

hope happens

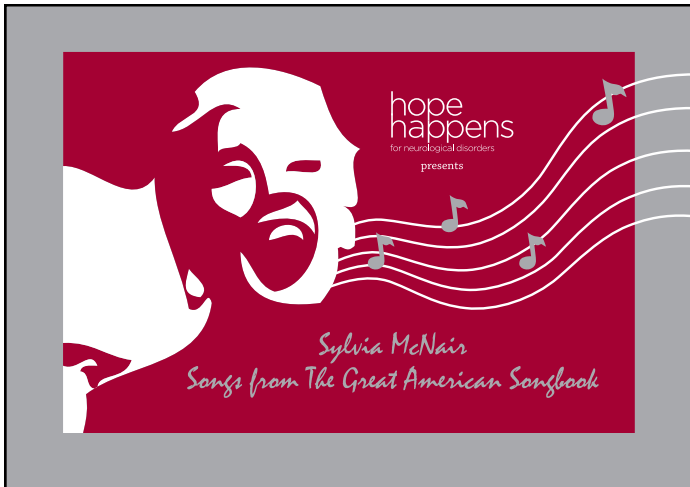
for neurological disorders

Chris Hobler's dream of collaborative translational research in action!

Spring 2010 Newsletter

www.hopehappens.org

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The sixth annual Evening of Hope will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2010 at the Sheldon Concert Hall. We are pleased to announce that this year's event is co-chaired by Peder and Emily Arneson and Chris and Molly Danforth. They have been busy planning this very exciting evening and hope you will join us for this special night. All proceeds from the Evening of Hope will go to The Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at Washington University School of Medicine.

Two time Grammy Award winner and Regional Emmy Award winner **Sylvia McNair** who lays claim to a stellar, twenty-five year career in the musical realms of opera, oratorio, cabaret and musical theater will perform after cocktails and a buffet dinner in The Ballroom of the Sheldon. Her journey has taken her from the Metropolitan Opera to the Salzburg Festival, from the New York Philharmonic to the Rainbow Room, from the Ravinia Festival to The Plaza, from the pages of The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal to the London Times. Expect a fabulous "Night of Cabaret" as Sylvia McNair will sing memorable songs from The Great American Songbook. A dessert reception with the artist will be held after the concert.

The Evening of Hope Award will be presented to Mark Goldberg, MD, Director of The Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at Washington University School of Medicine, for his dedication and outstanding work at the Hope Center. Dr. Goldberg, along with his collaborative team, brought together world-leading scientists and clinicians whose expertise spans many different disciplines and diseases. Their common focus is neurodegenerative research. These investigators, who promote interactions across diseases, departments and disciplines, hope that discoveries related to one disease can lead to cures and treatments of others.

For information about purchasing tickets for the Evening of Hope, please contact Gabriela Inderwies at (314) 725-3888 or e-mail at Gabriela@hopehappens.org.



L to R: Sandy Kaplan, Emily and Peder Arneson, Sylvia McNair, Chris and Molly Danforth, and Jean Hobler. Sylvia was recently in St. Louis so there was an opportunity to meet with her to discuss plans for the Evening of Hope.



Letter from Toby Martin, Board President



Thomas R. Martin



*Mark S. Wrighton, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Washington University*



*Dr. William Danforth, II
Chancellor Emeritus
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Dear Friends of Hope Happens,

In the fifth year of our partnership with the Washington University School of Medicine, it is remarkable what we have accomplished. The Hope Center for Neurological Disorders has become the leader in collaborative translational research in the country. The sheer magnitude of the Center is noteworthy. The Center has over 500 investigators supporting this engine of research and, if not the largest, must be among the most significant focused research institutions in the field anywhere.

