Save the Date! 2009 Events Benefiting the Steele Center

April 25, 2009
PANDA (People Acting Now Discover Answers)
10th Annual “Children Helping Children” Fashion Show
“Black and White at Twilight”
Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa (Phoenix)
www.azpanda.org

May 8, 2009
Father’s Day Council Tucson
Father’s of the Year Golf Tournament
Loews Ventana Canyon
www.fdctucson.org

June 13, 2009
Father’s Day Council Tucson
Father’s of the Year Awards Gala
Loews Ventana Canyon
www.fdctucson.org

July 18, 2009
Women’s Active 20-30 Club
Cocktailing for a Cause
Doubletree Hotel
www.2030women.com

August 28, 2009
Tee Up for Tots
Golf Tournament
Hilton El Conquistador
www.teeupfortots.org

October 9-10, 2009
Raise a Racquet for Kids
Tennis Tournament
Tucson Racquet and Fitness Club
www.teeupfortots.org

Sign Up for Steele Center E-Updates!

We have begun an “E-Update” to keep our friends and supporters informed about what’s going on with the Steele Center. About every month or so, you’ll receive the latest news about our research, patients, upcoming events and more.

You can sign up on our website:

www.steelecenter.arizona.edu
Dear Friends,

As you know, The University of Arizona, the state and our nation were confronted with serious economic challenges in 2008. We are using this economic pressure as an opportunity to work even more efficiently and wisely. Be assured, difficult financial times never will thwart our commitment to helping children. So, as I reflect on our accomplishments of 2008, I am filled with immense gratitude.

I am grateful to our volunteer groups: the Women’s Active 20-30 Club, the Arizona Elks Major Projects, Father’s Day Council Tucson, PANDA (People Acting Now Discover Answers), Raise a Racquet for Kids and Tee Up For Tots. The wonderful individuals working in these groups devote countless hours to create meaningful and fun events that raise money to support the life-changing research and programs at the Steele Center.

I am grateful to our faculty and staff. The Department of Pediatrics was recognized by the medical students as the best clinical department for teaching in 2008. What a great testimony to our faculty’s commitment to excellence in teaching.

I am grateful to our doctors and medical staff who provide the best care possible to thousands of children throughout Arizona each year. I am grateful for our researchers who advance science through ground-breaking discoveries.

I am grateful that construction of Diamond Children’s Medical Center is progressing on schedule. How inspiring it is to see Diamond Children’s becoming a reality! As it grows, so does our need for new faculty and programs. Thus, we have begun to actively recruit additional pediatric sub-specialists in the areas of pediatric urology, neurosurgery, anesthesiology, radiology and pathology.

Finally, I am grateful to you. Your support plays a vital role in making the world a healthier place for children struggling with illness. Their pain breaks our hearts, but emboldens us in our quest to eradicate pediatric disease through research and discovery. Thank you for being our partner in this worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,

Fayez K. Ghishan, MD
Horace W. Steele Endowed Chair in Pediatric Research
Director, Steele Children’s Research Center
Professor and Head, UA Department of Pediatrics

Dr. Ghishan with patient,
Camryn Payne, age 9.
Hope on the Horizon:
Steele Center Cancer Vaccine Advances toward Clinical Trials

A new cancer vaccine developed at the Steele Center is nearing clinical trials.

For more than 10 years, Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, Louise Thomas Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer Research, and his research team have been developing a cancer vaccine called CRCL (Chaperone Rich Cell Lysate). Now, it is moving out of the lab and heading toward its first clinical trial.

“We’re excited to see our research progress,” says Dr. Katsanis. “We have used an innovative process to create the CRCL vaccine and have demonstrated its potential in preclinical studies.”

The CRCL vaccine is called AlloVax™, which is designed to treat patients with newly diagnosed blood cancers like leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma. When a patient is diagnosed with cancer, AlloVax™ is designed to “train” the patient’s immune system to identify and eliminate the cancer cells in the patient’s blood, keeping the patient in remission without the need for additional treatment. Before an individual is diagnosed with a blood cancer, a sample of the cancer is removed from his or her body. While receiving chemotherapy, the cancer sample is processed in the lab to extract the chaperone proteins.

