Our logo is an incomplete puzzle, with a child in the center. The pieces to the puzzle represent everyone who is integral to improving children’s health—doctors, nurses, medical staff, researchers, families, volunteer groups, donors and others. We all can be a piece of the puzzle, working together to improve children’s health. The puzzle isn’t finished, because we can’t do it without YOU. Thank you for your support! To learn more about the Steele Center, please visit www.steelecenter.arizona.edu.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE STEELE CENTER

Learn more about what’s happening at the Steele Center through our website: www.steelecenter.arizona.edu

Stay current with our e-newsletter.
Sign up at: www.steelecenter.arizona.edu

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Follow us on Twitter

JANUARY 29
Runway for Research Fashion Show
Zuzi’s Theater

MAY 12
PANDA 13th Annual “Children Helping Children” Fashion Show
The Phoenician, Scottsdale

JUNE 16
Fathers of the Year Awards Gala
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

AUGUST 16
Marisa Ann Gallego Foundation Location to be Announced

AUGUST 24
Tee Up For Tots Golf Tournament
Hilton Tucson El Conquistador

SEPTEMBER 8
Diamond Children’s/Steele Center Gala
JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa

FALL 2012
Kids of Steele Miniature Golf Tournament
Golf N’ Stuff
Dear Friends,

2011—what a year. On January 8, a senseless shooting killed six precious individuals and wounded 13, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. This heartbreaking event shook our Tucson community and nation to the core. It also reminded us how precious life is and the amazing ability of the human spirit to heal from seemingly impossible odds.

Although the pain of this tragedy lingered throughout the year, there were bright spots as well, and so much to be thankful for.

In July, University Medical Center and University Physicians Healthcare completed the integration process and officially became The University of Arizona Health Network. University Medical Center is now The University of Arizona Medical Center – University Campus and Diamond Children’s Medical Center is now The University of Arizona Medical Center – Diamond Children’s. UPKino Hospital is now The University of Arizona Medical Center – South Campus.

This integration brings Diamond Children’s and the Steele Center even closer as we work together within the network to improve children’s health through unsurpassed clinical care and groundbreaking research. We recruited new physician-scientists and pediatric subspecialists to expand the clinical services at Diamond Children’s and affiliated clinics.

Even in the midst of decreased funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—the federal funding agency for medical research—some of our faculty received incredible grants. Dr. Sydney Rice secured a $3.6 million LEND grant and Dr. Michael Dalmas was awarded a $1.25 million NIH grant—to name just a few. Their accomplishments—and others—are highlighted in the following pages.

Like the rest of the country, Arizona faces serious economic issues. Decreases in funding at the state level add to our fiscal challenges. Despite these obstacles, our resolve is strong. We continue to find ways to innovate and streamline costs, while maintaining exceptional patient care and excelling in groundbreaking research. This makes your investment in our work more important than ever. Your contribution—whatever the amount, makes an extraordinary difference.

Please know how grateful I am for you. Your commitment to the Steele Center in our quest to improve children’s health energizes and inspires me. Thank you!

Warm Regards,

Fayez K. Ghishan, MD

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In December 2011, with a donation of $125,000, the Arizona Elks Major Projects reached $5 million in total contributions to the Steele Center.

“This is an incredible achievement,” says Dr. Ghishan. “The Elks have made a tremendous impact on children’s health throughout Arizona by funding research, education and clinical care programs at the Steele Center. We are so grateful for their support.”

In addition to making personal donations, the Elks have held golf tournaments, sold raffle tickets, coordinated motorcycle fundraising runs, held dinner-dances and other fun events like “Kiss a Pig,” and sold beer at the Fourth Avenue Street Fair. “We’ll do just about anything to raise money for the Steele Center—one of our designated ‘Major Projects,’ ” says Linda Lewandowski, executive director for the Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP).

“What’s more, Elks from all over the state have donated and hand-knit hundreds of blankets and beanies for the premature babies in the NICU at The University of Arizona Medical Center — Diamond Children’s, and donated thousands of toys and books to the Steele Center and the UA Department of Pediatrics and its affiliated outpatient clinics, such as the Arizona Elks Clinic for Children and Young Adults. Currently, more than 26,000 individuals are members of one of the 47 Elks lodges throughout Arizona. “The Elks’ dedication to children is amazing, and we couldn’t do our work without them,” says Dr. Ghishan.