\$1,000,000, \$10,000,000, and \$40,000,000

I would like to share with you how each level is significant and an integral component of the equation for our success. **\$1,000,000** is Hope Happens' goal to raise dollars for unrestricted gifts to the Center. These unrestricted gifts are the essence of the Hope Center. Fundamentally, the Center is changing the approach to translational research by requiring collaboration among faculty and the sharing of resources. **\$10,000,000** is the challenge grant from the Danforth Foundation. We are so pleased to report progress on this initiative, and we continue to support Washington University in meeting this goal. **\$40,000,000** represents the collective body of resources harnessed by the Center. This includes predominantly Federal but also private and corporate monies that are highly competitive and sought after. Ironically, the unrestricted gifts of Hope Happens are a significant point of differentiation and often times the element that allows the larger grant requests to be successful. The research projects represent the most promising and best ideas that emerge from Hope Center investigators, and which otherwise might wait years to receive funding.

Engaged Donors

Many of our key donors, those of you who have helped found and grow Hope Happens, should feel very proud of what you have helped to accomplish. You are the catalyst for this remarkable institution that can change the world of neurodegenerative disease as we know it. This was Chris Hobler's vision, to change the way we approach this research and to accelerate the discovery of treatments and cures. I feel that with this partnership of resources, Chris' dream is being realized. Each one of you has been touched directly by one of these diseases. As I have talked to our donors, I have discovered a common theme of Hope. A Hope that, with their contribution of time or money, one day we will erase these dreaded diseases.

Hope Center Achievement

The Hope Center's annual request for pilot project applications yielded nine collaborative proposals. The independent faculty committee, after reviewing all of the submissions, selected three projects for their scientific merit, innovation, and ability to advance the mission and goals of the Hope Center. Funded projects will receive \$100,000 to conduct the proposed research from December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010. Information about these three pilot projects is in the "Faces of Hope" article featuring Mark Goldberg, MD, Director of the Hope Center on pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter.

Goals for This Year

This year, we have goals to grow our Hope Society, continue our progress toward the Danforth Challenge grant, and launch our grassroots fundraising campaign "Faces of Hope." We have much to accomplish this year and will need your help. Most of all we want you to have a deeper understanding of how significant your contributions have been to help create the leading research institution in the world for this field. Chris Hobler's vision was to create change in the approach to medical research so patients can have hope, treatments, and ultimately cures. Now, Hope Happens and The Hope Center have become the engine of change. Your gifts to us honor Chris' vision, and are changing the face of research forever.

Toby R. Martin

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Hope Happens Welcomes New Board Members

Hope Happens is proud to announce that William (Bill) Finnie and Julie Letourneau Kindle have both been elected to the organization’s board of directors for a three year term. “We are focused on bringing dynamic individuals who are capable of advancing our mission. Julie and Bill will be excellent additions to our Board,” stated Toby Martin, board president, Hope Happens.



Bill Finnie is a business strategy consultant, author and newspaper columnist. Working as a market researcher and strategic analyst for companies such as Anheuser Busch, Mr. Finnie has facilitated more than 100 strategy and non-strategy projects for organizations of all types and sizes, of which 20% have been for nonprofit organizations. He is also an accomplished and sought after public speaker, giving more than 100 keynote presentations and 100 seminars on strategic planning and marketing strategy. He has been

President of The Finnie Group since 1991 and was a Partner at UHY Advisors from 1998 to 2003. He is currently on the Board of the Association for Corporate Growth and is a member of the Friends Committee of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. Bill has been an adjunct professor at the Olin School of Business at Washington University since 1978. He was named Teacher of the Year in the Part-Time MBA Program in 1995-96. His areas of expertise include business strategy and marketing strategy. He was Interim Director of Executive Programs at the Olin School from December 2003 through June 2004. Mr. Finnie earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton) and his B.S. from Washington University in St. Louis.



A native St. Louisan, **Julie Letourneau Kindle** graduated from the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Villa Duchesne, and graduated from Regis University with a double major in sociology and special education with a minor degree in elementary education. She began her career with the Central Bank of Denver while tutoring elementary students struggling with reading and math skills. She then returned to St. Louis to serve as Vice President for Mercantile Bank. A licensed financial advisor with Drexel Burnham

Lambert, she spent nearly 30 years in the brokerage business becoming Senior Vice President with Stifel Nicolaus. Now retired, Mrs. Kindle enjoys volunteering, recently chairing a gala fundraiser for the ALS Association with her husband.

