

# **The Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center**

**December 7, 2020**

## **General Meeting via Webex**

I. Welcome

Cindy Mancillas

The meeting began at 10:32 and Cindy welcomed everyone.

II. Susie Healy, Vice President of Medical Center Activities, introduced our speaker, Mia Levy, MD, PhD, Director of the Cancer Center at RUMC and System Vice President for Cancer Services at Rush System for Health.

III. 2021 Principal Project Briefing

Mia Levy, MD, PhD

Dr. Levy began by thanking the Woman's Board for their support and then addressed three topics: the Covid pandemic and how it relates to the RUMC Cancer Center, the Woman's Board 2020 Transformation Fund and the Woman's Board 2021 Precision Oncology fund.

### **RUMC Response to the Covid Pandemic**

RUMC is essentially running two hospitals now by continuing to give exceptional cancer care and treat Covid patients at the same time. Cancer cells cannot shelter in place and RUMC has had to make adjustments in care such as no longer allowing visitors and adapting new hospital protocols with PPE. They use telehealth when possible to maintain continuity of care.

That being said, Covid has had a big impact on Cancer Center patients. 370 of the RUMC cancer patients have had Covid since the pandemic began, with 106 in November alone. 30% of cancer patients with Covid are admitted to the hospital, and of those, 16% end up on ventilators. There is a 5% fatality rate for cancer patients who contract Covid. This is a very vulnerable population.

RUMC has a better understanding of Covid now than in the spring and is better at treating it. The number of inpatients is declining, the length of stays is shorter,

and there are improved drugs on the market now. RUMC has not had to shut down elective procedures this fall.

The recent news about the vaccine is very hopeful for the country. Health care workers are a high priority group to receive the vaccine early on and RUMC expects that the entire Rush health care provider group should receive the first dose of the vaccine by the end of January. The country needs to get to a 70% herd immunity before seeing any changes in community spread. The hope is that one year from now, we can all be together again.

### **The Transformation Fund**

Focused on the Cancer Center patient experience, the 2020 Transformation Fund has had several operational achievements:

1. Reducing the time to a first treatment with interdepartmental communication
2. Planning a more perfect visit
3. Creating value and reducing the cost of care for patients

The impact of the fund continues to grow.

### **The Precision Oncology Research Fund**

Tumor organoids, 3-dimensional masses of cells artificially grown from patients' cancer cells, allow doctors to study each patient's unique case in a laboratory setting and provide customized treatment plans.

Support from the Woman's Board fund will contribute to the collection and storage of biospecimens and enable scientists to gather preliminary data. Organoids have a power of scale that is unattainable in a clinical trial where a patient can only be administered one treatment at a time. Precision oncology allows researchers to try many different drugs with organoids to see how the tumor responds. RUMC models the response of the organoid with actual pathology and imaging studies to measure the effectiveness of the treatment. More research is needed to assess how much the organoid response will match the tumor response inside a patient. There are two eligible patient groups for the first study: patients with early stage breast cancer, undergoing pre-surgical chemotherapy and patients with metastatic solid tumors with measurable disease on imaging.

The potential impact of precision oncology is massive:

1. Future studies to evaluate the clinical utility of organoid drug screen in treatment decision making
2. Evaluate potential efficacy of novel drug treatments before clinical trials
3. Inform clinical trial designs for novel therapies
4. Enable studies to evaluate the mechanisms of drug resistance

The project leaders are Jeffrey Borgia, PhD, Casey Frankenburger, PhD and Ashiq Masood, MD

Given the uncertain fundraising environment, RUMC has identified three different tiers of funding plans.

1. A \$300,000 Commitment will support early-stage validation studies in one patient population (i.e. lung or breast cancer) with 25 participants
2. A \$400,000 Commitment will support validation studies and early-stage observational studies in two populations (i.e. lung and breast cancer) with 35 participants
3. A \$500,000 Commitment will support validation studies and observational studies in three patient populations (i.e. lung, breast and colorectal cancers) with 45 participants

IV. Approval of November Minutes

Cindy Mancillas

Lenore Macdonald made a motion to approve the November minutes and Gillian Stoettner seconded it. The motion was approved.

