Thank you for your support of The Woman’s Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Since its founding as The Woman’s Aid Society in 1897, The Woman’s Board has nurtured a proud legacy of compassionate care, providing vital support to patient care initiatives, hospital programs and facilities. The Woman’s Board has promoted progress in research, education and community service projects. With gratitude for your support and friendship, we are pleased to share updates on some of our projects with you.

Northwestern Medicine Developmental Therapeutics Institute

Northwestern Medicine® Developmental Therapeutics Institute (NMDTI), launched in 2013, is accelerating the timeline from discoveries in the lab to first in human clinical trials and is training the next generation of collaborative researchers, while making available the latest innovations to patients in most need at Northwestern Medicine in Chicago. With a new approach of personalized medicine, NMDTI seeks specific treatments for each patient based on genetic biomarkers.

On April 11, 2016, NMDTI became the Developmental Therapeutics Program of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, reflecting its optimal integration within the Division of Hematology/Oncology and the opportunities emerging as the program develops a full-spectrum, multi-disciplinary team. Dr. Benedito Carneiro and Dr. Young Chae have been appointed as Co-Directors of the Developmental Therapeutics Program. NMDTI, now DTPHOD, has quickly become one of the nation’s premier destinations for clinical trials and research. Due to the demand for Phase I trials and the success of Dr. Frank Giles and his growing team, expanded clinic space is now open in the Olson Pavilion in order to better serve patients. Developmental Therapeutics is integrated with inpatient facilities and is also now serving patients at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFTS

In 2013, The Woman’s Board pledged $2 million to enable the launch of NMDTI and the NMDTI Fellowship Program, which supports training for the next generation of leading developmental therapeutics physician-scientists and teachers. The fellowship program is among the most elite in the nation, accepting approximately five percent of total applicants. Developmental Therapeutics Fellows will make significant contributions in their fields, changing the landscape of cancer care and saving lives.

2015 Nora Cooney Marra Compassionate Care Awards Recognize Three Exceptional Care Givers

The Woman’s Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital established the Compassionate Care Awards in 1991. Newly designated in 2014 in memory of treasured friend and former Woman’s Board president, Nora Marra, the Nora Cooney Marra Compassionate Care Awards recognize individuals who exemplify and serve as role models for the humane and compassionate care of patients with cancer. In 2016 The Woman’s Board was proud to honor:

- Mario J. Pineda, MD PhD
- Erin Pettijohn, MD
- Lauren Socol, MA, LSW

These talented caregivers, all members of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, were recognized for their exceptional work combining the highest degree of professional attainment in clinical practice with exceptional sensitivity to the needs of each patient.

To learn more about the NMDTI’s current research studies and activities, please visit www.nmdti.org.
The Eleanor Wood-Prince Grant Initiative Highlights the Power of Small Grants

Established in 2001, The Eleanor Wood-Prince Grants Initiative is named for a remarkable woman who established her own legacy of leadership and caring throughout her lifetime. Mrs. Wood-Prince was a dedicated member of The Woman’s Board for more than 60 years, a true patron of the arts, and a philanthropist who deeply valued community involvement and the act of leading by example. The Eleanor Wood-Prince Grant Initiative has provided $1.4M in small grants to 65 young researchers or researchers new in their field at Northwestern Medicine with the goal of helping promising young scientists secure additional funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH). In May 2015 grants were awarded to:

David Engman, MD, PhD & Colby Shad Thaxton, MD, PhD: A New Approach to Prostate Cancer Biomarker Discovery

Kunal Karmali, MD & Stephen Persell, MD, MPH: An Electronic Health Record-Based Outreach Intervention to Improve Statin Adherence in Primary Prevention

Akihiro Matsuoka, MD, DMS, PhD: Developing a Strategy to “Reprogram” a Patient’s Own Skin Cells to Generate a New Working Inner Ear: Finding a Key Gene Using a Human Tissue Sample

Craig Weiss, PhD: Development of a Non-Transgenic Animal Model of Alzheimer’s Disease

The Women’s Clinic Annual Holiday Party

In December, The Woman’s Board welcomed over 70 families and 250 guests to the annual Holiday Party for patients of the Women’s HIV Clinic and their families. The a capella group “Doc-Apella,” a talented group of medical students from Northwestern, entertained everyone with carols. Children enjoyed face painting and a balloon artist and received gifts from Santa. Woman’s Board members filled families’ gift wish lists and many brought their own family members to assist in greeting guests and serving food at the party. The Woman’s Board has continued to provide financial support since helping to establish the Women’s HIV Clinic at the Infectious Disease Center at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in 1991.

Advancing Transplantation Breakthroughs

In 2014, The Woman’s Board funded a ground-breaking, first in human, Phase I clinical trial led by Joseph Leventhal, MD PhD, which aims to remove the need for organ transplant patients to take anti-rejection drugs by increasing the number of their own regulatory T cells. Each year only 13% of patients on the kidney waiting list receive a transplant, and many require another transplant years later as a result of negative anti-rejection drugs’ side effects. The goal of “T-Reg” cell therapy is to increase the long-term function of transplants using the patient’s own immune cells — reducing reliance on anti-rejection drugs. The trial was successful: no adverse effects were observed in the 9 patients who completed the trial, laying the foundation for a Phase II trial, with a treatment group of 50.

Tune Up!
Music at Northwestern Memorial Hospital

The Woman’s Board is honored to support the first hospital-wide music program for patients and a new music enrichment fund to provide support for musician volunteers in the hospital. Music Matters is a volunteer organization started by a medical student and a former oncology patient who experienced the healing power of music during her recuperation. The talented volunteers from Music Matters and other organizations now provide music on a regular schedule in public areas of the hospital and in some oncology and cardiology units. They are also trained to deliver compassionate care and conversation to anxious or lonely patients and their families.

In September 2015, friends of The Woman’s Board joined Board Members at Tune Up!, a fun cocktail party with live music, co-chaired by Suzette Bulley and Lisa Smyth, to raise funds for this unique initiative. Guests met and mingled with Music Matters musicians and enjoyed their music throughout the evening. The event also featured a special performance by Marty Sammon, keyboard player for blues legend Buddy Guy.

For more information on the projects of The Woman’s Board, please visit wbnorthwestern.org
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