“AlloVax is truly a personalized and novel vaccine designed to train the immune system to destroy cancer cells,” says Dr. Katsanis. “It is designed to keep you in remission after you have been treated with chemotherapy or radiation.”

AlloVax™ is designed to design a vaccine that is safe and effective for the patient. The vaccine is designed to “train” the cancer patient’s immune system to destroy cancer cells, the cancer frequently returns. The returning cancers are deadly because they have developed a resistance to chemotherapy.

Research is the reason pediatric cancer survival rates went from dismal 10 percent survival rates in the 1960s to approximately 80 percent survival rates today. Medical research is the reason pediatric cancer survival rates went from dismal 10 percent survival rates in the 1960s to approximately 80 percent survival rates today. But successful research requires time, talent and money. On average, it takes 10 years for a discovery in the lab to become a treatment that is safe and effective for the patient.

One of the most enduring ways to invest in research is to contribute to an endowed chair, an effective way to provide permanent funding for research. The amount needed to create a medical endowed chair is typically $2 million. The principal is held in perpetuity and a portion of the interest generated annually is used for research. At current rates, approximately $80,000 a year can be generated from a completed chair. These funds go directly to research.

In 2002, the Steele Center established the Louise Thomas Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer Research, in honor of Louise Thomas, a passionate advocate of children’s health and a driving force behind the Steele Center since its inception. After the Steele Center completed a national search, Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, was named the endowed chair in 2005.

“Being named the Louise Thomas Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer Research is a tremendous honor,” says Dr. Katsanis. “Completing the endowed chair will enable our research team to continue making discoveries and developing new treatments in our never-ending quest to cure pediatric cancer.”

You Can Make a Difference
You can help children struggling with cancer by supporting the Louise Thomas Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer Research. Please consider making a gift to the Louise Thomas Endowed Chair. You can donate online at www.steelecenter.arizona.edu or with the enclosed envelope. For more information, please contact Lori Stratton at (520) 626-7799 or stratton@peds.arizona.edu.
Meet Alex's Doctor: Kartik Krishnan, MD, PhD
This Steele Center physician-scientist is exploring a most perplexing question: What causes cancer?

Kartik Krishnan, MD, PhD, assistant professor, embodies what it means to be a Steele Center physician-scientist. As a pediatric oncologist, he cares for children with cancer, like Alex Ellsworth at UMC. As a Steele Center researcher, he explores the origins of cancer and works to develop better treatments. Currently, Dr. Krishnan is focused on finding what causes brain tumors.

While the cure rate for most cancers has improved over the past 30 years, brain tumors remain difficult to treat. With some types of brain tumors, the statistics are grim: children usually die within two years," he says.

"Unlike many types of cancers that can be linked to environmental, behavioral or genetic reasons, the exact causes of brain tumors are still unknown," he says. "In order for us to create new and more effective treatments, we need to discover what causes these deadly tumors."

Previously, Dr. Krishnan worked at the NIH (National Institutes of Health) exploring the beginning steps in cancer growth. There, he identified a particular protein—CCN3—that, when expressed or "turned on," suppressed the growth of brain tumor cells. Alternatively, when CCN3 production was down-regulated, or "turned off," brain tumor cells proliferated.

Now, Dr. Krishnan is advancing his research. "At the Steele Center, I'm working on characterizing the effect of CCN3 on brain tumor cell growth and establishing its mechanism of action," he says. "Understanding this will tell us how CCN3 limits tumor growth, which is crucial in discovering prevention strategies or developing new therapies."

In 2006, my 4-year-old son, Alex, went from a perfectly healthy and energetic little boy to one that was dying before our eyes. Within two days, he became temporarily paralyzed, couldn't eat or drink and moaned in agony. We rushed him to our pediatrician and within 24 hours his blood tests came back. He had leukemia. The news devastated us.

To make matters worse, there wasn't a hospital in Show Low or Northern Arizona that could help children with leukemia. The closest one was in Phoenix. Alex cried hysterically from severe pain during the drive to the hospital. It was the longest four hours of our lives.

At the hospital, we met the doctors and they determined that the type of leukemia Alex had was ALL (Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia). For the next year and a half, Alex received chemotherapy treatments. But in June 2007, Alex relapsed. On that day, we had taken Alex to the hospital for a test. While waiting for the results, his doctor came into the waiting area and escorted us to a private room. Without any warning, she told us that Alex had relapsed in the latest place possible.

