EMPOWER

2024 DONOR IMPACT REPORT

Baylor College of Medicine

Tomorrow's Medicine Today

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With Gratitude

Dear Supporters and Friends of Baylor College of Medicine:

You make up an important community that fuels Baylor's efforts to train a new generation of world-class leaders in medicine, develop life-changing treatments and deliver exceptional patient care. It is my pleasure to share how your contributions enriched our work in our fiscal year 2024 EMPOWER Donor Impact Report. What we continue to achieve is possible only through your partnership and generosity.

With your support, Baylor received more than $169 million in new gifts and commitments — a remarkable vote of confidence. For Baylor, philanthropy is transformational, and we are honored by your willingness to support our people and programs. Your generosity helped Baylor continue construction of the Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower, the new home for the School of Medicine and School of Health Professions, scheduled to open in 2026. We continue to recruit leading researchers, advance women's and children's health globally, invest in our students and much more. I hope you enjoy reading about the successes made possible by philanthropy and supporters like you.

On a recent trip to Africa, I had the opportunity to reflect on the impact of Baylor's global reach, whether it is eliminating maternal-fetal transmission of HIV in Botswana, screening for cervical cancer in Malawi or eliminating complications of maternal delivery in The Gambia. Baylor is making a difference in the lives of people worldwide. We could not do this without donors like you. I am pleased to share the enclosed calendar with photos from my time there as a personal thank you for your commitment.

Now, in our 125th year and with your commitment, Baylor will continue to advance tomorrow's medicine today and every day. Thank you for your partnership.

Paul Klotman, M.D.
President & CEO
Executive Dean

President's Circle

The Partnership Legacy Reception

Gathering for Change

Events are vital for educating the community about Baylor's efforts, raising awareness of its achievements and building relationships to tackle the next big health challenge. By connecting Baylor with supporters, these events—from Food for Finals to On The Frontline—inspire collective action leading to real change for patients in Houston and beyond.

Food for Finals

Alumni Awards

On The Frontline

Reinventing Health Sciences Education

Transformative Gifts Support Medical Education at Baylor College of Medicine

On October 1, 1948, a brilliant young surgeon named Michael Ellis DeBakey stepped into the Roy and Lillie Cullen Building, Baylor College of Medicine's newly completed state-of-the-art education facility, to accept his new role as chair of the Department of Surgery.

He would quickly become one of the defining figures in Baylor's history, fueling its efforts to become one of the nation's preeminent academic medical centers. In his roles as chair and as Baylor's president from 1969 to 1979, Dr. DeBakey helped usher in an era of transformation that launched Baylor as a global leader in medical education and training, world-renowned center for patient care, pioneer in groundbreaking surgical techniques and hub for cutting-edge research.

Nearly 80 years later, Baylor is once again ushering in a new era of educational excellence. Three transformative gifts have been made to support the future home of Baylor's School of Medicine and School of Health Professions, the Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower, scheduled to open in 2026. The gifts include $25 million from The Brown Foundation, Inc., $16 million from The DeBakey Medical Foundation (adding to the $12 million it has already committed to the project), and $10 million from The Sarofim Foundation, which matches a previous $10 million committed by Fayez Sarofim.

In recognition of The DeBakey Medical Foundation's increased commitment to The Cullen Tower and additional funding to the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery, Baylor will name the park the Michael E. DeBakey Health Sciences Park. It will encompass the new Cullen Tower, a dedicated research tower to be built in future years, the Commons building linking the two towers and the existing Jamail Specialty Care Center clinical building.

Dr. DeBakey's legacy, particularly his passion for empowering students through education, resonates with The Brown Foundation.

"The Brown Foundation believes in the transformative power of education," said Isabel Stude Lummis, president of the Foundation. "This gift reflects our deep commitment to ensuring that future generations of healthcare leaders have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive."

Likewise, Dr. DeBakey's example of steadfast commitment to excellence inspired The Sarofim Foundation to seize a compelling opportunity to collaborate with Baylor.

"We are deeply honored to be a part of this historic project," said Christopher Sarofim, chairman of Fayez Sarofim & Co., board member of both the Brown and Sarofim foundations and member of the Baylor College of Medicine Board of Trustees. "Baylor College of Medicine is synonymous with the best that Houston and the Texas Medical Center have to offer. On behalf of all parties involved, we are very pleased to partner with Baylor and other fine philanthropic organizations to make a significant investment in the healthcare leaders of tomorrow."

give.bcm.edu/future

Active Learning Theater

Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower:

- Will be part of the first phase of Baylor's planned 800,000-square-foot Michael E. DeBakey Health Sciences Park
- Will be located next to patient care at Baylor Medicine and Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center
- Will be adjacent to the Texas Medical Center's Helix Park, a 37-acre project that supports a collaborative mix of healthcare, life sciences and business

Courtyard

December 2024

The Blades Family

A Family's Gratitude Sustains Tomorrow's Promise

In 2023, Theresa Blades, a healthy, young wife and mother, was running on a treadmill alongside her coworkers when her heart stopped. While one friend administered CPR, another called 911. When first responders arrived, they made a split-second decision to take her directly to Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and the Texas Heart Institute (THI), where Baylor College of Medicine doctors went about the eight-day challenge of bringing her back to consciousness and saving her life.

When Mrs. Blades woke up, she already had undergone four procedures, one of which was the implantation of an Impella device, a temporary artificial heart pump that was tested and refined at THI before being approved for use in patients.

Her husband, Matt, and parents, Ken and Janie Valach, were in shock.

"What can you say about watching your child go through something like that?" Mr. Valach, a Baylor Board of Advisors member, said. "It was terrifying. We have no doubt the team at Baylor saved Theresa's life. Every day we are thankful for the doctors, nurses and staff at Baylor."

"I'm very grateful to be alive," Mrs. Blades said. "I have a deep appreciation for the skill and effort of the people who gave me the gift of life." She tearfully said every birthday and every one of her three children's milestones are more chances to be grateful.

"I appreciate the medical field, I appreciate Baylor, I appreciate all the research that has gone into the devices that kept me alive when my heart was not functioning on its own and every doctor and nurse who trained for years and years," she said.

The Valachs were so appreciative of the doctors at Baylor that they made a major gift to the Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower, which will be the new home for the schools of Medicine and Health Professions. Their donation is among the almost $150 million raised for the Tower, which will allow more doctors and nurses to be trained and more lives—like Mrs. Blades'—to be saved.

Their support for The Cullen Tower comes at another historic moment. In November 2024, THI and Baylor announced a strategic affiliation that will bring together their two storied cardiovascular programs to form a premier cardiovascular health and research center. The Center will elevate patient care, accelerate medical research and bolster education efforts, positioning the organization as an international leader in cardiovascular innovation and clinical care.

"The Texas Heart Institute at Baylor College of Medicine is committed to leading the national narrative in cardiovascular quality, innovation and impact," said Joseph G. Rogers, M.D., director of the new center and professor of medicine at Baylor. "We will build on our shared history of clinical excellence and life-saving research to lead the next era in cardiovascular medicine."

The family is grateful for an organization like Baylor that changes the trajectory of people's lives.

"We were the beneficiaries of that firsthand," Mrs. Blades said. "We want that for others, their families and the broader Houston community."

The Valachs' gift to The Cullen Tower will undoubtedly bring about healing for other Houston families and help Baylor College of Medicine's programs by providing the infrastructure for its expansion.

