

HOPE HAPPENS

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



Summer 2007 Newsletter

www.hopehappens.org

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the third annual evening of *hope* featured Misha Dichter, raised money for research

Photo by Margaret Rambo



Jessie Vonk, honoree Dr. William Danforth, co-founder Jean Hobler and executive director Dennis O'Brien

More than 315 guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner, a stirring concert and a reception with the artists at the Sheldon Concert Hall on May 14. An additional 60 people purchased concert-only tickets.

"Hope Happens hosted this magnificent evening to generate support for collaborative, translational research of new treatments and cures for neurological diseases now being conducted at the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at Washington University," said event Chair Nancy Galvin. "This event helped create awareness of the Hope Center and generated \$183,000 to continue promising research into finding treatments and cures for neurological diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer's disease, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and traumatic brain or spinal cord injury,"

The evening starred world renowned pianist Misha Dichter performing with a string quartet comprised of concertmaster

David Halen, Mike Chien, Heidi Harris and Daniel Lee of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Jean Hobler, the mother of Christopher Hobler, and Jessie Vonk were Honorary Co-Chairs of the event.

In addition to principle sponsors Edward Jones and Maritz Inc., and platinum sponsor Sarah Boles and Centene Corporation, Emerson, Renaissance Financial and the Steven L. Trulaskie Sr. Family Foundation were major sponsors of the event.

Other sponsors included AT&T - Missouri, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Cella, Jean Hobler, Peter Hobler, the Martin Family, the Philpott Family Foundation, Tower Hill Wealth Management, UMB Bank, Villa Lighting, Washington University Department of Neurology and Webster University.

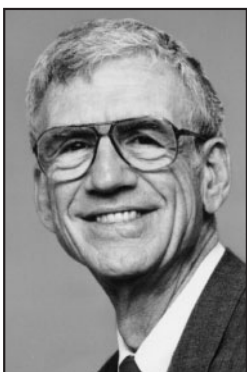


Photo by Margaret Rambo

Performers Daniel Lee, concertmaster David Halen, Heidi Harris and Mike Chen of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra with world-renowned pianist Misha Dichter

Hope Happens honors Dr. William H. Danforth

Washington University Chancellor Emeritus receives Christopher Hobler Spirit of Hope Award



Dr. William H. Danforth was presented with the inaugural Christopher Hobler Spirit of Hope Award at the 3rd annual Evening of Hope.

Dr. Danforth was honored for his "demonstrated passion for and commitment to the mission of Hope Happens and his support for a new model of doing research for neurodegenerative disorders at The Hope Center," said Jean Hobler who

made the presentation. Hobler is one of the founders of Hope Happens and a member of the Hope Center Steering Committee.

"Your visionary leadership and determination has built Washington University into one of the nation's finest universities and helped make this the preeminent medical center it is," said Dennis O'Brien, Executive Director of Hope Happens. "More recently, your ability to recognize the enormous potential of the Hope Center and your strong support of it are important factors in its rapid development into a center of excellence at the University."

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Philpott Family Foundation Pledges Support

The Philpott Family Foundation recently pledged \$30,000 to Hope Happens over the next three years. “We are very grateful for loyalty and generosity of the Philpott Family,” said Board President Jeff Hercules. “With this recent gift, they are playing a leadership role in the search for cures.”

“Initially, we got involved because our son, Tim, and Chris Hobler were such close friends, and we wanted to help,” said Gordon and Susie Philpott, the foundation’s grantors. “Now we see exciting things happening as a result of the collaborative research going on at the Hope Center at Washington University.” Dr. Tim Philpott serves on the Hope Happens Board of Directors.

Multiyear pledges like this are very important to Hope Happens. “Knowing that there is a committed stream of revenue each year makes it possible for us to put more energy into seeking out new sources of support,” said Executive Director Dennis O’Brien. “I hope other donors who recognize the importance of fast-tracking cures and believe in our new model of doing translational research will follow the lead of the Philpott family and make multi-year pledges.”