She explained that, even though Alex was still receiving chemotherapy to battle leukemia, the cancer had spread to his brain and spinal fluid. She also suspected it may have returned to his bone marrow. She said Alex would probably die, but that a bone marrow transplant may save him. She was very matter-of-fact about the severity of his condition.

"I called Dr. Edith Bailey, Alex's pediatrician from Show Low. She suggested we take Alex to University Medical Center in Tucson. She arranged for us to meet Steele Center pediatric oncologist Dr. Brenda Wittman.

At UMC, we met Dr. Wittman. After reviewing Alex's records, she recommended him to be admitted to UMC. The doctors, nurses and staff were genuinely caring and compassionate. I practically fell over when one of our nurses, Gina Mack, told me she needed to get to know the whole family as well as Alex so that everyone could have a good experience!

When Steele Center pediatric oncologist Dr. Kartik Krishnan and other specialists reviewed the test results from the other hospital, they felt that, although the cells in Alex's bone marrow didn't look normal (a condition called "myelodysplasia"), Alex didn't require a bone marrow transplant. Instead, they recommended that radiation treatments be added to his chemotherapy.

We continue to meet many caring nurses, attentive technicians, helpful staff and wonderful doctors at UMC. The staff listens to our concerns and answers our questions. Dr. Krishnan genuinely cares for our son. Thanks to the great care Alex has received, he has been in remission for a year. Alex has been given a new lease on life and we feel hopeful that he will remain healthy.

It is so great to see Alex full of energy again and enjoying life as a child. This experience has been one of the most difficult journeys our family has gone through. We are comforted to know that our son's health is improving and are grateful for the compassionate care we continue to receive from the Steele Center doctors and UMC nurses and staff. Thank you!
Ways You Can Help

We can’t do it without your support!

While UMC is responsible for raising money to build the physical structure of Diamond Children’s, the Steele Center is responsible for staffing Diamond Children’s and hiring additional pediatric doctors and specialists to expand existing clinical and specialty programs.

If you are interested in supporting Diamond Children’s “people and programs” or pediatric medical research, your donation is administered through the Steele Center.

You may donate online at www.steelecenter.arizona.edu or use the envelope enclosed with this review. For more information, please contact Lori Stratton, Associate Director of Development, Steele Children’s Research Center at (520) 626-7799 or stratton@peds.arizona.edu.

If you are interested in supporting Diamond Children’s, “bricks and mortar,” your donation is administered through UMC.

A menu of naming opportunities are available. Please visit www.diamondchildrens.org to donate. For more information, please contact Kent Rollins, President, UMC Foundation, (520) 694-7770 or krollins@umcaz.edu; or Tom Sanders, Senior Development Officer, UMC Foundation, (520) 694-6599 or tsanders@umcaz.org; or Richelle Litteer, Major Gifts Officer, UMC Foundation, (520) 694-1324 or rltteer@umcaz.edu.

“Mighty things from small beginnings grow.”
— John Dryden, 17th century English poet

Making Dreams Fly: Diamond Children’s Update

Connected to the north end of University Medical Center, Diamond Children’s exterior structure is nearing completion. The new building is now clearly visible from Campbell and Grant.

Patients will have extraordinary views of Tucson’s majestic mountains. On a clear day, one can see both Picacho Peak and the Rincon Mountains.

Diamond Children’s will be the only children’s medical facility in Arizona connected to a university research center.

“It’s exciting to see the building grow,” says Dr. Ghishan. “Our faculty can’t wait to begin treating children in the new, family-centered facility. And, I’ve received calls from pediatric specialists from all over the nation, expressing interest in Diamond Children’s. That’s the magic of a children’s hospital. It’s like a magnet. Pediatric physicians prefer to work in a children’s hospital.”

On schedule to open in the summer of 2010, Diamond Children’s will be the only children’s medical facility in Arizona connected to a university research center. “All prestigious children’s hospitals in the country are connected to universities,” says Dr. Ghishan. “It means we’re on the cutting edge of research and treatments, providing the very best care available to our patients. The Steele Center is thrilled to partner with UMC to make Diamond Children’s a reality.”

To see photos of current construction updates, visit www.diamondchildrens.org.
Donor Profile: Jacquie Dorrance and Ashley Baiker
A gift of gratitude establishes a legacy of discovery.

