Gratitude
Giving Thanks to the Friends of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital

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
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
- **Cognitive 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.
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.

2017 W.M. Burke Cabinet
(As of June 30, 2017)

Chairman’s Cabinet ($10,000+)
Adler Aphasia Center
Auxiliary of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital
The Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation
The Endeavor Foundation
Donald Foley & Barbara Long
Leona Kern
Barbara & Steven Kessler
Bryan & Kathleen Marsal
Faith & David Pedowitz
James Rowen
Will Rogers Institute
George Yancopoulos, MD, PhD

Executive Cabinet ($5,000-$9,999)
Christopher Allen
Altman Foundation
Anonymous
Anna & Dean Backer
Veronica & James Baker
The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Nita & Stephen Lowey
The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
Alex C. Solowey, MD

Leadership Cabinet ($2,500-$4,999)
Richard Celiberti
Michael Daly
Samuel Fredman
John McCarthy
James McGroddy
Jeffrey Menkes
Amy Paulin
Karen Pechman, MD
Bridget Price
Michael Reding, MD

Cornerstone Cabinet ($1,000-$2,499)
Anonymous
Robert Baldoni
Joel Beckman
John Berman
Marc Berman
David Blumenthal, MD
H. Perry Boyle, Jr.
Margaret Cataldo
Peter De Luca
The Feuerring Foundation
Wilfred Finnegan
Paul Fitzgerald
Ilene Fox
Sheila Friedland
Edward Friedman
Charles Glennon
Dolores Haffner
Bernadette Kingham-Bez
Walter Korntheuer
Gregg Lerner
Ethel Lipsitz
Bonnie Litt
Lyudmyla Matyushko
JoAnn & Joseph Murphy
Newman-Tanner Foundation
Christopher Panczner
The Rosalie Katz Family Foundation
John Ryan
Ivan Seidenberg
Esta Steecher
Jean Lawson Stone
Lynn Straus
Thomas Tucker
Mary Beth Walsh, MD
Frank Webers
Ellen Weintraub
Ann Welles

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.