

A PUBLICATION
FOR THE FRIENDS OF
MEMORIAL HERMANN

Memorial Hermann Foundation
Winter 2020

ADVANCING THE

VISION

HEART & VASCULAR CARE

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to know when seconds count

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DEAR FRIENDS,

In this first issue of *Vision* for 2020, we celebrate the end of a wonderful year that has set us up for a new decade of growth and progress at Memorial Hermann Health System.



Tony Bradfield, Anne Neeson and Jim Postl at the Heroes in Health holiday reception

In the pages that follow, we look back at some of the remarkable talent, advances and results that deserve our support, along with many of the big-hearted donors who step up to make it possible for so many to have access to such high-level care and better health.

To continue with our coverage of Memorial Hermann's Heart and Vascular services, we feature the brilliant work of Drs. Gregoric and Kar, who have built an extraordinary team and a world-renowned reputation as leading experts in research, new procedures, devices and treatments for advanced heart failure.

The Foundation is committed to help as Memorial Hermann ensures the future of this and other vital heart and vascular programs.

Thank you all for your generosity, your involvement and your friendship. You make a monumental difference in our community.

Let's do more great things together in 2020.

Anne E. Neeson
Executive Vice President & CEO
Memorial Hermann Foundation



TICK TOCK

Meet the heart failure team to know when seconds count

They look like ordinary men. They talk, they joke and they laugh like ordinary men. But there's nothing ordinary about the miracles these two unassuming heart failure and transplant specialists perform every day at Memorial Hermann Center for Advanced Heart Failure at Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute.



Igor Gregoric, MD



Biswajit Kar, MD

Biswajit Kar, MD, and Igor Gregoric, MD, are a rare duo in many ways. They came to Memorial Hermann to build the Center for Advanced Heart Failure from the ground up after working together at Houston's respected Texas Heart Institute with legends like Drs. Bud Frazier and Denton Cooley as mentors.

"That's where I met the best friend of my life," says Dr. Kar of Dr. Gregoric, who clearly feels the same way.

Their very first meeting helped spark their enduring friendship. Dr. Kar asked for a referral for a surgeon capable of doing a fistula, and Dr. Gregoric simply answered, "Sure, I'll do it."

That was the answer Dr. Kar was hoping for. "It was for my mom," he says, laughing, "and I wanted someone of Dr. Gregoric's caliber to do it."

The Center for Advanced Heart Failure is leading the nation in structural heart, minimally invasive surgery and catheter-based therapies, along with the development of new pumps and innovative technologies to improve health and survival.

What makes these men tick

Dedication and an incredible work ethic define the team. Before the Center for Advanced Heart failure was established, the doctors themselves would drive or take Memorial Hermann Life Flight® to care for patients in remote areas, teaching physicians there to do what they do. To this day, they still make these trips when necessary to ensure a patient can safely be transported to the Texas Medical Center. Also thanks to them, Life Flight is one of the few air transport services with clearance for on-board heart-lung machines.

Their camaraderie in the transplant arena is remarkable to hear about and a thing of beauty to see in person. They and their teams work seamlessly together, Dr. Gregoric performing the transplant and Dr. Kar teaching the new heart to work well in its new environment. As Dr. Kar puts it, "He builds the plane. I fly it."

From zero to amazing

Today, just seven years after coming to Memorial Hermann together, the doctors have built a cardiogenic shock center that provides every level of service, from early preventive cardiac care to heart transplantation. Dr. Gregoric, a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon, is chief and program director of the Center for Advanced Heart Failure's Surgical Division, and Dr. Kar, a cardiovascular disease specialist, is chief of its Medical Division.

This special center was intentionally set up as a separate entity, cochaired by them, allowing the two doctors and their teams to push and challenge each other as they care for their patients.

"Other docs talk about this, but it's just talk," says Dr. Kar. "This hybridization of ours just clicked. From the first time we met, we've always made decisions together."

The Center for Advanced Heart Failure

30
cardiologists

8
surgeons

45
heart transplants
each year

55
heart assist
devices each
year

"And our collaboration has led to a lot of new treatments," Dr. Gregoric adds.

Changing the way the world operates

These courageous experts have pioneered new techniques that are now standard procedure across the country. One of many examples involves a story of a patient who had crashed after surgery. His only hope was to have an ECMO, a heart-lung bypass. With no time to prep an OR, Dr. Gregoric and his colleagues convinced Dr. Kar to do the surgical procedure at the man's bedside.