Members from Elks lodges from all over Arizona have contributed to the UA Steele Center. Elks lodges are located in: Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Chandler, Coolidge-Florence, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Kearny, Mesa, Globe, Safford, Tempe, Bullhead City, Chino Valley, Flagstaff, Holbrook, Jerome, Kingman, Page, Payson, Prescott, Sedona, Show Low, Winslow, Ajo, Benson, Tucson, Catalina, Douglas, Green Valley, Gila Bend, Lake Havasu City, Parker, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Sun City, Wickenburg and Yuma.

Dr. Ghishan with his patient, Emily.

“Arizona Elks Major Projects Reaches $5 Million in Donations”

Linda Lewandowski, executive director of AEMP, and Bill Foucher, president of AEMP Board of Directors, present the Arizona Elks Major Projects with a donation check.

Dr. Ghishan with his patient, Emily.
My name is Dana Morgan. I am 7 seven years old and I have leukemia. I was first diagnosed when I was 4. I was almost done with fighting this disease, and then it came back and I have to fight it again. I very much do love swimming. Swimming to me is very fun. When I’m under water it feels like I’m flying. Swimming is fun, and much rather funner than being in the hospital. When I go in the hospital, it’s hard. My mom and dad let me decide who is going to spend the night with me. So, that’s pretty much the first thing I can think of. The nurses at Diamond Children’s are really awesome. I just like the nurses because they are so nice to me. They give me medicine through my tube. I have one of the new ports and it lets me swim. And I do much rather be swimming than being in the hospital. When I go in the hospital, it’s hard. My mom and dad let me decide who is going to spend the night with me. So, that’s pretty much the first thing I can think of. The nurses at Diamond Children’s are really awesome. I just like the nurses because they are so nice to me. They give me medicine through my tube. I have one of the new ports and it lets me swim. And I do much rather be swimming than being in the hospital. When I grow up I want to be a police officer, because my grandpa was one. Policemen are tough and I am tough. I will be really happy when I don’t have to fight this anymore. I am tough like a cop should be, and I can fight this disease.

Last September, Dana and two other patients were featured in a wonderful video created by Litteer Films, which can be viewed at: http://vimeo.com/29611983

Words in her own

Dana Morgan is a spunky, creative, humorous and active 7-year-old little girl with playful eyes and a smile that will melt your heart. She knows exactly what she wants to be when she grows up: a police officer. She wants to fight crime.

For now though, Dana, affectionately nicknamed “The Dananator,” is fighting leukemia.

When Dana was 4, her parents Michelle and Scott, noticed that Dana lacked her usual energy to do the things she loved—like playing soccer and swimming. In addition to exhibiting flu-like symptoms, they noticed Dana had some bruising in unusual places such as her shoulders and back. Dana’s abdomen began to swell just prior to her second visit to the pediatrician.

After three medical visits within six days, a bone marrow biopsy confirmed Dana had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)—cancer of the white blood cells, which are produced in the bone marrow.

On September 10, 2008, Dana was admitted to University Medical Center (now named, The University of Arizona Medical Center – Diamond Children’s). Dana’s treatment plan called for 2½ years of chemotherapy—which would require numerous hospitalizations and many trips to the pediatric hematology/oncology outpatient clinic at the hospital.

“The treatment regimen is hard,” says Dana’s mom, Michelle. “But, thanks to research and the high-quality medical care Dana has received, we consider ourselves blessed.”

Pediatric oncologist Brenda Wittman, MD, and an entire team of nurses, child life specialists, patient care technicians and other medical specialists are dedicated to helping Dana get well.

“Dana has a great sense of humor and rarely complains” says Dr. Wittman. “I remember on one occasion where Dana needed a bone marrow and spinal tap, and we ‘performed’ the procedure on her beloved and ever-present stuffed dolphin, Swimmy. He and Dana had matching bandages after a Google search informed us where the hip bone is located on a dolphin!”

