

Friends:

The GIRF Associates Board has enjoyed another active and successful year.

Once again our medical liaisons, Drs. David Rubin and Laura Harrell, presented us with several outstanding researchers and their projects. We funded \$74,000 to Drs. Wallene Yang, Shien Yu, Gautham Reddy, Yan Li, Stacy Kahn, James Lodolce and our very own David Rubin and Laura Harrell.

Fiscal year 2007 was another very successful year for us. Thanks to our ever strengthening partnership with Drs. Hanauer and Rubin we continue to add new members to our board. They are eager to be part of GIRF and have many new ideas for us to pursue.

The Associates Board's event "Swing into Action with GIRF" took place on Saturday, October 20th, 2007 at Harry Caray's restaurant in Chicago's River North neighborhood. The event, attended by more than 220 people, raised a new record of over \$57,000 net!! The evening was a huge success and included great food

and drink, a DJ, a silent auction featuring more than fifty exciting items, and to top it all off, a selection of yummy homemade desserts.

Fiscal 2008 looks to be an exciting year ahead of us and we are looking forward to it.

Howard Grill, GIRF Associates Board President

GIRF Golfs for Kids

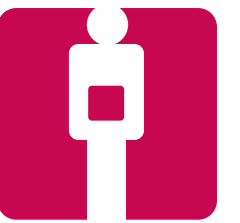
On August 6th, 2007 several GIRF Board members headed to beautiful Long Grove, Illinois to participate in the 8th Annual Special Kids Network Golf Outing and Tennis Tournament. The event raised funds for a variety of charities including Keshet Recreational Programs, National Stuttering Association, Foundation for Retinal Research and our very own Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation. The hugely successful event which included a silent auction, live auction, dinner and awards ceremony, raised a record \$15,000 for GIRF! These funds will be directed to pediatric gastrointestinal research at the University of Chicago GI Section. We would like to thank those GIRF members who participated in the event and represented GIRF: Barry Katz, Jennifer Katz, Jim Mills, Sy Taxman and Ben Randall and his foursome.

Photo 1: GIRF Board Member Barry Katz (far left), his daughter and Associate's Board member Jennifer

Katz (center), Friend of GIRF Michael Lerich (second from right) and GIRF Board Member Jim Mills (far right).

Photo 2: GIRF Board Member and Special Kids Network Golf Committee Member Seymour Taxman (second from left), prepares to head out for a day on the course.

Photo 3: GIRF Board member Ben Randall (second from right) brought a foursome along to help raise money for the event.



News from the Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition

by Stephen Hanauer, M.D.

GI Foundation Professor of Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology Chief, Section of Gastroenterology and Nutrition

We are looking forward to 2008 with great enthusiasm. As is ever the case in an Academic Program, there will be changes in our faculty, programs and trainees. Mostly, these will impact on our research agenda and we envision continuity, consistency and expansions in our clinical programs.

Again, we are delighted by our Number 6 ranking for Digestive Disease Programs in U.S. News and World Report and by the acknowledgement of Drs. Hanauer, Jensen, Semrad and Waxman in Chicago Magazine. I can assure you that this is just the tip of the iceberg and that the named physicians represent leadership of team efforts comprised of stellar clinicians and clinical scientists.

The Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center remains one of our "Flagship" programs. I have relinquished the clinical lead to Drs. Russell Cohen and David Rubin. Both are superb clinicians and educators who are also joined by Drs. Laura Harrell and Marc Schwartz in the clinic. Many of you are aware that Dr. Susie Kane has moved to the Mayo Clinic but her ties remain close and we are continuing close collaborative efforts. The IBD Research Group is led by Dr. Gene Chang and we have been delighted by the recruitment of Dr. Bana Jabri as a co-leader

for our NIH-funded Digestive Disease Research Core Center. Dr. Jabri is a world renowned scientist in the field of celiac disease and will be developing a focus on IBD, as well. Along with Drs. David Boone, Nathan Ellis, Marc Bissonnette and Yan Li and additional collaborators from the Departments of Pathology, Surgery, Genetics and Pediatrics we are establishing a new direction in research related to the intestinal microenvironment and how the GI tract lives with and responds to bacteria living along the intestinal lining.

