

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1626  
San Francisco  
California

2789 - 25th Street, Suite 2028  
San Francisco, CA 94110

THE SAN FRANCISCO  
GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION



## Of Note

The SFGH Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to welcome **Susan A. Currin, RN, MS**, Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Patient Services at SFGHMC, to the Board.

Congratulations to two long-time Foundation supporters on their election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in the fields of medicine and health sciences:

**Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD**, an SFGH Foundation Director, is Chief of Medical Services at SFGHMC and Constance B. Wofsy Distinguished Professor and Vice Chairman of Medicine at UCSF.

**Phillip D. Darney, MD**, Founder of the Women's Options Center, funded by the Foundation, is Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at SFGHMC; Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at UCSF; and a Director of the Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy.

## SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judith Guggenhime, President  
Herbert H. Myers, Vice President  
Leon Tuan, Esq., CPA, Treasurer  
Pamela Baer  
Lyman Casey  
Robert Christmas  
Susan A. Currin, RN, MS  
Diana Dalton  
Gretchen de Baubigny  
James C. Flood  
Tina Frank  
Jessica Parish Galloway  
Susan D. Hellmann, MD, MPH  
Mary Huss  
Lynn Jimenez-Catchings  
Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD  
Sally N. Lovett  
John Luce, MD  
Theodore Miclau, MD  
Jerry Pang  
Mindy Pengel  
David Post  
Jeff Raleigh  
William Schecter, MD  
Paula Carien Schultz  
Jonathan Tsao, AIA

### EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Sue Carlisle, MD  
Gene Marie O'Connell  
David Sanchez, PhD

### EMERITI

George Clyde, Esq.  
Moses Grossman, MD  
Genevieve di San Faustino

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Eunice Azzani  
Debra A. Barnes  
James M. Corroon  
Neil Diver  
George Doubleday II  
Renee Dunn  
Thomas Dunworth  
Susan Federman  
Gayling Gee, RN  
Douglas E. Goldman, MD  
Sydney Goldstein  
John H. Goy  
Richard J. Guggenhime  
Charlene Harvey  
E. Dixon Heise  
William Hughes, Jr.  
Jay B. Hunt  
Lucy Johns, MPH

Dr. and Mrs. Julius R. Krevans  
John and June Lilienthal  
William and Stephanie MacColl  
George G. Montgomery, Jr.  
Helene M. Oppenheimer  
Walter F. Pettit  
Merle A. Sande, MD  
Charlotte Mailliard Schultz  
John B. Sias  
Jo Schuman Silver  
Richard Slottow  
Craig and Maureen O'Brien Sullivan  
John Winningham  
Ann Witter

### FOUNDATION STAFF

Jamie Whittington  
*Acting Executive Director*  
Leigh Illion  
*Development Director*  
Tanya Slesnick  
*Controller*  
Janet Philpott  
*Executive Assistant*  
Kiren Jolly  
*Development Assistant*  
Margaret Altman  
*Accountant*

The San Francisco General Hospital Foundation is dedicated to improving the care and comfort of patients at the San Francisco General Hospital.

# THE SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION NEWS

Vol. 6, No. 3

Winter 2004

## \$2,341,000 Grant from Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Funds New Nursing Internship Program

**S**an Francisco General Hospital has established a new RN Internship Program intended to enhance recruitment and retention of new graduate nurses. The program is funded by a generous three-year grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation as part of the Betty Irene Moore Nursing Initiative. Focusing on five Bay Area counties, the Initiative funds strategies to increase the number of registered nurses, improve clinical skills, and promote best practices for nursing care.

Creation of the Internship Program at SFGH was sparked by concerns that patient outcomes are affected by a shortage of nurses, a nationwide problem, and by a low rate of retention among nurses who recently entered the profession. The new Internship Program uses education to enhance new nurses' clinical skills, and to promote retention and encourage rewarding nursing careers by building interns' confidence and job satisfaction.

Lead by Chief Nursing Officer Sue Currin, RN, MS, and Director of Retention and Recruitment Leslie Holpit, RN, MSN, the program will hire 50 newly graduated nurses who hold Associate Degrees in Nursing. In addition, 45 foreign-trained nurses now on staff, who have less than two years of experience in acute care settings in the U.S., will be selected for the Program. These nurses hold Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees, but their education did not include precepted specialty and clinical leadership training required for BSN degrees in the U.S.

### Personal Training in Essential Clinical Skills

Interns will receive more than 700 hours of clinical training, plus 96 classroom hours, in the specialty department of their choice. Specialty options include the medical-surgical, emergency, critical care, perioperative, labor and delivery, newborn nursery, and psychiatry departments. Interns will receive credit toward a BSN degree through an innovative partnership with San Francisco State University.