When Dana received her “exit” lumbar puncture in December, 2010 suspicious cells were discovered in her spinal fluid. Two more lumbar punctures confirmed a relapse—this time in the central nervous system. Thus, in January of 2013, Dana began treatment again. “We felt blind-sided by this, because when Dana was first diagnosed, there was no central nervous system involvement,” recounts Michelle.

“Dana continues to amaze and inspire us. Through it all, Dana has kept us smiling and laughing, blessed us with lots of cuddle time and reminded us that every moment is worth cherishing and celebrating,” says Michelle.

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UA student Sami Zarifi lost his brother, Will, to a brain tumor in 2008. Will was 21, valedictorian of the Marshall School of Business at USC, and the men’s basketball team manager.

“Will was so tough throughout his ordeal,” recalls Sami. “He never complained or cried. Will used to say, ‘I’d rather it be me that gets brain cancer than some little girl—I have a better chance of fighting it off.’ He was truly inspiring.”

When Will passed away, Sami knew he wanted to do something to honor his brother’s memory. Thus, Sami launched “WillPower”—a UA clothing and fundraising club that has created its own clothing line. “This is ‘lifestyle clothing’ that you can connect with.” Sami explains. “It’s about living for the day and pushing yourself.” Proceeds from sales support the pediatric cancer research at the Steele Center.

WillPower launched in October 2011 at the UA Bookstore and since then, more than 1,700 items of merchandise have been sold. The WillPower team expanded the line to add more fashionable clothing. A selection of tank tops, thermals, and baseball raglans debuted at the bookstore on Feb. 8, and sold out within two hours.

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Now, WillPower is planning to expand its clothing line to BB college campuses throughout the United States by the end of 2012. “We’ve even creating a commercial to pitch to ESPN and will ask them to air it for free as a donation to WillPower,” says Sami.

“In an essay Will wrote, he said, ‘some say I have a life-threatening disease, I say we live a disease-threatening life,’” remembers Sami. “What I take away from this is that the games, ‘Skylanders Spyro’s Adventure’ and ‘Mario Brothers.” He loves to play baseball, basketball, soccer and lacrosse. Larry is an avid reader and some of his favorite books are the Geronimo Stilton series and The Magic Tree House.

Interestingly, Amber and Larry discovered they have something pretty cool in common: their grandfathers know each other. They became friends many years ago as members in the Men’s Active 20-30 Club of Arizona. The grandsons ran into each other while in the waiting room at Diamond Children’s soon after both children were hospitalized.

Old or new, friendship is a profound blessing.

We thank Amber Walker, 14, and Larry Ronstadt, 7, for being this year’s annual review models. We know they and their families are going through so much as both children fight leukemia.

Amber and Larry became friends when they met while hospitalized at Diamond Children’s in December 2011. Both had been recently diagnosed with ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia)—Larry on Dec. 28; Amber on Dec. 29.

Amber is an outgoing, upbeat teenager with a friendly smile and optimistic attitude. She was an all-star cheerleader before being diagnosed with ALL. She is still involved with cheerleading and also enjoys spending time at her family’s ranch and riding horses. She loves to bow hunt as well!

Larry is a vibrant, thoughtful and humorous little boy with a playful grin. He likes playing on the Wii—especially “Skylanders Spyro’s Adventure” and “Mario Brothers.” He loves to play baseball, basketball, soccer and lacrosse. Larry is an avid reader and some of his favorite books are the Geronimo Stilton series and The Magic Tree House.

One of the most common ailments premature babies face is Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC), a gastrointestinal inflammatory disease of the intestines that afflicts between 8,000-10,000 premature babies in the United States each year. The exact cause of NEC is unknown. It can be mild to severe, and in the worst cases the inflamed portion of the intestines must be removed. Sadly, nearly 40 percent of babies with NEC don’t survive.

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The Steele Center team for the PANDA Healthy Babies Project includes Alan Bedrick, MD, professor; Bohuslav Dvorak, PhD, professor; and Melissa Halpern, PhD, associate professor. In addition to their current work in neonatology research, they are working to create collaborative research partnerships with NICUs in the Phoenix area.

“Spread a Little Sunshine” is the theme of the event, which took place at The Phoenician in Scottsdale, raised approximately $435,000 to create the PANDA Healthy Babies Project at the Steele Center.