Our Hepatology Program is led by Dr. Don Jensen (cover photo for Chicago Magazine) who is one of the most respected clinical hepatologists in the region. He is a superb clinician, clinical investigator and mentor. His expertise pertains to viral hepatitis and transplantation and he has promoted Dr. Helen Te to the position of Medical Director of Liver Transplantation. They are joined by Drs. Gautham Reddy, Smruti Mohanty, Nancy Reau and our recent graduate of our Fellowship Program, Rohit Satoskar. With the expansion of the Liver group we have already noted a substantial upsurge in the number of Liver transplantations and research presentations at the most recent meeting of the American Association of Liver Diseases.

Dr. Irving Waxman is Director of the Center for Interventional Endoscopy, an outgrowth of the Hospital's GI Oncology initiative. Dr. Waxman is one of the most prolific and creative endoscopists in the world and has developed an extraordinary team that collaborates closely with the Departments of Surgery, Oncology, Pathology and Radiation Oncology. He has substantial plans of expanding his program along with Dr. Chip Dye, who was the first graduate of Dr. Waxman's interventional fellowship program. Additional faculty are also anticipated to join the Center by the middle of 2008.

Dr. Carol Semrad has become an international expert on the role of "double balloon" endoscopy; a technique that allows advancement of an endoscope throughout the length of the digestive tract from "top to bottom" or vice versa. Along with her long-recognized expertise in the management of celiac disease and other nutritional disorders she is developing the novel concept of a program focused completely on disorders of the small intestine.

We have a strong clinical group of general gastroenterologists who complement our sub-specialty programs. While we anticipate the retirement of Dr. Charles

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President's Letter -

As my second tenure as President of the GIRF Board begins, I can't help but compare it to my initial experience in this role. At times I feel that much has changed at GIRF, particularly when I look around the room and no longer see many of the familiar faces that were a mainstay of the organization. We've had to say goodbye to many good friends over the years. But I'm heartened by the energy and enthusiasm that have been injected into our Board by our newer members. They've taken their commitment to our organization very seriously and have continued to impress me with the generous spirit in which they donate their time and resources. We will need to keep this momentum as we enter another vital period in our organization's evolution. Exciting developments are afoot and I have no doubt that GIRF will succeed in helping the gifted clinicians and researchers at the University of Chicago Medical Center find cures and improve patient care for those who suffer from GI illnesses.

You may already know that the GI Section at the U. of C. was ranked 6th in the nation this year by U.S. News and World Report (July, 2007). What you may not know is that this marks more than a decade in the top ten for the section. Drs. Hanauer, Chang and their team continue to research, publish, present and lead the specialty of gastroenterology, taking exquisite care of their patients along the way. I feel honored to have this second opportunity to serve GIRF and work in partnership with them. I look forward eagerly to the coming year.

Michael P. Cogan

News from the Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition

(continued from the front page)

Winans, we are actively recruiting additional faculty to maintain his practice focused on the esophagus. In addition, Dr. Ira Hanan has officially been named as Director of the Outpatient clinic and GI Procedure unit. Dr. Hanan is an extremely respected clinician and along with an equally superb clinician and educator and member of the Medical School Admissions Committee, Dr. Karen Kim,

are the stalwarts for our referral practice.

In addition to the full-time faculty we greatly benefit from our affiliated faculty including Drs. Gerry Rogers, Richard Breuer, Michael Uzer and Heidi Huck who all contribute to our educational mission by providing supervision to our Fellows in training. Of course, any listing of the faculty includes the "mentor of all mentors", Dr. Joe Kirsner who remains an

active member of the faculty at age 98, certainly the most senior member of any GI faculty in the world!

On behalf of the faculty I wish all a very happy and HEALTHY 2008 and look forward to continued success and collaboration with GIRF; we could not do what we do at the same level that we do it, without your support.

GIRF Mission Statement

It shall be the mission of the Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation to raise funds for gastroenterologic research. The foundation will endeavor to promote the education of the public regarding the digestive health issues.

Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation

70 East Lake Street • Suite 1015
Chicago, IL 60601-5907
(312) 332-1350



The GI Section at the University of Chicago was ranked 6th in the Nation by U.S. News and World Report. (July, 2007 issue.)