The Program's overarching goal is to build critical thinking and decision-making skills that increase interns' clinical competence. Experienced nurses on the SFGH staff will be specially trained for this Program to serve as preceptors,

providing personalized "on-the-job" training focused on medical theory and skills unique to each department. The curriculum also includes physiology and disease processes, patient assessment skills, equipment usage, and documentation.

Fifty more nurses will be trained as mentors. Offering advice, perspective, and a supportive presence, they will help interns adjust to their new roles in the Hospital, and will encourage interns to define career goals and educational plans for achieving them.

### Building for the Future

In addition to improving patient safety by expanding nurses' skills, the Internship Program is expected to help reduce the continuing shortage of skilled nurses by increasing retention of younger nurses, more than half of whom leave the profession after their first year. By promoting job satisfaction and encouraging interns to seek BSN and advanced degrees, the Program can help extend the SFGH tradition of quality care to a new generation of RNs. ✨

## Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center: Nine Years of Healthy Babies for HIV-Positive Mothers

**A**dvances in care mean women living with HIV have excellent chances of delivering healthy babies. The Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC) is leading the way, conducting research and developing highly successful protocols that protect babies against HIV transmission during pregnancy.

"We're working in one of the few bright spots in the HIV world," says BAPAC Medical Director Deb Cohan, MD, MPH. "Without proper medication, the odds of HIV transmission during pregnancy are 25 percent. We have reduced the risk of transmission to one percent or less."

*Continued on Page 2*

# Perinatal AIDS Center

*Continued from page 1*

Until this year, BAPAC has prevented perinatal HIV transmission in every patient who actively adhered to treatment since 1995.

## **Comprehensive Care for High-Risk Pregnancies**

BAPAC provides state of the art high-risk pregnancy care, from preconception counseling and prenatal care to post-partum care for mothers and infants. Services tailored for each patient integrate weekly prenatal care, intensive case management, and counseling to help patients adhere to their treatment plans.

BAPAC serves 20 to 30 patients annually. Most are women of color living below the poverty line. Its staff actively seeks women who would benefit from early intervention and specialized HIV care through clinics at SFGH and Community Health Centers, and works with a myriad of programs that serve immigrants, substance users, the mentally ill, and the economically disadvantaged. BAPAC also frequently cares for pregnant women living outside of San Francisco, because such specialized services are not readily available elsewhere.

BAPAC focuses its outreach on promoting HIV testing and prenatal care, as well as preconception counseling. Due to lack of information or access to care, significant numbers of immigrant and low-income women receive no prenatal care, including 12 percent of those who give birth at SFGH.

“Adding HIV to pregnancy is so unfair,” Dr. Cohan says. “Early HIV testing improves our ability to treat the mother and prevent transmission. In the same way, preconception counseling helps HIV-positive women and couples make responsible decisions and get necessary care, which improves the odds of delivering healthy babies.”

## **No Typical Patient**

BAPAC’s intensively personal care means no patient is typical, though Dr. Cohan sees trends. “We’re seeing more recent Latina immigrants, who are diagnosed during prenatal care. They are terrified for their babies, and know virtually nothing about HIV. We focus on basic education about HIV and the importance of adhering to their medications, along with prenatal care.”

“Some of our most rewarding cases are active drug users,” Dr. Cohan notes. Their prenatal care includes detoxification and substance abuse support, plus HIV management. “It is inspiring to see these women get their lives in order, and so rewarding to see their children grow up healthy.”

## **The Looming Challenge of Pan-Resistant HIV**

Earlier this year, for the first time in nine years, a BAPAC client at extreme risk due to pan-resistant HIV gave birth to an HIV-infected child. Like other patients who have lived with HIV for extended periods, her virus had become drug-resistant, and harder to suppress, so transmission could not be prevented.

While the focus of care will remain on maintaining these patients’ long-term health, Dr. Cohan believes that more effective drugs, not yet available, will be required to successfully care for the coming wave of patients with new, mutated strains of HIV.

## **Tireless, Multi-Skilled Team**

Effectively managing high-risk pregnancies requires both medical and social work skills, backed by relentless dedication. BAPAC staffers collaborate on every patient, and work with other caregivers who treat BAPAC patients.

On the clinical side, Dr. Cohan and Nurse Practitioner Cynthia Feakins, MSN, FNP, work with three OB-GYN fellows who are completing advanced training in reproductive infectious disease.

Rebecca Schwartz, MSW, the staff social worker, helps patients with food, housing, financial assistance, substance abuse treatment, and more, to provide the support they need to adhere to treatment plans, optimize their health and prepare for birth. Peer Advocate Sharon Gamble, an HIV-positive mother, also focuses on patients’ basic needs. Sharon’s life experience has proven invaluable for encouraging patients to describe their needs and barriers to change, so the BAPAC team can better support them. Patient Coordinator and Administrative Assistant Gloria Fisher-Hernandez ensures that BAPAC runs smoothly and nurtures trusting relationships with patients – from providing childcare during clinic visits to creating gift baskets of donated items for mothers and babies.

