

MAGEE

FALL 2016

A PUBLICATION OF MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE & FOUNDATION

PLACENTAL RESEARCH

THE ZIKA VIRUS IS A REMINDER THAT WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPACTS US ALL.

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH CONVERSATION

In Partnership with Dr. Vonda Wright's Women's Health Conversations

WHAT'S NEW IN 9-90™?

9-90 is a groundbreaking study that looks at how pregnancy impacts our lifelong health—from 9 months to 90 years.

NEW CEO SEES BRIGHT FUTURE

National Stage for Magee-Womens Research Institute

MAGEE

VOLUME 12 | FALL 2016

MAGEE is published two times a year for supporters of Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation.



EDITOR

Jane Rudov

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Robert Edwards, MD, professor and chairman,
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology &
Reproductive Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

Yoel Sadovsky, MD, director, Magee-Womens Research Institute

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Marianne Reid Anderson

Michael Giunta

Sarah Pile

ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Arthur M. Scully III, vice president, Development
and Communications, Magee-Womens Research Institute

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Garrison Hughes

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.mageewomens.org

FOLLOW US



SUBSCRIBE

To receive free issues of *MAGEE* at home or to request additional copies, please email rudovjj@mwri.magee.edu with your full name, address, and phone number. We welcome your feedback on the publication. For the latest women's health updates, giveaway contests, and upcoming events, visit our website and subscribe to our newsletter.

Please email rudovjj@mwri.magee.edu if you no longer wish to receive fundraising materials designed to support Magee-Womens Research Institute and Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE & FOUNDATION.



MAGEE-WOMENS
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

4

MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE EMPOWERS WOMEN THROUGH CONVERSATION

8

PLACENTAL RESEARCH: THE ZIKA VIRUS IS A REMINDER THAT WOMEN'S HEALTH
IMPACTS US ALL

14

NEW CEO SEES BRIGHT FUTURE, NATIONAL STAGE FOR MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

16

WHAT'S NEW IN 9-90™?

18

Patient Advocates Lead the Way at Breast Cancer Symposium

20

Eventioneers' Owner Knows First Hand the Value of NICU Care

21

Paying It Forward After 4th Diagnosis

22

Anisa I. Kanbour, MD: Dedicated Physician Establishes Philanthropic Legacy

24

Morsels

26

Happenings

MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE EMPOWERS WOMEN THROUGH CONVERSATION

In Partnership with Dr. Vonda Wright's
Women's Health Conversations

DR. VONDA WRIGHT PRESENTS:


Women's Health
CONVERSATIONS



Dr. Vonda Wright

"We are no longer a victim of our genes and genetic disposition. We can take control of our lives, our mobility and our aging process through the day-to-day decisions we make now, and every day to give us a lifetime of success," says Dr. Vonda Wright, Medical Director of the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex, an orthopedic surgeon and internationally recognized authority on active aging and mobility. Dr. Wright believes that with mobility, smart nutrition and informed decisions, we can live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. "My own research, and the data behind other research initiatives such as the "9-90™" project at Magee-Womens Research Institute, demonstrates that we can control our health outcomes and the health of our children and loved ones throughout our lives."

Magee-Womens Research Institute's 9-90™ research focuses on human life in the 9 months of gestation, which has implications for the next 90 years of life. Some of the results of this research show that we can predict and change the course of illnesses that will occur over a lifetime. "By better understanding the 'human blueprint,' we can alter the trajectory of a person's life by predicting and even changing the course of a multitude of conditions. Our approach is unprecedented and it could change lives and create a better future for everyone," said Yoel Sadovsky, MD, Director, Magee-Womens Research Institute.

Encompassing genetics, reproductive development, reproductive physiology and fertility, and pregnancy and newborns, 9-90™ is just one of the many areas of research at Magee-Womens Research Institute. Other areas of focus in gender-specific medicine include women's health and wellness, women's cancers, urogynecology, and infectious diseases.

"Women make 80% of the health-related decisions for their families," explains Dr. Wright, "so if we can touch just one woman to make better health care choices for herself, her





“By better understanding the ‘human blueprint,’ we can alter the trajectory of a person’s life by predicting and even changing the course of a multitude of conditions. Our approach is unprecedented and it could change lives and create a better future for everyone,”

**Yoel Sadovsky, MD, Director,
Magee-Womens Research Institute.**



family and loved ones, then, together, one-by-one, we can improve our lives and our culture as a whole.”

Dr. Wright has written several books, and regularly appears on national TV shows including “Dr. Oz” and “The Doctors.” She is frequently quoted in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, USA Today and U.S. News & World Report, in magazines such as Maxim, Prevention, Fitness, MORE, Runner’s World, Best Life and Arthritis Today, and in numerous online publications.

Women’s Health Conversations is an innovative conference focused on elevating the dialogue of women’s health to a national level. As the founder of Women’s Health Conversations, Dr. Wright seeks to empower women of all ages to be proactive and informed on the entire spectrum of women’s health issues. Experts from all over the country travel to Pittsburgh to spread the word and share their insights.

The conference has grown dramatically over the past three years. It started in 2013 reaching approximately 200 participants. Last year, there was a sold-out crowd of 750. This year, there is another expected sell-out crowd of 1,000 with more than 50 dynamic, engaging, and informative speakers.

“By teaming with Dr. Wright, we have access to a new, innovative channel to reach, educate and inform women both in our region and nationally, about their health options now and in the future,” said Michael Annichine, CEO of Magee-Womens Research Institute.



“By teaming with Dr. Wright, we have access to a new, innovative channel to reach, educate, and inform women both in our region and nationally, about their health options now and in the future,”

**Michael Annichine, CEO of Magee-Womens
Research Institute & Foundation.**



The 50+ speakers at Women’s Health Conversations are taking on such topics and themes as “Prevention Not Prescriptions,” “Home Workouts,” “Sex and Policy,” and much more. One of several keynote speakers is Richard Carmona, MD, the 17th Surgeon General of the United States, known for his courageous work against the tobacco industry. Women’s Health Conversations also takes conversation to a whole new level with its ‘HOT for your Health’ event. This fast-paced, “smart party” is the ultimate networking and luxury lifestyle event for young professionals. ‘HOT for your Health’ enables women to experience real demonstrations in technology, biological science, and to pose questions on sex and reproduction in a fun and entertaining atmosphere.

