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UChicago Medicine

Digestive Diseases Center

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

THE GERAGHTRY CHICAGO

CELEBRATE CURES

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SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

THE GERAGHTRY CHICAGO

CHAMPIONS FOR A CURE
We applaud Nancy & Sy Taxman and The Taxman Family Foundation for their generous contribution to the GI Research Foundation, and for their unwavering support and dedication to the GIRF mission. With advocates and benefactors like them, the GI Research Foundation can thrive by benefiting those in need and supporting the medical professionals who make this happen, and we are proud to assist in this effort.

MAX WASSERMAN  |  BOB KALMAN

and the

MIRAMAR CAPITAL TEAM
Dear Friends and Family,

Welcome to the Gl Research Foundation Champions for a Cure Ball.

Tonight we celebrate the champions – courageous patients and devoted physician-scientists – fighting to prevent, treat, and cure digestive diseases.

We hope you enjoy our program, emceed by FOX32’s Kasey Chronis, featuring updates from physician-scientists at the University of Chicago Medicine, including our esteemed Scientific Advisors, David T. Rubin, MD, Eugene B. Chang, MD, and Michael Charlton, MBBS, as well as a video presentation featuring grateful patient Trevor Long and his family. Our program also honors two living legends: David T. Rubin, MD, this year’s Joseph B. Kirsner Award recipient, and Ira Hanan, MD.

On behalf of the GIRF Board of Directors, thank you to our Angel sponsors. Their generosity ensures that every dollar raised tonight supports life-changing research.

Let us toast to 61 years of supporting the champions at the renowned University of Chicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center.

With much gratitude,

The Gl Research Foundation Ball Committee—

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Yekaterina Chudnovsky
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Heidi Henderson
Audrey Rubin
THIS EVENING’S PROGRAM

EMCEE
Kasey Chronis, FOX 32 Chicago

WELCOME REMARKS
Kathy Shafer & Karyn Hurwich
Ball Co-Chairs

HONOREE
Ira Hanan, MD, Recipient
Andrew Aronsohn, MD, Presenter

JOSEPH B. KIRSNER AWARD
David T. Rubin, MD, Recipient
Sy Taxman, Presenter

MEDICAL UPDATE
David T. Rubin, MD
Eugene B. Chang, MD
Michael R. Charlton, MBBS

GRATEFUL PATIENT VIDEO
Trevor Long and family

MUSIC
Gold Coast All Stars
WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR ANGELS

DIAMOND ANGELS

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GRATEFUL PATIENT VIDEO SPONSOR

Audrey & E. Leonard Rubin
The GI Research Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 dedicated to raise funds to support the physicians and scientists at the University of Chicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center in their efforts to provide outstanding care, train future leaders and perform innovative clinical and laboratory research in order to treat, cure, and prevent digestive diseases.

Approximately 70 million Americans live with a digestive disease. Since 1961, the GI Research Foundation has partnered with the University of Chicago Medicine to transform their lives.

Sixty-one years ago, the GI Research Foundation was founded by grateful patients of Dr. Joseph B. Kirsner, a pioneer in gastroenterology who devoted his life to medicine, teaching and patient care. Today, the UChicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center is internationally recognized for research-driven medicine and highly specialized physicians. Inspired by Dr. Kirsner’s vision, the GI Research Foundation helps ensure the UChicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center remains at the forefront of innovation and collaborative care.

“What is GIRF? GIRF is the Gastro Intestinal Research Foundation of Chicago oriented to the University of Chicago. GIRF is a group of people from all walks of life; many are patients, all are friends, united in a common effort to support research on the cause and cure of digestive diseases. GIRF provides funds for equipment, laboratories and the support of investigators and young physicians to the University of Chicago Gastroenterology Section, a group of dedicated doctors who seek solutions to all kinds of gastrointestinal illnesses, affecting the esophagus, the stomach, the small intestine, the large intestine, the liver, the gallbladder, and the pancreas. GIRF is an organization without politics and without bias. Everyone with a similar interest and capacity to contribute is welcome to join.