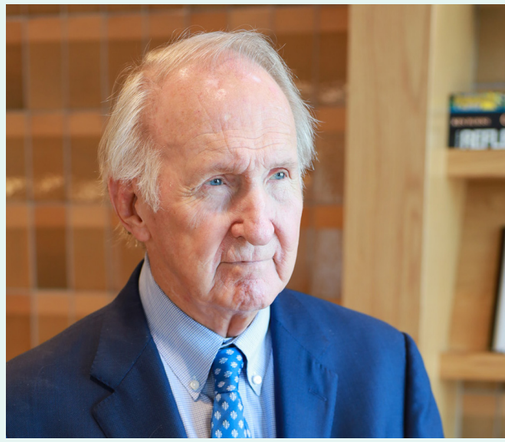
give.bcm.edu/promise

Read the full story and hear about the M.D. Anderson Foundation's history of giving to Baylor at

give.bcm.edu/steadfast

A Steadfast Commitment to Health Sciences Education

In 1943, the M.D. Anderson Foundation helped move Baylor College of Medicine from Dallas to Houston, donating land and funding for construction and research. This collaboration helped create the Texas Medical Center, the world's largest medical complex. Now, with an 80-year partnership and the Foundation's $5 million investment in the new Lillie and Roy Cullen Tower, the future of health sciences education in Houston looks even more promising for attracting and retaining global talent for the city's advancement.



"This new venture, and Baylor's part, will be so important in terms of getting great, young talent and holding that talent in Houston."

James Crownover
President
M.D. Anderson Foundation

Empowering Students to Achieve Their Goals

Scholarships: Helping Students Soar

The skyrocketing cost of higher education tuition has long been a concern for students aspiring to pursue careers in medicine and the health sciences. All too often, the costs associated with obtaining an advanced degree can discourage a student's dream to pursue their passion. This is why Baylor is proud to offer some of the lowest medical school tuition rates in the nation while educating healthcare providers and scientists in programs considered among the most elite in the world. Baylor is grateful for the donors who support scholarships and make a real, immediate difference in the lives of our students and, ultimately, patients worldwide.

Caleb Casanova
M.D. candidate '27

The scholarship I received has helped remove some of the weight from my shoulders. It has allowed me to focus on being the best medical student I can be without needing to worry as much about how much food or other necessities might cost. This has afforded me a great deal of comfort during a time that is otherwise incredibly stressful.

Marcella Diamond
M.S. candidate '24

While I am extremely blessed that my parents have generously funded some of my educational costs, I've had to work many jobs to cover my cost-of-living necessities. This scholarship has allowed me to optimize my education and put me in a better position to start returning my parents' investment in me.

Hope Scherger
M.D. candidate '27

With Baylor's financial assistance, I can focus on the specialty I am the most passionate about and where I believe I can best serve my community without worrying so heavily about my financial situation. It has allowed me the freedom to pursue what I feel called to do—continue working with underserved populations in my future career and help expand access to care.

give.bcm.edu/lift-burdens

Read Dr. Smith's full story at
give.bcm.edu/pay-it-forward

Baylor Alum and Longtime Donor Pays It Forward

William Smith, M.D. '59, is one of Baylor's most dedicated donors, having supported the College for 45 consecutive years. Inspired by his own positive experiences and the importance of giving back, Dr. Smith feels a responsibility to assist the next generation and has consistently championed scholarships to help students manage education costs.

William Smith, M.D. '59

John and Lottie Mabee

Mabee Foundation Fuels Scholarships Through Millions

In the early half of the 20th century, renowned philanthropists John and Lottie Mabee enjoyed a reputation as some of the most successful and wealthy entrepreneurs in the southwestern United States. But they never considered themselves wealthy—they were simply stewards of wealth.

Likewise, the current trustees of the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation, Inc. have always felt keenly aware of their responsibility to the Foundation's core mission of improving education, health and social services in the states where the Mabees spent significant parts of their lives: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. In honor of the Foundation's 75th anniversary, the trustees knew they had to think outside the box to honor the Mabees' memory.

This led to the establishment of the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation, Inc. Endowed Scholarship at Baylor with a $3 million gift, bringing the Foundation's total giving to Baylor to nearly $7 million.

"We wanted to do something special," said Ed Jones, Foundation trustee. "We wanted to give, unsolicited, to people we had supported already and who we thought were still strongly aligned with what we feel is central to what we want to do."

In addition to embodying the founders' ideals, the Foundation's trustees hoped to help address a projected physician shortage, particularly in rural areas, that is expected to worsen in the next decade without intervention. A report by the American Association of Medical Colleges estimates that the United States will face a physician shortage of up to 86,000 by 2036, with currently underserved areas taking the hardest hit.

"Medical school is not cheap," Mr. Jones said. "People want to stay where they can get a job that can pay off their student loans. So, to the extent that someone wants to go to a rural area, we think our scholarship could help encourage people to make that choice with less financial burden."

The Mabee Foundation Scholarship will support Baylor students in the School of Medicine, distributing a minimum of $30,000 annually to up to 10 selected students who demonstrate the characteristics of John and Lottie Mabee—strong work ethic, volunteerism, generosity, integrity, honesty, humility and charity. Just as the Mabees proved to be catalysts for positive change, the Foundation aims to help future medical students accomplish the same thing.

"It is our hope that, through these scholarships, students will gain the tools to, following Mr. and Mrs. Mabee's examples, benefit society and live fulfilling lives both professionally and personally," said Michael Goeke, executive director of the Foundation.

give.bcm.edu/health-wealth

Transforming Hypotheses into Healing

How Cancer Research Breakthroughs Become Reality for Patients

Thanks to our generous donors, the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine has a strong research portfolio and is a leader in bench-to-bedside science—the transition of laboratory discoveries (originating from basic science research) to the direct application of patient care (in the clinic), as well as the training of future healthcare leaders. This process, which is often fueled through donor generosity, is less straightforward than the term suggests, often taking years, substantial funding and multi-institutional research partnerships to overcome various hurdles before an idea can impact patients.

None of this could have been accomplished without the invaluable support of our donors. Philanthropy propels the bench-to-bedside process. Whether it's seed funding that spurs basic research or philanthropy directed toward translational research, Baylor donors are the catalyst that powers advancements to develop the next generation of physician-investigators and heal our patients.

1

Basic Science Research

Baylor basic science researchers focus on the principles, processes and activities that underlie the fundamental mechanisms of health—with the possibility of a laboratory discovery that may bring great promise for improved therapies or even a cure. In this stage, resources are needed for equipment, supplies and to support trainees, which allow the physician-investigator to develop proof-of-concept data that can be used to scale projects and move a discovery from idea to an actual therapy or diagnostic tool in the clinic.

2

Translational Research

Translational researchers apply a basic science research discovery to the development of practical applications that might help patients. This part of the process can be full of trial and error. Here, collaboration between researchers, basic science investigators and trainees is critical as troubleshooting is necessary to move projects forward. Often, translational research uses animal models or first-in-human studies on small populations of patients. As with basic science research, it is difficult to secure support from governmental funding agencies because the research is risky, with no guarantee for success.

3

Clinical Research

Clinical researchers bring the laboratory discovery to patients. The primary focus is on safety and effectiveness. Once the research team—comprised of physician-investigators, laboratory staff, collaborators and trainees—is confident that an intervention can improve patient outcomes, the advancement is tested in clinical trials with larger groups of patient volunteers.