There are many reasons why people give. “For me, giving is personal,” says Jacquie Dorrance, one of the founding members of the Dorrance Family Foundation in Phoenix.

“When considering which projects to support, we choose causes we feel personally involved in. We established the ‘Dorrance Endowed Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition’ out of personal gratitude,” says Dorrance. “Gratitude for Dr. Ghishan and the excellent care he and his team provided for our grandson, Anton,” she said.

“When considering which projects to support, we choose causes we feel personally involved in.”

When Anton was just 3 weeks old, he began to struggle with digestive and nutritional issues,” says Dorrance.

As a parent,” says Baiker, “Dr. Ghishan was sympathetic to what we were going through. He is a very compassionate person.”

Anton is now a thriving 2-year-old toddler: “He loves black beans and guacamole. It’s wonderful to see him eat,” says Dorrance.

“We know the endowed fellowship we established will help improve children’s health in the future,” says Dorrance. The Dorrance gift of gratitude will create a lasting legacy through the medical advances made through research.

Gift Creates Endowed Excellence for Research

Dorrance Family Foundation establishes endowed fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition.

The Steele Center has received a very generous gift. In July, the Dorrance Family Foundation in Phoenix donated $1 million to establish the “Dorrance Endowed Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition” at the Steele Center.

“This endowed fellowship will provide ongoing funding for talented young investigators researching gastroenterology and nutrition,” says Dr. Ghishan. “We are so thankful to the Dorrance Family Foundation.”

Rajalakshmy Ramalingam (“Raji”) is the first Dorrance Fellow. Ramalingam is working on a PhD in immunobiology. Her research focuses on understanding what causes Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

“Dorrance Fellow Rajalakshmy Ramalingam (‘Raji’) is working on a PhD in immunobiology. Her research focuses on understanding what causes Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).”

PANDAs Create ‘Women in Science’ Fund

New fund supports female physician-scientists.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the PANDs (People Acting Now Discover Answers), a new fund to support women in science has been established at the Steele Center.

The group’s ninth annual “Children Helping Children” Fashion Show raised more than $400,000 to provide “seed money to enable talented female physicians to start their research.

New research grant awards—like those from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—are increasingly difficult to obtain, particularly by new researchers.

“By supporting promising physician-scientists with seed money, we are investing in their future discoveries that will yield published results,” says Dr. Ghishan. “Published findings are the foundation for securing long-term grant funding. It’s what fuels the years of research required to make the scientific breakthroughs that will improve children’s health.”

Three outstanding female physician-scientists were chosen to receive the “Women in Science” funding.

Hillarry Franke, MD, a pediatric intensivist whose research focuses on quality of patient care, with emphasis on the reduction of medication errors in pediatric critical care.

Sydney Rice, MD, MPH, a leading developmental and behavioral pediatrician whose research is focused on traumatic brain injury and autism.

Mona Zawaideh, MD, the nation’s only pediatric endocrinologist/nephrologist. Her research is dedicated to helping children with endocrine and kidney disorders.
A family’s firsthand experience with Steele Center doctors and programs supported by the Arizona Elks Major Projects.

For more than 15 years, the Arizona Elks Major Projects have supported the Steele Center. From weaving blankets, beanies and booties for the premature babies at UMC, to establishing the Arizona Elks Endowed Chair in Neonatology Research, one thing is clear: the Elks are committed to helping children. Their efforts have raised more than $4 million for neonatology care and research at the Steele Center. We are grateful for their support!

This story is about Robert Miller, member of San Manuel Elks Lodge No. 2007, his wife, Jenifer, and the medical emergency that gave them firsthand experience with Steele Center doctors and programs supported by the Arizona Elks.

On March 16, 2008, Jenifer Miller collapsed from a seizure caused by eclampsia, a life-threatening complication of pregnancy. Rushed to a hospital near their home, Jenifer’s condition was determined to be extremely serious. She was flown by helicopter to University Medical Center (UMC).

At UMC, Jenifer underwent an emergency C-section, giving birth to Emma Nicole. Born 12 weeks prematurely and weighing only 2 pounds, 5 ounces, Emma was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). “She was just tiny,” says Jenifer.