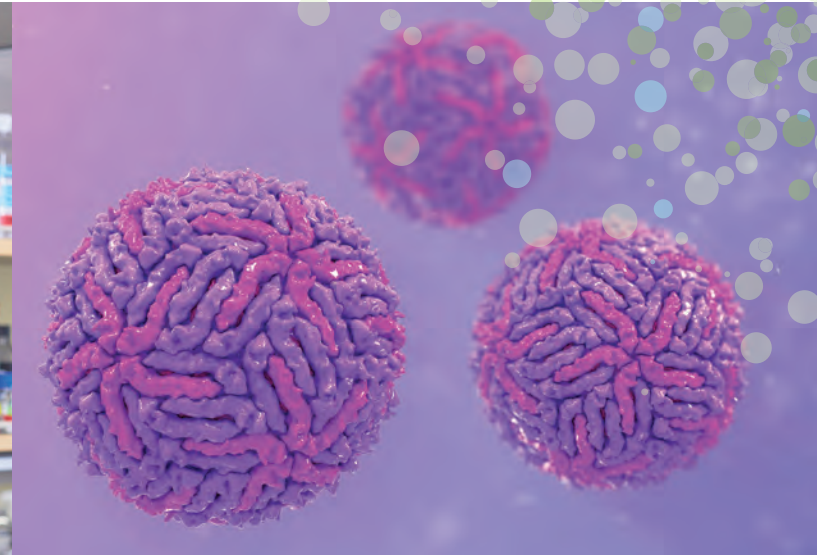
Register now for Women’s Health Conversations at www.womenshealthconversations.com, which takes place November 3rd-5th at the August Wilson Center on Liberty Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh.

Visit mageewomens.org to learn more about our groundbreaking research.

Visit mageemovement.com to join our movement to help transform the way the medical world studies and treats women’s health.

PLACENTAL RESEARCH:

THE ZIKA VIRUS IS A REMINDER THAT WOMEN'S HEALTH IMPACTS US ALL.



“Right now, we’re focused on Zika because it’s an emerging epidemic.”

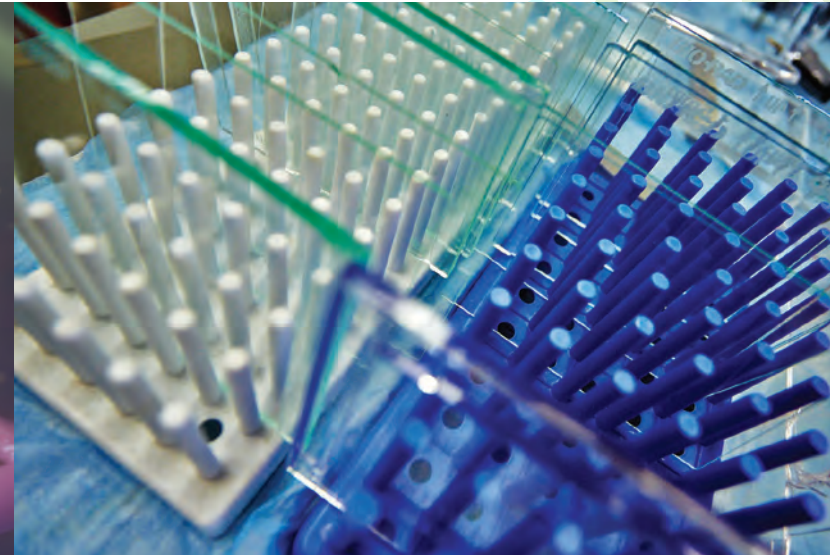
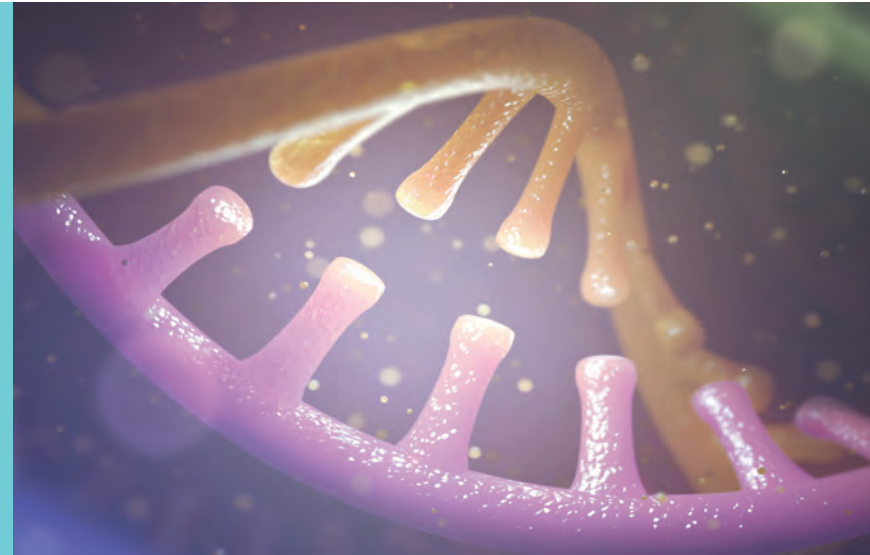
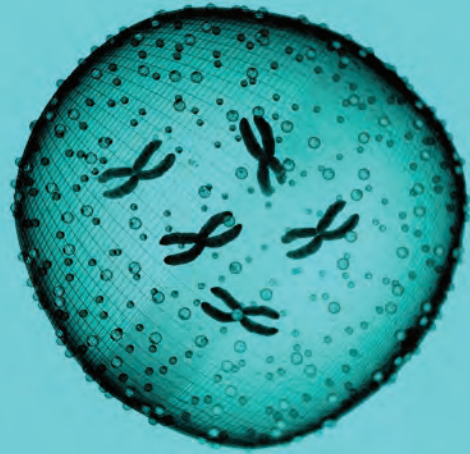
-Dr. Yoel Sadovsky

Studying what mechanisms the placenta uses to protect itself during pregnancy may hold the key to preventing or minimizing infections like Zika in pregnant and non-pregnant people. But Zika is also shining a light on the importance of women’s health research and the impact it can have not just on women, but on the health of humankind.

“Right now, we’re focused on Zika because it’s an emerging epidemic,” says Yoel Sadovsky, MD, Director, Magee-Womens Research Institute. “But once we have a vaccine, many of the things we’ve learned will serve us for the next epidemic.” Zika can therefore be the “canary in the coal mine” for alerting the public to the critical importance of women’s health research.

At Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI), investigators have been working to understand how placental cells respond to viruses. The emergence of Zika presents a chance to apply some of the research tools they’ve developed over the years. Dr. Sadovsky collaborates with Dr. Carolyn Coyne from Pitt’s Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics to pursue these questions.

Most people who are infected with the Zika virus don’t manifest any symptoms and recover easily. That’s the good news. Unfortunately, there are some instances where the virus causes dangerous complications, including devastating birth defects, as well as neurological symptoms in some non-pregnant people. On-going, innovative placental research is deployed in order to understand how Zika makes its way through the placenta to the fetus, in hopes of coming up with



“We’re trying to understand what makes Zika different. Hopefully that can help us fight the disease.”

-Dr. Yoel Sadovsky

new diagnostic tools, and therapies—not just for pregnant women, but for everyone.

One of the major challenges of understanding Zika is that it’s a member of a larger family of viruses that don’t all behave in the same way or cause the same problems. “With other members of this family of viruses, such as Dengue, another mosquito-born virus, people don’t have these manifestations,” says Sadovsky. “We’re trying to understand what makes Zika different. Hopefully that can help us fight the disease.”

Similarities in the viruses cause some difficulty in creating diagnostic tools, since many tools may not discriminate between Zika and Dengue. Sadovsky also notes, “Some of the antibodies used against Dengue may potentially enhance the likelihood of infection by Zika, instead of protecting against it. It’s not fully proven yet, but it’s highly suggested by a number of studies. That may complicate the use of diagnostics and therapy because some of these antibodies may work against people who have Zika and enhance the infection.” In fact, in pregnant women, Dengue antibodies may actually enhance the ability of Zika to cross the placenta and cause harm to the fetus.

The challenges of placental research

Over the years, researchers and pharmaceutical companies have shied away from studying pregnancy and the placenta. Often, pregnancy is viewed as a unique time in one’s life that lasts nine months and then goes away.

The placement of the placenta also makes research difficult. It’s situated deep within the uterus, which is deep within the abdominal cavity. “It’s not an organ you can safely access,” says Sadovsky. “And the safety of doing biopsies during pregnancy can be complicated. You basically have only nine months to do research on a placenta before it’s gone. It’s an organ that only exists during pregnancy.”

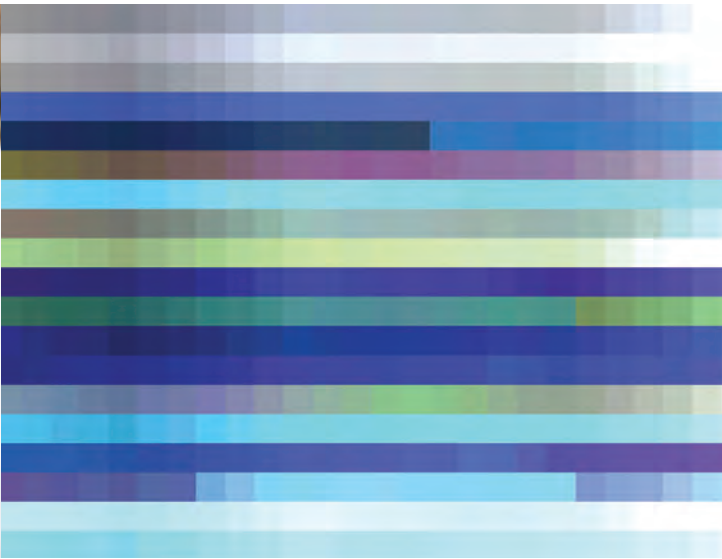
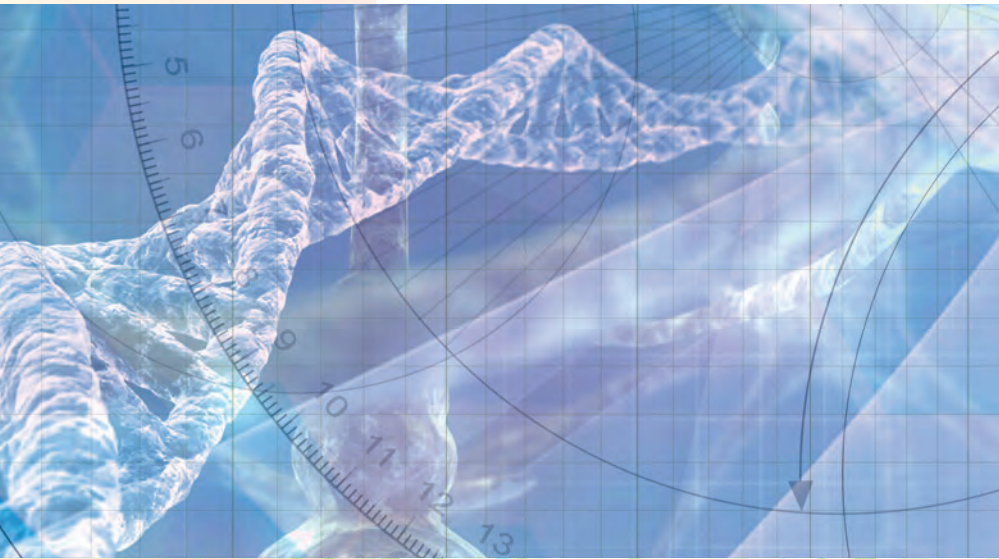
The liability of doing research during pregnancy is an additional impediment, particularly as it relates to investment from the pharmaceutical industry.

Another problem is that placental research is often not top-of-mind in the world of academia. “In the past, if you look at graduates of PhD programs, and if you asked most of these people what areas of research they want to really make an impact in, most mention: heart disease, cancer, neurobiology, Alzheimer’s, or diabetes. These are very important conditions,” Sadovsky said, “But understanding reproduction as a prelude to a healthy or unhealthy life has not received enough priority in medical schools and in graduate programs. I think that we are really on the brink of a revolution in the field of OB/GYN from a clinical discipline to a field that holds the keys to a much deeper understanding of humankind and its health and wellness, compared to what we’ve ever thought before.”

Plus, Sadovsky, Dr. Coyne and their team feel the public has also disregarded the most important idea behind placental research. “Four million people are born every year in the U.S.,” he states. “And 100% of them are the product of pregnancy. So all of us carry some kind of message, input, and coded information that was imprinted upon us during pregnancy. People tend to discount that period for its significant impact on human life.”

