
S C H O O L  M E D I C I N E

≡ 2012 ≡

A N N U A L R E P O R T



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

During the past year, we've made significant steps in moving forward and positioning the School of Medicine for the future. And, you will find that the help of those who generously support our mission is truly making a difference.



Betty M. Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P
Dean and Professor of Medicine

WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PRIDE, we look back on 2012 as a landmark year. We concluded a celebration of 40 years of academic excellence at the UMKC School of Medicine with a full weekend of events that culminated in a Grand Finale at Kansas City's Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Dignitaries from throughout the state helped us recognize four decades of achievements. A proclamation from Jackson County and a resolution from the mayor and city council of Kansas City lauded the School's accomplishments in meeting the needs of our state and the local community.

That's what we are all about at the School of Medicine – advancing the health of our community. Throughout this Annual

Report, you'll find stories of how our faculty, alumni and students are working to improve the health and overall lives of the people we care about and serve. You will see that we have been diligent in maintaining our commitment to remain a leader in medical education and to work on the cutting edge of medical research.

Our research programs have received millions of dollars in grants to explore treatments and therapies in areas such as pulmonary fibrosis and eye disease. A \$400,000 gift to establish the Mary Katherine Geldmacher Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Program is helping provide answers for those who suffer from this deadly lung disease.

Nearly \$3 million in funding from the Caring for Missourians initiative was spent

on projects to enhance student learning and retention including a new computer testing center and a new docent unit area with updated student and docent offices.

Students and faculty continue to reach out and meet the needs of the community through efforts such as the Sojourner Health Clinic and working with the Kansas City RBI program.

For the 40 years since the School of Medicine first opened its doors, we have held fast to the idea of preparing today's young people to be the physicians of tomorrow. With the support of our alumni and friends, we will continue to meet those goals. We thank you for your generous support and look forward to a bright future of serving you and the world at large.



STEVEN CURTI, MS 4, STUDIES WITH ADITI JANI, MS 6, AND GRANT HAMILL, MS 3, IN THE NEW DOCENT UNIT.

SCHOLARSHIPS HELP STEVEN CURTI BECOME BEST DOCTOR POSSIBLE

“I’ve always liked doing things for other people. That’s one of the reasons I became interested in medicine. The help of scholarships allows me to do that in different ways.”

— Steven Curti, MS 4

THE FIRST IN HIS FAMILY to go into medicine, Steven Curti, MS 4, was not sure it would be possible.

Not only was it possible, but he has excelled at the School of Medicine and will continue to excel with the help of the Missouri State Medical Association Scholarship and the School of Medicine Flarshem Scholarship, both of which he received in the past year.

“Last year, I had a job on the side, and that took a lot of time out of working toward my goal of becoming the best doctor I can be,” he said. “These scholarships mean a lot to me as they give me a better opportunity to advance my education, even outside the classroom.”

Curti’s docent, Maniza Ehtesham, M.D., F.A.C.P., sees the incredible need for scholarships. “Medical school is tough and all-involving,” she said. “Scholarships help students be more involved, focused on their courses and less stressed and distracted by finances.”

School curriculum has a heavy schedule of science courses, clinical hours, and exams; all the while, faculty members work to instill the values of hard work and serving the community.

Curti, vice president of the Class of 2015, has been practicing these qualities. He volunteers at Sojourner Health Clinic, Operation Breakthrough and events in the area.

A 4.0 student, Curti’s academic pursuits

are just as impressive. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi academic honor society, the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society and was the recipient of the 2010-2011 Mortar Board Leadership Award.

Also, Curti is in the planning stage of a research project with a doctor at Children’s Mercy Hospital.

As a child, Curti wanted to be an athlete when he grew up. “But in high school, I started getting into science and volunteering at our local hospital, and that’s when I really started getting interested in medicine,” he said. “I loved the hospital setting and felt really comfortable there.”

“I’ve always liked doing things for other people. That’s one of the reasons I became interested in medicine. The help of scholarships allows me to do that in different ways.”

Curti said he appreciates the learning opportunities and structure of the SOM, especially the docent team experience. “I particularly like the internal medicine experience because it’s the backbone of medicine, and I know other schools don’t have as much of it,” he said.

