

# HOPE HAPPENS

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



Spring 2007 Newsletter

[www.hopehappens.org](http://www.hopehappens.org)

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## Save the Date

*the third annual*  
evening of **hope**   
**May 14, 2007**

Please join us in honoring our Chris Hobler Hope Award Recipient Dr. William Danforth at the third annual "Evening of Hope" at the Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Blvd. on Monday, May 14, 2007. Jean Hobler and Jessie Vonk are Honorary Co-Chairs of the event.

The third annual "Evening of Hope" will star world renowned pianist Mischa Dichter, along with concertmaster David Halen and other members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. These extraordinary artists are graciously donating their time and talents in tribute to the two individuals who inspired this fundraiser, Chris Hobler and Hans Vonk, who were victims of ALS.

Hope Happens is putting on the event to generate support for translational research for new treatments and cures at The Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at Washington University. "Events like this help create awareness about The Hope Center and raise funds necessary to continue the research for cures for neurological diseases," said Chair Nancy Galvin.

Just like the talented musicians who will entertain us, the dedicated scientists at The Hope Center also work *in concert*. They are sharing research to find cures for ALS, Alzheimer's disease, brain and spinal injury, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and stroke. This unique cross-disease strategy takes advantage of disease-related commonalities and economies of scale to maximize the effect of every donor's philanthropic investment.

Edward Jones and Maritz Inc. are Principal Sponsors of the event. Centene Corporation is a Platinum Sponsor, and Emerson Electric and Renaissance Financial are Gold Sponsors.

The evening will begin with cocktails, dinner at 6:30, the concert at 8:00, followed by a reception with the artist at 9 p.m.

Ticket prices for this enchanted musical evening are \$250 per person. Sponsorships are available at various levels, beginning with Patron at \$500 up to \$10,000 for a Platinum Sponsorship. Performance only tickets are available for \$20 through Metrotix or the Hope Happens office.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Elisa Donnelly at 314.289.5660.

## More Hope from Significant, First-Ever NIH Grant

Washington University School of Medicine was awarded a Neuroscience Blueprint Interdisciplinary Center Core Grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in October 2006. This is one of only four such grants awarded through a new NIH program to promote pooling of scientific resources and expertise. This grant is even more remarkable because, with federal funding for medical research being slashed, the NIH currently funds only 8 percent of the programs it has approved.

### NIH Endorses the Hope Model

Funds from the NIH Blueprint grant will expand the new model for doing research The Hope Center is pioneering. The Hope Center was founded in November of 2004 as a partnership between Hope Happens and Washington University with a clear mission of accelerating the pace by which basic neurological research gets translated into treatments and cures. This new model of organizing research in a collaborative way involves sharing of information and providing Core Facilities that enable HC scientists to conduct research and test results.

This grant directly invests in The Hope Center model of doing research. These funds, \$8.3 million over five years, will support eight Core Facilities ranging from administration, clinical data acquisition, functional assessment, genomics and informatics to neuroproteomics, optical imaging and viral vectors.

### Sharing Resources and Results

Core Facilities are open to all members of the Washington University Neuroscience Community. Each Core has faculty and staff available to help scientists with experimental design training, regulatory issues and grant planning.

Hope Center scientists share their research with each other and with the larger neuroscience community. For example, last year Hope Center scientists published 250 peer-reviewed articles about their research in scholarly journals.

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## Morrissey Family Makes Leadership Gift



The family of Ann Griesedieck Morrissey made a 2006 gift of \$150,000 to Hope Happens in honor of their mother who passed away of ALS in 2005. Mrs. Morrissey, who had toured The Hope Center, was a generous supporter of Hope Happens.

“My mother felt it was such a worthy cause, and we wanted to honor her in a way we knew she would really like,” said Melissa Morrissey Eldredge.

“My siblings and I toured The Hope Center in January of 2005. We were very impressed with the

collaborative efforts of The Hope Center’s staff, the cutting edge research, and the vision of improvement in medical treatments for neurological diseases,” she said. “In particular, it was exciting to hear Dr. Mark Goldberg say that he believes they will find a cure for ALS and possibly other degenerative neurological diseases within the next ten years.”

“Chris Hobler was one of my closest friends since high school, and I saw him die from ALS,” said Michael Wolff, then-President of the Board of Directors. “Despite the death sentence he was given when he received his diagnosis, he did not relent in his fight to support and push research into a cure for this and other neurological diseases. It is heartening and encouraging to have families such as the Morrisseys take up the fight. We are deeply grateful for their gift.”

