



**The Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center  
General Board Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2021**

**I. Welcome**

**Cindy Mancillas**

Meeting called to order 10:39 am. Welcome to new members, auxiliary board, and returning Board members. Thank you to: Meg Sauer & Wentworth McGovern, Member Stewardship; Kelly Lynch and Melanie Leftakes, RUMC WB Staff; Billy and Cristina in Room 500; Women and Children's Committee, collecting gift cards and donations; Wendy Herb and Herbee Honey, donated and sold today at the holiday shop.

**II. Introductions by Susie Healey**

Susie Healey, Vice President, Medical Center Activities, introduced Dr. Amina Ahmed, Director of Cancer Service Line for Rush university System for Health.

**III. 2022 Principal Project Briefing:**

**Dr. Ahmed and Dr. Ustun**

***The Woman's Board Fund for Excellence in Cellular Therapy***

Dr. Amina Ahmed made the following presentation:

- RUSH Vision - decrease death and suffering; mission to build capacity for developing leading edge clinical research, research and education, increase externally funded grants, leverage data driven result; increase clinical trials
- Reduce time to treatment for patient; progress towards more perfect visit - building initiatives; create value and reduce costs for patients.
- Volume did not much drop off with COVID - prioritized; 2021 treatment/visits exploded - likely delay in seeking treatment - new patient visits up 23 percent; new treatment 42 percent increase; increased mammography
- High patient satisfaction surveys - over 90%; 75% patients seen within 7 days - hope to get to 90th percentile
- Rush cancer center update - FY 21
- Transitioning care to J&P Rubschlager building. Planning interior; (1) to date leaders putting together multidisciplinary clinics - specialist together; 2) increasing radiology - survivorship program and screening programs integrative; geriatric;

Dr. Ahmed next introduced Dr. Celalettin Ustun, the Coleman Foundation Chair of Blood and Bone Transplant at RUMC, a robust researcher with over 200 academic articles on bone marrow transplant. Dr. Ustun gave the following report:

- Completed more than 2000 transplants;; multidisciplinary program, APPs, Cell lan, data, finance, nurses, psychologist, etc.
- Clinical program - more than treatment -collect cells from stem and bones marrow and save the cells for quality control for all programs
- Allogenic Transplantation program: bone marrow
- Hematopoietic cell transplantation (autologous is from self; Allogenic is from a donor). Survival rates with BMT is increasing survival rates year to year, if treated at RUMC. EG, at 500 days, almost 80% transplant patients are alive.
- Hosted first MIDWEST cellular therapy conference and in April 2022 will host the second - 1st ever women in cellular therapy; lead by Dr. Nathan
- CAR-T Cell therapy - T and other immune cells - infusions to kill tumors/cancer cells; Generating super soldiers CAR-T - capture, recognize and kill tumors cells more effectively



- Tumor infiltrating lymphocyte - naturally occurring white blood cells (lymphocytes) that recognize and penetrate and eliminate cancer cells - can be used in gynecologic, lung, urological. Many possible future applications diabetes, sickle cell, maybe first line or many diseases.
- Process at rush is complex - register, collect, prepare, send, receive store, infuse, clinical care. But and cell therapy concurrently or sequentially - all department - national organizations, insurance, finance, etc.
- Physical lab is 40 years old; new bldg plan process of revocation cellular lab to make these studies and therapies ; funding will provide a cellular therapy manager, propel research; strengthen RUMC's presence in cellular therapy nationally; assist families traveling to rush for treatment; exciting future

Cindy M asked where the new lab would be located, and Dr. Ustun responded that the cell collection would be in the new building that the cell processing lab would stay at current location along with patient support services.

#### **IV. Tribute to Diane McKeever**

**Cindy Mancillas**

Diane McKeever, Senior Vice President, Philanthropy, is retiring. Cindy presented a wonderful tribute to Diane, highlighting her many years of service to RUMC and her unwavering support of the Woman's Board: Diane first joined Rush in 1983. Dorothy Gardner, a WB member, was working with RUSH's philanthropy office at the time and recognized Diane's talent during the application process. In 1988, Diane served as Rush's Associate President of Philanthropy and Communications and in 1999, Diane became Senior Vice President of Philanthropy and Secretary of the Board of Trustees. During Diane's time at Rush, she has helped to raise over a billions dollars for RUMC. She has overseen two incredibly successful campaigns for Rush, and is currently helped raise 370 million out of a 650 million dollar campaign goal - a campaign that is still in its silent phase. Diane has also been a great friend to the WB, attending countless Board meetings, spring luncheons, fashion shows, fall benefits and more. Cindy presented a small gift and also announced that the Executive Committee and Woman's Board awarded Diane with an honorary membership. Standing ovation

Diane briefly spoke. She thanked the Woman's Board, and especially Dorothy Gardner who hired her 38 years ago. Diane said that the Woman's Board has been an highlight of her career at Rush and the backbone of Rush. Diane reported that the Philanthropy is in great shape, and thanked Michelle Boardman. Diane also introduced Peter Briechle, VP Philanthropy, RUMC, who will be serving as the Interim Chief Development Officer while the search is conducted.

#### **V. Approval of November Minutes**

**Cindy Mancillas**

Vote to accept minutes as written.

