



THE LUNDQUIST  
INSTITUTE

# 2023 DONOR IMPACT REPORT



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## FY'23 Giving by the Numbers

# 281

donors  
*51% increase over  
FY'22*



# 90

donors made  
their first gift  
*114% increase  
over FY'22*

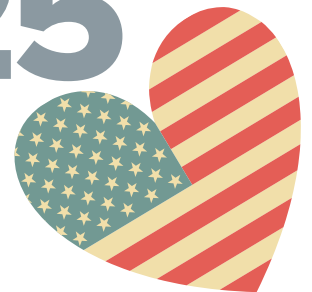
# 131

donors made a  
gift over \$1,000

*13% increase  
over FY'22*

Number of  
states where  
our donors live

# 25



Number of  
supporters  
who included  
the Institute in  
their wills



# 100%

Corporate  
Ambassador  
Board members  
made a gift



## Your Gifts in Action

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The Lundquist Institute (TLI), I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your generous contributions and share the 2023 Donor Impact Report with you. Through the collective giving of supporters like you, we raised a remarkable \$8.8 million in fiscal year 2023 (from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

Your support has directly enabled us to conduct research focusing on life-threatening diseases like cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). You've helped us launch clinical trials that are testing cutting-edge therapies, and for that, we cannot thank you enough.

But the impact of your philanthropy doesn't stop there. Your generosity is also shaping the future of health care by facilitating the training of the next generation of translational researchers and clinician-scientists — the backbone of our mission — and their work is vital to the advances we strive to make every day.

Thanks to the support of donors like you, we've expanded the Lundquist Little Einsteins and High School Summer Fellow programs. These programs are expanding our reach and creating more opportunities for young minds to explore and contribute to the world of science.

I hope that you take pride in the tangible impact of your generosity. You are a critical part of our mission, helping to make the world a better place one discovery at a time.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable partnership. Together, we're transforming lives and shaping the future of medical research.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

David Meyer, PhD  
President & CEO

## Expanding Access to Preventative Cardiac Care

Farima “Faye” and Joseph Czyzyk, a couple from Rolling Hills, California, donated \$1.5 million to The Lundquist Institute to expand access to preventative cardiac care. The funds are already helping Matt Budoff, MD and his team provide coronary artery calcium (CAC) scans and computed tomography (CT) angiograms either at no charge or at a significant discount to those who may not have insurance or the necessary financial resources.

CAC scans and CT angiograms are imaging tests that can help doctors identify patients who are at risk for heart disease. However, most health insurance providers will only cover these tests if a patient is already experiencing symptoms of a heart attack.

With the Czyzyks’ gift, more people will have access to these important tests, regardless of their financial situation. In the first year of the program, many low-income individuals have already benefitted from the free or discounted scans.

“The best part of my career was my time at Harbor-UCLA,” said Faye. “This program needed some money, so I did it. It’s a lifesaving cause and Dr. Budoff is one of the best.”

The Czyzyks’ donation is not the only recent gift to support Dr. Budoff’s work at The Lundquist Institute. The Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation also donated \$1 million to the Institute to support research into the effects of the anti-inflammatory colchicine in people with coronary artery disease, which affects about 1 in 20 adults in the U.S.

“I am excited to embark on this study and discover whether this anti-inflammatory medication can make a difference in our patients,” said Dr. Budoff.

Donors like the Czyzyks and the Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation are making a difference in the lives of people with heart disease. Their generous donations are helping to ensure more people have access to the care they need to live longer and healthier lives.

## THE FARIMA CZYZYK CENTER FOR CARDIAC RESEARCH AND WELLNESS AT THE LUNDQUIST INSTITUTE



*In recognition of their gift, The Lundquist Institute celebrated the dedication of “The Farima Czyzyk Center for Cardiac Research and Wellness” in April 2023.*

*(From left to right: Faye Czyzyk, Matt Budoff, and Joseph Czyzyk)*

## Connecting Low-Income Families with Poverty-Fighting Resources

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, The Lundquist Institute is expanding the reach, effectiveness, and efficiency of its Medical-Financial Partnership (MFP). Led by Monique Holguin, PhD and Adam Schickedanz, MD, PhD, the MFP is a health care innovation that addresses the health issues of poverty by investing in the financial capability and security of children and families from marginalized communities.

The MFP incorporates a new web- and phone-based app, the Benefits Explorer Tool (BET), that helps families find and apply for public benefits, such as food stamps, Medicaid, and housing assistance. This innovative approach is designed to improve access to public benefits and other anti-poverty resources for under-enrolled families more efficiently.