Robert adds, “Everyone at UMC was exceptional, including the nurses, respiratory therapists, lactation specialists, staff, administrators and janitors!”

Emma spent nearly 12 weeks in the NICU. “During that time, we feared Emma might have NEC (Necrotizing Enterocolitis—a serious gastrointestinal disease), but thankfully she was O.K.,” says Jenifer. “Two weeks later, though, doctors discovered Emma’s adrenal glands weren’t producing cortisol, so her blood sugar was dangerously low.”

Once Emma’s condition was stabilized, she began treatment for her adrenal insufficiency by Chetan Patel, MD, at the Steele Center’s Angel Wing for Children with Diabetes. On June 6, Emma finally was released from the NICU. “It felt so great to bring Emma home,” says Jenifer.

Emma’s story didn’t end once she was released from the NICU, however. In August, ophthalmologist Joseph Miller, MD, diagnosed Emma with retinoblastoma—cancer of the retina. Dr. Miller had been monitoring Emma while she was in the NICU, because Jenifer had been treated for retinoblastoma as an infant. Dr. Miller found a small tumor in Emma’s left eye and another tumor in her right eye, soon after the original diagnosis was made.

“All in the Elks Family: Robert, Jenifer and Emma Nichole Miller

Robert watches Emma while she receives her third round of chemotherapy at the Arizona Elks Clinic for Children and Young Adults.

The doctors were great at keeping us informed about Emma’s condition and progress,” says Jenifer. Robert adds, “Everyone at UMC was exceptional, including the nurses, respiratory therapists, lactation specialists, staff, administrators and janitors!”

In late September, Emma began chemotherapy at the Arizona Elks Clinic for Children and Young Adults. Her care is managed by Steele Center pediatric oncologist Brenda Wittman, MD. “She needs six rounds of chemotherapy,” says Robert. “The doctors’ main concern is preserving Emma’s vision and preventing the spread of the tumors,” says Jenifer. “But, overall, her prognosis is good.”
‘Hi’ from Ian!

... a patient at the Angel Wing for Children with Diabetes  
(as dictated to mom, Lisa Ramirez)

Hi, this is Ian. I am 4½ years old. I have a dog and two sisters. I go to school, take swimming lessons and play t-ball. I like to catch bugs and go to the park.

When I grow up I want to be a doctor, a firefighter, a teacher, a dad, a conductor, a baseball player and a policeman. Oh! And an astronaut!

I don’t mind having diabetes. It doesn’t make me happy but it doesn’t make me sad either. Sometimes I don’t feel so good, but mostly I feel great!

I wear a pump. It’s like a pancreas but it’s not inside my body. My parents take my blood sugar, then I eat, then they tell my pump how much insulin I need. My mommy gets my pump ready and changes it a lot. I am brave and don’t cry even when it hurts. I used to get shots, but I like my pump a lot better.

I have lots of doctors. My mommy says they are also scientists. They keep my body healthy while they look for a cure.

Someday, I’ll go to Dr. Griffin at the Angel Wing and get my cure. Maybe I will be old but that’s O.K.

My mommy says on that day we’ll have the best party ever!

You should come!

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Father’s Day Council
Tucson Establishes Endowed Chair for Type 1 Diabetes

For the past 14 years, the Father’s Day Council Tucson (FDC) members have worked to improve the lives of children with type 1 diabetes through financial support, research, teaching and clinical care.

Now, the FDC has made an ambitious commitment by establishing the Father’s Day Council Tucson Endowed Chair for Type 1 Diabetes. They have committed to raise $1 million by their 20th anniversary. Already, FDC has raised more than $300,000.

The endowed chair will support type 1 diabetes training programs for medical students, residents, and fellows. In addition, post-doctoral fellows and graduate student researchers will receive support for their type 1 diabetes studies. And the endowment will enhance existing clinical programs and services at the Steele Center’s Angel Wing for Children with Diabetes.

Thanks to the Father’s Day Council, children with diabetes will continue to be helped—now and in the future.

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How Donor Generosity Made a Difference for Kids like Ian

At this year’s FDC Fathers of the Year Awards and Gala, Steele Center patient Jonathan Vogel gave an inspirational speech regarding what it’s like for a young boy to live with type 1 diabetes. His stirring message moved many individuals to contribute an additional $25,000 to the Steele Center!