Letters to Dr. Kirsner



Dear Dr. Kirsner,

I was delighted to see that you are still active (in your retirement years) in your dedication to gastroenterology. As a former patient of yours, God Bless you, Sir.

In the '70's, I was a patient of yourself and Dr. Winans with Ulcerative Colitis as a youth. Finally in 1979, I was referred to the Mayo Clinic where I received my Continent Ileostomy at the age of 14. I am convinced I would not be leading the quality of life that I currently have experienced if not for your dedication and comfort to myself and parents to get me to the point where I could receive this surgery.

My mother still talks to this day about how you saw her crying in the hospital lobby because a procedure I was scheduled for had been postponed. Somehow, you managed to make a phone call or two and the procedure went ahead as scheduled or with very little delay.

At age 42, I am currently married with a beautiful daughter and blessed with a great career.

Once again, I would just like to thank you again for the life style you have provided me and my family with.

May God continue to Bless you,

Best Regards,
Eric D. Brandt

Annual Meeting

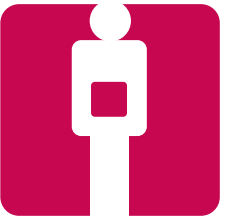
Once a year, the GIRF Board of Directors, Women's Board and Associate's Board gather for a luncheon meeting to share the accomplishments of the past year and to outline future goals and projects. In addition to reports from the three Board presidents, members enjoyed a panel discussion with Drs. Chang, Hanauer, and Rubin.

Dr. Kirsner addressed the group and congratulated all three Boards on their

successes over the last year. Fellows new to the GI Section were introduced and welcomed, and Past-President Barry S. Katz was thanked for his two years of dedicated service to GIRF. This lively luncheon meeting successfully gathered all three GIRF Boards together for an opportunity to share in each other's accomplishments.



Gastro Intestinal RESEARCH FOUNDATION



GIRF WOMEN'S BOARD

The Women's Board is glad to report another healthy year. The annual Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon was held in September at the Four Seasons Hotel. Its record-breaking success provided funds for us to meet our financial obligations: providing for a GI Fellowship and support for the world's largest IBD Registry. We had a flurry of activity at the silent auction tables, a delicious lunch and a cutting edge fashion show. The raffle ensured excitement up until the last minutes. Thank you to everyone who made this event such a huge success.

We also want to thank everyone who contributes to the Women's Board, through donations of time, money, talent and commitment. We need all of these in our efforts to help those who experience digestive disease.

Sincerely,

Debby Goodman
Debby Goodman
Women's Board Co-President

Martha Clarkson
Martha Clarkson
Women's Board Co-President



In Memoriam

Ted Ross

Ted Ross joined the GIRF Board in 1978. Active and energetic as he was, Ted served in several officer positions eventually moving on to guide the organization as Board President. He was a consistent and dedicated member of both the GIRF Ball committee and Nominating committee. Ted supported GIRF with his own generosity and through the cultivation of many of his friends who have also grown to be part of the GIRF "family." For Ted, GIRF certainly was a family affair with his wife Mary Pat serving as Co-President of the Women's Board. His quick smile and enthusiasm enlivened many a meeting. He is missed.



The Women's Board Annual Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon, "Pizzazz", was held on September 24th at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Chicago. The event broke all recent attendance records with more than 460 guests! A gourmet lunch, huge silent auction, exciting raffle and of course, professional fashion show made the day a most enjoyable one. Best of all, more than \$90,000 was



raised for the Women's Board and the projects they fund; a GI Fellow and the world's largest IBD Registry.

The silent auction featured a huge variety of items to bid on including restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, art work and more. Again this year, the unique "Estate" section of the auction featured items from the vaults of Women's Board members that they themselves put up for bid all in the name of charity. A Bavarian porcelain plate, sterling silver

Tiffany dish, Waterford crystal bowl, to name a few, all made this portion of the silent auction special.

The highly anticipated 2007 runway show was presented with the energy and flair that is the trademark of Tracey Tarantino and Zzazz Productions. Gorgeous models (male and female) walked, strutted, and even danced down the runway giving guests a glimpse into the latest fashion trends for fall and winter.