The placenta takes a leading role

“Trophoblasts are the cells right at the interface between the placenta of the fetus and the mother,” says Sadovsky. “These are the cells that encounter the virus when it’s in the maternal blood system. In collaboration with Dr. Coyne, we found that these cells are actually quite resistant to the Zika virus. They don’t allow it to replicate as easily as other cell types, which was surprising for us because this is a defense mechanism; it hinders infection. So our question is, how does the virus get in anyway? Understanding that could lead to new ways to endow other cells with the ability to fight Zika.”



“Many of the studies we deploy in pregnancy may have ramifications for non-pregnant individuals.”

-Dr. Yoel Sadovsky

Recently, Sadovsky and Dr. Coyne’s team has also found that other cell types in the placenta may be more receptive to the virus, if it can get past the trophoblasts.

Sadovsky, Coyne and their team hope to tackle Zika and beyond by understanding the fundamental mechanisms that allow some viruses to proliferate in cells while others are severely restricted. “Viruses evolve very rapidly with humans,” he remarks. “Because of the way evolution works, they find a way to change so they can continue to proliferate. While they do it, they cause damage. So our research will have huge implications not only for Zika, but also for other infections.”

Placental research like this could be critical for the health of people of all ages. “Many of the studies we deploy in pregnancy may have ramifications for non-pregnant individuals. It is quite possible that the health of our aging population depends not on what we do at the age of 60, but what we do before we’re born, when we’re most susceptible to influences like exogenous injuries, environmental changes, drugs, exercise, and nutrition.”

Other promising projects

Because the placenta is only formed during pregnancy, researchers at MWRI are studying this organ to determine its role in creating a healthy baby.

For example, what does a placenta release to communicate signals between the mother and the fetus that are essential for sustaining a healthy pregnancy? Dr. Sadovsky and colleagues at MWRI are studying RNA molecules that may play an important role in this genomic communication.

Researchers in the lab are also looking at how nutrients, or metabolic fuels, are transported to the fetus. While people used to believe that the placenta acted as a sieve, allowing nutrients to

passively flow from the mother’s bloodstream into the womb, research has shown that placentas are very active mechanisms that regulate how much of the nutrients remain in the mother’s side, get stored in the placenta, or are transferred to the fetus.

Throughout the research, Sadovsky proposes that the placenta is not just another organ; it could be the key to greater health and wellness throughout life. “Many of the diseases that affect people from infancy through adulthood have their origin in intrauterine life,” he says. “An investment in placental research is an investment in the prevention of diseases that affect the health and wellness of societies. It’s not only a women’s health issue. It’s an issue that affects us all.”

To donate to research that advances our understanding of pregnancy and the placenta, visit mageewomens.org/donate.



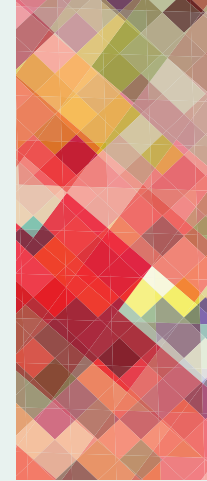
NEW CEO SEES BRIGHT FUTURE, NATIONAL STAGE FOR MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For Michael Annichine, joining the team at Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation was a decision that hit close to home. “It’s very personal for me. I have a wife who has carried our four children. I have two daughters. I have a mother and a grandmother. Women carry 100% of our future. It’s extremely important to understand women’s health issues through research so that we can make an impact for future generations of men, women, and children. I’m excited and honored to be a part of this institute,” says Annichine.

In January 2016, Annichine began an organizational consulting project with the Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation’s Board of Directors. Three months later, the board asked Annichine to accept the position of Chief Executive Officer. Annichine explains, “While the Research Institute and the Foundation were each running smoothly in their separate domains, the organization needed some oversight to ensure that all parts of the organization were moving together in the same direction. Many opportunities for “cross-pollination” between the Foundation and the Institute, and outreach at UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh, and elsewhere in the region were being missed by not having a CEO in place.”

With more than 20 years of experience, Annichine has led local and national businesses, from startups to growth organizations. He has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions and business advisory consulting services, most notably in the domains of interactive media and life sciences. Although the research field is new for him, Annichine believes his entrepreneurial skills along with his time spent with the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse will greatly benefit the Institute. “With our unique proximity to a world-class women’s hospital, we can greatly accelerate research and discovery. Drawing upon my past experience, I will be able to help facilitate the process of the bench to the bedside, with the goal of ultimately reducing that distance. When there is research that is potentially translational in nature, I will be able to help with the funding, approval pathways, and operational processes. I have experience in all of those areas. I will help find resources to support the exciting scientific projects we have in the works,” he says.

His vision for the future extends beyond the scope of the Pittsburgh area. Annichine has plans to introduce Magee-Womens to a national audience. He explains, “Many times, when people think of Magee, all they think about is the clinical aspect. And yes, the clinical care at Magee is the best in the region for women’s health, but our research



“CURING A DISEASE OR CREATING A VACCINE WILL IMPACT PATIENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD AND FAR INTO THE FUTURE. WE NEED TO GET OUT ON A NATIONAL PLATFORM AND SHOW PEOPLE THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE AFFECTS THEIR COMMUNITY JUST AS MUCH AS IT AFFECTS OURS.”

-MICHAEL ANNICHINE, CEO, MAGEE-WOMENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE & FOUNDATION.

has a larger, global impact. Curing a disease or creating a vaccine will impact patients all over the world and far into the future. We need to get out on a national platform and show people that what we are doing here affects their community just as much as it affects ours.”

To elevate the Institute to a national level and achieve greater success, Annichine sums up his plans in one word: sustainability. “Long-term sustainability is my goal. In order to achieve that goal, I would like to establish additional revenue streams, continue our valued partnerships with UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh, increase our fundraising capacities, and utilize our local and national campaigns to best benefit our scientific endeavors.”

Annichine wishes that more people could understand how special the approach is at Magee-Womens Research Institute compared to other institutes. He explains, “What sets us apart is the breadth of our science. We focus on all things women’s and infants’ health. We aren’t just focused on one disease or specific body part. Our approach allows us to look at our science with a broader perspective than other research institutes.” Annichine also applauds the integrated environment at Magee and hopes to maintain that. “In one lab or research team, you may have a basic researcher, a clinical researcher, a pharmacologist, and a biostatistician all working together to solve a problem. That interdisciplinary collaboration tends to accelerate the discovery process. Many institutes have silos but ours has a much stronger collaborative effort,” he says.