“What an uplifting event,” says Dr. Ghishan. “The PANDAs continue to inspire us with their passionate dedication to improve children’s health.”

“We’re very proud to have been this year’s annual review models,” says Amber. “We’re grateful to the Steele Center and the children who fight NEC.”

The Steele Center physicians and scientists to:
• Conduct research to better understand why certain premature infants get NEC;
• Discover ways to prevent babies from developing NEC;
• Find ways to predict NEC before it becomes a medical or surgical emergency; and
• Fund training for new neonatologists with interest in neonatology.

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Amber and Larry are looking forward to being this year’s annual review models. They are grateful to the Steele Center and the children who fight NEC.

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The second annual Diamond Children’s Gala — “Share the Magic” — was held on September 24. It benefited both Diamond Children’s and the Steele Center. This spectacular event raised approximately $280,000, to be shared by both facilities.

“This was an extraordinary event that highlighted some of our courageous patients and the dedication of our doctors, nurses and staff,” says Dr. Ghishan.

The fundraiser took place in the grand ballroom of the Westin La Paloma Resort, and was emceed by KOLD-TV News 13 anchors Heather Rowe and Scott Kilbury.

Approximately 600 guests enjoyed delicious food and drinks, a silent auction, music by the Jazzateers, a dance performance by Dance Force 1, a performance by master illusionist Michael Grandinetti, and dancing to the music of the The Walkens.

“It was inspiring to see, yet again, what we can accomplish when we work together to improve children’s health,” says Dr. Ghishan.

A $1.25 million, five-year NIH grant will enable Steele Center physician-scientist Michael Daines, MD, to investigate how a common mold may trigger allergic asthma.

Allergic asthma is a type of asthma triggered by allergy. Nearly 50 percent of the 20 million individuals in the U.S. with asthma have allergic asthma, and more than 2.5 million children suffer from allergic asthma. Many of the symptoms are the same as asthma: coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath or rapid breathing and chest tightness.

Allergen exposure (dust mites, pet dander, pollen, mold, etc.) is essential to the development of allergic asthma, but not all allergens are associated with asthma. For example, bermuda grass causes allergies but not asthma.

One allergen central to the development of allergic asthma—especially in children—is Alternaria, a common mold. Previous research conducted at the Arizona Respiratory Center over the past 25 years has produced data demonstrating that sensitization to Alternaria is the strongest allergic predictor in the development and persistence of asthma.

A critical feature of Alternaria, differentiating it from less harmful allergens, is protease activity. Proteases are enzymes that break down and digest proteins. All allergic allergens have protease activity in them.

“The problem,” says Dr. Daines, “is that the proteases in Alternaria can break down the epithelium in the lungs and damage them, making you more susceptible to asthma.”

Dr. Daines and his team are exploring two questions through this research:

1. What are the proteases in Alternaria and how do they cause asthma?
2. How do the host protease defense systems (antiprotease) block those effects?

“The philosophy behind the drugs used to treat asthma hasn’t changed in 20 years,” says Dr. Daines. “There is no way to prevent asthma—we only diagnose and treat it. So, if we can figure out what is causing asthma, that might give us a new way to treat it or prevent asthma from occurring in the first place.”

The central hypothesis of the study posits that Alternaria proteases are essential to Alternaria acting as an asthmagen (an allergen causing asthma) by directly targeting the lining of the lung (epithelium), but these effects are modulated by Alternaria-induced antiproteases in the body.

“We will study Alternaria-induced lung inflammation to assess the interaction of the epithelium and host antiproteases with Alternaria proteases and determine their impact on the development of allergic asthma,” says Dr. Daines. “The results may lead to both primary prevention of asthma and the development of novel asthma treatment options.”
The Steele Center has received a five-year, $3.6 million, LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) grant to train individuals to improve the health status of infants, children and adolescents with—or at risk for—neurodevelopmental and related disabilities.