The Duncan Cancer Center is a trusted institution in Houston, serving a diverse population throughout the city and beyond. Through community outreach, volunteers can be recruited for clinical trials, especially when an intervention is seen as having a widespread benefit to a large population.

give.bcm.edu/become-reality

1

BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH:

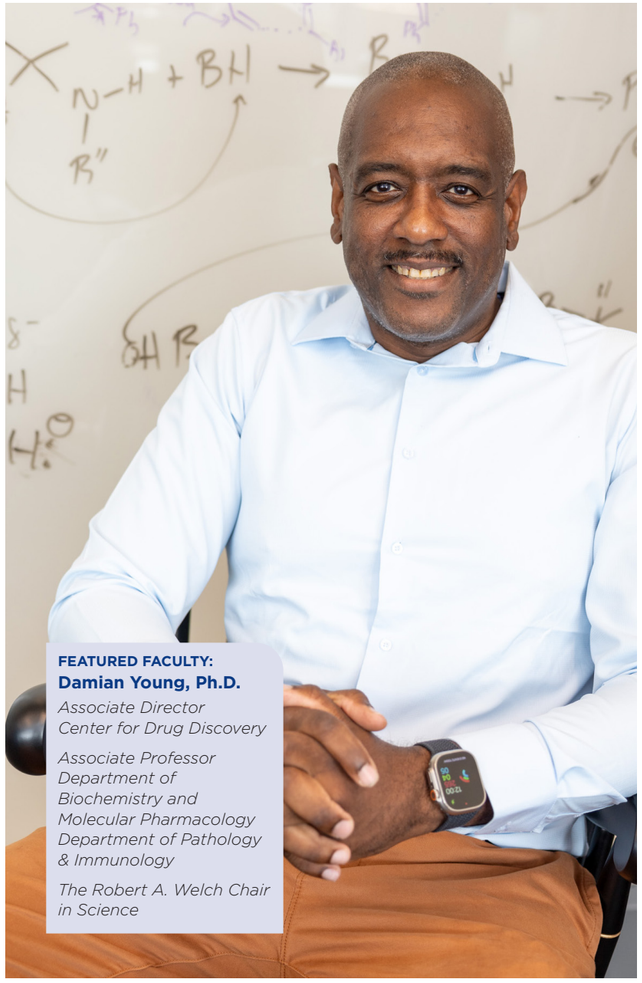
Creating a Drug-Discovery Pipeline

The Welch Foundation, one of Baylor's strongest supporters and an advocate for early research, has given more than $33 million over 50 years to Baylor's investigators. One of these scientists is Damian Young, Ph.D. Through The Welch Foundation's support of his endowed chair position, Dr. Young has built libraries of small molecules to rapidly and cost-effectively screen billions of them. Molecules are the fundamental building blocks of potential drugs, with specific molecules targeting biological processes in the body. The properties and structure of these molecules are crucial for determining their efficacy and safety as potential drugs. Dr. Young's small molecule libraries identify promising leads for treating challenging diseases, such as cancer, using already existing Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs.

To accomplish this, Dr. Young has two different platforms at Baylor: Fragment-Based Drug Discovery, which harnesses knowledge of disease-causing proteins to develop optimal drugs, and DNA-Encoded Libraries, which generate a vast collection of different drug-like molecules attached to a unique sequence of DNA that efficiently identifies compounds for disease-related proteins without laborious and costly chemical optimization. Dr. Young's approach and these screening techniques have allowed him to create a drug discovery pipeline that rivals that of any pharmaceutical company for a fraction of the often exorbitant cost.

Dr. Young's work has proven so promising that The Welch Foundation awarded him a Catalyst for Discovery Program Grant in July 2024 to accelerate progress in his research. The grant was one of only two awarded in Texas and gives Dr. Young $5 million in support, a stunning show of support toward realizing the potential of small molecule libraries for treating an array of diseases.

"The Welch Foundation is committed to supporting scientists of an exceptional caliber, like Dr. Damian Young," said Adam Kuspa, Ph.D., president of The Welch Foundation. "What he is doing for the field of drug discovery will drive the future of therapeutic development. We are proud to invest in researchers who are spearheading bold initiatives like this."



FEATURED FACULTY:
Damian Young, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Center for Drug Discovery

Associate Professor
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology
Department of Pathology & Immunology

The Robert A. Welch Chair in Science

Dr. Young performs calculations with Srinivas Chamakuri, Ph.D.

give.bcm.edu/pipeline

FEATURED FACULTY:
Ganesh Rao, M.D.

Chair and Professor
Department of Neurosurgery

Co-Director, Center for Cancer Neuroscience

The Marc J. Shapiro Endowed Chair

Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Neurosurgery

Co-Director, Center for Cancer Neuroscience

Dr. Russell J. and Marian K. Blattner Chair

Dr. Benjamin Deneen, Chris Trew, Judy Pittman and Dr. Ganesh Rao during a recent visit by the TLC² Foundation.

2

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH:

Using the Body's Immune System to Fight Brain Cancer

The TLC² Foundation has generously supported the translational glioblastoma research of Ganesh Rao, M.D., and Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D., with $450,000 over multiple years. These contributions are now leading to new insights into this aggressive form of brain cancer. Glioblastoma has an average age of diagnosis of 65, but it can strike people of any age, race, gender or demographic. Despite first being identified in the scientific literature in the 1920s, there have only been four drugs and one device ever approved by the FDA specifically for the treatment of glioblastoma. The TLC² Foundation's support for Drs. Rao and Deneen offers a promising avenue for breakthroughs against this deadly brain cancer by advancing the development of innovative therapeutics personalized to each patient.

Glioblastoma is a dangerous cancer because it's so aggressive. But the TLC² Foundation and Doug Chandler, president of the Foundation, are ready for a fight. Established in 2014 by Terry and Doug Chandler, the TLC² Foundation started providing grants to glioblastoma research after Mrs. Chandler's diagnosis and death in 2017. Since then, the TLC² Foundation has been dedicated to supporting her physician, Dr. Rao, as well as fighting for veterans' and children's causes that were close to Mrs. Chandler's heart.

"I have a sign in my office that says, 'Glioblastoma, we're coming for you.' And that's what we mean," said Judy Pittman, a director for the Foundation. "We're coming for you—so watch out."

The TLC² Foundation funding has built glioblastoma mouse models that are generating discoveries surrounding the tumor microenvironment. Researchers have found that laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT), which uses an MRI-guided laser to treat hard-to-reach tumors in a minimally invasive procedure, activates the immune system in brain cancer. Drs. Rao and Deneen are using their mouse models to uncover why. Once the tumor cells are destroyed, immune system cells flood the area and eliminate any remaining cancer cells.

By studying the effects of LITT and the subsequent immune infiltration, Drs. Deneen and Rao are hoping to learn what enzymes, chemicals, proteins or signals are released that attract the immune cells.

"Funding from the TLC² Foundation is helping to put our work on the cutting-edge of glioblastoma research," Dr. Rao said. "If we can understand why laser therapy enhances the immune effect, this could be a game-changing development in glioblastoma treatment."

A recent pledge of $2 million made by the TLC² Foundation in December 2024 will continue to support this vital research.

Watch a video about the TLC² Foundation's fight against brain cancer at **give.bcm.edu/fight-brain-cancer**

Dr. Benjamin Musher prepares for a consultation with a patient.

3

CLINICAL RESEARCH:

Testing Novel Approaches for Treating Pancreatic Cancer

Thanks to the support of The B. Smith Trust, Benjamin Musher, M.D. '00, has served as the principal investigator for several early phase clinical trials testing novel approaches for treating pancreatic cancer, the third most common cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. Conducting clinical trials is complex and time-consuming, and the endowment established by The B. Smith Trust has been critical to Dr. Musher's success.

