

Summer 2017

Gratitude

Giving Thanks to the Friends of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital

BURKE
Rehabilitation Hospital
A member of the Montefiore Health System, Inc.



2017 Burke Award Honorees

Steven Kessler
Barbara Kessler
Michael Reding, MD



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our second edition of *Gratitude*, a quarterly newsletter dedicated to our loyal donors and community members.

As many of you know, I became President & CEO of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in April of this year. While it has officially only been a few months into my tenure here, I have come to know Burke quite well. I have been involved with Burke's Board of Trustees and Senior Management for over 3 years through the due diligence process that brought Burke on as a strategic partner into the Montefiore Health System.

I am committed to continuing Burke's strong tradition of providing the highest quality in both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation care, to ensure that all of our patients, whether they've had a stroke, a spinal cord injury, a traumatic brain injury or other neurological or muscular skeletal condition, achieve their fullest possible recovery.

The vision for Burke is to become the centerpiece for post-acute rehabilitative care within the Montefiore Health System and all the communities we serve.

Our patients at Burke and their family of support caregivers face unique challenges for recovery during their time at Burke as inpatients, and in many cases even greater challenges as they move to outpatient and beyond. Realizing these complexities, I am very proud to announce that through the generosity of one of Burke's grateful patients, Bryan Marsal and his wife Kathleen, Burke will develop a unique on-campus Caregiver Center. The Center will offer our patients and their caregivers a soothing private environment to conduct family meetings and discuss care plans with our physicians, therapists, case managers and social workers. We will continue to keep you informed as plans for this Center grow.

I would like to personally thank you for your support of Burke in the past and in the future. Burke is a treasured health care provider, not only for the beauty of our campus, but the reputation of excellence Burke has enjoyed for 102 years in the Westchester community and now as the centerpiece for post-acute rehabilitation care in the Montefiore Health System.

I hope you have a safe and healthy summer.


Jeffrey Menkes
President & CEO, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital



2017 Burke Award

JUNE 8, 2017



The 2017 Burke Award dinner—Burke's largest fundraiser of the year—was held on June 8 at the Brae Burn Country Club. This year's dinner was Burke's most successful year yet, with over 300 people in attendance, and money raised going towards Burke's stroke program as well as its general purpose fund. Honorees this year were Barbara and Steven Kessler and Dr. Michael Reding. For photos and videos from the night, visit www.burke.org/burkeaward.



Since 1979, Burke's Memory Evaluation and Treatment Service (METS) has offered patients and their caregivers a comprehensive program of care—from diagnosis through support services.



A Caregiver's Experience with Burke's Memory Evaluation & Treatment Services Program

When Anita's mother was about 84 years old, Anita began to wonder if the symptoms her mom had been experiencing for a few years—agitation, confusion and forgetfulness—were a sign of something more than simply old age. Thinking that it could be dementia, Anita brought her mother to the METS program at Burke. "The diagnosis was mixed Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia, still in a mild stage. It was extremely upsetting to get this diagnosis, yet very necessary," Anita says. Her mother has continued in the METS program for the past two and a half years. Here, Anita talks a bit about her experience:

What made you choose the METS program?

It was one of several programs recommended by the Hudson Valley Alzheimer's Association. METS seemed to have the most expertise.

What has the experience been like?

The testing was very rigorous, which made us certain we had the correct diagnosis. Dr. Pasquale Fonzetti [the director of the program] was very empathetic. The support staff was responsive and professional.

How do you feel your needs as a caregiver were addressed in the METS program?

It's very important to know that we are doing whatever we can to help Mom. Sadly, there is not much that can help dementia, but it is comforting to know that we have consulted with the best experts. As the caregiver, I am always able to reach someone to have prescriptions renewed promptly, or to answer questions regarding medications.

Would you recommend the program to others?

Yes, I would absolutely recommend it to others. We are very grateful and admiring of the mixture of clinical expertise and compassion at Burke.

To support the METS program, contact the development office at (914) 597-2847.



Three Dementia Trials Currently Recruiting Participants

Burke is at the forefront of rehabilitation research and conducts clinical trials in a number of areas, including dementia and Alzheimer's disease research. These clinical trials can hopefully slow cognitive decline and/or treat associated symptoms. Burke actively seeks volunteers to take part in clinical trials, with eligibility based on pre-determined criteria.