“We thank the Parsons Foundation for its generosity and vision in funding MFP’s BET tool,” said Lynne M. Smith, MD, Investigator at The Lundquist Institute and the J. Usha Raj Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

“This grant will help make it possible for our clinic to increase awareness and directly connect families whose children receive primary care to key public benefits during well child visits. This is a testament to the thoughtful care and planning that MFP placed into developing the BET to ensure that it was both patient-centered and clinically transformative,” said Dr. Smith.

### IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

#### Dr. Asghar Abbasi Johnny Carson Foundation COPD Postdoctoral Fellow

With support from the Johnny Carson Foundation and the Pulmonary Education and Research Foundation (PERF), the Respiratory Research Center recruited Asghar Abbasi, PhD in 2017. An expert in immunology, Dr. Abbasi initially joined The Lundquist Institute as a Johnny Carson Foundation COPD Postdoctoral Fellow and is now an Investigator.

In addition to researching the mechanisms by which COPD patients are protected from lung infections through exercise training, he is involved in a multidisciplinary clinical trial to investigate the safety and efficacy of exercise training to treat Long COVID in underserved patients at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

“Support from the Johnny Carson Foundation and PERF has been critical to accelerating my research into the mechanisms responsible for improvements in the immune system in COPD patients in response to exercise and exercise training,” Dr. Abbasi says.

Since joining TLI’s faculty in 2022, he has already been awarded a research grant from the National Institutes of Health as a co-investigator and has several grant applications pending decision.

The Lundquist Institute remains deeply grateful to the Johnny Carson Foundation and PERF for their continued support to help provide training and funding for the next generation of COPD researchers.



Asghar Abbasi, PhD

## Addressing Psychological Distress of Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

With the prevalence of life-threatening medical conditions on the rise, the need for effective interventions to address the psychological well-being of patients has become increasingly urgent. Two generous gifts – one from the Joe & Sandy Samberg Foundation and the other from an anonymous donor – will support an FDA-approved, multi-site clinical trial, led by TLI Investigators, Charles Grob, MD and Anthony P. Bossis, PhD.

The clinical trial aims to investigate the efficacy and safety of psilocybin in individuals experiencing psychological distress associated with a diagnosis of a life-threatening medical illness. In the United States alone, approximately 1.5 million people are currently receiving palliative care, and this number is projected to reach 2.4 million by 2030. The trial will not only address the immediate needs of these individuals but also contribute to the growing body of knowledge surrounding palliative care.

The collective investment of the Joe & Sandy Samberg Foundation and TLI's donors make it possible for Drs. Grob and Bossis to make significant strides in understanding the potential benefits of psilocybin in palliative care.



Charles Grob, MD



Anthony P. Bossis, PhD

## A Potential New Treatment for Cancer

Delphine Lee, MD, PhD was inspired to research the effects of an antimicrobial drug on how immune cells work after she saw a patient with persistent hand dermatitis clear up taking the drug for another condition.

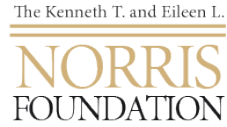
With generous support from the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, the Eastwood Charitable Trust, and donors like you, Dr. Lee's team has been able to conduct high potential experiments that federal funding agencies would not normally support. As a result, the group has made a surprising discovery that could have major implications for cancer treatment. They found that the drug changed how the body's immune system responded to certain signals, killing melanoma cancer cells but not normal skin cells. These findings have led to a patent application filed in April 2023.

This is just one example of how philanthropy is helping to advance medical research. With the generous support of donors, Dr. Lee is discovering new and better lifesaving treatments for patients here and across the world.



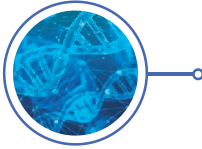
Delphine Lee, MD, PhD

# Cheers to 15 Years of Partnership



**2008**

**First gift** from the Norris Foundation to The Lundquist Institute



**2013**

**Peter Liu**  
"Preventing Type II Diabetes through Sleep"



**2015**

**Nestor Gonzalez-Cadavid**  
"Combination Therapy with Stem Cells and PDE5 Inhibitors for Critical Limb Ischemia in Diabetes"