"Pancreatic cancer is a devastating disease, with survival rates well below what we see with most other cancers," Dr. Musher said. "Outcomes have improved some over the last 10 years, but most patients, even those diagnosed with early-stage pancreatic cancer, ultimately die of their disease. Pancreatic cancer is frequently resistant to traditional chemotherapy and radiation, and we desperately need better options for our patients."

Two of Dr. Musher's early phase clinical trials are testing immunotherapies developed in Baylor laboratories. The first trial, which leverages both standard chemotherapy and intravenous immunotherapy to induce a powerful immune response throughout the body, has completed its first clinical phase with encouraging results. The second trial, which involves producing a personalized cancer vaccine from a patient's immune cells and resected pancreatic cancer and using it to supercharge the immune system against lingering tumor cells, is accepting patients into the study.

"Because immunotherapy has not proven to be effective in pancreatic cancer yet, our team is investigating newer technologies," Dr. Musher said. "We cannot improve outcomes in this devastating disease without well-designed, innovative clinical trials and are deeply appreciative to our patients who enroll in these trials and our donors who fund them."

Hear from one of Dr. Musher's patients at **give.bcm.edu/novel-approaches**

Dr. Benjamin Musher examines James White, a pancreatic cancer patient.

FEATURED FACULTY:
Benjamin L. Musher, M.D. '00

Professor
Section of Hematology-Oncology
Margaret A. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine

Medical Director of Medical Oncology
Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center

Barry Stephen Smith Memorial Endowed Professorship

O'Quinn Medical Tower: The Physical Embodiment of Bench-to-Bedside

Since opening its doors in 2023, the 12-story O'Quinn Medical Tower on the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center McNair Campus serves as the world-class ambulatory care center for the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Here, the Duncan Cancer Center unites its different aims—train the next generation of physician-scientists, reduce barriers to access, provide patient-centered care and develop novel prevention and treatment strategies—because science and care must go hand-in-hand to achieve real impact.

For example, Duncan Cancer Center patients can participate in one of Dr. Musher's clinical trials or eventually benefit from the translational efforts of Drs. Deneen and Rao, all under one roof.

The O'Quinn Medical Tower augments clinical research with additional infusion and pharmacy space while facilitating the expansion of multidisciplinary cancer care. Additionally, the O'Quinn Medical Tower's location near the new Helix Park development will foster collaboration with additional Baylor thought leaders, physician-scientists from other Texas Medical Center institutions and industry partners.

Many individuals in the community helped make this new building a reality. With support from donors such as The John M. O'Quinn Foundation, the people and programs within the O'Quinn Medical Tower will help ensure cancer patients in Houston have the best medical care possible now and in the future.

"This beautiful building offers people with cancer a peaceful, serene place to receive top-of-the-line care from the talented doctors, nurses and staff at Baylor. We are proud to have our name associated with such an important place of hope for our community," said Robert C. Wilson, III, president of The John M. O'Quinn Foundation.

Championing Women and Children's Health

Briana Kirksey

Uplifting New Moms Through upSTART Community Programs

Briana Kirksey felt lost and without purpose—and then she got pregnant with her first child.

She knew things had to change when her nurse told her that she had prenatal depression. Ms. Kirksey's nurse recommended that she apply for upLIFT, which is part of the upSTART Community Programs launched by Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital.

upSTART includes a suite of programs designed to promote children's early brain and language development, perinatal maternal mental health, social drivers of health and maternal-child health and wellness. upLIFT is a program for women experiencing symptoms of depression and anxiety during pregnancy and in the year after giving birth.

Approximately one in 10 women experience postpartum depression, making these Baylor programs essential for new moms, particularly those with little or no support system. There is high demand for these programs, and donor support is crucial for sustaining these deeply needed services. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas has given more than $70,000 to help support upSTART and program participants like Ms. Kirksey.

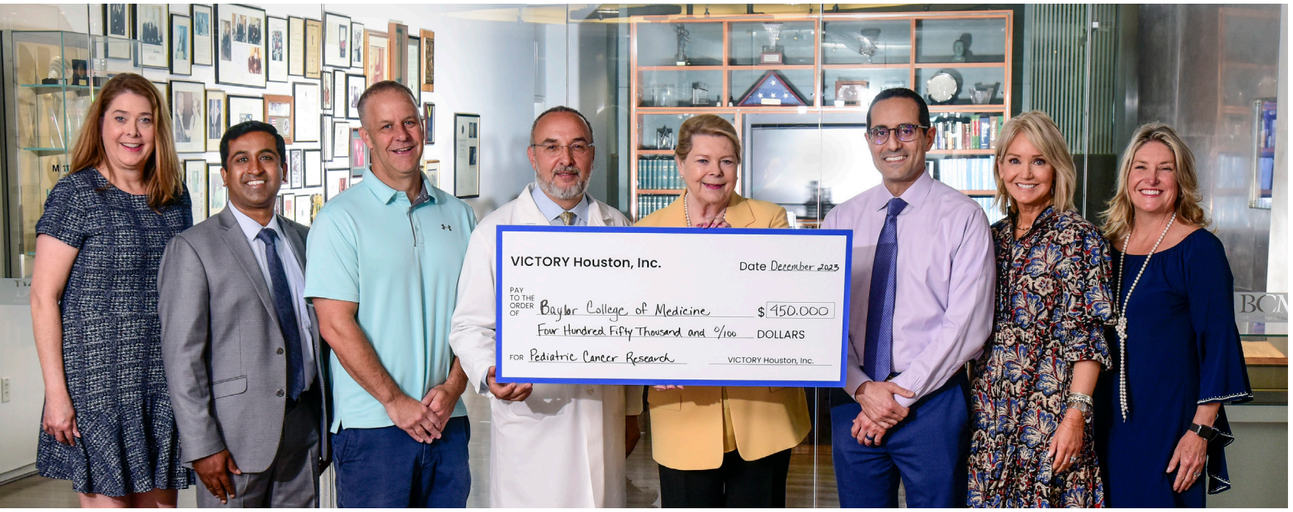
She applied to upLIFT because she didn't want to pass the trauma from her past onto her child and wanted to be the best version of herself. Today, she is a published author and small business owner of You Are Loved, a mental health and suicide prevention brand.

"I feel like it was one of the best programs I went through trying to become a first-time mom," the 26-year-old said. "It really helped me to be more of a positive person in life and with my child. I have a new positive outlook on life and motherhood."

To Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, Ms. Kirksey said: "Thank you for donating to upSTART Community Programs because you made it possible for someone who couldn't really afford therapy to get the help and the healing that they need to be a successful mom … Your support is always needed. There are more mothers out here like me that do need the help and can't afford it … I was happy to have this opportunity because it changed my life."

- **What is upLIFT?** A free program helping women with depression and anxiety during pregnancy and up to a year after birth. Participants meet with social workers virtually or at home.
- **How it Works:** upLIFT provides eight sessions to teach tools for managing negative thoughts and improving mental health.
- **Part of a Bigger Program:** upLIFT is one of several upSTART programs that also support early childhood development and family health.
- **Why It Matters:** Approximately one in 10 women experiences postpartum depression.

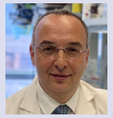
Listen to Briana's story in her own words at **give.bcm.edu/upstart**



Stephanie Morris, Dr. Sujith Joseph, Dr. Benjamin Deneen, Dr. Nabil Ahmed, Judi Johnson, Dr. Bahey Salem, Elizabeth Fulghum and Melissa Hobbs during a visit to Baylor College of Medicine.

