

Physicians in Philanthropy

SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER & MOUNT SINAI REHABILITATION HOSPITAL | SPRING 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Did you know that the first Doctors' Day observance was March 30, 1933, in Winder, Georgia? Eudora Brown Almond, wife of Dr. Charles B. Almond, decided to set aside a day to honor physicians. The first observance included mailing greeting cards and placing flowers on graves of deceased doctors. The red carnation is commonly used as the symbolic flower for National Doctors' Day.

While we commemorate National Doctors' Day on March 30, we want you to know how deeply grateful we are on a daily basis for your extraordinary commitment to our patients, families, and communities. As physicians you share more than your God-given talent, you also support major initiatives and priorities that have a profound effect on the care we provide.

Most recently, more than \$1 million was invested by our physicians in our Hope & Healing Campaign which will have a transformational impact on cancer care in our region. In addition, there are numerous gifts made by physicians annually that benefit many hospital priorities. We want to thank you and recognize your enormous generosity of time, talent and resources.

In 2017, we plan to create a recognition plaque in the physicians' lounge. The plaque will commemorate gifts made to the hospital to honor the extraordinary care you provide to your patients.

This issue of *Physicians in Philanthropy* honors YOU and shares just a few stories of your generosity — of which there are many. Thank you again for being a vital part of our family and our extraordinary history.



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

Anita McIlveen Kelsey, M.D.

Dr. Kelsey is one of our most beloved physicians and has been a member of the Saint Francis family since 2003. She was born at Saint Francis and at age six she knew she wanted to be a doctor, unlike the many engineers in her family. Engineering is part of the McIlveen DNA and as Dr. Kelsey sees it, cardiology encompasses many facets of engineering. At Duke University, she majored in biomedical engineering and then graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Kelsey served as Chief Resident at UCONN and is currently an associate professor.

Dr. Kelsey said she always felt very comfortable at Saint Francis — a second family so to speak. She also knew this would be the place where she could fulfill her dream of creating a women's heart program that would assist high risk, under-served and under-insured women in reducing their risk of dying from heart disease. The Women's Heart Program at Saint Francis opened in 2006 through a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and, to date, Dr. Kelsey and her team have impacted the lives of more than 10,000 women.

Fellow colleague, Bernie Clark, M.D., stated, "Anita's advocacy for women's heart health is unmatched. There is really no one else like her." Her dedication and commitment is unwavering and so is her support of Saint Francis. Her current gift of \$15,000 supports the Women's Heart Program. She is grateful the hospital has continued to sustain the program beyond the initial grant support. This is another example of the enormous respect she feels Saint Francis has for everyone — patients and staff alike.

Dr. Kelsey is deeply passionate about Saint Francis and the Women's Heart Program, but there is someone that is also very important to her, and that is her daughter, Dr. Michelle Kelsey. They have a

wonderful mother/daughter bond that goes beyond family....Michelle has followed the same collegiate path as her mom and is working as a Medical Resident in Boston. They recently returned from a fantastic vacation in San Francisco and Hawaii.

We are proud of the leadership and work of Dr. Kelsey, as well as her deep compassion for her patients and family. It is an honor to call her a member of our philanthropic family, and we are grateful for her continued support.



Thank you to our physicians for their generous support.

The following individuals contributed an annual gift of \$250 or greater since January 1, 2016.

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DOMINICK N. PASQUALE, M.D. A Legacy of Expert and Compassionate Care



In 1981, Dr. Pasquale joined Saint Francis to lead the newly merged hematology & oncology department at Saint Francis. Dr. Pasquale's ultimate goal was to establish a comprehensive cancer treatment center that would consolidate research, prevention, detection, evaluation, treatment, rehabilitation, dietary consultation, social services and teaching under one roof. "Integrating these services in one location would help patients heal and return to normal and productive lives," stated Dr. Pasquale. His dream became a reality in 1993 when the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center merged.

Prior to his retirement, Dr. Pasquale dedicated 24 years of his life to cancer patients at Saint Francis. He was known for his unique clinical and

teaching skills which transformed cancer care at Saint Francis. Dr. Pasquale's vision of combining the most advanced technology with compassionate care is still the norm today. He and his infectious smile were beloved by his patients, awed by his students and respected by his colleagues. One patient described Dr. Pasquale and his team as "a special breed of people" who taught her that having cancer doesn't mean your life stops.

In honor of Dr. Pasquale, a team of physicians are coming together to create a special tribute by making a gift to the Hope & Healing Campaign. A plaque will display donor names in the newly renovated cancer center in Dr. Pasquale's honor. If you are interested in learning about how you can become a member of the Dr. Pasquale Giving Circle, please contact the Foundation at (860) 714-4900.

Thomas J. Godar, M.D. and Mary Kay Godar hold a special place in our hearts

The Godars hold a very special place in our hearts and have been special friends to Saint Francis for decades. Dr. Godar began his career at Saint Francis in 1960 and in 1964 established the pulmonary physiology laboratory, co-directed the first respiratory care unit in the state of Connecticut in 1971, and served as the chief of the section of pulmonary medicine during his 35 years of dedicated service. Dr. Godar and his wife, Mary Kay, are both lifetime Auxiliary members and have consistently supported our capital campaigns, special events and annual appeals.

Dr. Godar recently participated in our cancer survivor parade at our Hope & Healing Campaign Kick-Off event. As a cancer survivor himself, Dr. Godar is well aware of the vital importance of this campaign. When asked

to support the tribute in honor of Dr. Pasquale, the Godars made a gift of \$10,000. "Dom Pasquale's vision and commitment resonates throughout cancer care at Saint Francis, and we felt he should be honored for his dedication. Dr. Pasquale held us all to a higher standard by staying current on the latest advances in treating cancer and providing care in the most compassionate way. His mission became the hospital's Mission," stated Dr. Godar. We are deeply grateful to the Godars for their continued leadership at Saint Francis and for their steadfast support of the hospital throughout the years.



ANGELO S. CARRABBA, M.D. Three Generations

Did you know that Dr. Carrabba, along with his five siblings, his five children, and his 10 grandchildren were all born at Saint Francis? Dr. Carrabba began his affiliation with Saint Francis as a volunteer at the age of 13 making addressograph plates for the admitting department. After medical school, he followed in his father's footsteps and joined the OB/GYN staff in 1982. He estimates that since that time he has delivered nearly 4,000 babies.

In addition to attending to his very vibrant practice, he served as president of the medical staff from 2004 to 2006, as did his father, Salvatore R. Carrabba, M.D. from 1982 to 1984. In this position, Dr. Carrabba worked closely with Christopher M. Dadlez, then president and chief executive officer of Saint Francis, to create a closer relationship between administration and the medical staff. Dr. Carrabba also co-chaired the "Building Today for the Miracles of Tomorrow Campaign" with Dr. Robert J. Gfeller, served on both the hospital and the foundation boards, participated on several MIRACLES committees, and is a Saint Francis Corporator.

When approached to participate in the Hope & Healing Campaign, Dr. Carrabba did not waver in saying "yes" to support the effort. He feels that giving back to Saint Francis is just the natural thing to do. His gift of \$25,000 also honors Dr. Pasquale's legacy. They were both professional and personal friends. When cancer struck Dr. Carrabba's family, it was Dr. Pasquale whose guidance and



sensitivity he trusted most. Dr. Carrabba stated, "The vision and compassion of Dr. Pasquale still permeates the halls of Saint Francis, and I want to honor both his commitment to the hospital and his love of medicine." We are so touched by the Carrabba family legacy at Saint Francis and are deeply moved by Dr. Carrabba's continued support of the priorities of the hospital.