Looking to the future, there are many things that Annichine believes will make a huge impact in the research world. “I am very excited about our germ-line therapy research, as well as our 9-90™ program where we can affect not only current generations but future generations. Some of our current research has the potential to eradicate diseases in the future,” he explains.

With such big goals, Annichine is realistic about the time and commitment it will take to reach success. His passionate and persistent personality will be a guiding force for the organization. “You can’t win every battle but you have to be persistent in order to win the war. Failure is an integral part of success. You have to learn from those failures and not let them derail you. You must always be moving toward that goal even if it means some stumbles along the way,” he says.

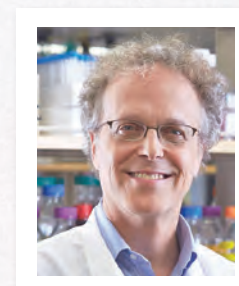
As a family man himself, Annichine appreciates all of the positive stories he hears from patients and their families. He explains, “People often tell me how our research has saved their child, or enabled them to start their family, or has given them or their mother a better quality of life. These stories are so impactful. What we have done here and the research we have been able to provide have helped a lot of families.”

When Annichine isn’t working or serving on the boards of other philanthropic organizations, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Jennifer, and their four children. That’s where he finds his inspiration as well. He explains, “I take inspiration from my kids. I get inspired by what the potential opportunity is and how I can make their world a better place. I love coming to this job every day because I’m excited about our science and the huge impact we are making globally and for future generations.”

nine months
9-90
ninety years

WHAT'S NEW IN 9-90™?

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



Dr. Yoel Sadovsky

Can diseases in pregnancy affect the mother, too?

It's known that diseases during pregnancy can affect the life of the child, but recent research has shown that certain complications of pregnancy may affect the lifelong health of the mother, as well. Take for example a condition called preeclampsia, when high blood pressure develops during pregnancy. This condition can affect pregnancy, in that it sometimes leads to premature delivery. But 9-90™ researchers have also found that mothers who have diseases like preeclampsia have a higher incidence of high blood pressure later in life, as well as heart disease and related conditions. In this way, the nine months of pregnancy may serve as a test to uncover women who might be prone to developing complications such as hypertension and heart disease, 20-25 years after they've had preeclampsia and a life of no symptoms.

What leads to premature ovarian failure?

Conditions that affect the ovaries can affect a woman's ability to become pregnant, such as premature ovarian failure where ovaries stop functioning prematurely. In 9-90™, investigators are making progress in understanding genes that regulate ovarian functions and affect the formation of the follicles containing the germ cells that lead to pregnancy.

Why do conditions such as Down Syndrome occur?

When cells in the testes and the ovaries split their genetic content in half, germ cells are formed. It's a process called meiosis. And sometimes it goes wrong. Investigators here are studying this process, including the amount of chromosomes needed to form the germ cells, how that takes place normally and how it takes place abnormally. Abnormal meiosis may lead to conditions such as Down Syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities. Investigators are also studying better ways to diagnose and identify these conditions during pregnancy using less invasive means than amniocentesis.

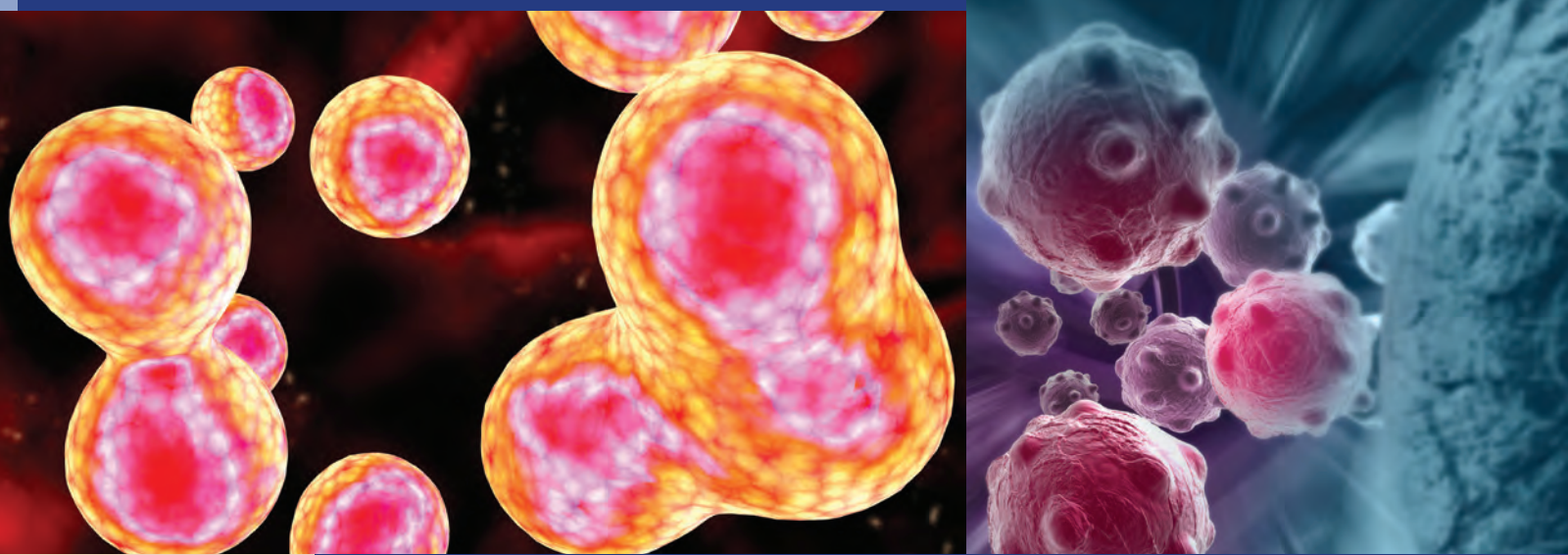
What role does nutrition play in a healthy pregnancy?

Nutrition during pregnancy has not been well-studied, yet it's critical for the general health of babies and, therefore, humankind. Research in 9-90™ is studying what nutrition best supports the developing embryo and what kinds of chemicals may put the baby or the pregnancy at greater risk.

How do we bring research advances to patients?

Researchers in 9-90™ are partnering with decision scientists at Carnegie Mellon University to learn how to take research advances and translate them to people. In other words, how do we communicate our findings to patients? How can we affect behavior? How can we bring the patients to the doctors? The goal is to better understand how people make decisions about their health so we can affect it in a more productive way to lead to healthier pregnancies.

