

# Physicians in Philanthropy

SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER | MOUNT SINAI REHABILITATION HOSPITAL | JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

## Dear Colleagues,

This is our fifth edition of **Physicians in Philanthropy**, a publication established in 2016 to celebrate **National Doctors' Day**. More importantly, it is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of all of our physicians whose commitment to extraordinary patient care is unwavering. We are grateful to a medical team that tirelessly serves our patients, their families, and our community with excellence and care. Each day our physicians demonstrate a level of compassion that is truly commendable.

We also want to thank you for the vital role you play in philanthropy. Ninety percent of all gifts received are from grateful patients and their families as an expression of gratitude for exceptional care they received from you. In addition, our physicians have been incredibly generous this past year committing nearly one million dollars in gifts and pledges. These personal gifts help to advance areas of care, purchase state-of-the-art equipment or train medical teams on the latest methods of treatment. In this

edition, we would like to recognize and honor several physicians whose dedication to philanthropy will impact and inspire many colleagues as they perform lifesaving work every day.

We invite you to read the stories below about the generous commitments from retired physicians Drs. Ramanan and the partners of Radiology Associates of Hartford, PC that will transform health care and educational programs for our patients and colleagues. In addition, we want to take a moment to honor all of the physicians who have invested in our hospitals by making a gift to support our mission. Your gifts help make miracles happen.

Happy Doctors' Day —

John F. Rodis, M.D., M.B.A.  
President  
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center



Lynn B. Rossini  
Vice President and Chief Development Officer  
Saint Francis Foundation

## P H Y S I C I A N   C H A M P I O N S

### Drs. Ramanan Establish Endowed Symposium Fund for Primary Care

Doctors Chitraleka and Sundaram Ramanan have had a close relationship with Mount Sinai and Saint Francis hospitals for more than 42 years. Their journey to Hartford took them from Sri Lanka through India, to London, a few years in West Virginia and ultimately, Connecticut. They are physicians from a family of physicians — parents, siblings and their daughter.

They both felt very strongly about investing in Saint Francis and Mount Sinai before they retired. Specifically they wanted to support health care professionals. Drs. Ramanan decided to establish an endowed fund to provide quality educational symposiums now and well into the future. With the assistance of Dr. Luis Diez-Morales, Dr. Ralph Martin and Dr. Peter Eamranond, Chief Medical Officer, each year Saint Francis will host a symposium "The Art of Practicing Medicine in Primary Care." In addition to the care they have provided to the Greater Hartford community for more than 30 years, their gift will perpetuate that compassion well into the future.

Chitra Ramana has performed Classical Indian Dance throughout the world and before Queen Elizabeth II. Sundaram does not dance.



### RAH, PC Invests in Hope & Healing Campaign



Kathleen Smith; Michael Firestone, MD.; Lynn Rossini; John Rodis, MD; Michael Twohig, MD; Erik Bee, MD; James Slavin, MD and Anthony Posteraro, III, MD

Radiology Associates of Hartford, PC has been serving Saint Francis and the Greater Hartford Community since 1976. Their 22 board-certified radiologists are committed to offering exceptional care at a lower cost. They also feel strongly about philanthropy and giving back to the institution they serve. RAH has been sponsors for all of the MIRACLES and SWING events, have participated in each capital campaign since 1994, and have also supported the NICU, our GI Department and the Food Bank. They recently pledged \$150,000 to the Hope & Healing Cancer Campaign which increases their total gifts to Saint Francis to just over \$2 million. Their transformational support has meant a great deal to our colleagues, our patients, and our community.

When Fred Hollfelder established the Charlotte Johnson Hollfelder Free Mammogram Program in memory of his late wife, RAH was eager to assist. They discounted their share of the mammogram costs so more women would be able to receive the tests. In 2011, RAH partnered with Saint Francis to establish a free mammography day in October, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Since establishing that program more than 500 women have been screened for breast cancer. The team at RAH is focused on the welfare of the patients in our community and their support is sewn into the fabric of all that happens at Saint Francis.

# 30th Anniversary

1990 ★ 2019

## Celebrating 30 Years of MIRACLES

### Dr. Chawla and Dr. Jeresaty to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

We are also very excited to announce that on September 14, 2019, we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of MIRACLES. The beneficiary of this year's gala is Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, and our Honorary Chairs are Dr. and Mrs. Bechara Barrak who will be representing Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation.

Miracles XXX Beneficiary 2019  
Hoffman Heart and Vascular  
Institute of Connecticut

One of the highlights of the evening will be the presentation of two LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS to honor and celebrate the careers of two Saint Francis legends, **Dr. Surendra Chawla** and **Dr. Robert Jeresaty**.



Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees Dr. Surendra Chawla and Dr. Robert Jeresaty.

### Dr. Robert M. Jeresaty

In 1958, Robert Jeresaty, MD arrived at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center for a one-year medical residency and found his forever home. He graduated Valedictorian from Saint Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon and became board certified in internal medicine and cardiology. Dr. Jeresaty served as the first Cardiology Chief and maintained that distinction for 35 years. He was also the first medical director of Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut at Saint Francis. In 1965, he established a cardiology symposium, and in 1995 it was named in his honor. Today it is the longest running symposium in the United States; going on its 55th year. He held many appointments, was a member of several professional societies, wrote more than 60



articles and won numerous awards including the Saint Francis Spirit Award and Distinguished Physician Award.

In addition, Dr. Jeresaty and his late wife Cathie were generous with their time and their support of philanthropy efforts and volunteer opportunities at Saint Francis. They have invested in the future of Saint Francis by joining the Valencia Society. And they also found time to travel, raise five children and enjoy priceless moments with their eight grandchildren.

Congratulations Dr. Jeresaty.

Bechara Barrak, MD and Hoffman Foundation board members – Marion Barrak; Robert Jeresaty, MD and Joseph Chaho



1981 press conference with Governor William O'Neill following his successful heart surgery with Dr. Jeresaty and Dr. Chawla to his right.

### Dr. Surendra Chawla

Dr. Surendra Chawla arrived at Saint Francis two decades after Dr. Jeresaty in 1976. In his 42 years he performed more than 9,000 cardiac surgeries. This represents more than 200 a year. In 1999 he was named surgical co-director of Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut and helped create the busiest cardiac surgery program in New England. His best surgical memories include performing successful open heart surgery on the secretary of the President of India and Connecticut Governor William O'Neill. He retired from active clinical practice in January 2018 but has continued with his passion for research in the Pathology department at Saint Francis.

He and his wife, Ranjana, have always believed in philanthropy and volunteering at the work place. Ranjana is a member of the Saint Francis Auxiliary; they have both served on hospital boards and their support has created the Chawla Auditorium, Vidya Seth Lifelong Learning Center, Chawla Cardiac Surgery Center and this year, a conference room in the CICU dedicated to the nurses and physician assistants working on that floor.

Congratulations Dr. Chawla.