The Morrissey family gift helps support The Hope Center’s mission to improve the lives of people with neurological disorders like ALS through discovery of fundamental mechanism of neurodegeneration that translate new understanding into cures and treatments.

## Anneliese Schaefer Appointed Deputy Director



Anneliese Schaefer, JD, PhD, research assistant professor of neurology, has accepted the position of Deputy Director of The Hope Center for Neurological Disorders. Her hiring reflects the dramatic growth of The Hope Center since its founding in November 2004. It has grown to include 51 laboratories and nearly 400 collaborating scientists and staff from 16 departments of Washington University.

“Dr. Schaefer was selected following an extensive national search, and we are exceptionally fortunate that she is joining The Hope Center’s leadership team,” said Dr. David Holtzman, Chair Neurology.

In her new role, Dr. Schaefer works closely with The Hope Center Director, Dr. Mark Goldberg, The Hope Center Executive and Steering Committees, and Hope Happens. She will help to set strategic directions for The Hope Center, oversee internal and external communications, and provide administrative supervision for Hope Center funds, projects and core facilities.

“Her hiring reflects the commitment to excellence that characterizes every aspect of The Hope Center and its leadership,” said Dennis O’Brien, Executive Director of Hope Happens. “I look forward to working closely with her to generate the recognition and support The Hope Center deserves.”

Dr. Schaefer is one of the founding scientists of The Hope Center. Before joining The Hope Center administration, she was an Instructor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Pharmacology. Her laboratory studies focused on axonal degeneration in mouse models of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and the childhood disease spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) using high resolution imaging. In research funded in part by The Hope Center, she was one of the first investigators to document early axon degeneration in a mouse model of ALS.

Dr. Schaefer brings to this position a diverse background in science as well as law. Prior to entering the field of neuroscience, Dr. Schaefer received her J.D. from Washington University and worked as an associate attorney with the law firm of Pennie and Edmonds in New York in the field of intellectual property litigation.

After transitioning to science, Dr. Schaefer received her Ph.D. for studies of the genetic basis of synapse formation and was awarded the Viktor Hamburger Prize in Developmental Biology for this work. She completed her postdoctoral training as a Helen Hay Whitney Fellow, applying high resolution light microscopy and time-lapse imaging to better understand how axons and neuromuscular junctions change during the course of disease in a mouse model of ALS.

### *We appreciate our donors!*

Soon you will receive a special feature reprinted from the Washington University Spring 2006 magazine: *A Center Called Hope...for those with neurological disorders*. To see an online version, go to our home page at [www.hopehappens.org](http://www.hopehappens.org).

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# Hope Center Scientist Earns MetLife Award for Alzheimer's Research



David M. Holtzman, M.D., the Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor and head of Neurology, is a 2007 recipient of the MetLife Foundation Award for Medical Research in Alzheimer's Disease. Holtzman is also associate director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), and a member of the Hope Happens Board of Directors.

Holtzman received the honor for his pioneering work in the study of the early molecular biology of Alzheimer's disease, which has helped advance the search for new treatments and for ways to identify the disorder as soon as possible.

Among other accomplishments, Holtzman and colleagues have studied the effects of antibodies against amyloid beta, a key component of the plaques that appear in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Holtzman's group, together with collaborators at Eli Lilly, showed the antibody could decrease amyloid plaques over months in mice. In addition, one antibody improved memory function in mice in a few days. A human form of an antibody is now being tested.

Researchers in Holtzman's lab including John Cirrito, Ph.D., postdoctoral research scholar and Randy Bateman, M.D., assistant professor of neurology, also have developed ways to monitor the production and clearance of amyloid beta in both mice and humans. They hope the techniques will help answer lingering questions about whether the brains of Alzheimer's patients make too much amyloid beta or fail to clear it out fast enough. The answer will help scientists working to develop new diagnostic tests and treatments. In addition, spinal fluid tests developed with colleagues including John Morris, Anne Fagan, Ph.D., research associate professor of neurology, and Mark Mintun, M.D., professor of radiology suggest that Alzheimer's changes in the brain can be detected years before clinical symptoms develop.

Holtzman is a past recipient of the Potamkin Prize from the American Academy of Neurology, a MERIT award from the National Institute on Aging, and the Zenith Award from the Alzheimer's Association.