V. Tribute Tree

Malou Rawls

This year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> year of the Tribute Tree, which Malou started in 2003. Over the past 17 years, \$131,470 has been raised for the hospital. As of December 4<sup>th</sup> this year, we have raised \$18,730 from 62 donors.

VI. Gift Shop

Melissa Hennessy

The revenues are down in the gift shop this year, but so are the costs, so the gift shops are holding their own. Sue Varges is working wonders in the shops and they are all decorated for the holidays. The shops were able to use holiday

inventory on hand so did not need to order new merchandise. The lobby vendor sales had to be cancelled due to the increase in Covid numbers, but the Little Christmas Boutique has been extended another week and board members can purchase items by calling or sending the form to Melissa or Sue Varges.

#### VII. Spring Luncheon

Katie Frekko & Brooke Kuehnle

In 2021 the Spring Luncheon will be a virtual event and the new date is Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Cindy McCain will still be the speaker and Brooke and Katie have many ideas to make it a fun and vibrant virtual event. Please reach out to Katie and/or Brooke if you are interested in serving on a committee.

#### VIII. Fall Benefit 2021

Sarah Alshouse & Bethany Crocker

The Fall Benefit is scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> at Theatre on the Lake. We hope it will be a live event, but we are also making plans if it needs to be virtual. We are sending out a Sign-Up Genius for committees, so keep an eye out in your emails. There will be a kick-off meeting on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't already answered the 2020 Benefit survey, please do so soon.

#### IX. Membership

Pam Fitzgerald

Pam thanked those who have already submitted their new member paperwork. All proposals for next year's membership class are due by January 21<sup>st</sup>. Each application requires one proposer and two sponsors. The applicants cannot serve on any other hospital boards.

#### X. Winnetka Auxiliary/Junior Board

Tricia Albian & Jeanne McAtamney

The revised 2020 Cooks' Tour has grossed over \$106,000 in revenues so far and they plan to keep the fundraising portion of the Cooks' Tour open until year end. The Auxiliary has designated a Strategic Planning Committee to make recommendations on how to handle 2021 fundraising while keeping board members engaged. They will have a second Strategic Planning Committee for the Junior Board in the spring.

Simpson Academy is gearing up this month and the board will hold its first mentoring session on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They will hold their annual diaper and formula drive soon and ask for support as this has been a very difficult year for the Simpson girls.

The Junior Board has pivoted to all remote meetings and they have been working hard to support remote hospital volunteering opportunities and recently made door decorations for the residents of the Bowman Center. They hosted a virtual Holiday Tea and sold many crafts online as well as at the Winnetka Open Air Holiday Market. They don't have the final numbers yet, but believe it was a very successful event. The four Holiday Tea Chairmen: Zara Anwar, Grace Conley, Evie Halston and Caroline Ellerman worked very hard and were supported by Parent Advisors: Jennifer Ellerman, Justine Cody, Leslie Graham and Fran Jacobs.

Over 30% of the Junior Board girls have been able to take advantage of the Rush Diversity online certification program and they are very grateful for the opportunity.

#### XI. Announcements

Cindy Mancillas

- Yearbooks have been mailed; directory listings are in our private members section of the website
- Dr. Lateef's responses to last month's additional questions were included in the reminder notice this morning about today's meeting
- Holiday Boutique – extended order deadline through today
- Women's & Children's Hospital Committee Holiday Gift Card Drive – Wed, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> deadline; drop off gift cards at Sarah Alhouse's home or donate online through the member portal
- Executive Committee meeting – Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. – Webex
- Fall Benefit Feedback Survey – due Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>
- Fall Benefit Kick-off Meeting – Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. – Virtual
- Join a Fall Benefit Committee – look for an email after our meeting
- Service Committee Meetings are being scheduled; Mid-Year Progress reports due Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

- Finance Committee Meeting – Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 a.m. – Webex
- No January Board Meeting
- Next General Board Meeting – Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – 11:00 a.m. – Webex
- Spring Luncheon – Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – Virtual
- Fall Benefit – Friday, October 1, 2021 – Theater on the Lake

XII. Adjournment

Cindy Mancillas

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Martin  
Recording Secretary