The Four Seasons used their own design talents to create a lovely gourmet lunch. Guests enjoyed a salad of wild garden leaves with fanned pear, Brie and dried cherries followed by an herb roasted salmon filet drizzled with dill Beurre Blanc and accompanied by a Parmesan risotto cake and vegetable medley. Dessert featured a sampling of several decadent treats including a caramel profiterole, miniature cheesecake, Tiramisu and

flourless chocolate cake. The event ended on a high note as raffles were drawn for many outstanding prizes!

A dedicated luncheon committee and its hard working sub-committees were outstanding in ensuring that every facet of the event was overseen by knowledgeable women volunteering their time and talents to make this wonderful event possible. Thank you all!

..... Thank you all!

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- Gloria Wilens



Save the Date!

The 2008 GIRF Women's Board Fashion Show
Tuesday, September 16th, 2008 * The Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago

Philanthropy in 2006 – A Year of Mixed Results

Each year the Giving USA Foundation generates a comprehensive report on the state of philanthropy in the United States. This report is researched by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University and tracks giving trends from four sources of contributions: individual donations, bequests, foundation gifts and corporate gifts.

In 2006, Americans gave more than \$295 billion dollars to charity, up from \$260.28 billion in 2005. This represents an increase of 3.2% when adjusted for inflation, and excludes donations generated by the overwhelming response to three natural disasters: the Tsunami of 2004, Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Pakistan.

Who is Giving?

Individuals were responsible for the majority of gifts made to charity in 2006 and accounted for a whopping 83.3% of all donations. Foundations gave 12.4% of the total while corporate giving amounted to only 4.3% of all charitable gifts. (See fig. 1.)

While gifts from individuals already comprise the majority of donations to charity, we can expect to see that number rise. A study of philanthropic trends shows that Americans are giving more each decade to their favorite charitable organizations after adjusted for inflation. (See fig. 2.) This trend can be partially explained by the public's increased awareness resulting from media exposure, the ease in which one can donate via credit card, and the growing trend of

online giving that allows one to donate by doing nothing more than clicking a mouse.

Even so, the increase in giving in 2006 was marked compared to the previous year. The reason for this is clear: 2006 was a year of large landmark gifts to institutions. Warren E. Buffet's donation to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation alone was a \$37 billion dollar gift. Additionally, 21 Americans made donations of more than \$100 million. Very generous gifts made by extremely wealthy benefactors pushed the total for the year up considerably.

The other side of the coin is that philanthropic gains were not realized across the board. While large institutions saw an increase last year, many small organizations and those that rely on donors of modest means strained to raise as much as they did in 2005. Possible explanations for this include the rise in fuel costs, rising consumer debt, and poor local economies in many regions. Corporate giving also declined. In 2006, U.S. corporations gave 1.7% less than they had the prior year.

Where is the Money Going?

The vast majority of money given to charity goes to religious institutions. This segment comprises 32.8% of all contributions. (See fig. 3.) Arts and cultural organizations and educational institutions both saw 6% increases in donations. (Again, these are large institutions that benefit from wealthy benefactors.) The biggest declines in



Jennifer Wright

giving were suffered by health organizations and hospitals (decrease of 5.4%), international charities (decrease of 3.3%), and animals and the environment (decrease of 1.3%).

What About GIRF?

In order to assess our own organization within the larger context of the philanthropic community, we need to ask the question: Did GIRF experience a rise in charitable giving commensurate with that of the nation as a whole? Or, like the majority of health related charities, did GIRF experience a decline in giving in 2006? The news for GIRF is good. The 2006-2007 fiscal year saw donations rise by 6% over the previous fiscal year. While a few large individual gifts pushed the percentage upward, a successful Friends of GIRF campaign, another record breaking Ball and program book, a successful Fashion Show and Associates Board fundraiser, memorials, bequests and theatre events all contributed to this remarkable increase. Grateful patients donated generously throughout the year as well.

GIRF's continued success is easy to understand: our donors know that the researchers and clinicians at the University of Chicago G.I. Section are on the cutting edge of medicine. They work tirelessly to improve the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal illness and to better the lives of patients who come to the University of Chicago G.I. Section from all over the world. We are all proud to be in partnership with them.

