Texas at Austin and Rice University.

She was working for the University of Texas at Dallas when she decided to take some time off. She packed up all her belongings and moved to East Texas for the next year and a half. During that time, she reexamined her interests and discovered she had a real passion for health care and hoped she would have the opportunity to work as a fundraiser again.

That opportunity presented itself earlier this year when Ann joined Baylor Health Care System Foundation as a director, focusing her efforts on neuroscience and medical education.

Not long after joining the Foundation, Ann was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“After my diagnosis, I felt like I had been called to come to Baylor,” said Ann. “I already loved working for Baylor Health Care System and the Foundation; now I was able to experience the wonderful support from the Foundation family in addition to all the amazing physicians on our medical staff.”

In particular, Ann was grateful for the support of the patient navigator program.

## MEET THE STAFF



Ann Ratliff

“**Cynthia Robinson-Hawkins** really helped me understand what was happening, come to grips with my diagnosis and think of questions to ask my surgeon,” said Ann. “I also think it’s interesting that the first major gift I secured at the Foundation was in support of the patient navigator program.”

Ann has had a busy year. In addition to moving back to Dallas, starting a new job, and fighting breast cancer, her daughter, **Julie**, and son-in-law, **Caleb**, gave birth to her first grandson, **Carter**, “the absolute love of my life.” She also welcomed daughter-in-law **Diana** into the family, when her son, **Stephen**, married this spring.

These days, Ann enjoys spending her free time with her family. Julie and Stephen have even made visits from their mom especially easy; they live next door to one another! ☺

## In memoriam: H. Ward Lay Jr.

**B**AYLOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOUNDATION is mourning the loss of board member and philanthropist **H. Ward Lay Jr.**, a great supporter and friend of the Foundation and Baylor Health Care System. Ward passed away on October 28th.

“It is with great sadness that we join the Lay family in mourning the loss of a loyal supporter and vital member of our community, Ward Lay,” said Foundation president Rowland K. Robinson.

The Lay family was a longtime benefactor of

Baylor, and Ward continued the family’s legacy with his years of service on the Baylor Health



Ward Lay

Care System Foundation board. Ward served as chairman of the board for Baylor Foundation from 1997 to 1998 and was a member of the Foundation board for more than 15 years. His father, **Herman W. Lay**, was the first chairman of the Baylor Foundation board.

Medical education and the Riggs Emergency Department, named for

Ward’s close friend, **Leonard Riggs Jr., M.D.**, were among Ward’s favorite causes. ☺

## Annual Fund: The greatest gifts are worth sharing

**G**REAT GIFTS ARE WORTH KEEPING, but the greatest gifts are worth sharing. A single gift given more than a century ago laid the foundation for what is today the humanitarian health care system we know as Baylor. This season, you have the opportunity to continue the legacy of giving and share your greatest gifts with the millions of patients Baylor serves each year.

By giving to the Baylor Health Care System Foundation **Annual Fund**, you can provide much-needed support to the areas of greatest need throughout the hospital

system. Gifts to the Annual Fund help translate research discoveries into solutions; deliver safe,



Gifts to the annual fund make a significant impact on outcomes and quality of life for our patients

quality, compassionate care to patients; build new facilities and train physicians who are advancing medical care for the future. These unrestricted gifts make a profound impact in the lives of our patients at the moment it is needed most.

We urge you to consider making a gift to the Annual Fund. Please visit us online at [give.baylorhealth.edu/annual-fund](http://give.baylorhealth.edu/annual-fund) to learn about how you can share in the legacy of giving. You can also contact

Amanda Basler at 214.820.7410 or [Amanda.Basler@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Amanda.Basler@BaylorHealth.edu) for more information. ☺

## Participants in fun walk/run stick it to diabetes

**R**UNNERS AND WALKERS, including professional basketball player **Corey Brewer**, took to the streets of South Dallas in October for the second-annual Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute Fun Walk/5K Run. The event, presented by **MedAssets**, had 850 registrants and raised nearly \$135,000.

The Institute opened last year, and is the area’s first and only diabetes health and wellness facility addressing the region’s health care needs relative to diabetes. A joint effort between Baylor Health Care System and the City of Dallas, the Institute uniquely focuses on prevention, wellness and improving the overall health of the South Dallas community.



Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute Runners

The Institute largely grew out of the passion of **Albert Black Jr.**, chair of Baylor Health Care System Board of Trustees and member of the board of the Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute. His dedication to this project and his continued support of the Frazier Community have been essential to the success of these plans.

“Baylor is focused on initiatives that make individuals and neighborhoods stronger and healthier,” said Albert. “We hope the Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute we’ve created will become a model for others nationwide and transform the way health care is delivered to the community.”

Residents in South Dallas have a higher incidence of diabetes, more complications from the disease and a 17 percent higher rate of related hospitalization than those living anywhere else in Dallas County. More specifically, the Frazier neighborhood, where the Institute is located, has the highest rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and stroke in the city. In fact, people living in the Frazier community are three times more likely to die from diabetes-related complications than those living in Dallas as a whole.

The Institute offers a clinic staffed by physicians, nurses, care coordinators and diabetes education specialists. It also offers cooking and exercise classes, affordable medications and other medical supplies, as well as a farmers market selling fresh foods.

Across the country, diabetes is an epidemic that accounts for one-in-five health care dollars spent. If it continues at its current pace, 1 in 3 Americans will be diabetic in the next 10 years. ☺

To learn more about any Baylor Health Care System Foundation initiative, contact the Foundation at 214.820.3136 or email [thetorch@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:thetorch@BaylorHealth.edu). Write to us at 3600 Gaston Ave., Barnett Tower Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75246-1800.