Ehtesham said she notices his exemplary work ethic and demeanor. “Steven is a very enthusiastic student and a great team player. He strives to excel, is very motivated and is always seeking feedback to improve. He gets well with all his team members and is very honest, humble, responsible and a pleasure to work with.”

NEW DOCENT UNIT: A STUDY REFUGE FOR JANI

Aditi Jani, MS 6, is following in her father’s footsteps. From a small town in a rural area, Jani says she saw the respect her father received as a small-town physician. She knew she wanted to be a physician, too.

“My father always said the beautiful thing about medicine is that everyone is the same on the inside,” said Jani. She also has found that to be true.

Jani is a senior member of one of the docent units to move into the newly designed red unit. “It is perfect for studying. We moved in as I was studying for Step 2 of my board exam. The office space and open area were so helpful.”

The construction of the new unit is part of a \$3 million renovation to expand capacity and foster student success. It was funded by the Caring for Missourians initiative.

“My hope is that all the students can experience what I have with the redesigned units. It really makes a difference in the quality of the program, and my ability to succeed,” Jani said.

Jani, who is now on a rotation at Washington University in St. Louis, wants to focus on emergency medicine during her residency.

“Being with students from other schools, I see the advantages of my education,” Jani said. “Four years of weekly clinics and six months of internal medicine has made me confident in my abilities to communicate with patients and physicians.”



GARY SALZMAN, M.D., DISCUSSES PULMONARY FIBROSIS RESEARCH WITH HIS STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTS, JAMES TANNER, MS 4, AND FIZZA ABBAS, MS 5.

GIFT PUTS PULMONARY FIBROSIS RESEARCH ON THE FAST TRACK

“Pulmonary fibrosis has a worse prognosis than many cancers. People are dying every day. We need to move fast because people have this disease right now, and they desperately need answers.”

– Gary Salzman, M.D.

FAR TOO MANY TIMES in his 27-year career has Gary Salzman, M.D., had to deliver the devastating news that a patient has pulmonary fibrosis.

“It’s really heartbreaking,” said Salzman, professor of medicine and director of the UMKC Lung Research Center.

Heartbreaking because there is no known cure for pulmonary fibrosis, short of a lung transplant. Only a few patients are fortunate enough to receive transplants.

“I see these patients with newly diagnosed pulmonary fibrosis and they ask, ‘what treatment are you going to give me?’ Unfortunately, I have to tell them that there isn’t any effective treatment for this disease,” Salzman said.

That may be about to change.

Laboratory studies at the UMKC School of Medicine have shown that a drug known as losartan, commonly used to treat high blood pressure, may be successful in stopping the progression of scarring in lung tissues following a lung injury. The scarring process is known as pulmonary fibrosis. Research conducted by Agostino Molteni, M.D., Ph.D., and Betty Herndon, Ph.D., in UMKC’s Department of Basic Medical Science administering losartan to rats with lung injury has shown positive results.

Now, Salzman has plans to collaborate with researchers at the University of South Florida (USF) who have had success with small-scale clinical trials utilizing losartan for pulmonary fibrosis. UMKC

will be collaborating with USF on a grant application to the National Institutes of Health for a larger multi-center clinical trial using losartan as a therapy for pulmonary fibrosis patients.

Those studies could begin in early 2013, Salzman said.

The progress has been spurred in part by a \$400,000 gift this past April to UMKC’s Lung Research Center from the estate of the late Mary Geldmacher to establish the Mary Katherine Geldmacher Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Program. Geldmacher, a St. Louis schoolteacher, died in 2009 of pulmonary fibrosis.

“I’m very excited,” Salzman said. “The Geldmacher funds are going to be really helpful to move this research forward.”

In 1999, Salzman established the Asthma Clinical Research Center (ACRC), an American Lung Association collaboration of 18 centers nationwide, at the School of Medicine. Working with colleagues through the ACRC reinforced the idea that collaboration was the way to accelerate research. As a result, Salzman sought out other leading researchers in the field of pulmonary fibrosis research.

“I wanted to collaborate with experts in pulmonary fibrosis because I didn’t want to reinvent the wheel. I wanted to increase the pace of the research to discover effective treatment faster,” he said.