They knew they were breaking new ground, but, as Dr. Gregoric recalls, there was no other option. "The poor man was dying. We had to do something."

Dr. Kar and team successfully performed the bypass, and bedside ECMOs are now commonplace, saving precious time and lives. And it's just one of many procedures the Center for Advanced Heart Failure team has developed and shared around the world



to streamline the treatment of cardiogenic shock, greatly reducing a national mortality rate of near 90%.

The teams are revolutionizing minimally invasive heart surgeries as well, calling upon their historical lab work testing the newest devices and teaching the placement procedure to others, which they still do. Dr. Gregoric, in fact, has pioneered the placement of left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) without the use of a heart-lung machine, representing a quantum improvement in the difficult, four-hour surgery. The Center for Advanced Heart Failure is also one of the top three in the country performing cutting-edge transcatheter aortic valve replacements and MitraClip procedures.

Attracting a prestigious team

The duo has thoughtfully assembled a team of 38 board-certified doctors affiliated with McGovern Medical School at UTHealth and recognized for their expertise in diagnosing and treating advanced heart failure. They

70-90%

The mortality rate for cardiogenic shock without aggressive, highly experienced care.

#1

Cardiogenic shock is the leading cause of death from heart attacks.

"We're critically limited by space."

Igor Gregoric, MD

spend long days and sleepless nights together in collaboration with teams from other disciplines in the hospital and across the Memorial Hermann Health System.

Continuing support is critical

The patient success stories are remarkable, and there are hundreds to be told. And yet, despite the Center's growing numbers, it's the numbers turned away that impress the doctors more. They were brought on to build the No. 1 advanced heart failure and pulmonary therapies center in the country. And they take that responsibility to heart.

"We need space," says Dr. Gregoric, emphatically. "We're critically limited by space."

"It is frustrating," Dr. Kar concurs, "to build all this, and have to turn down almost a third of our requests."

You can help support vital expansion of the Center for Advanced Heart Failure at memorialhermannfoundation.org.

LIGHTING THE WAY

A SPECTACULAR ROOFTOP CELEBRATION OF THE NEW MEMORIAL HERMANN LIFE FLIGHT® HELIPAD

A lively group of Memorial Hermann Foundation board members, friends and fellow philanthropists gathered nearby to watch the inaugural lighting of Life Flight's new landing spot atop the Susan and Faye Sarofim Pavilion. The 17-story Pavilion, which opens in February, provides trauma and critical care as the new home of the Red Duke Trauma Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, the John. S. Dunn Burn Center and Life Flight.

This vital expansion could not have been possible without the magnanimous support of our donors. Topping that list are legendary philanthropists Susan and Faye Sarofim.

Their \$25 million gift to Memorial Hermann-TMC's Breaking New Ground renovation and expansion campaign remains the largest single gift Memorial Hermann has ever received.

The Sarofim's wish for the Pavilion that bears their name is for it to serve not only as a place where people receive the highest quality of care, but also where Memorial Hermann continues to develop necessary research, critical care advancements and injury prevention programs to revolutionize the field of trauma services.



A CHANGE OF HEART

At one time, Abigail Franklin's future involved the very real prospect of undergoing a heart transplant. Today, the 17-year-old has her whole life ahead of her—with her own now-healthy heart.

After living through a difficult pregnancy and tests revealing their developing baby's low heart rate was due to a heart block, Eve Franklin, and her husband, John, were thrilled when their precious Abigail was born looking healthy and strong.

"She was so pink and so beautiful," Eve recalls, "even the doctors were surprised."

They had all expected Abigail to need extraordinary assistance immediately. As it turns out, she was well enough to let sicker babies go before her for care. Three days later, she got the pacemaker that would give her parents peace of mind. For a while.

Facing reality with gratitude and grace

Abigail was born with a rare and very complicated heart defect known as congenitally corrected transposition of the great arteries (CCTGA). In simple terms, both of the pumping chambers of her heart were reversed. Her heart's arteries also were reversed, which served to correct the abnormal development, in a way. All was well for years.

The Franklin family, including Abigail's older brother, Jack, and younger sister, Julia, is a close-knit crew. They enjoyed a very active life when the kids were young, and Abigail had no trouble keeping up as they played on the swings and monkey bars at the park, even taking swimming lessons in the summers.