Patient Advocates Lead the Way at Breast Cancer Symposium



In the world of clinical research, there is an abundance of conferences, conventions, and symposiums drawing scientists from around the globe.

But the symposium that took place in Pittsburgh from September 29th to 30th, and hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), was unique for a number of reasons. For one, it was the first International Invasive Lobular Cancer (ILC) Symposium in the world. But even more remarkable, patient advocacy was driving the discussion and the basic research.

ILC is the second most common histological subtype of breast cancer, with 24,000 to 36,000 patients diagnosed annually. But until now, there had never been a focused meeting to discuss basic, translational, and clinical research of ILC.

Heather Hillier, cancer survivor, patient advocate, and co-chair of the symposium, found the research community receptive to the event.

"We invited 34 of the world's leading invasive lobular breast cancer researchers and 32 of them attended," Hillier said. "The tremendous response that we received demonstrated that there was a real need and interest in this symposium to exchange ideas and have a forum for patient advocacy input."

Hillier continued, "We also had an incredible response from more than 25 survivors and co-survivors who traveled from all over the country including California, Washington State, Florida, and Connecticut to be present at this first-ever meeting. They ranged from Stage 1 to Stage 4, and a number commented that this was the first time they have ever seen ILC researchers and advocates working together."

Dr. Steffi Oesterreich, Director of Education at the Women's Cancer Research Center, echoed Hillier's sentiments. "We were able to recruit the world's leaders in diverse research and treatment areas because there has never before been a meeting solely focused on ILC and directed by patient advocates. Our goal was to disseminate knowledge about ILC, and most importantly, to identify opportunities for collaborations

"The tremendous response that we received demonstrated that there was a real need and interest in this symposium to exchange ideas and have a forum for patient advocacy input." -Heather Hillier

to find new ways to improve outcomes through earlier detection, and personalized treatment for patients with ILC. We had approximately 140 attendees from all over the world, including lab-based scientists, clinical researchers, as well as our patients and advocates. It was a remarkable event."

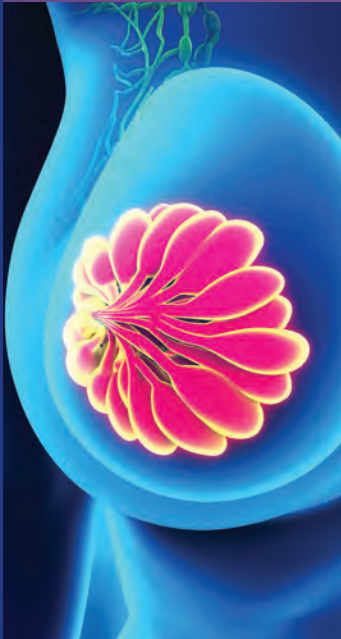
"The importance of patient and advocate engagement in helping to hone and drive our research agenda is critical. The ILC Symposium was a success because of this collaborative spirit to try to understand how best to move new knowledge about ILC from lab to clinic to community and back," said Nancy E. Davidson, MD, Director, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Hillman Professor of Oncology, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Cancer Research.

Dr. Oesterreich believes the patient advocates were critical to the success of the symposium. "We had a number of sessions organized by patient advocates and for patient advocates. Heather has been working closely with the local breast cancer advocacy group, spearheaded by Karen DiVito, Ruth Modzelewski, and Drs. Carola Neumann and Priscilla McAuliffe. Their work has enabled this event to garner national attention from the research community."

And although this was a first of its kind symposium, involving patient advocates is nothing new to the breast cancer researchers in the region.

"Breast cancer advocates have played significant roles in driving research for many years here," Dr. Oesterreich said. "What's new is the focus on ILC and the way patient advocates will help to support our efforts in understanding ILC as a disease. Plus, the research community appreciates the opportunity to get new perspectives on their work, share knowledge with the public, and put a face to those they have a chance to help."

Hillier also feels that this symposium and the role of advocates may have an impact on research moving forward. "When I first posted information about the symposium on a couple of breast cancer websites, a survivor sent me an email that resonated with me. 'I have never seen the words, lobular and advocate in the same sentence,' the survivor wrote. The fact is, the majority of patients are unaware of the ongoing ILC research," Hillier said. "I am very excited about the strong focus on making progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and the opportunities I have had to participate on ILC-specific research. The patient advocate's role is evolving and this symposium has certainly helped to establish the role of advocates in ILC research moving forward."





Savor Emcees Shannon Perrine and Ryan Recker from WTAE

The 11th annual Savor Pittsburgh event was held August 25th at Stage AE on Pittsburgh's North Shore. Over the last five years, this event has raised more than \$890,000 for prematurity research. None of that would be possible without the support of all of our sponsors. We would like to express a special thanks to our presenting sponsors: Peoples Natural Gas, UPMC Health Plan, McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steaks, and Eventioneers for their significant contributions to Savor and Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation.



No Bad JuJu performs



Dish of the Year Winner: The Commoner

Eventioneers' Owner Knows First Hand the Value of NICU Care

Lisa Mattis's first pregnancy did not go as planned. Almost 15 years ago, during a regular ultrasound, her physician realized that the infant's heartbeat was very faint. They decided to induce her and Lisa's daughter, Kylea, was born at only 30 weeks. "She was my first child so I was terrified about everything. Every day, I worried whether she would make it or if something else would happen to her," Lisa said.

For four long weeks, Kylea was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) while Lisa and her husband stayed close by. "They had her hooked up to ventilators and other machines. It was very hard. I didn't want to leave her. I just wanted to sleep on the bench outside her room and never go home," Lisa explained. Thankfully, Kylea became strong enough to go home and has grown up to be a healthy and thriving 15-year-old.

As a way of giving back, Lisa's family business, Eventioneers Event Rentals & Supplies, generously donated all of the tenting, tables, and chairs for Savor Pittsburgh, the annual culinary competition benefitting prematurity programs at Magee. Eventioneers is a full-service event rental company with more than 65 tents. "We are so happy that we could be a part of Savor. This cause is really close to our hearts."

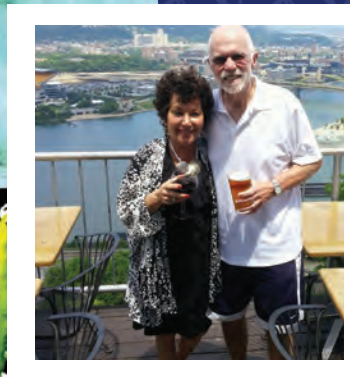
Kylea, once only 4lbs., 8.oz, is now taller than her mom and dreams of becoming a NICU doctor one day. "She says she wants to be a doctor and help other premature babies like her when she is older. I think that is pretty special," Lisa said.