For example – rather than starting a small, local registry of pulmonary fibrosis patients, Salzman reached out to the

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). It has one of the oldest and largest lung transplant programs and, by extension, one of the largest pulmonary fibrosis registries in the country. The researchers at UPMC invited Salzman to join and add Missouri patients to its registry, which meant immediate access to information databases about pulmonary fibrosis patients. Also, local patients would have access to clinical trials taking place at UPMC.

Now, patients will have another option for lung transplants. Pulmonary fibrosis patients from the Kansas City area are typically sent to Washington University in St. Louis to seek lung transplants. Many don’t qualify for the treatment. With this partnership, he can send some of those patients to Pittsburgh where they may be able to receive a needed transplant.

“It’s another option for patients who have been turned down for lung transplantation in St. Louis,” Salzman said.

Salzman calls the pulmonary fibrosis research a series of significant breakthroughs in battling a disease that is almost universally fatal without a transplant.

“I’m very excited about this research. I believe we will be able to make significant advances,” Salzman said. “People are dying every day from this horrible disease. We need to move fast because people have this disease right now, today, and they desperately need answers.”



BOB BATTEPERSON, M.D., '87

ALUMNUS ESTABLISHES RURAL MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIP

“Usually people go into rural medicine because of a heartfelt need or calling. They’re not necessarily the same people receiving other scholarships.”

— Bob Batterson, M.D., '87

THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS, such as Bob Batterson, M.D., '87, makes the exemplary training students receive at the School of Medicine possible.

Batterson established the Batterson-Richardson Scholarship for Rural Medicine in June to commemorate his grandmother, Elma Batterson, who died in May at the age of 101. Her father, J.W. Richardson, was a doctor in Tiffin, Mo., and served the surrounding rural communities.

Richardson attended the Kansas City College of Medicine and Surgery, which was located on Hospital Hill, and graduated in 1920. He died in 1966; therefore, Batterson did not know him well. “But, the fact that he was the only other doctor in the family made him very important to me,” he said.

Batterson is the lead child psychiatrist at Children’s Mercy Hospital and an associate professor of pediatrics at the UMKC School of Medicine. He also serves on the Council on Selection and as a peer assessment counselor. Through his participation on the selection council, Batterson, who grew up in Weston, Mo., sees the challenge of encouraging students to go on to practice in rural areas.

“We need to attract students from these areas and encourage them to go back and practice,” added Batterson

Before starting the Batterson-Richardson scholarship, Batterson annually contributed to the Medical School Scholarship fund. “A great portion of my education was paid for

by the government. At that point, we had a lot more support,” he said. “Now, people are graduating with a very high amount of debt. Sometimes they have to choose a different calling just to be able to pay off loans.”

When alumni provide financial support for students, it sends a message that education is the most important aspect of the school, Batterson said, and the training he received from the SOM is something he values.

“It was very holistic and patient-centered,” he said. “The curriculum provides a template to produce very caring physicians. And, having to access medical care myself, I can see the difference between those who were trained to care about the patient and not just getting the information.”

While a student at the School of Medicine, Batterson was a peer counselor. From that experience, he knew he wanted to make a career out of helping others.

In his practice at Children’s Mercy, Batterson focuses on treating children with Tourette’s Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

“It has been the most incredible journey of my life,” he said. “I can now say I have 500 children.”

The majority of his patients struggle with Tourette’s Syndrome. “I didn’t get a lot of initial training on Tourette’s, so my patients have taught me a lot,” he said. “Their minds are full of so much stuff, and they have strange worries the rest of us don’t

even think about. It’s an incredible privilege to be part of their lives.”

Batterson wants SOM students to experience that same satisfaction and fulfillment. Scholarships, such as the Batterson-Richardson Scholarship for Rural Medicine, make this possible.

“I really value UMKC and the SOM, and I felt like if we started this scholarship, it could serve as an impetus for other grads to do the same,” he said. “The more people who support the School, the better we will all be.”

ALUMNA THRIVES AS NIH RESEARCHER

Catherine Y. Spong, M.D., '91, is often named by her peers as one of the most influential women in obstetrics and gynecology today. The UMKC 2012 Alumna of the Year recipient is a chief researcher at the National Institutes of Health.