Because of these generous donations, the Steele Center’s Angel Wing for Children with Diabetes was able to purchase additional continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices to lend to families.

CGMs measure glucose levels every five minutes. If levels rise too high or dip too low, an alert sounds. CGMs help parents quickly determine their child’s insulin needs. CGMs are not typically covered by insurance until demonstrating a direct benefit. Because CGMs are very expensive, most families cannot afford them.

With help from the Steele Center Angel Wing, a family can borrow a CGM so they can collect the data necessary to help with diabetes control prior to obtaining insurance coverage.

One patient that benefited from this service was young patient Ian Ramirez. “We were so grateful to borrow the CGM,” says Lisa Ramirez, Ian’s mom. Countless other families have benefited from this valuable service provided by the Angel Wing.

We couldn’t offer this vital service without our donors. Thanks for your generosity!
Steele Center Director Dr. Fayez K. Ghishan
Awarded $2.5 Million MERIT Award

Prestigious award extends his ground-breaking research an additional 10 years.

Congratulations to Steele Center Director Dr. Ghishan, who was awarded a prestigious MERIT (Method to Extend Research In Time) award from the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

This $2.5 million award extends his NIH R01 grant, “Development of Intestinal Transport of Calcium and Phosphate,” for an additional 10 years, to 2018. This is the second time Dr. Ghishan’s grant has received MERIT status (the first was in 1994).

“MERIT awards are designed to provide outstanding investigators with the opportunity for long-term support, which will enhance their continued scientific creativity,” says Griffin P. Rodgers, MD, director of the NIDDK. “Dr. Ghishan has demonstrated that his research competence and productivity are distinctly superior.”

Dr. Ghishan has been researching the role phosphate transporters play in bone disease associated with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) since 1983. His work is one of the most continually-funded research projects in NIDDK history.

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Laura Hopkins has joined the Steele Center as Annual Giving Coordinator.

Hopkins will be responsible for creating and managing its new annual giving program. She will design strategic annual and multiple-year giving plans that include existing donors and potential prospects. Toward that end, Hopkins will develop direct marketing strategies and solicitations schedules using e-communications, telemarketing, direct mail and online giving programs.

Previously with CarePages, Inc. and The Make-A-Wish Foundation, Hopkins worked for more than seven years in the healthcare and non-profit fields.

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New Staff Join the Steele Center

Mariana Vazquez, MS, has joined the Steele Center as Special Events Coordinator.

She will work closely with the volunteer groups that raise funds for the Steele Center through special events. Vazquez will provide support and guidance to volunteers and event organizers. In addition, she will work closely with a Steele Center grassroots group to raise community awareness about the Steele Center.

Vazquez completed a B.A. in Communication and Spanish at The University of Arizona, and an MS in Public Relations at The University of Denver.

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The Steele Center Welcomes New Tucson Advisory Board President Dr. Phil Lacovara

We are delighted to introduce Phil Lacovara, PhD as the new president of the Steele Center Tucson Advisory Board. “Phil will be a great leader and advocate for the Steele Center,” says Dr. Ghishan.

“It is an honor to lead the Tucson Advisory Board as its new president,” says Dr. Lacovara. “Our mission is to provide financial support, community outreach and increased visibility for the Steele Center. I look forward to working with our enthusiastic and talented advisory board members, Dr. Ghishan, and the dedicated doctors, scientists and staff in their quest to improve children’s health.”

Dr. Lacovara is the founder and president of Ambalux Corporation, a small business developing and manufacturing communications and sensor products for government and commercial customers. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physics from the University of Chicago and a doctorate in physics from Boston College. He and his wife, Jane, have three grown children, Philip, Margaret and Peter.

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Girl with a Heart of Compassion Donates Her Birthday Gifts

Azure Isaacson is a 7-year-old little girl with a heart filled with compassion. For her seventh birthday, Azure donated her gifts to children with cancer. She and her sister, Rosie, brought her gifts to the Arizona Elks Clinic for Children and Young Adults located on the third floor of UMC and gave them to the children being treated for cancer.

“Azure met two children when at the clinic,” says her mom, Raena. “When we got home, she wrote their names on our fire pit outside, so she would think of them while outside playing.” Thank you, Azure!