What is GIRF? GIRF, above all, is a unique blend of wonderful, kind and generous men and women giving of themselves and their resources, whose greatest reward is that inner sense of satisfaction and goodness that comes from helping Dr. Joseph Kirsner and his colleagues at the University of Chicago and, through them, helping humanity everywhere.

Joseph B. Kirsner, MD, PhD
University of Chicago, Circa 1975

“Research is important, but the combination of research and compassionate care is the best way. It is still the best way.”
—Joseph B. Kirsner, MD, PhD
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2015–2017

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2017-2021
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<td>Joseph E. Valenti Sr. ∗</td>
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<td>Morris Fishbein M.D. ∗</td>
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<td>Bea Levy ∗</td>
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<td>Lorraine Sandler ∗</td>
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<td>Merle Goldblatt Cohen</td>
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<td>Arlene Freeman</td>
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<td>Ellen Solomon</td>
<td>Co-President 1988–1992</td>
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<td>Norma Cohen</td>
<td>Co-President 1997–1999</td>
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<td>Co-President 1997–1999</td>
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∗ Deceased
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Andrea Macardis, MD (incoming)

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AT THE FOREFRONT
UChicago Medicine

CHAMPIONS IN CURE
World-renowned for his expertise in treating inflammatory bowel disease, Dr. Rubin’s more than 30-year career exemplifies the highest caliber of scientific inquiry and clinical care. Building on years of innovative research, hundreds of publications, and countless accolades, Dr. Rubin is a visionary in the field of gastroenterology, ever curious about and inspired by new ideas and approaches to the science of digestive diseases.

Dr. Rubin’s long research career has yielded numerous breakthroughs in the field of gastroenterology. His work described the link inflammation and cancer in ulcerative colitis, and demonstrated the benefit of 5-ASA therapies to prevent cancer. As the first to combine medical therapies to treat severe ulcerative colitis, Dr. Rubin ushered in new treatment paradigms for a new generation of gastroenterologists and their patients. He was the first to describe the ability to return the bowel to normal health in ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease, an outcome previously impossible. He developed new treatment strategies for treating the pernicious infection, C. difficile, in Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis patients.

Continued...
His commitment to exceptional patient care stewards the legacy of his mentor, the incomparable Joseph B. Kirsner, MD, PhD. Like Dr. Kirsner, as a leader, Dr. Rubin is an exemplar: a brilliant thinker, a patient teacher, and a wise mentor of great personal character.

Long an advocate of strong, evidence-based approaches to the treatment of Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, Dr. Rubin helps his patients achieve stable, long-term remission through careful diagnosis, diligent follow up, and proactive care, reflecting the very latest in treatment paradigms. His commitment is an investment in the lives, health, and families of his patients; one they can feel from the moment he steps into the examination room.

“Dr. Rubin stepped in when our daughter was having complications from her Crohn’s disease. He has remained her advocate and doctor and taken great care to keep her healthy so that she can lead a full, young adult life. His reputation as a living legend in the IBD community is well deserved. We feel fortunate to have his care.”

— Kathy Shafer, Ball Co-Chair and GIRF Executive Vice President

“Dr. Rubin doesn’t just further GIRF’s mission, he embodies it” says Kathy Shafer.

In addition to his dedication to clinical practice, Dr. Rubin is building a roadmap for the future of his field, one where regenerative medicine can combat the current and future crises of digestive health.

“Dr. Rubin is always focused on the next paradigm for digestive health research. He wants patients to get the best treatment as fast as possible. His ability to mentor fellows and lead his Section into the future, all while providing extraordinary care to patients, is almost unbelievable until you see him in action. We [at GIRF] feel incredibly privileged to honor him at the Champions for a Cure Ball,” says Yekaterina Chudnovsky, GI Research Foundation Board President.