Faces of Hope: Mark Goldberg, MD

Five Years of Growth

About Mark Goldberg, MD



Dr. Mark Goldberg received his B.A. in Biology (cum laude) at Harvard University, and his M.D. from Columbia University. At Stanford University, he completed neurology residency training and was a postdoctoral research fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Dennis Choi. He joined the faculty of Washington University in 1991. Dr. Goldberg is the recipient of the S. Weir Mitchell Award of the Academy of Neurology, a

Clinician Investigator Development Award from the National Institutes of Health, and an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association. His training and his research focus then and now is stroke, particularly cellular mechanisms of brain injury and recovery. Since 2005, Dr. Goldberg serves as the Director of the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders

Gabriela Inderwies interviewed Mark Goldberg, MD, Professor of Neurology, Neurobiology, and Biomedical Engineering, and Director of the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders. Dr. Goldberg talked about the collaborative research and the tremendous accomplishments of the physicians and scientists at the Hope Center. After five years as Center director, Dr. Goldberg will be stepping down in April. We look forward to sharing news about the incoming Director in our next Hope Happens Newsletter.

When did you join Washington University?

I came to Washington University in 1991 just after I had finished my residency training and research fellowship with Dr. Dennis Choi at Stanford University. When Dr. Choi came to Washington University as Department Chair, I came and had my first faculty position as assistant professor. I joined the neurology faculty and started my own laboratory that year. I was interested in mechanisms of nerve cell death in stroke. Dr. Choi and I thought there was a tremendous potential to develop a drug for stroke which might prevent the loss of brain cells in people who had a stroke. The idea was very exciting, and I came from Stanford to here because this was a place that had developed such important discoveries about why brain cells die.

Washington University is recognized as an outstanding place for neuroscience and neurology, and as one of the best places in the world for scientists to come together and solve challenges in brain research. We came here to join an effort that was quite amazing.

How long have you been working as Director of the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders?

The idea for the Hope Center came in 2004, and I served as Director of the Hope Center since it was officially launched in 2005. This is now coming into the fifth year of operation for the Hope Center, and we are very excited about that.

What opportunities does the collaborative environment of the Hope Center create?

The Hope Center helps scientists work better and faster to find treatments for brain diseases. At a research institution like Washington University, scientists are already very focused on discovering new things about the brain. This is something we have done well in the past, and continue to do better and better.

We have a particular mission to understand how the brain works. What the Hope Center does is taking new discoveries and translating them into cures. This was Chris Hobler's mission, and this was the intent of what was then ALS Hope and is now Hope Happens: To take the tremendous energy of the scientists and move them towards finding treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. The Hope Center allows researchers to have all the resources that enable them to do that.

Tell us about the Hope Center's Pilot Projects

Let's explain the three main things we do to promote translational research: The first thing to mention is our support of collaborative research. We have regular seminars and meetings, we bring scientists together, we have outside scientists to come and help, and we train young people to become research scientists. In terms of collaboration, we provide as many tools as we can for scientists to work together.

The second thing we have done very well in the past five years is to find the tools that scientists need to be successful, and to give them access to these tools. Sometimes what they need is equipment that is very specialized and expensive, and requires tremendous scientific expertise. Sometimes they need animal models. We want to put all of these tools together to make it easier for scientists to discover therapies for diseases.

The last way as to how we promote translational research is by directly funding research projects. Every year for the past five years, we have had funds available for innovative projects which are directed to finding new ideas for research translation. We have funded three or four of them each year. The projects have always been interesting and very creative, and in some cases risky. They are the kind of projects which could not be funded through the usual mechanisms of support because they are so unusual. We have been very successful with these projects, and many of them have resulted in really important discoveries. The pilot projects have to be innovative and experimental, and need to have a real potential in finding treatments for a disease. Often they involve scientists of different departments working together. We funded three pilot projects this year and each of them takes an entirely new

direction and involves very interesting experimental ideas. We also have an additional number of very promising proposals and will fund them as soon as funding becomes available to the Hope Center. We hope that we can fund those projects which involve all the diseases we work on this year. We have so many talented investigators at the Hope Center that we always have a backlog of exciting projects which can't be funded at once.

