

The Jacobs Institute Newsletter

A Dose of Medical Innovation

SPECIAL FEATURE

July 2015



Welcome! The Jacobs Institute newsletter is where to find information on our recent and upcoming programs with industry, schools, and more.

JI Hosts Celebratory Evening on June 4, 2015

**Celebrating Dr. Lawrence D. Jacobs' Legacy
& Dr. L. Nelson Hopkins' Vision**



Key members of Buffalo's health care community—including physicians at the cutting-edge of vascular treatment—joined with western New York philanthropists and members of the Jacobs Family. Together, they celebrated the legacy of Dr. Lawrence Jacobs and explored Dr. Nick Hopkins' vision for medical innovation in the Jacobs Institute's (JI's) forthcoming idea to Reality Center (i2R).

This inaugural celebration illuminated JI's history, rooted in Dr. Lawrence

Jacobs' indefatigable commitment to improving health care for his patients. In Western New York, there are particularly high rates of Multiple Sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune disease that attacks the nerves in the spine and brain. Dr. Jacobs was a pioneer exploring the theory that interferon, a protein produced by white blood cells to help fight



infection, might be used to help people with MS. Ultimately, beta interferon became Avonex when developed by Boston pharmaceutical company Biogen. It is still a widely-prescribed therapy for relapsing remitting MS. When Dr. Jacobs submitted his grant to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Washington, DC, he purchased the seat next to him for his grant "so he could be sure to keep an eye on it", as JI Founder Dr. Nick Hopkins recalled on June 4. This is a testament to Dr. Jacobs' commitment to finding a better treatment.

Many who worked with and trained under Dr. Jacobs admired his ability to fiercely pursue a treatment while diligently caring for his patients.

University at Buffalo President Satish K. Tripathi reflected, "His impact and influence improved the lives of countless patients and continue to inspire his former colleagues at UB." Dr. Jacobs' wife and four of his five children attended the event to honor his legacy. His



brother-and Chairman of the Board of the Jacobs Institute-Mr. Jeremy M. Jacobs, Sr. and his wife, Peggy, were inspired to create the Institute where he said, "much thought was put into creating synergy between UB and Kaleida with JI as an enabler".

Partnership and collaboration are crucial requisites for the Jacobs Institute's success. Such success is contingent upon sharing innovative ideas, research and clinical talent, and key resources from JI's leading partners: University at Buffalo and Kaleida Health. The Jacobs Institute's mission is to create the next generation of medical technology to treat heart attack and stroke in western New York and beyond. It does this by being an independent playground for innovation, utilizing ideas from these partners and creating new medical devices that ultimately benefit patients suffering from vascular disease.

Dr. Tripathi remarked, "All of these partners embody the spirit of collaboration that is transforming health care, clinical research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in our community". Kaleida Health CEO Jody

Lomeo also highlighted the importance and impact of collaborative partnership among these entities to change the face of medicine. Jacobs Institute CEO, Bill Maggio, thanked Dr. Tripathi and Mr. Lomeo for their leadership, vision, and support of JI's efforts. In reference to building sustainable entrepreneurial momentum, Maggio said, "We are nothing without a transparent and tangible partnership with both University at Buffalo and Kaleida".



While partner support was key to JI's initial success, further support is required to get the i2R off the ground. Dr. Hopkins envisions the rapid translation of ideas into medical devices. Thus, he says that, "The i2R will be a proof-of-concept center where entrepreneurs can bring their ideas to validate their viability using all the resources of JI's partnerships". It will provide inventors and entrepreneurs who have innovative ideas for new and better vascular medical devices with a trusted, non-profit, cost-effective product validation partner. JI then can move the validated ideas onto commercialization partners with whom it has



relationships-essentially bringing an idea to reality. Bill Maggio, remarked, "I am convinced that if the entrepreneurial infrastructure that we are witnessing today were present when Dr. Larry Jacobs was performing his research, those discoveries would have been developed and commercialized right here in WNY."

Dr. Hopkins worked to create JI and the Gates Vascular Institute (GVI) to honor Dr. Jacobs' legacy. His vision and leadership were also celebrated. Many neurosurgeons who trained under Dr. Hopkins came to celebrate his vision and to see how they can contribute novel ideas and approaches to the i2R. Among them were Dr. J Mocco, who is Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of the Cerebrovascular Center at Mount Sinai Medical School in New York City, and Dr. Chris Ogilvy, who is Director of Endovascular and Operative Neurosurgery and Director of the BIDMC Brain Aneurysm Institute at Harvard University. Both warmly reflected on the years they spent training under Dr. Hopkins. They also shared their pride in seeing his vision realized in the GVI and JI. They hope to bring device improvement ideas to the i2R for validation testing.



Reflecting on its namesake and its founder, while priming itself to launch the i2R, the Jacobs Institute had much to celebrate with its partners,

friends, and supporters. We look forward to another year of success and to launching the i2R.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

- **UB Educational Visits**
- **2015 Summer Intern Presentations**
- **Electrophysiology Clinical Immersion Program**

The Jacobs Institute mission is to create the next generation of medical technology to improve the treatment of vascular diseases--such as heart attack and stroke--in Western New York and beyond.

The institute was named in memory of the late Lawrence D. Jacobs, MD. Located in the heart of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) in downtown Buffalo, the Jacobs Institute is positioned between University at Buffalo's Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) and Kaleida Health's Gates Vascular Institute (GVI).



As such, the Jacobs Institute is uniquely positioned to foster collaborations of the best minds and collisions of new ideas.

We invite you to **come innovate with us, where ideas improve lives.**

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