Dr. Cohan says gaining patients’ trust is essential to success. “We are available around the clock, our beepers are always on, and our patients know they can always call Labor and Delivery to reach someone who is ready to help. We run a support group for patients. We provide meal vouchers and childcare during appointments. We are committed to responding to any need, at any time.”

## **Building the Knowledge to Combat HIV Worldwide**

With experience treating 610 HIV-affected pregnancies since 1989, BAPAC is a resource in the global struggle against HIV, providing advice and training for providers, educating the public, and participating in research studies. “We are lucky to work with world-renowned clinicians at SFGH who are training HIV experts abroad,” Dr. Cohan says.

BAPAC participated in the ground breaking ACTG 076 trial which demonstrated a significant reduction in perinatal transmission associated with the use of AZT during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and during the first six weeks of the infant’s life.

BAPAC also participates in research studies that are investigating strategies to improve maternal health and further reduce perinatal transmission rates, both in the United States and worldwide, and is conducting research to evaluate the optimal approach to providing routine prenatal HIV screening to outpatients.

On December 1, 2004, BAPAC helped launch a new Perinatal HIV Hotline for providers, in collaboration with the National Clinician Consultation Center. This free service offers advice to medical providers caring for HIV-infected pregnant women and exposed infants, as well as referrals to connect patients with experienced physicians in their areas. “Now,” says Dr. Cohan, “If a doctor in rural Louisiana diagnoses HIV during labor at 3:00 AM using new rapid testing technology, we can help treatment for mother and baby begin promptly.”

*The San Francisco General Hospital Foundation has supported BAPAC programs since 1997. 🌟*

# Hearts in San Francisco Ends in Gala Evening, Successful Auctions

**H**earts in San Francisco, the citywide art project benefiting the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation, ended its spectacular nine-month run with the "Heart and Soul" gala, presented by ChevronTexaco, and sponsored by SBC and Kaiser Permanente.

More than 500 supporters attended the November 11 event at SBC Park, co-chaired by Pam and Larry Baer and Cathy and David Post. A live auction of 22 heart sculptures, guided by Christie's SVP and International Director Ellanor Roberts Notides, and conducted by Christie's SVP George McNeely, highlighted the evening. A separate online auction of 89 heart sculptures drew hundreds of bidders.

## From the Heart!

"We're so honored and thrilled to be part of Hearts in San Francisco. We've loved the increased visibility for the hospital. We are profoundly grateful for the support it's brought. Our thanks to the Hearts in San Francisco Steering Committee."

— Judy Guggenhime, President  
San Francisco General Hospital Foundation

## Hearts in San Francisco Steering Committee

Nancy Bechtle, *Co-Chair*  
Ellen Magnin Newman, *Co-Chair*  
Pamela Baer  
Larry Baer  
Rita Barela  
Martha Cohen  
Alfonso Felder  
Judy Guggenhime  
Shanna McBurney  
Ellanor Roberts Notides  
Michael Osborne  
Sandy Otellini  
Yurie Pascarella  
Cathy Post  
David Post  
Lisa Pritzker  
Jeff Raleigh  
Staci Slaughter  
Patrick Smith  
Jamie Whittington

## Hearts in San Francisco Book Debuts!

Capture the spirit and beauty of the Hearts in San Francisco project. This colorful limited-edition book brings you hearts on display citywide and artists describing the inspirations for their hearts. Just \$45 plus tax and shipping.

### Get yours today

Purchase at Macy's Union Square after  
December 20

6th Floor near the Gift Wrap Department  
*or*

Order by phone at (415) 206-5930  
*Sorry, we cannot guarantee delivery for Christmas.*



*"We are delighted and exceptionally grateful for all that Hearts in San Francisco means to San Francisco General Hospital. More than raising much needed funds to enhance patient care at the Hospital, Hearts in San Francisco has increased our community's awareness of the Hospital's mission and the outstanding staff who treat our patients."*

— Gene Marie O'Connell, CEO  
San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center



Mayor Gavin Newsom congratulates Heart and Soul Auction Co-Chairs Cathy Post and Pam and Larry Baer.



Barbara Walter and Hearts Co-Chair Ellen Magnin Newman greet guests while Andre de Baubigny and Sandy Otellini take in the sights.



Hearts Co-Chair Nancy Bechtle and Michael Osborne, designer of the hearts molds and creator of four hearts, savor their accomplishments. Photos by Scotty Morris.