Spong, chief of Pregnancy and Perinatology at the National Institutes of Health, is the program scientist for a network of 14 sites in the United States performing clinical trials in high-risk pregnancies. Under her leadership, they made the first major breakthrough in reducing the risk of preterm birth.

She is the editor of four of the most widely used textbooks in the field and is the associate editor of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, recognized as the premier journal in the profession.



NEVADA LEE, M.D., '97
CONSULTS WITH LONG-TIME
PATIENT VERA FINNEY.

ALUMNA PAYS IT FORWARD

“I appreciated the financial help I received. I know medical students who have to seek outside jobs can get overwhelmed. These financial pressures can turn into academic problems. I wanted to do what I could to help.”

— Nevada Lee, M.D.

GROWING UP IN a three-generation household, Nevada Lee, M.D., learned a deep respect for her elders. She also saw the effects of aging first-hand in her grandmother. Combined with a scientific interest in why and how things worked, Lee found her calling in geriatric internal medicine.

Lee, a 1979 graduate of the School of Medicine, took a different path in achieving her goals. Graduating first with a bachelor's and master's degree, Lee taught in the Kansas City public schools.

“By the time I went to medical school, I was attending with some of my former students,” Lee added.

Through her medical education she knew the benefit of receiving financial help. This is part of what led Lee to establish a scholarship.

Also, she saw a lack of advocacy for older patients, and being an older student herself, she said she felt an affinity for them.

“My fellow students were not focused on older patients, in part, because they are harder to treat. It is rarely a single issue with them,” Lee said.

She found her niche with senior patients that has continued throughout her career. In 2005, Lee opened Geriatric Internal Medicine, in Raytown, Mo. Lee has made a successful practice of serving Medicare patients, when others have struggled with this. Lee was featured in Medical Economics in 2010 because of her success with Medicare patients.

Of more than 1,500 patients, Lee visits more than 200 in their homes. While making house calls is considered a thing of the past, Lee sees it as an essential part of her practice. “I like the freedom of going from home to home sometimes instead of room to room.”

According to Lee it can be overwhelming for some and nearly impossible for the most frail to leave home. Without house calls, they would have trouble receiving the medicine, equipment and support they and their caregivers need.

Lee has found where she belongs, and describes her coworkers as well as some of her long-time patients, like Vera Finney, as family.

“Dr. Lee is great. She knows what we need and how to take care of us. She takes care of me and my family,” Finney said.

Lee wants to help other medical students find where they belong. In 2004, she and her father established the Edward and Victoria Harris Scholarship, focusing on helping under-represented students who need financial assistance.

“When I was asked to support scholarships, I immediately thought of my father,” said Lee whose father was living with her and her family. “He had two children, my brother and me, who had graduated from the medical school at UMKC. The scholarship was a partnership between us.”

It is a partnership that is helping students in financial need each year.

FOUR SOM ALUMNI HONORED BY UMKC

Four Medical School alumni are receiving top UMKC 2013 alumni awards. For 2013 awards Major General Mark A. Ediger, M.D., '78, Deputy Surgeon General for the United States Air Force has been named *Alumnus of the Year*.

Ediger is responsible for the health care of 2.4 million patients, including 330,000 service men and women in 75 Air Force treatment centers worldwide.

Nelson Sabates, M.D., '86, is being honored with the *Spotlight Award*. Sabates' efforts have brought world-class scholars and researchers to Kansas City and UMKC, pioneering new treatments and advancing basic and clinical studies to improve patient care. Sabates serves as chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at UMKC, director of the Vision Research Center at UMKC, president and CEO of Sabates Eye Centers and president of the Vision Research Foundation of Kansas City.

The Sweeney family is being recognized with the *Legacy Award*. The family has 18 alumni, 25 degrees and a UMKC leader in its family tree, including Michael Sweeney, M.D., '78.

The School of Medicine will also honor Brigadier General John Owen, M.D. '81, during the alumni awards. The 2013 celebration will be April 18 at Swinney Recreation Center on the UMKC Volker Campus.



SCHOOL CELEBRATES FOUR DECADES OF EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE

“The School of Medicine is delivering on a promise made to the community 40 years ago. We have filled a unique role in preparing highly successful physicians and researchers to advance the health of our community, and we look forward to many more years of the same.”

– Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D.

WHEN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

opened its doors in 1971, one of its goals was to provide physicians for Missouri and the region, closing the gap in the shortage of health care providers. Forty years later, it continues to meet that goal. About 1,400 of the 3,000 graduates practice medicine in Missouri – 700 alumni in the greater Kansas City area and another 400 alumni in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

This past year, alumni, faculty, students and friends of the School celebrated the 40th anniversary with a series of events including tours and a kickoff event. The celebration culminated in the Grand Finale Reception at the Kauffman Center for the Performance Arts.

“The School of Medicine is delivering on a promise made to the community 40 years ago. We continue to deliver high quality education for the physician workforce in the region, to make a difference in the health of the community and to embrace the economic stability of Kansas City’s urban core,” said Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D. “We have filled a unique role in preparing highly successful physicians and researchers to advance the health of our community, and we look forward to many more years of the same.”

Each year, the School graduates about 100 physicians. Nearly 40 percent of them

enter one of the primary care specialties, and nearly half practice in Missouri.

The next generation of physicians is one of the most important factors in the growth of a community. The School of Medicine strives to keep pace with that demand by attracting and retaining exceptional students.

Scholarship support is critical in making medical education a reality for many students. A recent scholarship campaign provided funding for 20 new endowed student scholarships and provided additional funding for established scholarships.

However, the need continues to grow. Scholarships are a philanthropic priority for the UMKC School of Medicine. Alumni and community partners are our largest sources for support. For example, Blue Cross and Blue Shield provides up to five scholarships for students, in their final year of school, who plan to enter a family medicine residency and practice in the Kansas City area.

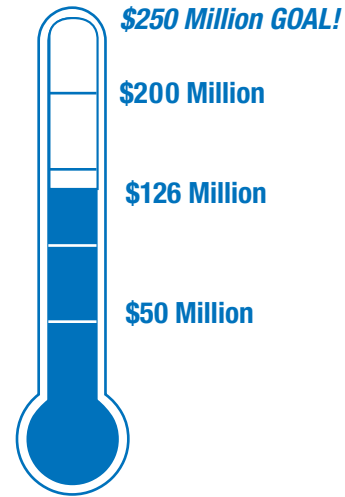
Preparing physicians to serve the health care needs in rural areas continues to be another priority for the School. R. Stephen Griffith, M.D., serves as the rural health director, focusing on curriculum related to rural health care, and recruiting students from rural Missouri. Financial support is an

important part of the equation in recruiting more rural students.

Excellence in research and service to the community are part of what continues to distinguish the School of Medicine. In the last decade, research funding has increased four-fold, including 23 endowed chairs and professorships. Our faculty research areas of expertise include vision, trauma, asthma, cardiology and neurosciences to name just a few. This research focuses on discovering new treatments for prevalent diseases through innovative basic and translational research.

Our students and faculty are committed to serving Kansas City. Any Sunday, you can find our students, residents and faculty volunteering at the Sojourner Health Clinic. Also, you will find them providing vision screening at the Kansas City Free Eye Clinic, helping at a wellness fair or any number of other service activities.

What began with 18 students and a promise to advance the health of our community has expanded to meet the ever-growing needs of the region through outstanding education, research and service. Community and alumni support continue to allow the School to achieve this mission for the next generation.



THIS IS THE TIME: THIS IS THE PLACE.

The School has an amazing mission. We want to work with partners who can help us elevate the School to the next level by enhancing student support and creating cutting-edge facilities for our students.

NATIONALLY KNOWN FOR its pioneering program, the UMKC School of Medicine has been turning heads since its inception in 1971. Now, the School must take the next step toward success. Five campaign priorities have been identified:

- Increase scholarship endowment to provide the financial resources needed to attract and retain diverse, talented students. To date, the campaign has raised more than half of the \$1.5 million goal.
- Improve facilities and renovate research areas. A \$10 million goal.
- Retain exceptional faculty to instruct students and engage in meaningful research through coveted endowed positions. To date, we have raised about half of the \$4.3 million goal.
- Enhance programs that complement our curriculum such as medical humanities, and the Youngblood Medical Skills Lab, and establish research and clinical centers of excellence. We have raised about \$2 million of the \$2.7 million goal.
- Expand unrestricted support to take advantage of new opportunities. The goal is to increase unrestricted support to \$200,000 each year. To help achieve the campaign goals and expand donor relationships, the School of Medicine has hired Kent Huyser and Jay Wilson as directors of development. They



Kent Huyser



Jay Wilson

will focus on different geographic areas both locally and nationally.