#### **VI. Introduction of Office Staff**

**Mary Anne Martin**

Introducing The Woman's Board's newest employee - Melanie Leftakes, Manager of Membership and Operations, outstanding candidate. Melanie came to RUMC from a position as Individual Giving Coordinator at the Goodman Theatre. Thank you to Kelly Lynch, Manager of Events and Appeals, for filling in.



## VII. Membership Recognitions

**Cindy Mancillas**

The Woman's Board recognized the following members for their dedication and service to The Board:

- Serving 55 Years: Marcia Hines and Missy Cook Romanoff
- Serving 50 Years: Diane R. Kelly
- Serving 45 Years: Frances Blair, Victoria P. Fesmire, Anne W. Healy, Karen C. Reid
- Serving 40 Years: Kay A. Krehbiel, Carolyn S. Little and Susan Wright
- Serving 35 Years: Ann C. Bartram, Dottie Davis and Doris Richards
- Serving 30 Years: Julie P. Potter, April Schink and Melissa Waud
- Serving 25 Years: Elizabeth Bigelow and Kathleen Hull

Cindy also recognized and thanked:

- The 26th Annual Spring Luncheon Chairs, who could not attend the meeting, Katie Frekko and Brooke Kuehnle;
- The 2021 Fall Benefit, Sarah Alshouse and Bethany Crocker; and
- Dina Brown, who submitted The Woman's Board as the October recipient of Compass Cares, Compass realtors' award.

## VIII. Tribute Tree

**Susan Matejka**

Susan reported that the Tribute tree mailing should have been received, and reminded the Board to not forget healthcare workers and caretakers. She further stated that we already raised over ten thousand dollars this year. Tree is located outside Panera and the Tree-topper is dedicated to our RUMC medical workers.

## IX. Gift Shops

**Melissa Hennessy**

Melissa reported that Sue and Katlyn in giftshop are doing a wonderful job - they raised money last year by decreasing expenses, but had to shut down vendor sales. But, vendor sales are back and continuing and important to the bottom line. The plans for the new gift shop in the Rubschlager Building will focus on cancer support services patients, neurological units and their caregivers. Melissa is seeking ideas for items needed for those services.

## X. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon

**Gillian Stoettner**

Gillian reported that the Spring Luncheon will be held at the Ritz Carleton on May 9, 2022, and the speaker will be Ali Wentworth. Ticket Prices are now open and as follows: VIP Seating, Table of 10 is \$5,000 and \$500 per seat. General Seating, Table of 10 is \$2,000 and \$200 per seat. Ticket sales begin today! We are requesting payment by check. Gillian requested committee help, for food and welcoming committees. Questions? Gillian Stoettner: (847) 373-7290 & [stoettner@gmail.com](mailto:stoettner@gmail.com)

## XI. 2022 Fall Benefit

**Erin Ritchie and Sonja Smith**

Erin and Sonja reported that Fall Benefit will be held on Friday, September 16, 2022, at the Theater on the Lake. They encourage the Board to please join a Committee. Save the Date for the Fall Benefit Kickoff Meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Indian Hill Club. Look for an email later this week with committee signup information and how to RSVP for the kickoff meeting.

## XII. Membership Report

**Pamela Fitzgerald**

Pam gave the New Member Timeline - December - Submissions from proposers and seconders; January 21 - Deadline for all paperwork to be submitted by proposers and seconders; April - New Member Orientation and Medical Center Tour. Special welcome to all new members since we last met in person. The new members were introduced to the Board.



### XIII. The Auxiliary and Junior Boards

Heather Pigott

Heather Pigott, President; Heather Martin, Co-Chair Junior Board; and Jan Evans, President Elect, made a presentation. Heather reported that the Holiday Tea at Sunset Ridge Sunday, 12/5/2021, with new timed entries for safety, was the most successful tea in their history. She further described the Junior Board's return to volunteer experience this year, including shadowing nurses and a diversity equity and inclusion program with Medical Students.

### XIV. Announcements

Cindy reported that Suzanne Mack, a longtime Woman's Board Member and mother of two other WB members, passed Friday evening. Services will be held on Thursday 12/9 at Faith, Hope and Charity at 10 am, with a reception to follow on 12/10 at Glen View Club at 5:30 pm.

- Yearbooks have been mailed - directory listings are in the members section of website
- The Tribute Tree has mailed - make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. Sign up for Tribute Tree signing sessions with the office! Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Sign up for a Fall Benefit Committee with the office!
- Women's & Children's Hospital Committee Gift Card Drive to support shelters sponsored by Rush - Today and *due Monday, December 6*
- Service Committee **Mid-Year Progress Reports** - *due Wednesday, December 15*
- Finance Committee Meeting - Tuesday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m. CST (Webex)
- Fall Benefit Kickoff Meeting - Thursday, January 20 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Indian Hill
- Membership Applications - *due Friday, January 21 to Pamela Fitzgerald*
- Executive Committee Meeting - Monday, February 7 at 10:30 a.m. CST (Webex)
- General Board Meeting - Monday, February 7, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. CST (Webex)
- Officer's Council Meeting - Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
10:00 a.m. Coffee; 10:30 a.m. Meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon - Monday, May 9, 2022 - The Ritz-Carlton Chicago
- 2022 Fall Benefit - Friday, September 16, 2022 - Theater on the Lake

### XV. Adjournment at 11:56

Cindy Mancillas