According to the Philpott family, making a multi-year pledge also makes sense from a donor’s point of view. “We spend a lot of time and effort evaluating each grant request, and making a three-year pledge like this is more efficient for us and effective for the recipient.”

Hope Feature on KSDK-TV

Kay Quinn, health reporter and anchor of KSDK NewsChannel 5, interviewed Hope Happens board member and 17-year-MS survivor Carole Wilson and Dr. Mark Goldberg, Director of the Hope Center. Her feature, which was broadcast on Friday, 2 March, 2007, focused on the importance of the Hope Center’s unique collaborative model for doing research and translating it into cures for devastating neurological disorders. For a link to the video, see the Hope Happens homepage (www.hopehappens.org).



Hope Center hosts Renaissance Financial meeting

Shareholders of Renaissance Financial Corporation recently held their quarterly meeting at The Hope Center. Before the meeting Dr. Mark Goldberg, Director of the Hope Center, and Dr. Anneliese Schaefer, Deputy Director, explained the new collaborative model of doing translational research the Hope Center is pioneering. Then, after a tour of the center, the shareholders enjoyed a catered meal and held their regular business meeting.

“What a great time I had last night at your facility,” said Jay Huber, Vice President of Brokerage. “I was fascinated during the entire presentation. The advances that you are making truly blow my mind. Thank you for opening your doors to our organization and allowing us to better understand your mission.”

“As dear friends of Tom Hercules (who passed from ALS three years ago), we really appreciate all of your efforts in fighting the various devastating neurological diseases. Hopefully the increased awareness of Hope Happens will lead to more advances and successes so that we can some day save the lives of other friends. Thanks for all you do,” he said.

Meeting at the Hope Center proved so meaningful that the Renaissance shareholders decided “all Renaissance shareholder meetings in the future are going to be held in conjunction with a tour that could impact and improve the way we do business or build our community involvement,” said Jeff Hercules who arranged for the shareholders to meet at the Hope Center. “The informative presentation had a great impact on many in our organization and left them feeling with a lot of hope.”

If your group would like to meet at the Hope Center, please contact Dennis O’Brien at 314.289.5660.

Join the Hope Society

Please make a multi-year pledge of \$1,000 or more. Your pledge allows us to seek new sources of support, confident that we have yours.

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Hope Center makes search for cures a collaborative effort

by Kay Quinn, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Monday, March 05, 2007



Kay Quinn with Dr. Mark Goldberg

Hope Happens honors Dr. William H. Danforth

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Jesse Vonk, a sculptor and wife of Dutch maestro Hans Vonk until his death of ALS in 2004, designed the award to resemble a neuron—a fitting symbol of hope for an effort to fast-track cures for nerve-killing disorders that affect 50 million Americans.

In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Danforth said, “I would not be here tonight if medical research had not extended my life. I believed in medical research long before its fruits affected my life directly, but now I have a personal reason to be grateful. And so do many others, probably even most of you in this room.”

Dr. Danforth then gave examples of principled but short-sighted resistance to medical research over the over the past 200 years.

“Closer to our own time we have seen strong and principled opposition to animal experimentation, blood transfusions, organ transplantation, vaccination to prevent cervical cancer, in vitro fertilization, and stem cell research,” he said. “Certainly, if the past predicts the future, good people will continue to oppose future advances. But, again if the past predicts the future, we will see the advances gradually accepted as a boon and blessing for humankind.”

Dr. Danforth also described the importance of viewing neurodegenerative diseases as “a family of diseases” that can be approached differently by scientists and physicians working together. The Hope Center is pioneering a new model of collaborative, translational research for cures of neurodegenerative disorders.

“To make the most of this opportunity Hope Happens has partnered with Washington University first to build and now to strengthen the Hope Center that will concentrate on these diseases,” Dr. Danforth said. “The Hope Center puts together the right world-leading scientists, with the right vision, and the right infrastructure to mount an attack on these crippling diseases. The challenge for us all is to join the Hope Center in the pursuit of this noble cause.”

A link to the full text of his remarks can be found on the homepage of the Hope Happens website: www.hopehappens.org.