FEATURED FACULTY:

Nabil Ahmed, M.D.



Professor
Section of Hematology-Oncology
Department of Pediatrics

Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D.

Co-Director, Center for Cancer Neuroscience

Professor
Department of Neurosurgery

Dr. Russell J. and Marian K. Blattner Chair

Sujith Joseph, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Section of Hematology-Oncology
Department of Pediatrics

Bahey Salem, M.D.

Associate Professor
Section of Hematology-Oncology
Department of Pediatrics

VICTORY Houston, Inc. Rallies Around Cancer Researchers

The members of VICTORY Houston, Inc., an all-volunteer, all-women non-profit dedicated to raising funds for cancer-related initiatives in Greater Houston, understand the devastation that cancer has on a community. To them, it is essential that funds raised in Houston stay local to benefit the people who live in our communities.

"The overall goal of VICTORY Houston, Inc. is to raise the most money at the least cost and continue to remain devoted to being good stewards of our donors' hard-earned money and generosity," said Diane Watson Cain, president of VICTORY Houston, Inc.

"It is important to the women of the group that all proceeds be disbursed back into the community that has supported us for more than 38 years," she said.

For its annual VICTORY Rally Ball in April 2023 in downtown Houston, more than 850 supporters enjoyed an evening of dancing, cocktails, appetizers and a live auction that raised more than $1.65 million.

Proceeds totaling $450,000 were awarded to three teams of Baylor College of Medicine researchers for pediatric cancer research projects.

give.bcm.edu/victory-rallies

Supported Projects

A less toxic approach to treating pediatric sarcoma

The immune system is a powerful ally in keeping our bodies healthy. Unfortunately, sometimes it can get confused and attack healthy cells.

Sujith Joseph, Ph.D., is using the immune system to attack pediatric sarcoma, a cancer of the bones and soft tissues, without targeting healthy cells in young bodies.

"I'm so grateful to VICTORY Houston, Inc. and its support of my research," Dr. Joseph said. "Their funding is helping me develop a new type of cell therapy that shows promise in fighting sarcoma while sparing kids some of the harmful side-effects that come with this treatment. VICTORY is making a real difference in these young lives."

Dr. Joseph's work can be a crucial step in developing a more effective and less toxic type of immunotherapy for young patients.

Teaching the body to fight leukemia

Much progress has been made in treating childhood leukemia, but standard treatment like chemotherapy doesn't work for everyone. Bahey Salem, M.D., and Nabil Ahmed, M.D., are working to teach patients' immune cells to recognize cancer as dangerous and destroy leukemia.

Drs. Salem and Ahmed alter a patient's immune cells in the lab by adding three homing devices to their cell surfaces. When the new immune cells are given back to the patient, the homing devices find one of three matching beacons on leukemia cells and eliminate them. This advancement can have far-reaching effects for treating pediatric leukemia and helping children survive and thrive.

Disrupting the chatter of brain cancer

Tumor cells need help to grow. They send chemical messages to otherwise healthy surrounding cells, recruiting them to aid in a cancer's growth. Shutting down these messages may be a strategy to slow the growth of a dangerous form of brain cancer.

Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D., is working to solve some of the mysteries of ependymoma, a type of brain cancer common in children. His team has found that brain cancer cells communicate with other brain cells called neurons, conversations that Dr. Deneen believes help the brain tumor cells survive as the neurons deliver messages that make nutrients and blood available to the cancer. His team's goal is to find how to stop the chatter and possibly offer a new way to silence pediatric brain cancer.

Learn more about this incredible partnership at
give.bcm.edu/friendship

A Foundation of Friendship Brings Hope for Breast Cancer Patients

Grateful for a recent $40,000 gift and support that has reached nearly $850,000 over the past two decades, Baylor College of Medicine has purchased top-of-the-line equipment for the Lester & Sue Smith Breast Center through the contributions of the Nancy Owens Breast Cancer Foundation. Terri Guerra, president of the Foundation, talks about the vibrant woman who inspired a charity that works alongside physician-investigators like Baylor's Xiang "Shawn" Zhang, Ph.D., to put an end to breast cancer.

"The doctors that are doing this research and the things that they are doing are just miraculous."

Terri Guerra
Chairman and President
Nancy Owens Breast Cancer Foundation

Harnessing Local Expertise for Global Change

How Two Baylor Trustees Champion Global Health Advances

On February 28, 2024, donors and friends of Baylor College of Medicine met with President, CEO and Executive Dean Paul Klotman, M.D., Sharmila Anandasabapathy, M.D., and Rachel Davis, M.D. '14, Res. '21, to discuss the future of healthcare and Baylor's global reach. At the Baylor President's Circle donor event, Drs. Anandasabapathy and Davis showcased medical devices and shared their passion for bringing cutting-edge surgical techniques to countries worldwide.

It was a vote of confidence in Baylor's global programs when Chuck Watson, a College Board of Trustees member, stood up and pledged $50,000 to further Baylor's global initiatives and encouraged attendees to match his commitment.

His call was instantly answered—Trini Mendenhall-Royalty, fellow Trustee, matched his gift.

"This generous support will be used to fund global health educational efforts, including training courses in lifesaving medical and surgical skills, such as anesthesia care, obstetrics and cancer screening," Dr. Anandasabapathy said of Mr. Watson's initial $50,000 gift.

Mrs. Mendenhall-Royalty's gift will go directly to Baylor's Global Programs Travel Fund. This fund finances travel for the doctors and practitioners who mentor medical personnel overseas.

Chuck Watson and Trini Mendenhall-Royalty

FEATURED FACULTY:

Sharmila Anandasabapathy, M.D., AGAF

Vice President of Baylor College of Medicine Global Programs

Professor
Section of Gastroenterology
Margaret A. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine

Rachel Davis, M.D. '14, Res. '21

Director
Baylor Center for Global Surgery

Director
Global Surgery Track of the General Surgery Residency Program

Assistant Professor
Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery

"If you want to give to a cause where you know your dollars will be put to good use and actually make a difference in people's lives, I suggest you donate to Baylor Global Health," Mrs. Mendenhall-Royalty said. "Saving the lives of citizens both here in Houston and across the world is what Baylor does on a daily basis."

Mr. Watson, who also recently established the Watson Global Endowed Fund with a $500,000 gift in April 2024, extends his philanthropy to countries around the globe where treatable diseases turn into endemics due to a lack of resources.

"As a member of the Board of Trustees and having been involved with Baylor for over 20 years, I am inspired by Baylor's outstanding leadership," Mr. Watson said. "Because of Dr. Anandasabapathy's vision and initiative, Baylor Global Programs has accelerated its impact across the world, bringing Baylor's cutting-edge research and top-tier clinical care to thousands of underserved individuals."

Read more to learn how one man's past inspired him to help others at **give.bcm.edu/3d-overseas**

Bringing Orthotics and Prosthetics Care Overseas With New 3D Printing

Brittany and Steve Yeng's $100,000 donation to Baylor College of Medicine's Orthotics and Prosthetics Program helped launch a 3D-printing program for war victims in Ukraine and patients in Africa and Asia. This innovative technology, inspired by Steve's personal journey, aims to transform global prosthetics care.

Deciphering the Nervous System's Secrets

Partnering to Solve a Medical Mystery

The patients would arrive at the hospital presenting with puzzling and sudden cognitive decline—including psychosis in some cases—the result of the rapid onset of what doctors assumed was some kind of atypical presentation of schizophrenia that did not respond to treatment. Leaving patients hospitalized indefinitely and telling the families that there was nothing left to be done for their loved ones seemed to be the only solution.