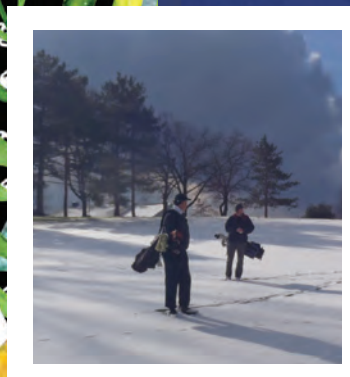
Lisa Mattis and her daughter Kylea

Paying It Forward After 4th Diagnosis

Every day, Dr. Terri Henderson wakes up to stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean from her home in Hutchison Island, Florida. According to Terri, a Pittsburgh native, she wouldn't be where she is today without three very special doctors and her care at Magee-Womens Breast Cancer Program. She explained, "If it was not for my Magee team, I would have been dead years ago. But I am here with my husband, enjoying life on a beautiful island. I owe it all to them."



Terri was diagnosed with breast cancer for the first time almost 14 years ago. Over the next decade, she was diagnosed with breast cancer three more times. Despite the many rounds of chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, reconstruction, and other treatments, Terri never doubted her doctors or her chances of survival. "The trust level I have with these doctors is beyond anything I could ever describe. Each time I've had cancer they've saved me and extended my life. These men are gifts from heaven. I call them my Magee Angel Team," she said.



The Angel Team she refers to is Dr. Adam Brufsky, a medical oncologist, Dr. Ronald Johnson, a surgical oncologist, and Dr. Kenneth Shestak, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon. Terri values their personal approach to care. "These doctors continue to research better solutions, they personalize and customize their treatment, and they were and continue to be an amazing support system. They emailed and called me to discuss treatment options and make sure I was doing well," she explained. Terri insists on coming back twice a year to Magee even though she has lived in Florida for three years. "I trust my Angel Team with my life and plan to have my major medical challenges addressed by the professional experts at Magee in the future. The care I have received at Magee is world-class," she said.

On her last trip this past May, calcifications were found in her right breast during her annual mammogram. The next day, Terri had a biopsy and just one month later she underwent her second mastectomy. "They took me for surgery as soon as my husband and I could fly back to Pittsburgh. It was incredible. I stayed in the hospital the night after my surgery but have not been in bed since. It was a complete and speedy recovery that enabled me to resume my normal life and even golf with my husband within a two-month period," she explained.

For a few years, Terri and her husband, Dr. Jim Henderson, held a very unique event to help raise funds for breast cancer research. Jim organized a golf outing at the South Hills Country Club in the middle of winter aptly called, "Freeze Your (Golf) Balls Classic." Terri explained, "It was incredible to see all of our friends out golfing in the snow for breast cancer research. I truly believe that cancer research helped save my life."

The Hendersons are so grateful that they wanted to honor Terri's doctors in a way that will continue to give back even after they are no longer here. Through their estate planning, the Hendersons are creating an endowed fund in honor of Drs. Brufsky, Johnson, and Shestak. "We are establishing this fund in honor of my physicians for their excellent breast cancer work and research. We want them to find a cure for breast cancer and help change the future for other women," she said.

Terri is feeling energetic and continues to celebrate life with her husband after her latest surgery. They are thrilled to establish this planned gift. She explained, "These three doctors, my Angel Team, gave me my future. Now I want to use my future to support important breast cancer research at Magee for years to come."

Dr. Brufsky commented on Terri and Jim's planned gift, "We are very humbled and touched by the Hendersons' generosity and forward thinking. The impact of their gift will greatly increase the momentum of our research efforts and enable us to find answers sooner for women and their families."

To help support breast cancer research or to include Magee in your estate plans, please contact Colleen Gaughan with the Magee-Womens Foundation at 412-641-8949 or cgaughan@mwri.magee.edu.

ANISA I. KANBOUR, MD:**Dedicated Physician Establishes
Philanthropic Legacy**

To advance continued research and scholarly work in the field of gynecology, Dr. Anisa I. Kanbour, a distinguished pathologist and former Medical Director of the Anisa I. Kanbour School of Cytology, has made a transformational gift to establish The Kanbour Chair of Gynecology. This generous endowment will provide a continuous stream of income to support gynecological research, and specifically research in the lower genital tract.

Anisa's colleagues were not surprised by her generosity. Dr. Trevor McPherson, Professor of Pathology and a former co-worker of Dr. Kanbour, explained, "Motivated by her generous nature and deep passion to improve the health of women, Anisa will now make it possible to continue to contribute to women's health through the focused recruitment and work of future physicians and researchers through her endowed chair."

Throughout Anisa's life, she has given generously not only through charitable gifts but also through education and caring for others. Dr. Kanbour was born in Baghdad, Iraq, and is one of eleven children. Being the third oldest, Anisa took care of her younger siblings including Dr. Amal Kanbour-Shakir, Professor of Pathology & Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. Dr. Kanbour-Shakir explained, "I used to call her 'Mom' because she took care of me. Whenever I had a problem, I would run to Anisa and she would stand by me."

Anisa graduated from Baghdad Medical College in 1957 and practiced obstetrics and gynecology for a few years in Iraq. In 1964, Anisa traveled to the United States to visit family. While on the visit, she applied for a scholarship that encouraged women to obtain higher levels of education. She received the scholarship and attended the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She completed a pathology residency at Philadelphia General Hospital, and then came to Magee-Womens Hospital in 1969 for a gynecologic pathology fellowship. She has been at Magee ever since, just recently retiring in January, 2013.

Over the years, Anisa established herself as an expert in the field of pathology and cytology. Dr. Hector Tobon, a retired associate professor of pathology who worked with Anisa for more than 30 years, commented, "Doctors really trusted her. She was very good at solving problems. Her diagnosis could change the course of treatment or surgery for a patient." Dr. McPherson agreed, "Her diagnostic excellence as a cytopathologist and surgical pathologist is second to none. In my early pathology years,

I consulted with her frequently, and even when she was obscured behind her own pile of slide trays, paper, and hardly visible behind her microscope, she would drop everything to graciously look at a case."