**2017**

**Andrew Gianoukakis**  
"Plasma-Based Liquid Biopsies in Diagnosis and Treatment of Thyroid Cancer"



**2019**

**Delphine Lee**  
"The Microbiome's Relationship to Melanoma"



**2021**

**Begoña Díaz**  
"Identification of Novel Molecular Regulators of Metastasis"



**2011**

**Noah Craft**  
"Increasing Survival in High-Risk Melanoma"



**2014**

**Charles Grob**  
"Effects of Psilocybin Treatment in Advanced-Cancer Patients"



**2016**

**Joseph Lasky**  
"Enhancing Effectiveness of Chemotherapy for Brain Cancer"



**2018**

**Eli Ipp**  
"Preventing Diabetic Blindness: Novel Approaches"



**2020**

**Mykola Onyshchenko**  
"Candida Antigen Intravesical Injection for Enhancing Anti-Tumoral Immune Response"



**2022**

**Sarah Tomassetti**  
"Using ROTEM to Assess Hypercoagulable State in Patients with Lymphoproliferative Disorders"



**Delphine Lee**  
"High-Risk, High-Reward Potential Off-Target Effects of an Antimicrobial Drug on Human Immunity in Inflammation and Cancer"

## Honoring Mentors, Saving Lives through a Planned Gift

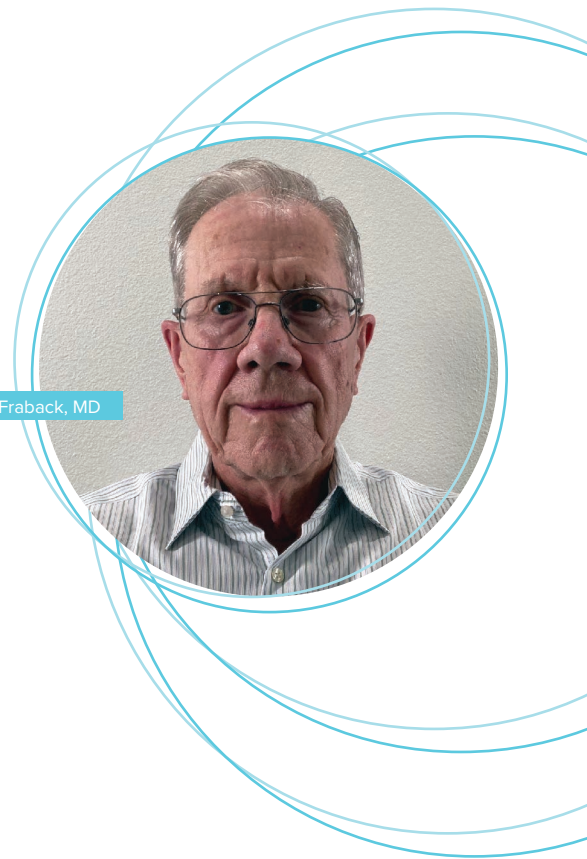
Ronald Fraback, MD, an accomplished rheumatologist and former resident at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, has dedicated his life to improving the well-being of his patients and building a healthier world. His time at Harbor-UCLA made a lasting impression on him and inspired his longstanding support of The Lundquist Institute.

Throughout his career, Dr. Fraback has made significant contributions to medicine, patient care, and teaching. His work has positively impacted the lives of countless patients with rheumatic disease. Although now residing in the Pacific Northwest, he laid the foundation for his achievements in Southern California.

As a resident at Harbor-UCLA in the 1970s, he trained under esteemed Lundquist Legend Kouchi “Corky” Tanaka, MD, as well as James Louie, MD, then-chief of rheumatology. Dr. Fraback attributes his success as a doctor to the guidance and mentorship he received from Drs. Tanaka and Louie, and these formative experiences inspired him to make his first gift to The Lundquist Institute shortly after completing his residency.

Reflecting on his support of the Institute through the years, Dr. Fraback says, “My time on campus was truly transformative. Drs. Tanaka and Louie played instrumental roles in shaping my career and nurturing my passion for making a difference through medicine. I hope that my philanthropy will enable the same crucial mentoring relationships that I benefitted from.”

For more than four decades, Dr. Fraback has been a dedicated donor, contributing annually to The Lundquist Institute’s lifesaving research and innovative initiatives. Through his planned gift, he’s pleased that his support will continue to benefit generations who will pass through the Institute’s doors. By pledging a percentage of his estate, Dr. Fraback demonstrates his unwavering commitment to building a healthier world, not only for his patients but also for the broader community.



Ronald Fraback, MD



[lundquist.org](http://lundquist.org)

For more information about your impact and giving to The Lundquist Institute, please contact:

**Office of Development**  
(323) 457-1920  
[development@lundquist.org](mailto:development@lundquist.org)