This diagnosis never sat right with Anthony Zoghbi, M.D. '13, who witnessed these patients in his early years of training. The speed of onset and the lack of certain conventional markers of schizophrenia in these patients troubled him, as did the inability to effectively treat them.

"It's honestly quite frightening to think of the fact that your body might, for reasons that we don't fully understand, just turn against you with symptoms so severe that you could end up institutionalized or in a hospital for the rest of your life," Dr. Zoghbi said.

He was frustrated but determined to find a better answer for these patients. During his residency at Columbia University, Dr. Zoghbi and his colleagues began to investigate an intriguing hypothesis: what if these cases were not actually schizophrenia but some kind of undiagnosed autoimmune condition that could be treated not with psychiatric medicines but with immunosuppressants?

Surprisingly, it worked. Dr. Zoghbi saw early success with some of these patients, one of whom was a former high school valedictorian who had been institutionalized for 26 years with this "atypical" schizophrenia and who showed substantial improvement in her condition after just five days of steroid treatment.

"These experiences opened my eyes to a couple of incredible possibilities," Dr. Zoghbi said.

In 2021, Dr. Zoghbi arrived at Baylor and applied this experience to treat similar cases at Ben Taub Hospital, which is Houston's largest safety-net hospital and is staffed by Baylor physicians. Since then, he and his team have

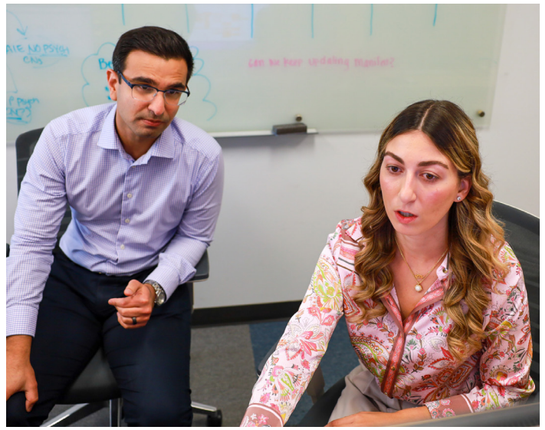
FEATURED FACULTY:
Anthony W. Zoghbi, M.D. '13

Assistant Professor
Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Molecular and Human Genetics

Chief, Psychiatric Genetics
Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Beth K. And Stuart C. Yudofsky Scholar in Behavioral Neuroscience

Hear Dr. Zoghbi discuss this breakthrough at **give.bcm.edu/solve-mystery**



Dr. Anthony Zoghbi confers with Natalia Nassar, clinical research coordinator.

treated a significant number of these cases, enough that they have developed a risk calculator to help health providers recognize red flags to better triage such patients. And while he had big plans to design a study to formally examine these cases that seemed to challenge the conventional understanding of psychiatry and neurology, Dr. Zoghbi knew that securing funding for something that might seem far-fetched would be difficult.

The Valour Foundation believed in his vision. As an organization committed to advancing medical research focused on developing quality, accessible treatments for mental illness, the Foundation's support has enabled Dr. Zoghbi and his team to increase awareness of these autoimmune conditions and establish collaborations to change clinical practice for these patients in the Harris Health System and at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Texas Children's Hospital, Memorial Hermann and UTHealth Houston.

Most critically, the Valour Foundation's support has helped Dr. Zoghbi and his team lay the groundwork for developing a diagnostic test in the future, which could offer an immediate treatment option to improve patients' symptoms substantially and give them back their lives.

"The Valour Foundation is pleased to support Dr. Anthony Zoghbi's innovative research into diagnosing and treating people with unexplained causes of dementia and cognitive impairment," a Foundation representative said. "His research offers realistic hope for significant recovery to many people with severe, longstanding neurobehavioral and emotional disabilities that, heretofore, were refractory to treatment."

Read the full story and hear from Dr. Marshall at **give.bcm.edu/inspiring-answers**

Asking Unexpected Questions to Better Understand the Nervous System

Kara Marshall, M.S. '10, Ph.D., studies interoception, which is the body's ability to sense internal signals like hunger and pain. Her research aims to explore and decipher these little-understood sensations, which could impact many diseases and conditions. As a McNair Scholar and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Freeman Hrabowski Scholar, and with significant support from The Pew Charitable Trusts, Dr. Marshall's work emphasizes the importance of asking bold questions and fostering collaboration and inclusion in scientific research.

"All of these systems are working without our attention, and yet we know so little about them. There's so much to discover."

Kara Marshall, M.S. '10, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Neuroscience

McNair Scholar

Advancing Surgical Excellence

The Marcus Foundation Supports Breakthrough Technology for Breast Cancer Surgery With $3 Million Grant

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women, and surgical resection—removing cancerous tissue—is the most common treatment option for patients. To help improve the effectiveness of resection, researchers in the Eberlin Lab for Medical Mass Spectrometry at Baylor College of Medicine received $3 million in funding from The Marcus Foundation in March 2024 to further develop and validate the MasSpec Pen technology. The MasSpec Pen is a breakthrough device, developed by Livia Eberlin, Ph.D., and colleagues, to instantly identify cancer, streamlining the process for surgeons to precisely remove what's necessary.

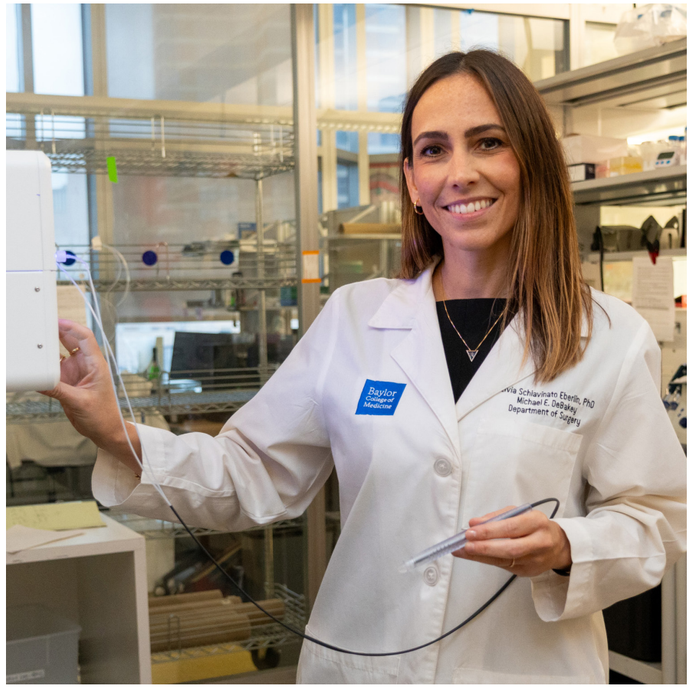
"Our primary goal is to validate the performance of the MasSpec Pen and its value to surgeons as they determine what tissues to remove and preserve during breast cancer surgeries," said Dr. Eberlin.

The MasSpec Pen is the first device of its kind to help guide resection in breast cancer and other cancer surgeries. The Eberlin Lab successfully implemented the tool in a pilot clinical study in the operating room at Baylor with 22 breast cancer patients. Lab members are excited to enter a new phase of clinical testing with a larger patient group thanks to the grant from the Foundation.

"Our breast cancer surgical team at Baylor is thrilled to continue this important research effort with Dr. Eberlin and with support from The Marcus Foundation," said Alastair Thompson, M.D. "We know it can make a huge impact in our practice and for our patients."