Currently, Burke has three trials seeking participants:

- ▶ **Benfotiamine trial** for individuals with mild cognitive impairment or mild Alzheimer's disease dementia
- ▶ **TRIAD research study** for individuals with mild to severe agitation due to Alzheimer's disease
- ▶ **Cognite Trial** for individuals with early signs of memory loss or mild Alzheimer's disease

To find out if you or a loved one qualifies for one of these trials, visit burke.org/research or contact Rosanna Cirio at (914) 597-2476 or rcirio@burke.org.



"Benfotiamine, a derivative of Vitamin B1-Thiamine, targets the reduction of glucose metabolism. This is one of the earliest brain abnormalities seen in Alzheimer's disease. We are studying the potential benefits of the drug Benfotiamine in patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment or with mild dementia Alzheimer's."

—Dr. Pasquale Fonzetti, one of the study investigators on the benfotiamine trial, along with Burke's Dr. Gary Gibson and Dr. Barry Jordan.



Upcoming Events

BURKE AUXILIARY FALL BRUNCH, SEPTEMBER 17

Burke's Auxiliary is a group of women and men who volunteer at Burke and work to raise money for the hospital. They hold a number of events throughout the year, including a fall brunch at Burke. This year, the brunch will be held on September 17 at 1 p.m. in the Patient Dining Room at Burke. For more, contact Loretta Nelson at (914) 381-0968.

WHEELCHAIR GAMES, SEPTEMBER 23



Join us to cheer on the athletes at the 38th annual Wheelchair Games, a day-long track and field event for wheelchair athletes held on Burke's campus. The event also includes table tennis, wheelchair basketball and a slalom course—as well as a silent auction, carnival games and entertainment. Games begin at 9 a.m. For more, visit www.burke.org.

BURKE AUXILIARY COLUMBUS DAY ITALIAN FEAST, OCTOBER 23

The Burke Auxiliary will be celebrating Columbus Day with a lunch at Sir John's Restaurant in North White Plains. Meet old and new friends and learn a bit more about the Auxiliary. For more, email Lucy Tocci at FYK1@verizon.net.

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital
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2017 W.M. Burke Cabinet

(As of June 30, 2017)

Chairman's Cabinet (\$10,000+)

Adler Aphasia Center	Leona Kern
Auxiliary of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital	Barbara & Steven Kessler
The Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation	Bryan & Kathleen Marsal
The Endeavor Foundation	Faith & David Pedowitz
Donald Foley & Barbara Long	James Rowen
	Will Rogers Institute
	George Yancopoulos, MD, PhD

Executive Cabinet (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Christopher Allen	The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Altman Foundation	Nita & Stephen Lowey
Anonymous	The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
Anna & Dean Backer	Alex C. Solowey, MD
Veronica & James Baker	

Leadership Cabinet (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Richard Celiberti	Jeffrey Menkes
Michael Daly	Amy Paulin
Samuel Fredman	Karen Pechman, MD
John McCarthy	Bridget Price
James McGroddy	Michael Reding, MD

Cornerstone Cabinet (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Anonymous	Gregg Lerner
Robert Baldoni	Ethel Lipsitz
Joel Beckman	Bonnie Litt
John Berman	Lyudmyla Matyushko
Marc Berman	JoAnn & Joseph Murphy
David Blumenthal, MD	Newman-Tanner Foundation
H. Perry Boyle, Jr.	Christopher Panczner
Margaret Cataldo	The Rosalie Katz Family Foundation
Peter De Luca	John Ryan
The Feuerring Foundation	Ivan Seidenberg
Wilfred Finnegan	Esta Steecher
Paul Fitzgerald	Jean Lawson Stone
Ilene Fox	Lynn Straus
Sheila Friedland	Thomas Tucker
Edward Friedman	Mary Beth Walsh, MD
Charles Glennon	Frank Webers
Dolores Haffner	Ellen Weintraub
Bernadette Kingham-Bez	Ann Welles
Walter Korntheuer	

Did you know...

Thanks to the generosity of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, Burke has developed a Caregiver Support video.

Go to www.burke.org/therapygroups to view this wonderful new tool for caregivers.