Sydney Rice MD, MS (right) and Eileen McGrath, PhD (left) are the directors of the new program, named AZLEND. Dr. Rice is an associate professor of pediatrics and a Steele Center pediatric developmental and behavioral pediatrician. Dr. McGrath is a special education educator and assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

“This program is an opportunity to bring together the expertise of families and professionals across Arizona,” says Dr. Rice. “The AZLEND program will train professionals to be leaders in clinical care and research, and will give participants the opportunity to work together as professionals with diverse backgrounds and training.”

LEND programs are graduate and post-graduate-level interdisciplinary leadership training programs federally funded through the Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB).

The AZLEND training program will produce leaders and innovators in the field of autism and other neurodevelopmental and related disabilities who are solidly grounded in their own disciplines and able to work collaboratively with colleagues in interdisciplinary settings.

AZLEND provides education and training in the following areas: clinical knowledge, leadership, collaboration and research. Trainees are involved in supervised clinical experiences with a wide variety of disorders and receive individual mentoring. LEND programs provide training to professionals in 14 disciplines: audiology, family/parent, genetics, health administration, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, pediatrics/medicine, pediatric dentistry, physical therapy, psychology, social work, special education and speech language pathology.

“AZLEND provides a unique opportunity for trainees to work closely with current leaders in the field of neurodevelopmental and other related disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders,” says Dr. McGrath. “Trainees will learn how to work collaboratively as interdisciplinary team members providing family-centered, culturally-effective care to children with special needs and their families.”

Kids of Steele held its First Annual Miniature Golf Tournament and raised more than $10,000 for the Steele Center.

Kids of Steele is the family auxiliary of the Steele Center. It is comprised of local families who want to teach their children about service and kindness while raising awareness and funds for the Steele Center.

Nearly 100 children and their parents participated in the event. Some of the children who participated are currently being treated by Steele Center doctors at Diamond Children’s and other affiliated outpatient clinics at The University of Arizona Medical Center – University Campus.

“This was a new fundraiser that included the whole family,” says Cecie Davenport, tournament co-chair. “It was neat to see families who have children being treated by Steele Center doctors, alongside families wanting to help. Everyone simply had fun!”

In addition to the miniature golf tournament, participants were able to ride bumper boats and race cars, had balloon animals made by a balloon artist and were visited by Wilbur Wildcat.

“Our first annual event was a great success and we hope to make it even bigger and better next year,” says Ragan Edwards, tournament co-chair.
FOCUS ON RESEARCH:

UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY LEADS TO NEW UNDERSTANDING OF A PROTEIN’S ROLE

Dr. Hua Xu, PhD, professor and head research Hu Xu, PhD, associate professor of pediatrics, made an unexpected discovery into the role of NHE8—a sodium/hydrogen exchanger protein.

NHE8 plays an important role by transporting sodium and electrolytes through the gastrointestinal tract.

“When we removed NHE8 in mice, we observed that they developed gastric ulcers, became more susceptible to infections, and the male mice became sterile,” says Dr. Ghishan.

Now, a five-year, $1.65 million grant from the NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders enables Drs. Ghishan and Xu to further explore their novel discoveries and expand their research about the role of NHE8.

“Nature is interesting,” says Dr. Xu. “Deleting a single gene causes different outcomes in different organs and different genders. Understanding how the loss of NHE8 produces these effects will help us learn more about nature’s intricate control of gene expression.”

The study focuses on three areas: thoroughly understanding how NHE8 impacts mice at various developmental stages; characterizing the role of NHE8 in the gastrointestinal tract and how it responds to epithelial injury and uncovering the role of NHE8 in mice sterility.

“Our research could lead us to discover that NHE8 plays a pivotal role in male infertility and other gastrointestinal problems, which may ultimately lead to the development of novel treatments,” says Dr. Ghishan.

At the University of Arizona Medical Center – Diamond Children’s, the study will focus on three areas:

1. Thoroughly understanding how NHE8 impacts mice at various developmental stages.
2. Characterizing the role of NHE8 in the gastrointestinal tract and how it responds to epithelial injury.
3. Uncovering the role of NHE8 in mice sterility.

The study will also help us learn more about nature’s intricate control of gene expression. 

Dr. Ghishan is responsible for safety, quality and financial effectiveness of pediatric clinical care. He will work with the Pediatric Leadership Team to promote a healthy culture of problem-solving and innovation for Diamond Children’s patients and their families.