Dr. Rubin is a Fellow of the American Gastrological Association (AGA), the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), the American College of Physicians (ACP), the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh), and the American College of Gastroenterology, where he also serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the organization’s online education universe.
and was the first author on the 2019 clinical guidelines for the treatment of ulcerative colitis. He is currently serving a three-year term as Chair of the National Scientific Advisory Committee of the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation. Dr. Rubin is the Deputy Chair of the International Organization for the Study of IBD (IOIBD). During his long career, Dr. Rubin has mentored more than sixty trainees, authored more than 468 publications, four text books, and is the most followed IBD physician on Twitter (19K followers). With the Rubin Lab at the University of Chicago, he is currently conducting more than sixty active studies investigating Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis.

“I’m truly honored and humbled to be named this year’s Joseph B. Kirsner Award recipient. My colleagues and team know that in our life’s work, we stand on the shoulders of the giants who came before us, and also that we have much more work to do. I am inspired daily by the legacy and ongoing generosity and commitment from my GIRF family and will continue to work with the brilliant physicians and scientists here and in collaboration with our partners around the world in order to end suffering from digestive diseases.”

– David T. Rubin, MD.
Joseph B. Kirsner, MD, PhD was a renowned physician, educator, and scientist at the University of Chicago. For more than seven decades, Joseph B. Kirsner, MD devoted his life to medicine, teaching, and patient care. In recognition of his impact, he received two Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation, the Julius Friedenwald Medal from the American Gastroenterological Association, and the Rudolf V. Schindler Award from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. His dedication to the University and his leadership in the field helped establish the University of Chicago Medicine as an authority in digestive diseases. Today, the UChicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center is internationally recognized for research-driven medicine and its team of highly specialized physicians. Inspired by Dr. Kirsner’s vision, the GI Research Foundation helps ensure the UChicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center remains at the forefront of innovation and personalized care.

The GI Research Foundation is privileged to present an annual tradition of honoring Dr. Kirsner’s legacy of advancements in research, training, and patient care. The Joseph B. Kirsner Award recognizes those who have made a substantial commitment to impact and further the GI Research Foundation’s mission.
The Founder and former CEO of the Taxman Corp., esteemed commercial real estate developer, and celebrated philanthropist, Mr. Taxman developed a close friendship with both Dr. Rubin and Dr. Kirsner while receiving care at UChicago Medicine.

Seymour Taxman will present Dr. Rubin with the Joseph B. Kirsner Award during this evening’s program.

In 2021, the first recipient of the Joseph B. Kirsner Award was none other than Beatrice “Bee” Crain, prominent philanthropist, GIRF supporter and lifelong friend to “Dr. Joe.” Though Bee passed away last spring at the age of 100, the Ball Committee believes she would be thrilled with this year’s honoree.
Ira Hanan, MD, who is retiring this month, has spent his career, more than 35 years of service, building a reputation as an expert in the field of gastroenterology. Dr. Hanan has co-authored more than 10 book chapters and numerous scientific articles on colorectal disease, including the impact of fertility and pregnancy on inflammatory bowel disease. He serves as a clinical educator in the Gastroenterology Fellowship Training Program, teaching gastrointestinal endoscopy, diagnosis, and management of general gastrointestinal diseases, including IBD, IBS, and gastrointestinal bleeding, among others. He also serves as advisor to fellows pertaining to clinical gastroenterology.

While he is known as a vital faculty member and mentor, Dr. Hanan’s clinical judgement has helped thousands of patients with a variety of GI concerns, and caring for patients has always been the centerpiece of his work. “The most gratifying thing is seeing people get better,” he explains. “When they come to you, they’re sick. You give them a treatment plan, you listen to them, and then they start to get well again. Now, when patients learn I’m retiring and leaving, I hear them say, ‘You’ve made such a change in my life.’ And that is what it’s all about.”