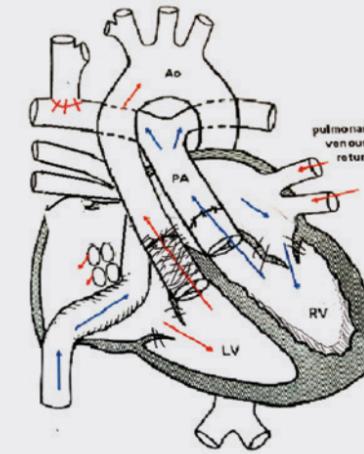
It wasn't until Abigail was a little older that she began to have trouble. Her school noticed it first. The midday Texas heat got to her at recess. She tired easily and lacked energy.

"I feel bad when I think back on how nonchalant I was," admits Eve, who is a nurse. But Abigail wasn't a complainer. She always wanted to try to do anything other kids her age could do.

The Franklins eventually consulted with doctors who assured them that an interventional heart catheterization would solve Abigail's issues. An hour and a half into the procedure, the doctors realized they were wrong, and the repairs they were planning would solve some issues at the expense of others. They couldn't proceed. The Franklins were devastated to learn that a future heart transplant was her only hope for a healthy life.



It took Dr. Salazar and his skilled team 14 hours to unscramble Abigail's heart as they closed the holes, removed blockages and put it all back together as it should be.



The referral that sparked a miracle

Two years later, their new pediatric cardiologist raised the family's hopes again. He referred them to Jorge D. Salazar, MD, who heads the affiliated pediatric heart surgery team at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Dr. Salazar studied Abigail's case. Doctors had discovered her heart had many defects beyond her CCTGA—an obstruction to blood flow, leaky valves and four holes. Abigail's "perfectly imperfect" heart had made extraordinary compensations over her 15 years, but the system was unraveling—she could barely make it up a flight of stairs.

Dr. Salazar was sure he could reassemble it, allowing her to lead a normal life.

The Franklins were understandably skeptical. They'd been disappointed many times before. "At first, when he said he could do this," Abigail remembers, "I was, like, really?" Ultimately, she and her family agreed to take one more leap of faith. This time, they were overjoyed by the results.

It took Dr. Salazar and his skilled team 14 hours to unscramble Abigail's heart as they closed the holes, removed blockages and put it all back together as it should be. As he explained of his work, "It doesn't matter what it looks like on the outside. It all works perfectly and normally on the inside."

Abigail agrees. She has a new life now, with no heart transplant needed. "Dr. Salazar is amazing," she says simply. "I mean, he fixed my heart!"

A year after her life-giving surgery, she appreciates every moment, knowing how miraculous they are. As she revealed to her mom recently, she knows how short her life might have been.

Now she has college in her future, and all the other dreams and desires a 17-year-old deserves. Still, it's the little things that make the biggest impressions some days.

As she and her mom entered church recently, they reveled in this new reality. "I can breathe," Abigail said, happily. "Look at me. I'm going up the stairs."

A RAZZLE DAZZLE FETE TO REMEMBER

REBA MCENTIRE INSPIRES DONORS TO RECORD-BREAKING HEIGHTS

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of Memorial Hermann Foundation's annual luncheon, this year's Razzle Dazzle "BLOOM" made history, raising a stunning \$850,000 to benefit early detection and outreach programs at the Bobetta Lindig Breast Care Center at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center. Country legend, acclaimed actress

and entrepreneur Reba McEntire headlined the event in a live interview with Frank Billingsley, KPRC2 chief meteorologist. We owe a debt of gratitude to Houston community leaders Whitney Crane and Tony Bradfield for cochairing the event honoring Bobetta Lindig for her vision in creating the center that bears her name.

"The most important gift to someone battling cancer is quality time."

Reba McEntire, whose sister is a breast cancer survivor



Reba McEntire and Bobetta Lindig



Elsie Eckert, Dr. Yvonne Cormier and Sidney Faust



Lynn Wyatt and Gracie Cavnar



Tony Bradfield, Bobetta Lindig, Whitney Crane and Anne Neeson



Edd Hendee and Robin Mueck



Sherry Smith and Lisa Simon



Laurel D'Antoni, Stephen Lewis and Hallie Vanderhider



Marcy Taub Wessel and Whitney Crane



Jona Lindig and Bobetta Lindig



Jo Lynn Falgout and Christine Falgout Gutknecht



Ann Cazalot and Tony Bradfield



Jeff and Rachel Bagwell, Jim Crane



PHILANTHROPY

Tony Bradfield provided a Razzle Dazzle luncheon highlight, sporting a Lindig Breast Center robe.