For more information, go to <http://mednews.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/8886.html?emailID=13382>.

## More Hope from Significant, First-Ever NIH Grant

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### Leadership and Administration

This grant will be administered by The Hope Center.

The Program Director and Principal Investigator of this grant is Dr. David M. Holtzman, Andrew and Gretchen Jones Professor, Chair of Neurology and a member of the Hope Happens board of directors. The Co-Directors are Drs. David Van Essen (Anatomy and Neurobiology), Mark Goldberg (Neurology) and Charles Zorumski (Chair of Psychiatry).

### What the Grant Means for Hope Happens Donors

This grant means that charitable gifts of Hope Happens donors are more important than ever because they are leveraged. Thanks in part to the infrastructure created by The Hope Center and contributions of Hope Happens donors, Washington University was able to successfully compete for funding under this new NIH program.

"Put it this way," said Hope Happens Executive Director Dennis O'Brien. "Your gifts have created and continue to sustain this Chris Hobler visionary model of organizing research into neurodegenerative disorders in a collaboratively way so that results benefit all the scientists in their quests for cures. The \$1.5 million that donors have invested in The Hope Center by their gifts to Hope Happens over the past three years has helped The Hope Center attract this larger, first-ever NIH gift to strengthen and expand Core Facilities at The Hope Center."

"Without support from our donors, The Hope Center would not exist, this model of doing translational research would not exist, and the NIH might not be investing these resources in collaborative efforts by Hope Center scientists to accelerate the pace by which basic research gets translated into treatment and cures," he said.

### Expanding Research Opportunities

Significant as it is, this NIH grant is not nearly enough. Hope Happens must continue to raise at least \$500,000/year to support research at the center.

On the other hand, this NIH grant will allow some of the funds raised by Hope Happens to be shifted from supporting Core Facilities into seed grants for promising new avenues of research. Demonstrating success in pilot studies will attract larger NIH grants to explore promising new possibilities identified by Hope Center scientists. This should further accelerate the pace by which research gets translated into cures. For more information about the grant, visit <http://mednews.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/8086.html>.

## Hope Center Scientist Honored

Hope Center member Eugene M. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D., recently has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society. The highest honor awarded by AAAS, the rank of fellow, is bestowed upon members by their peers in recognition of scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.

Dr. Johnson, professor of neurology and of molecular biology and pharmacology at the School of Medicine, was elected to the Section on Neuroscience for pioneering work in studies of the nature and function of neurotrophic factors and for service to the neuroscience community. Johnson was cited for distinguished contributions to the identification and characterization of neurotrophic factors, factors that nourish and maintain nervous system cells and could provide new avenues for treatment of a range of neurodegenerative diseases.

Dr. Johnson is a member of The Hope Center Steering and Executive Committees.

### Visit The Hope Center - Learn How Hope Happens

Come meet the scientists who direct The Hope Center: Mark Goldberg, MD, and Anneliese Schaefer, JD, PhD. Learn how seven neurological disorders have so much in common at a basic biological level and how collaboration helps scientists fast-track treatments and cures. For more information, call 314.289.6550.

## Atrium Gallery Supports Hope Happens



*Alise O'Brien visiting with Mike Scully from corporate sponsor US Bank*

Atrium Gallery celebrated its 20th anniversary by donating a percentage of all the artwork sold over a four-week period to Hope Happens.

The benefit began with a special reception on Friday, 6 October 2006, featuring a "Happening" with New York Artist Peter Charlap. In addition, there was a raffle

of artworks donated by Ellen Glasgow, Fredrick Nelson and Janet Sorokin. These artists have shown at Atrium Gallery for 20 years.

The highlight of the evening was when Jim Connett, Program Director of Classic 99 and a member of the Hope Happens board of directors, conducted a live auction of a sculpture of Maestro Hans Vonk. The sculpture was donated by Jessie Vonk.

"I am extremely pleased to be able to produce a contribution of more than \$10,000 for Hope Happens," gallery owner Carolyn Miles said. "I have wanted to do something special for the Hobler Family and for Hope Happens for some time, and this 20th Anniversary celebration presented such a fitting opportunity to do something festive -- and lucrative -- for such a great cause!"

Hope Happens is very grateful to Carolyn for taking the initiative to sponsor and organize such a wonderful event.