Dr. Ghishan and the Pediatric Leadership Team will be responsible for the operational aspects and growth strategies of all pediatric services, including inpatient, outpatient and emergency services for pediatric Diamond Children’s patients and their families.

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“Dr. Ghishan has passionately advocated for a child’s health since arriving at the UA more than 16 years ago. His vision and dedication to children’s health makes him the perfect individual for this prestigious position,” says Mlawsky.

Dr. Fayez K. Ghishan Appointed Physician-in-Chief of the University of Arizona Medical Center – Diamond Children’s

Congratulations to Dr. Ghishan, who was appointed "Physician-in-Chief" of The University of Arizona Medical Center – Diamond Children’s in June 2011.

“As Physician-in-Chief, Dr. Ghishan will contribute to building a regionally, nationally and internationally recognized academic medical environment focused on providing the best medical care possible for children,” says Karen D. Mlawsky, CEO of The University of Arizona Medical Center – University Campus.

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CLINICAL RESEARCH: THERAPEUTIC HYPOTERMIA AFTER PEDIATRIC CARDIAC ARREST (THAPCA)

Therapeutic hypothermia (lowering the body temperature) has successfully been used in adults after cardiac arrest to improve survival and outcome. Hypothermia also has been studied in newborn infants who have suffered from perinatal asphyxia (oxygen deprivation to a newborn infant that usually causes brain damage), but it has not been used in adults after cardiac arrest. This is a tragic event in children associated with high rates of death or long-term disability. The THAPCA trials include patients from both in-hospital and out-of-hospital populations to determine if hypothermia improves survival with good neurobehavioral outcomes after pediatric cardiac arrest.

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Last October, Dr. Ghishan was invited to China to speak at the 2011 Chengdu International Forum of Gastroenterology. He was accompanied by his wife, Joan, and Steele Center researcher Hua Xu, PhD. At the conference, Dr. Ghishan gave a seminar about his research in IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease). “Unfortunately, IBD is now on the rise in China,” he says.

He also spoke to fourth-year medical students at Sichuan University and gave lectures at Jiao Tong University in Shanghai and Chongqing University in Chongqing.

In addition, Dr. Ghishan visited GI clinics at West China Hospital and participated in clinic case discussions there and at The Children’s Hospital of Chongqing Medical University (OChMU), where he visited patients as well. “OChMU is an amazing children’s hospital—with 510 beds,” says Dr. Ghishan. “They place great importance on research, and rank first in pediatrics in China.”

While there, Dr. Ghishan, Joan and Dr. Xu visited the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Dr. Ghishan provided some insight into GI issues that pandas commonly suffer from. “It was wonderful to see the pandas. We may even collaborate on research with Chengdu Research Base sometime in the future,” he says.

At the end of the trip, Dr. Ghishan purchased 120 stuffed panda bears for the Steele Center volunteer group, PANDA (People Acting Now Discover Answers). “It was quite the challenge,” recounted Dr. Ghishan, “but we were finally able to ship the stuffed pandas back to the states, where I knew they would put a smile on the faces of our fabulous PANDAs.”

“I believe that this project is especially relevant to Tee Up For Tots because most bone marrow recipients are children,” says Alexis. “And we want to provide therapies that will not only help clear the cancer, but also have as few side effects as possible.”
The Steele Center is grateful to the “Hyundai Hope on Wheels®” program for awarding grants to two of its pediatric cancer physician-researchers. Funding for Hyundai Hope on Wheels is supported by local Hyundai dealers like Jim Click Automotive, which contributes to the program.

Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, professor, received a $100,000 “Hope Grant,” and Puja Gupta, MD, assistant professor, received a $50,000 “Hyundai Scholar Grant.”

The Hope Grant will support Dr. Katsanis’ research in the treatment of relapsed acute leukemia following stem cell transplantation. “The Hyundai Hope on Wheels grant is competitive and prestigious, and we are honored that the caliber of our work has earned us this award,” says Dr. Katsanis. “We’re very grateful to Hyundai Hope on Wheels for this support, which enables us to move our research forward.”