The funding will help enroll 200 patients at two affiliate hospitals: Ben Taub Hospital and Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. Surgeons will use the MasSpec Pen intraoperatively for breast tissue analysis, surgical margin evaluation and to ultimately determine how the technology performs in comparison to the current clinical approach. The goal is to achieve higher than 95% accuracy and for the MasSpec Pen technology to perform faster than the current standards.

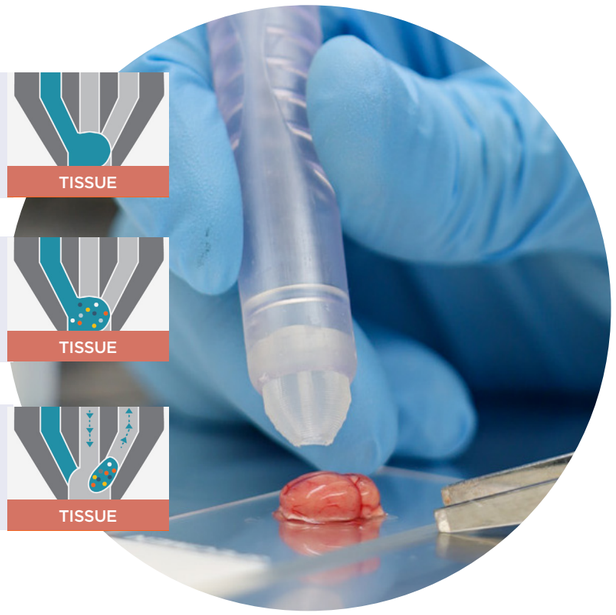
"It's great when you find funders like The Marcus Foundation that are passionate and aligned with your mission to help patients," Dr. Eberlin said. "We hope that our technology makes a huge impact in the care for patients with cancer."



Dr. Livia Eberlin holding a MasSpec Pen.

Precision Cancer Detection

- At the initial contact with tissue, the MasSpec Pen applies a droplet to the surface, beginning the molecular analysis process.
- The droplet interacts with the tissue, absorbing molecular components for analysis. This step collects critical data for cancer detection.
- The droplet, now containing molecular information, is drawn into the pen for mass spectrometry analysis. This allows real-time detection with high sensitivity and accuracy.



give.bcm.edu/breakthrough

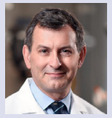
FEATURED FACULTY:

Livia Eberlin, Ph.D.

Professor and Vice Chair for Research
Division of Surgical Oncology
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery

Translational Research and Innovations Endowed Chair

Alastair Thompson, B.Sc. (Hons), M.B.Ch.B., M.D., FRCS



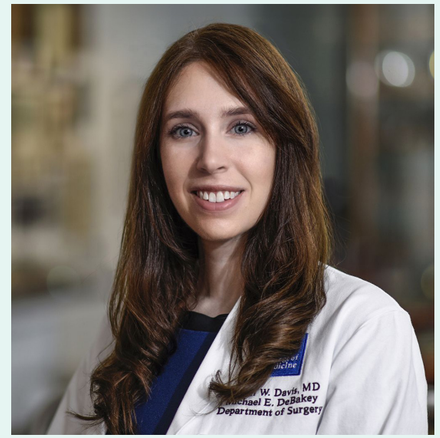
Professor and Chief
Section of Breast Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery

The Olga Keith Wiess Chair of Surgery

Listen to Dr. Davis share her vision at **give.bcm.edu/surgical-access**

Baylor Alumna Aims to Increase Surgical Access Worldwide

Rachel Davis, M.D. '14, Res. '21, a 2023 Baylor College of Medicine Humanitarian Alumni Award recipient, determined early on in her medical education while on "mission trips" that visiting underserved areas to perform surgeries, only to leave directly after, was not the same as providing real surgical access to those patients. As a result of the lacking infrastructure, she established the Global Surgery Track at Baylor College of Medicine to create a more sustainable framework for surgery trainees and save even more lives in low-resource settings.



"Most of our programs came through local demand, which I am really proud of. They are derived from someone saying, 'Can you help me?'"

Rachel Davis, M.D. '14, Res. '21
Director
Baylor Center for Global Surgery

Director
Global Surgery Track of the General Surgery Residency Program

Assistant Professor
Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery

Dr. Michael E. DeBakey

How Dr. DeBakey's Legacy Is Inspiring a New Era of Surgical Excellence

Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., looms large in the minds of heart surgeons across the globe. He represents, in many ways, the classical archetype of the surgeon—a master in the operating room, a stunningly creative engineer of medical equipment, a compassionate counselor at the bedside, a demanding taskmaster during clinical rounds and an egalitarian medical statesman.

He also was an ardent educator and mentor, one who spent most of his long career at Baylor College of Medicine. In 1961, he created the DeBakey Medical Foundation with the singular goal of establishing Baylor as the preeminent college of medicine in the nation.

For Todd Rosengart, M.D., MBA, FACS, the image of Dr. DeBakey is of a leader who understood that he wasn't the only star, and his job wasn't just about being a great surgeon; he needed to empower others so that they could be great as well.

It is the same ethos Dr. Rosengart brought with him when he became chair of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor. The best way to keep alive Dr. DeBakey's legacy of excellence is to be the best, and being the best means having an impact.

"When someone in the Department asks me what I want them to do, I tell them, there is so much that you can do, and there are many different ways you can make a difference," he said. "It is my job to apply resources to help people be the most impactful they can be."

To uphold Dr. DeBakey's legacy and to partner in Dr. Rosengart's vision, the DeBakey Medical Foundation pledged $10 million in April 2024 to establish the Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., Endowed Fund in Surgery. The Fund will provide the Department's chair—currently Dr. Rosengart—with financial support to facilitate the Department's growth both by adapting to new advancements in the field and by investing in the innovative pursuits of its faculty and trainees.

The great surgical triumphs of Dr. DeBakey's day included inventing new operating procedures, developing flawless graft techniques and fabricating artificial hearts. Today's surgeons are focused on incorporating biologic therapies and surgery, perfecting minimally invasive operations and identifying ways to harness artificial intelligence to maximize surgeons' ability to care for their patients. And while no one knows for certain what the future will bring for the field of surgery, Dr. Rosengart is confident that the Department will be ready to face it.

"Having the bandwidth and flexibility to anticipate the unknowable is going to be a great opportunity to use the DeBakey funds," Dr. Rosengart said.

Clinical Excellence

- Over 100 lung transplants were performed in 2024, ranking the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center Lung Transplant Program among the top five busiest in the nation.

Research Leadership

- The Department was ranked 24th out of 77 nationally recognized departments in National Institutes of Health funding with $8.2 million awarded in 2023, supporting innovations such as nano-biophotonics.

Innovation in Surgery

- With the nation's first Innovation Track in the General Surgery Residency Program, the Department trains surgeon-innovators to bring groundbreaking devices and therapies to market.

give.bcm.edu/new-era

FEATURED FACULTY:
Todd Rosengart, M.D., MBA, FACS
Professor and Chair
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery

The DeBakey-Bard Chair in Surgery

Bridging the Gaps Between Big Ideas and Game-Changing Solutions

Read more about Baylor's presence in Houston's new biomedical research hub at **give.bcm.edu/genesis**

Dynamic One: The Genesis of Houston's New Biomedical Research Industry

Nearly 80 years after the Cullen Building opened its doors, Baylor College of Medicine is once again a driving force in the evolution of the Texas Medical Center (TMC) with its involvement in the cutting-edge TMC Helix Park in Houston. This 37-acre ecosystem brings together the brightest minds in medicine, science and academia to rapidly advance new breakthroughs and scale their enterprises, while also cultivating new business ventures in partnership with industry leaders.