The University of Arizona Foundation Honors a Beloved Friend

Colleagues from The University of Arizona Foundation made an “in loving memory of” gift to honor their friend and co-worker, Jim O’Farrell, who had worked at the foundation for 12 years. Jim passed away from complications due to type 1 diabetes in November 2007.

Their gift was used to purchase functional wall art for the Steele Center’s Angel Wing for Children with Diabetes. The wall art hangs in each clinic room for children to play with while waiting for their exam.

“Jim was concerned about children with type 1 diabetes,” says his friend, Mary Stein. “Our decision to purchase the wall art for the Angel Wing clinic was perfect,” she says. “It would have meant so much to Jim and I couldn’t have dreamed of a better way to use the money.”

More Ways You Can Support the Steele Center

There are many ways you can make a difference in children’s lives through supporting the Steele Center. Although most gifts we receive are monetary donations from individuals, foundations and companies, there are many ways to give. You could ask friends and family to make a donation to the Steele Center in lieu of gifts for weddings, birthdays, and holidays. Or honor a deceased loved one with an “in loving memory of” donation. You could establish a monthly payroll deduction, remember us in your will, offer in-kind services, attend fundraising events, donate toys or volunteer at special events. The possibilities are endless!

If you would like to learn more about supporting the Steele Center, please contact Laura Hopkins at hopkins@peds.arizona.edu or (520) 626-9618.
Faculty Highlights 2008

Alan D. Bedrick, MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, Neonatology
Received a grant to obtain “SimBABY,” a state-of-the-art computerized simulation mannequin to teach neonatal resuscitation to students, residents and referring physicians.

Marc Berg, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, Critical Care
Chosen as chairman-elect of the American Heart Association “Pediatric Life Support” committee.

Kathryn Bowen, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, General Pediatrics

Heather Cahan, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, Neonatology
Received grant to obtain “SimBABY,” a state-of-the-art computerized simulation mannequin to teach neonatal resuscitation to students, residents and referring physicians.

Christopher Cunniff, MD
Professor, Genetics
Received two-year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant, “Improving the diagnostic process in children with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.” Elected to the Council of the Western Society for Pediatric Research; elected as Vice-President of the American Board of Medical Genetics.

Sean P. Elliott, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, Infectious Disease

Robert Ericksson, MD
Professor, Genetics
Named member of the Arizona Biomedical Research Commission (ABRC) by Governor Napolitano.

Fayez K. Ghishan, MD
Professor and Head, Gastroenterology and Nutrition

Melissa Halpern, PhD
Research Assistant Professor, Neonatology
Awarded 5-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate the mechanisms involved in the development of Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC).

Emmanuel Katsanis, MD
Professor, Hematology/Oncology

Scott Klever, MD
Professor, Cardiology
Promoted to Professor, named Chief of Staff at UMC; appointed International Mentor for the American Heart Association; named one of “America’s Best Doctors.”

William Marshall, MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics

Fernando Martinez, MD
Professor, Pulmonology, Allergy and Immunology
Named PI on a $44-million contract awarded by the NIH for the “National Children’s Health Study” to investigate the interaction of genes and the environment on children’s health.

Wayne Morgan, MD
Professor, Pulmonology, Allergy and Immunology

Ziad Shehab, MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases

Andreas Theodorou, MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, Critical Care
As Co-director for The Center for Quality and Safety at UMC, Dr. Theodorou led UMC to win several Quality of Care awards, including the Thomson Reuters’ Top 100 for highest performance and the Top 100 award for fastest rate of consistent improvement over the past five years. The University Health System Consortium Quality Leadership Award; the National Research Corporations Consumer Choice Award for Overall Quality and Image.

Richard Wahl, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, General Pediatrics
Steele Center Facts & Figures

Our donors support the Steele Center in various ways:
- Individuals: 51%
- Events/Groups: 45%
- Estate gifts: 4%
Total: $3,012,469

Donations go to:
- Endowments: 62%
- Research/recruitment: 34%
- Diamond Children’s fund*: 3%
- Annual fund: 1%
Total: $3,012,469

*The Diamond Children’s fund is money donated to the Steele Center for the “people and programs” of Diamond Children.