Dr. Hanan has been named to the list of “Top Doctors” by Castle Connely, Inc., as one of the “Best Doctors in America” by Best Doctors, Inc, and will receive the Gold Key for his distinguished service to the Biological Sciences Division at the University of Chicago Medicine.
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Our sincerest congratulations to Dr. David T. Rubin as the recipient of the Joseph B. Kirsner Award.

Congratulations to Dr. Ira Hanan as this year’s Honoree.
Pfizer is proud to sponsor the GI Research Foundation and their Champions for a Cure Ball

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Dr. Rubin, Dr. Cohen, Dr. Chang, and Dr. Charlton for continuing to lead our Foundation to the next level of research, discovery, and cures.

Thank you to the Ball Committee for bringing us together, in-person, to celebrate this evening. We would not be able to do this without you!

Thank you to Executive Vice President, Kathy Shafer, for your diligent leadership and commitment to GIRF.

The biggest thank you to our Board Members and our Champions for a Cure Ball guests—without your support we would not be here!

With love and gratitude,

KATIE CHUDNOVSKY + FAMILY
In appreciation and gratitude to the GI Section at the University of Chicago.

With special thanks to our friend **DR. DAVID RUBIN**

for excellence in clinical care, research, and education to improve the lives of others.
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of
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Thank you
Dr. Kiran K. Turaga
for your commitment to saving lives through pioneering cancer research and expert patient care.

WITH GRATITUDE,

KATIE CHUDNOVSKY + FAMILY
THANK YOU, NANCY & SY, FOR ALL YOU DO TO HELP OTHERS.

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We salute the excellence in medical research so vital in finding the causes and remedies of gastro-intestinal diseases.

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Through thick and thin, virtual and live, we are thankful to our wonderful GIRF staff for helping us through each of our events. Brittany, Deborah and Silver, you are our Champions, too.

Thank you to our Gala team, Katie, Howard, Heidi and Audrey, for a year’s worth of thoughtful and hard work.

IT’S BEEN WONDERFUL.

KATHY + KARYN
Saul Rudo and the attorneys of Katten warmly congratulate David T. Rubin, MD, recipient of the Joseph B. Kirsner Award, and Ira Hanan, MD for their outstanding contributions to the field of GI research and treatment.
Thank you
DR. RUBIN AND TEAM!

AMY TARA KOCH
+ PETER GOTTLIEB
ON BEHALF OF BELLA GOTTLIEB
Congratulations!

to Sy Taxman, David Rubin and Ira Hanan on your fabulous achievements.
Keep up the amazing work!

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Dr. Ira Hanan
and
Dr. David Rubin.

Dr. Rubin your presence on our board has helped us see and create this great vision.
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AND CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. RUBIN.

BARBARA + DON ROSUCK
Dr. David T. Rubin

Congratulations on all you have done and continue to do!

We are so proud!

Love,
Mom and Dad
IN HONOR

of

DAVID T. RUBIN, M.D.

With appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for the personalized medical care that you provide to thousands of patients in Chicago, North America and throughout the world.

Congratulations as recipient of the GI Research Foundation prestigious

JOSEPH B. KIRSNER AWARD

The comprehensive clinical care that you and the GI Section provide is a living testimony and source of inspiration for countless individuals.

MARVIN + GENNY ROSENBERG
Congratulations!

To Dr. Rubin on receiving the Joseph B. Kirsner Award and to Dr. Ira Hanan for your honor at this year’s Ball.

Thank you

To each and every GI doctor, nurse and staff member at UChicago Medicine. You’ve been instrumental, not just in our health but in our lives.

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Thank you
Dr. Benjamin Shogan
for dedicating your career to improving the lives of colorectal diseases patients.

– WITH GRATITUDE –
KATIE CHUDNOVSKY + FAMILY
Thank you to Dr. Rubin and his care team for your kindness, support and medical care. GIRF, thank you for your research of digestive diseases. I don’t know where I’d be without you all.