Dr. Gupta’s Hyundai Scholar Grant will support her research regarding the role nutrition plays in children with cancer. “I am excited about the prospect of studying the effects of nutrition in children,” says Dr. Gupta. “I thank Hyundai for making it possible to work on this project and am grateful for their support of pediatric oncology research.”

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The physicians, scientists, and patients at the Steele Children’s Research Center would like to express their deepest gratitude to our many volunteer groups. Your efforts, dedication, and passion inspire us to fulfill our mission to teach, heal, and discover.

**Father’s Day Council**

With the help of five outstanding fathers from the community, Father’s Day Council Tucson celebrated another successful year, raising $125,000. Because of their work, children with type 1 diabetes across Southern Arizona continue to receive exceptional care and have hope for a cure.

**PANDA (People Acting Now Discover Answers)**

With more than 100 members, PANDA is a force to be reckoned with. This year’s annual golf tournament and “Children Helping Children” fashion show raised more than $435,000 for the PANDA Healthy Babies Project, which supported research and care for premature babies.

**Kids of Steele**

Kids of Steele continued to foster a spirit of giving back to the community.

**Tee Up For Tots**

Thanks to their annual golf tournament and the addition of a new event, A Fun Night Out, Tee Up For Tots is a source of support for pediatric cancer patients and help make significant strides in pediatric cancer research. In 2011, the group named the seventh Courtney Page Zillman Fellow, Alexis Lorenz.

**Marisa Ann Gallego Foundation**

The memory of Marisa Ann Gallego continues to inspire her family and friends to find better treatments and a cure for pediatric cancer. The 2011 IMAGine A Cure golf tournament raised $10,000 for research, proving once again that passion and heart can go a long way.

**Students Supporting Brain Tumor Research**

decided to shake things up in 2011, hosting a fashion show on the University of Arizona campus. The event was a hit, raising $2,000 for pediatric cancer research at the Steele Center.

The Steele Center was thrilled to welcome back Elks ELITE in 2011, a group made up of the most outstanding pre-business freshmen at the University of Arizona. For the second year in a row, their marketing competition raised more than $1,000.

With the help of the Men’s Active 20-30 Club of Southern Arizona, the Steele Center was named a beneficiary of Coaches’ Night Out in 2011. The annual dinner features some of the University of Arizona’s most respected coaches and players and raised more than $8,500. This year we saw the creation of WillPower, a movement led by UA senior Sami Zarifi, who lost his brother Will to cancer. Through the sales of a WillPower clothing line at the University of Arizona Bookstores, the group will help support pediatric cancer research at the Steele Center.

**Sigma Chi Fraternity**

The University of Arizona’s Sigma Chi fraternity got down and dirty to raise funds for the Steele Center and Diamond Children’s this year. Their Derby Days event featured egg walks, obstacle courses and eating challenges and raised $5,500 for the Steele Center.

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**HYUNDAI HOPE ON WHEELS DRIVES PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH Forward**
Thank you for your support!

Physician-scientists from the UA Steele Center serve children throughout Arizona and neighboring states, focusing primarily on difficult-to-treat diseases like pediatric cancers, type 1 diabetes, autism spectrum disorders, congenital heart disease and gastrointestinal disorders such as Crohn’s disease and eosinophilic esophagitis.

Steele Center pediatrics and pediatric specialists conduct more than 60,000 patient visits a year, providing the cutting-edge care that only comes from being an academic research institution. Physician-scientists at the Steele Center focus on investigating the causes of pediatric diseases and work to discover new treatments and therapies for children suffering with illness.

In FY10-11, $1,315,909 was received in donations to support the Steele Center.

We thank each of our donors for their investment in the Steele Center and children’s health.