What is special about the partnership between Hope Happens and the Hope Center?

The idea of a collaborative alliance between a university and a nonprofit organization is really unique, and I don't think that there is another instance like this anywhere else in the country. The usual model is that nonprofit organizations provide funding to a university or laboratory - that is their role. But in this case the entire Hope Center was created through this collaboration, and we have a formal alliance. Hope Happens helps provide fund raising, but also provides awareness about our work. Hope Happens contributes 50% of the leadership of our Board of Directors. Hope Happens has an important role in setting the direction that the Hope Center

will take, and because of this, the particular focus on research translation is always at the forefront. That was Chris Hobler's emphasis, and it helps us focus on the particular aspect of science that the Hope Center is best at: Understanding and finding treatments for diseases.

Would you like to share any final thoughts with our readers?

What has happened here at the Hope Center in the last five years is monumental, and has by far exceeded our expectations. We have gone from a center with only a few principal investigators to over 75. The reason that scientists are joining us is that they are excited about the collaborative model - and they want to be part of it.

Another milestone is going from very few core facilities to the 18 separate core facilities that we have today. That is tremendous progress in a short time. Hope Happens has done a great job in raising awareness about the Hope Center, and a lot of people in St. Louis are very excited about what is happening here. We are looking back at five years of accomplishment, and the outlook for the future is very bright.



Three Pilot Projects Funded

2009-2010 Pilot Projects Announced!

In October of 2009, Hope Center scientists were invited to request up to \$100,000 for one-year research projects to begin December 1, 2009. An independent faculty review panel, after reviewing all submissions, awarded funding to three pilot projects. The projects were selected for their scientific merit, innovation, and ability to advance the mission and translational neuroscience goals of the Hope Center. The pilot projects will receive funds to conduct the proposed research from December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010. The collaborative pilot projects in this funding cycle are:

Project #1: (Title withheld pending intellectual property review)
Principal Investigator: Gregory Zipfel, Neurological Surgery
Co-Investigators: Robert Mach, Radiology, Byung Hee Han, Neurological Surgery

Project #2: Generating Amyloid Seeds in Lysosomes
Principal Investigator: Carl Frieden, Biochemistry
Co-Investigators: Marc Diamond, Neurology, Jin-Moo Lee, Neurology

Project #3: Understanding How the Liver Successfully Handles Misfolded SOD1
Principal Investigator: Timothy M. Miller, Neurology
Co-Investigator: Chris Weihl, Neurology



Hope Happens is proud to announce that this is the first use of the Danforth Challenge funds. For more information about the Principal Investigators and scientific scope of the three pilot projects, please visit the Hope Center's website at <http://hopecenter.wustl.edu>.

Hope Society Donor Appreciation Event

In appreciation of the Hope Society members who are donors contributing \$1,000 or more annually to Hope Happens, a cocktail reception was held on December 9, 2009 at the Duane Reed Gallery. Leigh Hobler Gerard, board member of Hope Happens, chaired this special “thank you” reception.

Guests enjoyed the spectacular glass show featuring the world renowned art work of Dale Chihuly. Duane Reed gave a talk about the artist and his gallery which recently relocated to the Central West End. Toby Martin, Board President of Hope Happens, and Mark Goldberg, MD, Director of the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at Washington University School of Medicine, gave an update on their collaboration and partnership. Toby thanked our donors for helping Hope Happens realize their goals by financially supporting the Hope Center and spoke about the importance of their generous contributions which provide resources that are greatly needed. Dr. Goldberg addressed the cutting edge research taking place at Hope Center where scientists and physicians are making headway to find new treatments and cures for all of the neurodegenerative diseases.

The Hope Society now has several different levels of giving such as our Hope Society Members (\$1,000-\$2,499), Hope Society Fellows (\$2,500-\$4,999), Hope Society Patrons (\$5,000-\$9999), Hope Society Benefactors (\$10,000-\$24,999) and our Hope Society President’s Circle (\$25,000 and over).