Apart from her clinical expertise, Anisa was also seen as an academic "mother" who was passionate about educating other medical professionals. Her sister Amal explained her commitment, "Anisa used to stay almost every night to teach gynecology residents about pathology so they could pass that portion of their medical boards. She never had any children of her own, so she took them all under her wing."

Based on her passion for training cytotechnologists, Anisa endowed the Anisa I. Kanbour School of Cytology. Through the school, she mentored and trained well over 100 cytotechnologists. Debbie Williams, Quality Assurance Reviewer in the Pathology department, said "She fought tooth and nail to get that school up and running. She loved the school and she loved the students. Her joy was giving back to them."

Despite her many work accomplishments, her former colleagues said it is her caring heart and love that make Anisa special. Ms. Williams explained, "Every year, Anisa would cook a luncheon all by herself and bring it in for everyone. She would make ethnic dishes from Baghdad and she would invite the whole department. Everyone looked forward to it."

By establishing the chair, Anisa will continue her legacy at Magee in a field that holds deep meaning for her. "Anisa has always loved OB/GYN- it was her first love before pathology. That's why she is giving back. She spent her whole life at Magee. She wants to leave a legacy," Dr. Kanbour-Shakir said. Dr. Robert P. Edwards, Department Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences added, "She worked very closely with our department. She helped many residents. They would learn from her and she would learn from them."

Dr. Edwards expressed his gratitude for Anisa's endowment, "It is an incredible honor to receive this gift from Anisa. There are very few people who are as committed to Magee as she has been. With this chair, we will be able to expand our current cervical and vulvar cancer progression programs based on the translational opportunities developing with human papillomavirus (HPV) infection control. These opportunities include new screening technologies, prevention vaccines, and therapeutic vaccines."

Anisa's generosity and dedication will leave a legacy at Magee for many years to come. Dr. Tobon explained what makes her so special, "Why is she so wonderful? Two magic eyes, one brilliant brain, one microscope, an imagination, intuition, and, most of all, love."



Harold Wiesenfeld, MD, received a three-year, \$610,000 grant from the CDC entitled "A Randomized Trial to Assess the Impact of Opt-Out Screening for Chlamydia: The STOP STDs Study".



Nicolas Macaisne, PhD, is the recipient of our one-year, \$25,000 "Bright Star" postdoctoral award, sponsored by the Magee-Women's Auxiliary, for his work with Dr. Judy Yanowitz on "Developing a molecular map of meiotic DNA breaks in *C. elegans*".

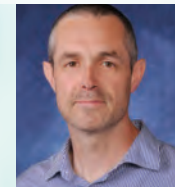
Halina Zyczynski, MD, and her team successfully renewed their membership in the five-year, \$1.4 million network grant entitled, "Pelvic Floor Disorders Network Clinical Sites".



Yoel Sadovsky, MD, and **Jean-Francois Mouillet, PhD**, were awarded a two-year, \$450,000 R21 grant from NICHD entitled, "The Regulatory Code Governing Placenta-Specific Expression of the Chromosome 19 MiRNA Cluster".



Gerald Schatten, PhD, received a five-year, \$1.5 million competitive renewal R25 grant from NCI entitled, "Frontiers in Stem Cells in Cancer".

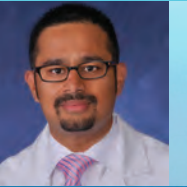


David Peters, PhD, received a one-year, \$1.5 million grant from UPMC's Center for Commercial Applications (CCA) of Healthcare Data, targeting genomic analysis of neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis.

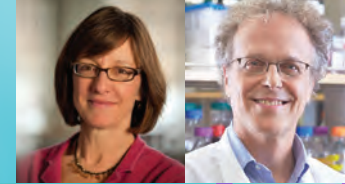
Dr. Schatten, also received a one-year, \$108,000 supplement from NIA for his work on "Frontiers in aging and regeneration research".



Hy Simhan, MD, MS, received a five-year, \$1.4 million UG1 grant from NICHD for the Maternal Fetal Medicine Units Network.



Judy Chang, MD, MPH, received a one-year, \$290,000 R56 grant from NIDA and the Office of Research on Women's Health entitled, "Understanding the Beliefs, Concerns and Needs of Pregnant Patients who Use Marijuana and of the Obstetrics Providers Caring for Them".



Janet Catov, PhD, MS, and **Yoel Sadovsky, MD**, received a five-year, \$3 million grant from the NIH's NCATS as part of Pitt's CTSA grant (Integrating Special Populations core).

Carl Hubel, PhD, received a two-year, \$94,000 R03 grant from NICHD entitled, "Glycocalyx syndecan-1 in trophoblast lipid transport".



Jacob Larkin, MD, received a two-year, \$450,000 R21 grant from NICHD entitled, "The role of oxysterols in placental biology".

Elizabeth Krans, MD, MSc, will receive a five-year, \$480,000 K23 grant from NIDA entitled, "Buprenorphine Assignment in Pregnancy: Objective Criteria".



Nov. 3-5, 2016

Women's Health Conversations

Where: The August Wilson Center

Women's Health Conversations is a gathering of smart, savvy women featuring three days of education, empowerment, and entertainment to equip you to fortify your body, build a better brain and prioritize your bliss. 2016 WHC proceeds will benefit Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation.

Tickets available at WomensHealthConversations.com

Nov. 5, 2016

The Cradle Will Rock

Presented by the Twenty-Five Club of Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC

Where: Hard Rock Café Station Square Pittsburgh

When: 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

The Twenty-Five Club will be "Rocking" the Hard Rock Café of Station Square at their annual Cradle Will Rock event. Cocktails, food stations, music, and dancing plus goodies to be won in the auction area. Proceeds benefit the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC and neonatal research at Magee-Womens Research Institute.

Get tickets at the25club.org or email contact@the25club.org.





MAGEE-WOMENS
RESEARCH INSTITUTE &
FOUNDATION

3339 Ward Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
www.mageewomens.org
412.641.8949

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 1212

Three ways to give. So many lives to touch.

Making a planned gift to Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation is easy. Plus this is a gift that costs you nothing today, and creates a meaningful legacy that touches the lives of so many others in the future.

1

Bequest – You can remember Magee through your will.

2

IRA – Name Magee as a beneficiary on your retirement account.

3

Charitable Remainder Trust – Create an income stream for your life while also making a gift to Magee.



There are many other gift options to choose from including bequests, gifts of real estate, and gifts of stock. For more information about making a meaningful gift to Magee, please contact Arthur Scully at ascully@magee.edu or 412.641.8973.