$250,000 - Antenna Eto Major Projects
PNASIA—Phoenix Women’s Board

Father’s Day Cookout Tucson

Hoptale Hyundai Dealership

Supporters of the Diamond Children’s Medical Center/Steele Children’s Research Center

$50,000 - $99,999

Armstrong McDonald Foundation

Jacqueline and Bennett Domine and Dominique Family Foundation

In honor of David Tyler—Father of the Year 2011

$25,000 - $49,999

Anonymous

Cyphl, LLC

In honor of David Tyler—Father of the Year 2011

Donations raised through events: 59%

Direct Donations: 41%

TYPES OF DONATIONS

Donations were directed to:

- Research: 56%
- Endowment: 25%
- Recruitments: 5%
- Community: 7%
- Annual Fund/greatest need: 1%

$5,000 – $9,999

$10,000 – $24,999

$25,000 – $49,999

$50,000 – $99,999

$100,000 – $249,999

$250,000 – $499,999

$500,000 – $999,999

$1,000,000 – $2,499,999

$2,500,000 – $4,999,999

$5,000,000 +

TYPES OF DONORS

- Individuals: 37%
- Foundations: 44%
- Corporations: 19%

We appreciate every gift made to the Steele Children’s Research Center. It is the kindness and generality of our donors that allow us to provide today’s care and tomorrow’s cures to children throughout Arizona. We want to give special thanks to the following individuals and foundations who gave over $1,000,000 in 2010:

BBVA Compass

Margaret Dawson

Arturo and Gloria Bon Hove

Koeman and Michael Bernier

Jeannie and Michael Bush

Molly and Mark Bieden

Barbara and James Bieden

Julie Brinley

Mary Beth and Bernard Bowers

Shirley Bubash

BFGoodrich

Blue Cross Blue Shield

Toni and Chris Cunat

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The Department of Pediatrics welcomed these new faculty members in the calendar year 2011:

Alan Bedrick, MD, professor, Section Chief of Neonatology; was honored as one of 40 individuals chosen from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine faculty, deans and alumni as having positively impacted and shaped its College of Medicine and the future of medicine.

Chris Cunefare, MD, professor, Section Chief of Medical and Molecular Genetics; received a three-year, $1.35 million grant from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for the research project, “Arizona Muscular Dystrophy Surveillance Tracking and Research Network (AZ MDRSN).”

Michael Daines, MD, assistant professor, Section of Pulmonology, Allergy and Immunology; was awarded a $1.25 million, five-year grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the role a common mold plays in the development of allergic asthma.

Bohuslav Dvorak, PhD, professor, Section of Neonatology; was awarded a research contract for $31,000 from the Meiji Diary Corporation, Odawara, Japan, to study the effects of dietary proteins on necrotizing enterocolitis; received $25,000 research gift and $91,000 research contract from the Mead Johnson & Company to study the role of lactoferrin in intestinal inflammation.

Sean Elliott, MD, professor, Section of Infectious Diseases; appointed chairman of the Academy of Medical Education Scholars at UA College of Medicine; appointed Director of the Pediatric Residency Program. Publications: Congential Cytomegalovirus: An Overview; Infectious Disorders - Drug Targets 2011; 11; 432-436; Rat Bola Fever. Altas of Human Infectious Disease. Wertheim HFL, Horby P, Woodall JP. Wiley-Blackwell Press (Oxford University) 2012; 80-81.

Pawel Kiela, PhD, associate professor, Section of Hematology/Oncology, received a $50,000 “Hyundai Scholar Grant” from the Hyundai Hope on Wheels program. The funding will support her research on the role nutrition plays in pediatric oncology.

Nicole Abdy, MD, Assistant Professor, Section of General Pediatrics

Aileen Har, MD, Assistant Professor, Section of Gastroenterology and Nutrition

Joel S. Blumberg, MD, Assistant Professor, Section of General Pediatrics

Melissa Moore, MD, Assistant Professor, Section of General Pediatrics

Rachel Garner, MD, Assistant Professor, Section of Neonatology

Michele Munkwitz, MD, Assistant Professor, Section of Critical Care

Melissa Cox, DO, Assistant Professor, Section of Hospital Medicine and Outreach

Tiffany Herr, MD, Assistant Professor, Section of Hospital Medicine and Outreach

Joe Livingston, MD, MS, MPH, Assistant Professor, Section of Neonatology

Scott Klewer, MD, professor, Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, received a $3.6 million, five-year LEND grant.

Puja Gupta, MD, assistant professor, Section of Hematology/Oncology, received a $50,000 “Hyundai Scholar Grant” from the Hyundai Hope on Wheels program. The funding will support her research on the role nutrition plays in pediatric oncology.


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