Stephanie Skinner, Kate Upton, Whitney Crane, Jennifer Lagomarsino, Jacqueline Disney



Marguerite Swartz and Christina Stith



Alice Mosing and Lilly Andress



Kimberly Falgout and Ashlee Love



This year's Razzle Dazzle "BLOOM" made history, raising a stunning \$850,000



Regina Garcia and Philamena Baird



Nicole Rose, Kiet Chu, Susan Sarofim and Sandy Barrett



Janet Gurwirth and Sheridan Williams



Hilda Curran, Courtney Sarofim, Aliyya Stude, Elyse Lanier, Jenny Kempner



PHILANTHROPY

2019 In the Pink Committee

IN THE PINK

19TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON RAISES \$775,000+

More than 1,100 people (and one Great Dane) gathered for the 19th annual In the Pink of Health luncheon in support of breast and ovarian cancer awareness as well as cancer survivor programs

and services, including the free services at Canopy Cancer Survivorship Center at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center.



Josh Urban, Rick Rigby, Dee Gelsomini, Debra Cooper



Cheryl Brady, Debra Cooper, Dee Gelsomini and Tiffany McClung



Noel Cardenas, Josh Urban, Roy Hearnberger, Tim Baker, Anne Neeson, Robert Pazzarella and Dr. Roger Brown

\$10 MILLION GIFT TO WOMEN'S SERVICES

Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital continues to grow

“Women’s services are a key component of health care in any community.”

Those words, from Northeast Hospital Authority board of trustees president Roy Hearnberger, underscored a \$10 million donation his group made to the Memorial Hermann Foundation for upgrades to the Family Life Center and other women’s services facilities at Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital.

The donation recognizes Memorial Hermann Northeast’s commitment to providing quality care to women. Hearnberger adds, “Cutting-edge technology is also essential to attracting the best doctors.”

This contribution provides for a comprehensive renovation of the existing waiting room, operating rooms and delivery rooms; relocation of the postpartum unit to the hospital’s South Tower; new technology and equipment for labor and delivery; and new office space for dedicated women’s services physicians.

The Family Life Center, Memorial Hermann Northeast’s labor and delivery unit, currently delivers an average of 1,200 babies a year.

“We are so thankful for the continued support of our mission to advance the health of the communities we serve,” said Josh Urban, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Northeast and Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center.

The Northeast Hospital Authority was established by the city of Humble in 1977 with the goal of providing quality healthcare to patients close to home. Its long history of support of Memorial Hermann Northeast includes assistance with the hospital’s updated neonatal intensive care unit in June.

Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2020 and last a year.

HEROES IN HEALTH HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Susan and Faye Sarofim hosted a special reception to celebrate the generosity of Heroes in Health members who contributed \$5,000 or more to Memorial Hermann Foundation in 2019. Among twinkling lights and stunning décor, the guests enjoyed an inspiring performance by the Theatre Under The Stars Inclusive Performance Troupe.



Susie Distefano, Anne Neeson and Susan Sarofim



Gwen and Ed Emmett



Steve and Renee Ash



Dr. David Callender and Bill King



Alice and Keith Mosing



Gary Petersen with Mary and John Eads



Lisa Simon with Stewart Morris and Lisa Nixon-Sparks



Don and Rose Shepard



David and Van Greenberg

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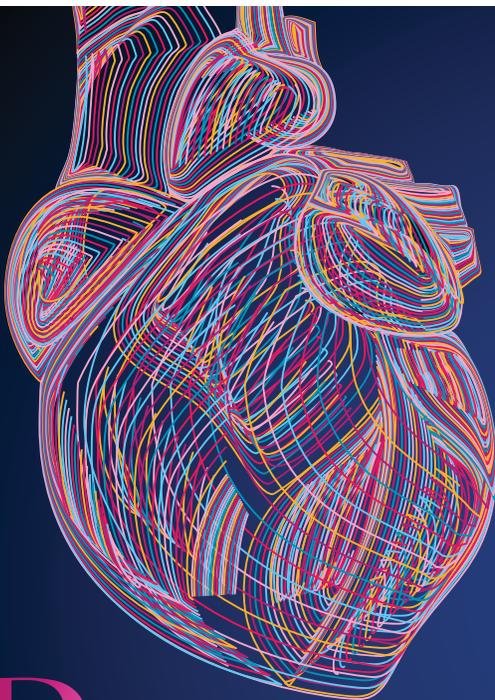
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CHAIRS

ELIZABETH AND GARY PETERSEN

HONOREES

ALICE AND KEITH MOSING

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RECEPTION 7PM | DINNER 8PM

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