As the anchor tenant of Dynamic One, Baylor has leased 114,000 square feet of lab and office space to house three Baylor research labs under one roof: the Therapeutic Innovation Center (THINC), the Tailored Antibacterials and Innovative Laboratories for Phage Research (TAILΦR) and the Alkek Center for Metagenomics and Microbiome Research (CMMR), which are poised to accelerate research and commercialization through an entrepreneurial spirit.

Supercharging Biomedical Research Through Venture Philanthropy

Todd Reppert

In recent years, venture philanthropy has emerged as a transformational force for biomedical research. Combining strategic investment principles from the world of venture capital with the mission-driven goals of philanthropy, venture philanthropy—and the donors who give through this model—seeks to bridge the funding gap that often hinders the translation of scientific discoveries into life-saving medical treatments.

Todd Reppert, a successful business investor and member of Baylor College of Medicine's Board of Trustees, has a passion for venture philanthropy that stems from helping companies grow and flourish throughout his career.

"I really like helping build businesses," Mr. Reppert said. "Whether it's a brand-new business or one that's been around for a few years, I like seeing them grow. I like seeing the people involved grow. I like seeing the impact of the business. The impact is why I get excited about being involved in venture philanthropy."

At Baylor, with its impressive volume of biomedical research and talented investigators, Mr. Reppert found a place where his business expertise could make a difference. As chair of the Commercialization Committee of the Baylor College of Medicine Board of Trustees, Mr. Reppert works closely with BCM Ventures (BCMV), led by Joseph Petrosino, Ph.D. '98, Fel. '02, Baylor's chief scientific innovation officer. BCMV is dedicated to assisting faculty with reconciling scientific discovery and commercialization, advancing Baylor's intellectual property, establishing commercial partnerships and launching new companies. This often takes the form of helping Baylor faculty further develop their ideas into diagnostics, instruments, technologies, services and therapies that can be sold in the marketplace.

Baylor already has a well-established track record of successfully spinning off highly innovative companies, including Diversigen, Inc., a microbiome analysis and sequencing company founded by Dr. Petrosino and which was a subsidiary of OraSure Technologies. Mr. Reppert is confident that, with more front-end investment, BCMV can generate even more impactful healthcare solutions.

"If the research is done well and the commercialization is successful, it has the potential to impact millions of lives," Mr. Reppert said.

Mr. Reppert believes so strongly in BCMV that he and his family made a seed pledge of $600,000 in January 2024 to support the BCMV initiatives.

"If the existing commercialization efforts become even more successful, then we can reinvest the money earned from those successes back into Baylor's research enterprise," Mr. Reppert said. "This is how we can help create a virtuous cycle that doesn't just produce more gains and opportunities but more and better healthcare solutions and better results worldwide. And it can keep going in perpetuity."

It's an idea that he hopes inspires other donors and investors to do the same.

"I'd like to see other people, whether it's for Baylor or elsewhere, give back in a way that is smart and can also influence the future," Mr. Reppert said.

Learn more about venture philanthropy at **give.bcm.edu/supercharging**

FEATURED FACULTY:

Joseph Petrosino, Ph.D., '98, Fel. '02

Chief Scientific Innovation Officer

Chair and Professor
Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology

Director
Alkek Center for Metagenomics and Microbiome Research

Kyle and Josephine Morrow Chair in Molecular Virology and Microbiology

Read about the ongoing impact of The Alkek Foundation's visionary gift at **give.bcm.edu/kickstart**

Kickstarting Discovery: The Alkek Foundation's Role in Advancing Microbiome Research

In 2011, the Alkek Foundation's transformative $1.2 million gift enabled Baylor College of Medicine to establish the Alkek Center for Metagenomics and Microbiome Research (CMMR). Since then, the CMMR has advanced research by leveraging omics and genomics to explore microbial impacts on health and disease. With ongoing support from the Alkek Foundation, including a recent $750,000 pledge, the CMMR continues to develop new insights into how microbial communities affect everything from immune system function to acute and chronic disease progression.

"We discovered that tracking SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater could prevent outbreaks, a technique crucial during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our pioneering efforts didn't stop there."

Anthony Maresso, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology

Faculty Founder
Tailored Antibacterials and Innovative Laboratories for Phage (Φ) Research

Joseph Melnick Endowed Chair in Molecular Virology and Microbiology

Making a Plan, Sustaining a Legacy

Longtime Baylor Supporters Plan for Baylor's Future

James E. Key, M.D. '70, clinical professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at Baylor College of Medicine, and Mrs. Betty Key, who have been married for 57 years, believe a person's time, effort and resources are the greatest gifts to give someone.

This philosophy guided Dr. Key when he opened his private ophthalmology practice in the Texas Medical Center in 1976, offering his renowned expertise in contact lens research, skill in cataract surgery and signature brand of personalized, unhurried patient care. He staffed resident cataract surgery for 25 years at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Baylor's first affiliate hospital and one of the largest Veterans Affairs hospitals in the nation.

It was this same philosophy of generosity that guided Mrs. Key, after graduating with a degree in mathematics from The University of Texas at Austin, where the Keys fell in love. She used her stable, well-paying job as a computer programmer for IBM at NASA during the Apollo project to support them both while Dr. Key pursued his medical degree without incurring any debt.

"Not many medical students can do that right now," Mrs. Key said.

Having seen firsthand the difference time, effort and resources can make, the Keys have taken many opportunities to invest in their community, particularly in higher education. The Keys have made a bequest of $100,000 to further the highest priorities of Baylor, adding to their longtime support, including a lectureship in the Department of Ophthalmology. The decision to design their contribution as a deferred gift came after careful consideration and personal experience.

Betty and James Key

"After sitting on two endowment boards myself, I realized how much those endowments had grown over time and how much more those organizations could do when they had endowments they could count on," Dr. Key said. "And besides that, making a planned gift is a rather easy thing to do. After all, it is a future gift that doesn't impact your current income."

The planned gift, which the Keys designed using the services of Thompson and Associates—a personalized, value-based estate planning program—helped the couple balance their estate planning strategy and resources so they could ensure their loved ones were taken care of while also ensuring that their support for Baylor continued.

"Years ago, a religious leader once said, 'The only thing we take with us when we die is what we have given away,'" Dr. Key said. "I was inspired by the educational opportunity that I was offered at Baylor. Given the experience that I had, I wanted to be sure that the school has adequate resources to support students in the future."

"I just can't think of any better place for your money to go than to places where you have your heart," Mrs. Key said.

> *"I was inspired by the educational opportunity that I was offered at Baylor. Given the experience that I had, I wanted to be sure that the school has adequate resources to support students in the future."*
>
> **—James E. Key, M.D. '70**

Hear the Keys share their giving philosophy at **give.bcm.edu/longtime-supporters**

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Baylor College of Medicine, education opens the door to much more.

Baylor is at the heart of the world's largest medical center, **making an impact** that shapes healthcare.

Through our hospital partners—including Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Texas Children's Hospital, the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Ben Taub Hospital, and others—**Baylor physicians are leading care for countless patients across the Texas Medical Center.**

Get involved **bcm.edu/givetoday**

Baylor College of Medicine

Tomorrow's Medicine Today

Baylor College of Medicine

Tomorrow's Medicine Today