2006 charitable giving Total = \$295.02 billion

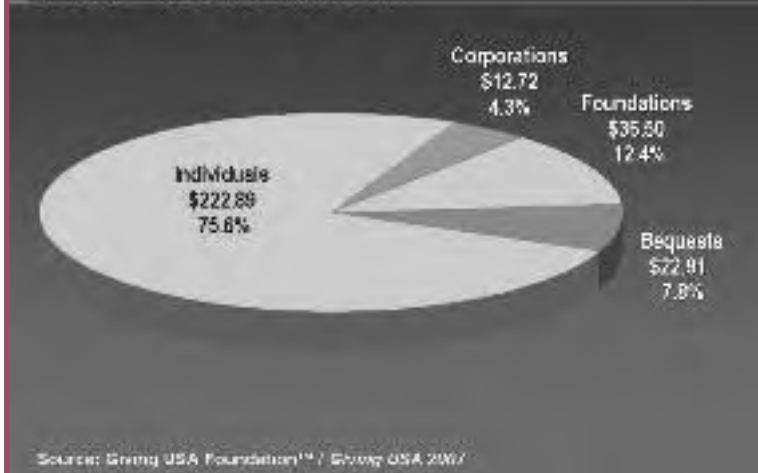


Figure 1

How much Americans Donate to Charities: A 40-Year Study Adjusted for Inflation

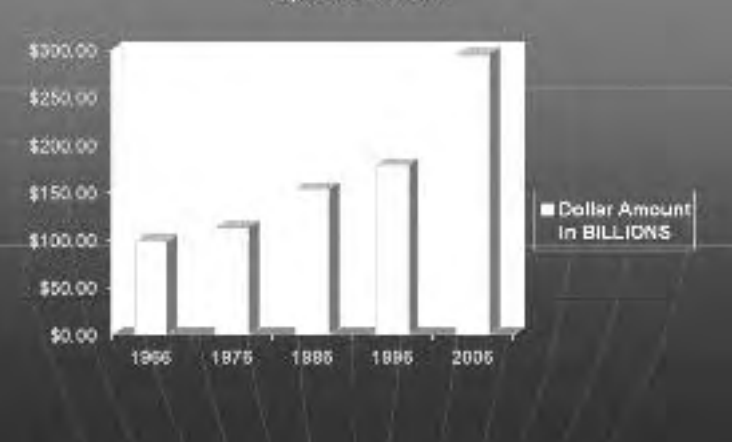


Figure 2

Types of recipients of contributions, 2006 Total = \$295.02 billion

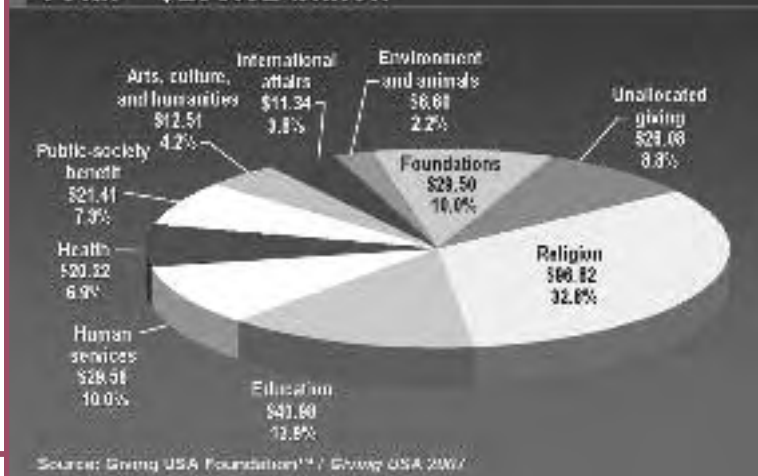


Figure 3

Thanks to All of Our Generous Donors

GIRF would like to thank the following individuals who made a donation during our July 2006 – July 2007 fiscal year.

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The GIRF Website also has links to the GI Section at the University of Chicago.

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The Count
 University of Chicago
 GI Section
 July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Total Patient Visits	15,122 <i>(12.83% increase over the previous year.)</i>
New Patients	3,615
Return Patients	9,791



The Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation Newsletter. Your comments, suggestion and story ideas are always welcome.

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