Multiple sclerosis, stroke, Alzheimer’s and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) are vastly different illnesses and disorders. But it turns out they have much in common on a basic biological level.

With that knowledge in hand, doctors at Washington University School of Medicine are now hoping a unique collaboration of scientists will help fast-track treatments and cures for those diseases. The group of scientists works together in a cluster of labs called the Hope Center, and the project is inspiring patients with neurological disorders.

“What is being done, it overwhelmed me,” said Carole Wilson, a woman with MS who has visited the labs at the Hope Center.

Wilson, of St. Louis County, was told at 25 that she had multiple sclerosis. That was back in 1989, when she was a newlywed.

“It was shocking because I’m, like, ‘I have what?’” Wilson recalled. The diagnosis signaled the end to her active, athletic lifestyle. Now, because the disease has slowed her movement, she can’t ice skate or play basketball with her teenage son.

“I miss that,” Wilson said.

But since the founding of the Hope Center, Wilson believes that new treatments or even a cure for MS will be found in her lifetime.

“It’s about working together,” said Dr. Mark Goldberg, director of the Hope Center. “We are working together to look at diseases that affect millions of Americans, and these are common diseases.”

Along with MS, Alzheimer’s and ALS, the center is working on unlocking the secrets of cerebral palsy, Parkinson’s disease, and brain and spinal cord injuries.

“All together these diseases have common things (that) affect the brain ... and they work in the same way at the level of the cells,” said Goldberg, “and we think that by having scientists work together and interact, we will speed our search for the cures to these diseases.”

What makes the Hope Center so unique is that 300 to 400 scientists from 16 different departments at Washington University are collaborating and sharing their research results. They share not only information but equipment that might be financially out of reach to an individual lab.

The collaboration began in 2004 and grew from a partnership between Washington University School of Medicine and Hope Happens, a nonprofit organization founded to find cures for several major neurological disorders.

Wilson believes the Hope Center will lead the way in finding better treatments for MS in her lifetime. She even plans to hit the ice with her son.

“That’s my goal,” Wilson said. “I am going to get on the ice, and I’m going to skate circles around him.”

Kay Quinn is a reporter and anchorwoman for KSDK (Channel 5)

HOPE HAPPENS

for Neurological Disorders

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Restaurant patrons support Hope Happens — All September!!!

609 Restaurant, which features delicious contemporary Asian cuisine, will donate 15% of all you eat and drink during the month of September if you just mention Hope Happens or ALS.

“We are delighted to work with Hope Happens to raise money to defeat ALS and other nerve-killing diseases,” said owner Bernie Lee. “We did this in 2005, and it was a great success. All of us are touched in some way by these devastating disorders, and we want to do all we can to find cures.”

There will be a special Hope Happens Happy Hour on Wednesday, August 29th, 5-8 pm, with 15% of proceeds of all food and drinks going to Hope Happens.

For more information, or to see the menu, visit www.609u.com or call 314-721-9168. The restaurant is located at 609 Eastgate Ave. just west of Skinker in the Delmar Loop.

Take Advantage of Special Tax Benefit

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 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.

Jean Hobler honored as a Woman of Achievement

Jean Hobler, co-founder of Hope Happens and a driving force in its growth and the creation of The Hope Center for Neurological Disorders in partnership with Washington University, was honored as a Woman of Achievement on May 15, 2007, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Clayton. The award recognized volunteer service and volunteer leadership in the St. Louis Region. Hobler was recognized for her “Humanitarian Concerns” in numerous areas, including Hope Happens and the Hope Center.

“No one could be more deserving of this prestigious award than Jean,” said Hope Happens Executive Director Dennis O’Brien. “She has played a leadership role in volunteer and philanthropic activities that have benefited thousands of people in the St. Louis area for decades.”

Continue Making a Difference

Make hope happen by including Hope Happens in your estate plan. The simplest way is to just put us in your will.

Or call us at 314.289.5662. Our professional wealth advisors can help you plan your giving in a way that will benefit you, your heirs and Hope Happens.