Huyser began in August of this year and has spent the past nine years working in advancement. A graduate of William Jewell College, this is his second career after spending 10 years working in management at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. He lives in Liberty, Mo., with his wife and three children.

“The School has an amazing mission. We want to work with partners who can help us elevate the School to the next level by enhancing student support and creating cutting-edge facilities for our students,” Huyser said.

Wilson, who joined the School in September, has worked in advancement positions the past six years. He earned a graduate degree in public administration from Park University and an undergraduate degree from the University of Central Missouri. He lives in the Northland with his wife and daughter and serves on the North Kansas City School Board.

“We are looking forward to getting to know alumni and friends of the School

of Medicine. We are excited to build relationships that will help the School advance the health of the community and provide the best medical education for our students,” Wilson said.

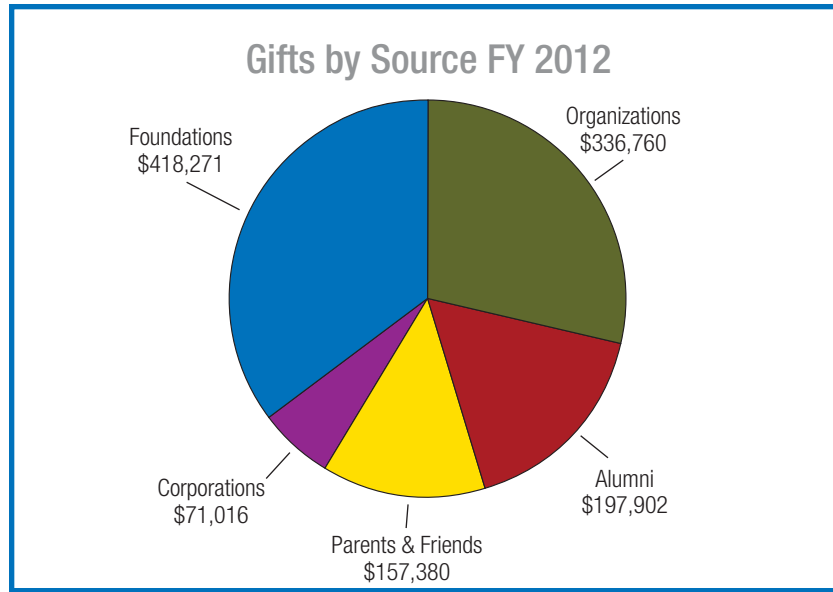


This is the time. This is the place.
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UMKC

As of June 30, the UMKC Foundation has raised \$126 million of the \$250 million goal. The campaign is being led by honorary chair Henry Bloch, co-founder and retired chairman of H&R Block. The National Steering Committee for the Campaign is co-chaired by Tom and Vina Hyde.

Annette Quick, M.D., '84, associate professor and medical director of echocardiology, Truman Medical Center, represents the School of Medicine on the National Steering Committee of the campaign.

For additional information on the campaign, please contact Kent Huyser at (816) 235-5229 or huyserk@umkc.edu. Reach Jay Wilson at (816) 235-5565 or wilsonjay@umkc.edu.



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The UMKC School of Medicine recognizes our Honor Roll of Donors, acknowledging gifts received between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012. These gifts are essential in advancing the quality of medical education and research conducted at the School.

PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY (50,000 +)

Ralph R. Coffey Education Fund
 Children's Mercy Hospital Foundation
 Mary K. Geldmacher Estate
 Greater Kansas City Health Care Found.
 Dr. Sudarshan and Mrs. Veena Suneja
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CHANCELLOR'S SOCIETY (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Arkansas Community Foundation
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Dr. Jeffrey and Ms. Sara Wright
Drs. Ralph and Heather Wuebker

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Dr. David and Mrs. Elizabeth Bamberger
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