– THANKS, HEIDI HENDERSON
Dear Dr. Rubin, Having known Dr. Kirsner and you for many years, I can honestly say with a good heart and an honest feeling that you are a very worthy recipient of this award. I was one of Dr. Kirsner’s first successful recoveries from Ulcerative Colitis 74 years ago and owe my life to him and to you who took his place. Dr. Rubin, you have done very well in carrying out Dr. Kirsner’s traditions and going forward in helping many more people live a useful and happy life.

– MANY, MANY THANKS –
RALPH + DEEDEE KAUFMANN
We are so proud and lucky to have Dr. David on our family tree!

– WE LOVE YOU! –

MINDY, JEFF, DREW, JULIE, MATT, SHOSHANA, JON, ERIN, HANNAH, HENRY, LILY, ELLIOTT + EZRA

Congratulations!

to Sy Taxman on your continuous service to GIRF.

ALAN PORTNOY
To Dr. Hanan:

MANY THANKS
for your excellent advice and medical diligence for so many years!

CONGRATULATIONS
on a rich and generous medical career and best wishes for all that comes next!

GLENN TISDALE
Congratulations!

Dear Dr. Rubin,

on this most special honor! Thank you for everything! Your life’s work helps to save so many lives, and we are so proud to call you our Doctor! Enjoy the evening!

ADINA + FRED AARON

Congratulations!

to Dr. David T. Rubin on receiving the Joseph B. Kirsner Award. We also would like to acknowledge Dr. Rubin’s outstanding clinical team as well as research in Crohn’s disease and Ulcerative Colitis.

THE ACKERMAN FAMILY: MAX, BRUCE JR., DONNA + BRUCE

Congratulations!

DR. DAVID RUBIN WELL DESERVED!

MAY YOU GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

ABBY + LARRY BLOCK

Congratulations!

ON GREAT WORK!

IRA + CECILE LEBENSON
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIRELESS DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT WORK.

YOU ARE ALL

CHAMPIONS
Shout out to my amazing ‘Team Cohen’ and the entire staff throughout our ever-widening network of care locations – YOU are the reason that we have succeeded and will continue to succeed in our tireless quest to provide the best care to our patients and their families.”
– Dr. and Mrs. Russell Cohen.

“KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!”
– Richard Dufek

“Dr. David Rubin and Dr. Michael Charlton, thank you for saving my life. UChicago Medicine’s Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition is at the forefront, not only in medicine, but also in dedication, kindness, and compassion for your patients. Our family is indebted to you eternally.”
All our love and appreciation
– Brad and Rebecca Goodman and Charlotte, Rachel, and Harper

“I’m proud to support our University of Chicago Digestive Medicine physicians. I’m grateful for the ground breaking and life enhancing work that our doctors do for all of us each day.”
– Karyn Kogen Hurwich

“Shout out to Dr. David Rubin for his fierce advocacy of IBD patients day in and day out to promote quality of life improvements.”
– Marissa Miller, Mark, Aviva, and Natan Axelrod

“Congratulations to Dr. Rubin and Dr. Hanan! Have fun camping and fishing, Dr. Hanan as you enter this next chapter in your life.”
– Melanie Samardzija

“Thank you Dr. Rubin and your entire orchestra! Thank you also to the AMAZING WOCN nurses! While no one wants to be a “patient,” but if you need to be – this is the team to pick!”
– M. Wener

“Thank you to Dr. Rubin and Dr. Hyman for all you do.”
– The Rudin Family
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Acknowledgements

THE GI RESEARCH FOUNDATION WISHES TO THANK OUR PARTNERS WHO HELPED TO MAKE OUR CHAMPIONS FOR A CURE BALL A SUCCESS:

Brett Baugh - Auctioneer
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We congratulate, Dr. David T. Rubin, the Joseph B. Kirsner Award recipient, and Dr. Ira Hanan, for their relentless dedication and altruistic service to the work of the University of Chicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center and on being acknowledged as GIRF Champions for a Cure Ball honorees!

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Lisa + Bob Hamer salute the great work of the GI staff at U of C