We formed a Hope Society Committee who will address the recognition, special acknowledgements and benefits of each specific Hope Society level. We hope to get many new members of the Hope Society and increase our donor involvement and participation in our programs and events. It’s an exciting time for growth, and we look forward to having you join the Hope Society if you are not already a member. Please contact Sandy Kaplan, Director of Development at (314) 725-3889 or e-mail at sandy@hopehappens.org for further information about joining the Hope Society.



Jean Hobler, Duane Reed and Judy Scott



Doug Hill, Sandy Kaplan, Toby Martin and Vicki Hill



Tracy Holtzman, Jean Hobler, Mark Goldberg, MD, and Peder Arneson



Mark Goldberg, MD, Sandy Kaplan, Duane Reed, Toby Martin and Leigh Hobler Gerard



Marcia Mellitz



Suzy Villa and Andrea Peters



Sandy Kaplan, Laura Piccio, MD and Anne Cross, MD



Chris and Molly Danforth



Tracy Holtzman, Leigh Hobler Gerard, Ginger Imster with her son, and Toby Martin



Mary Ann and Lou Chiodini with Merrill Strauss and Leigh Hobler Gerard



Virginia and Russ Viehmann with Merrill Strauss



Liz DeLaperouse with Tom and Melissa Ruwitch

DIALOGUE WITH THE BRAIN DOCTORS AND WORLD-CLASS SCIENTISTS

A cocktail reception and talk co-hosted by Dr. Gordon and Susie Philpott was held at the home of Mark Goldberg, MD and Maria Grabowski. Dr. Goldberg, neurologist, researcher, and Director of The Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at Washington University School of Medicine, engaged our guests in a “Dialogue With the Brain Doctors and World-Class Scientists.” Those who attended had an opportunity to pick the brains of a panel of doctors and scientists about neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, ALS, Parkinson’s disease, MS, epilepsy, stroke, geriatric dementia, brain and spinal cord injury.

Featured along with Dr. Goldberg were Drs. Alison Goate, Marc Diamond, Timothy Miller, and Anne Cross, each presenting their area of expertise on the latest research, newest treatments and possibility of future cures. All of these doctors are involved with the Hope Center, and they collaborate with each other about their findings. The Center is a catalyst for all the researchers and clinicians to uncover many unanswered questions. Colleagues share their research and have an opportunity to translate other scientists’ work in degenerative diseases to their own investigations.

If you are interested in attending one of our educational receptions, please let us know, and we will invite you to our next event. We also have a “Lunch and Learn” at the Hope Center held once a month that includes a tour of the Hope Center. Please contact Sandy Kaplan at (314) 725-3889 or e-mail at sandy@hopehappens.org for the schedule so you can sign up for a date that is convenient for you.



Gordon Philpott, MD and Toby Martin



Susie Philpott and Karl Hoagland



Beth and Marc Diamond, MD



Marcia Shapiro, Mark Goldberg, MD, and Bob Shapiro



Alison Goate, MD, Beverly Barron, Sunny Glassberg, Jeannie Hartz, Paul Arenberg, and Anne Cross, MD



Mark Goldberg, MD and Sandy Kaplan



Mark Goldberg, MD and his wife, Maria Grabowski



Toby Martin with Rosemary and Dick Rosenthal

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To improve the lives of people with neurodegenerative disorders by funding collaborative, translational research that has the potential to fast-track new treatments and cures.

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You can help shape the future of devastating neurological disorders by donating to Hope Happens. Your generous donations will allow doctors and scientists to do the research necessary to find cures for neurological disorders such as ALS, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, brain and spinal cord injury and stroke. Please contact Hope Happens to find out how you can make a difference.

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Director of Development
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Clayton, MO 63105
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sandy@hopehappens.org
www.hopehappens.org

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for Neurological Disorders

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Your gift to the Hope Center will:

- Fuel the momentum on fast-breaking research developments by eliminating the lag time in traditional funding mechanisms
- Support evaluation of new drugs and therapies not ready for pharmaceutical company development
- Fund exciting early-stage research too preliminary for government grants
- Provide funding for targeted interdisciplinary research projects

For more information, please contact:

Sandy Kaplan - 314-725-3888 - sandy@hopehappens.org