*Jim Connett auctioning Jessie Vonk's sculpture with Mike Scully, Atrium Board member Jean Hamilton and Alise O'Brien looking on*

### Art with a Heart: Young Artists Support Hope Happens



Kudos to 12-year-old Zoë Krause who persuaded her Ladue Middle School classmates to make Hope Happens a beneficiary of a week-long silent auction of their artwork displayed in Plaza Frontenac February 4-11. The event was highlighted by a reception for the artists, their parents, teachers and friends on February 7.

Zoë's mother was a classmate of Chris Hobler at John Burroughs School. "Zoë got to know Chris through family interactions before he died," Melissa Hagee Krause said. "Zoë also volunteered for fundraising activities Chris

was involved with. She was determined to see that her classmates supported his work. She made a presentation and persuaded them to include Hope Happens."

Why Hope Happens? "I think what strikes me most about Chris and The Hope Center is that Chris died of a terrible disease and he could have given up, but instead he decided to help others after he was gone, and we need to make sure that his dream isn't wasted," Zoë said. Very impressive words of wisdom from a 12-year-old!

The benefit raised some monies for Hope Happens, generated awareness about Hope Happens, and gave the students an opportunity to do something to help others in the community. That really is Art With A Heart.

### National Association of Professional Mortgage Women Support Hope Happens

The local chapter of this organization held a small fundraiser as part of its annual meeting. Fourteen members of the National Association of Professional Mortgage Women attended their end of the year holiday party and silent auction at Spazio At Westport. Bed, Bath and Beyond, St. John's Bank, Wells Fargo Hope Mortgage and other companies donated items.

Gail Hawkins, reverse mortgage specialist with Cornerstone Mortgage, initiated this effort. The women had a nominating committee to decide which charity to donate money to. "I was very involved in your organization after I lost two close friends to ALS and there was information and donation information at their funerals," Gail Hawkins said.

"A couple of other women on the committee to decide which charity to donate the money to had also experienced similar tragedies in their lives and were involved with Hope Happens. We took a vote and Hope Happens won. We were very pleased we could do this," she said.

# A Special Thanks to all of our Hope Happens Donors

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“We are very grateful to Hope Society members,” said Hope Center Executive Director Dennis O’Brien. “Knowing that there is a committed stream of revenues from Hope Society members each year makes it possible for us to seek out new sources of support to provide The Hope Center with the resources it needs to thrive as a cutting-edge research facility developing new treatments and cures for neurological disorders.”

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Are you 70 1/2 years or older with an IRA from which you must make a taxable distribution? By making that distribution to Hope Happens, you may be able to avoid paying income tax on the the distribution, as well as helping Hope Happens. Ask your tax advisor and whether you can benefit from Section 1201 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. This special benefit is available ONLY in 2007.

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# HOPE HAPPENS

for Neurological Disorders

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Make hope happen by including Hope Happens in your estate plan. Our professional wealthy advisors can help you plan your giving in a way that will benefit you, your heirs and Hope Happens. Call us at 314.289.5660 to learn more.

## **CheckMark Communications Employees Recognize Manager, Support Hope Happens**

Employees at CheckMark Communications, the internal marketing division of Nestle-Purina, made holiday gifts to Hope Happens in honor of Chris Krebeck, Executive Creative Director.

“We wanted to give our manager, Chris Krebeck, a group gift for Christmas,” said Debbie Wilkinson, Manager of Print Production. “We were reminded that one of Chris’ best friends, Jim Schoemehl, died a few years ago of ALS. One of the Creative Directors here, Ron Crooks, pointed me in the direction of Hope Happens.”

“Elisa Donnelly of Hope Happens made it so easy to make this happen. She sent me donation envelopes, brochures, pins, and newsletters,” Wilkinson said. “We all appreciated the materials sent. We learned what is being done to search for a cure to ALS and other similar diseases.”

“The letter presented to Chris letting him know about our gifts said, ‘Our wish is that this money will help find the cure for ALS so friends don’t lose friends to this disorder.’ Chris was touched by our gifts in his honor. It was apparent that his friend Jim meant a lot to him,” she said.

“This was the best present I received this Christmas,” Krebeck told Dennis O’Brien, Executive Director of Hope Happens. He subsequently arranged to visit the Hope Center and see for himself how the collaborative research is working to accelerate the pace by which basic scientific research gets translated into treatments and cures.