Our funding sources:
- Grants (federal and local research grants): approx. 65%
- Donations from groups and individuals: approx. 31%
- TRIF (Technology Research Infrastructure Fund)/Prop 301 funds: less than 2%
- State-funded research: less than 2%
Total: $9,617,522

Our doctors do outreach to Nogales Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital, Yuma Regional Medical Center, and Sierra Vista Regional Health Center.

There are 2,000,000 children in Arizona under the age of 18.

Our doctors conduct approximately 60,000 patient visits a year throughout Arizona.

There are 50 residents in the UA pediatrics residency program, including 8 in the emergency medicine/pediatrics residency program—one of only three programs in the U.S.

Our doctors treat all the children who need liver transplants and heart transplants in Arizona.

Steele Center researchers are conducting approximately 100 research projects.

Endowments: 62%
Research/recruitment: 34%
Diamond Children’s fund*: 3%
Annual fund: 1%
Total: $3,012,469

*The Diamond Children’s fund is money donated to the Steele Center for the “people and programs” of Diamond Children.

Your donations plant the seeds for future research grants!

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Your donations plant the seeds for future research grants!
### Gifts in Honor of Fletcher McCusker—Father of the Year 2008

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We are grateful for every gift made to the Steele Children’s Research Center to improve children’s health by furthering our mission to teach, to heal, to discover. We want to give special thanks to those who gave $1,000 or more from January through December 2008.

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Department of Pediatrics Faculty

Cardiology
Section Chief: Ricardo Samson, MD
Professor
Brent Barber, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Stan Goldberg, MD
Professor Emeritus
Scott Klewer, MD
Professor
Daniela Lax, MD
Associate Professor
Gregory Mike Nichols, MD
Clinical Lecturer
Santiago Valdés, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics

Critical Care
Section Chief: Andreas Theodorou, MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Marc Berg, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Hillary Franke, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Mary Gaspers, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Michael Karadshesh, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Robyn Meyer, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Mark Witten, PhD
Research Professor
Simon Wong, MD
Research Associate Professor

Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics
Sydney A. Rice, MD, MS
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Margaret Trouard, MD
Clinical Lecturer

Endocrinology
Section Chief: Mark Wheeler, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Kurt Griffin, PhD, MD
Assistant Professor
Chetan Patel, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Mona Zawaideh, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics

Gastroenterology
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Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Fayez K. Ghishan, MD
Professor and Department Head
Pawel Kiela, PhD
Research Associate Professor
Hua Xu, PhD
Research Associate Professor

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Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
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Tracey Kurtzman, MD
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William Madden, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
William Marshall Jr., MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Sabrina Shih, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Richard Wahl, MD
Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Gracie Wilcox, MD
Clinical Lecturer

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Murray Brilliant, PhD
Professor
Robert Erickson, MD
Professor
Sherman Garver, PhD
Research Associate Professor
John Meaney, PhD
Research Lecturer

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Professor
Michael Graham, MD
Associate Professor
Kartik Krishnan, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Nicolas Lowen, PhD
Research Associate Professor
Brenda Wittenman, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics

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Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Ron Grant, MD
Clinical Lecturer
Eliza Holland, MD
Clinical Lecturer
Zakiya Karim, MD
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Chan Lowe, Jr., MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics

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Assistant Professor, Clinical Pediatrics

Professor
Fernando Martinez, MD
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Clinical Assistant Professor
St. Joseph's Hospital
Mitchell Shub, MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Phoenix Children's Hospital

Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Fayez K. Ghishan, MD
Professor and Head
In Loving Memory

This annual review is dedicated to the memory of Marisa Ann Gallego.

Our beautiful Marisa was born on August 20, 1991. Since the day she was born, she was a special girl. A polite young woman with a warm and beautiful smile, Marisa was always the first to help someone. She was considerate of everyone’s feelings, had many wonderful friends and loved her family. Marisa excelled academically and was a straight-A student. She was athletic, too, and enjoyed playing basketball.

When Marisa was only 15, she was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML), a fast-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow. After many rounds of chemotherapy, Marisa went into remission for three months. Even with all the pain she experienced, Marisa found the strength to smile at everyone who came her way. Sadly, the cancer returned and our beloved daughter passed away on April 18, 2008.

Her caring and compassionate spirit will remain with us forever. We miss her terribly.

Laura Gallego,
Marisa’s mother