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# CHAMPIONS FOR A CURE

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022  
THE GERAGHTY CHICAGO



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**

# CHAMPIONS FOR A CURE

JUNE | 4 | 2022

Dear Friends and Family,

Welcome to the *GI 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 GI Research Foundation Ball Committee—

Karyn Hurwich, *Co-Chair*

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# WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR ANGELS

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# GI RESEARCH FOUNDATION MISSION & HISTORY

*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.*

## **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

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.



*“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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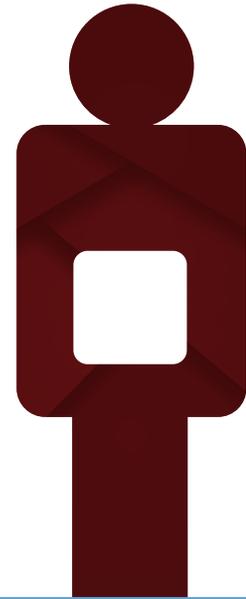
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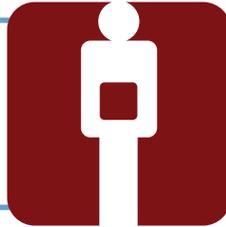
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AT THE FOREFRONT  
**UChicago**  
**Medicine**

# HONOREE

## JOSEPH B. KIRSNER AWARD DAVID T. RUBIN, MD



Joseph B. Kirsner Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Section of Gastroenterology,  
Hepatology, and Nutrition;  
Co-Director, Digestive Diseases Center;  
Secondary Appointment, Professor of Pathology;  
Member of the Committee on Clinical Pharmacology  
and Pharmacogenomics; Associate Investigator,  
Cancer Center; Associate Faculty,  
MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics  
University of Chicago Medicine

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 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



***“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***

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

Continued... ►

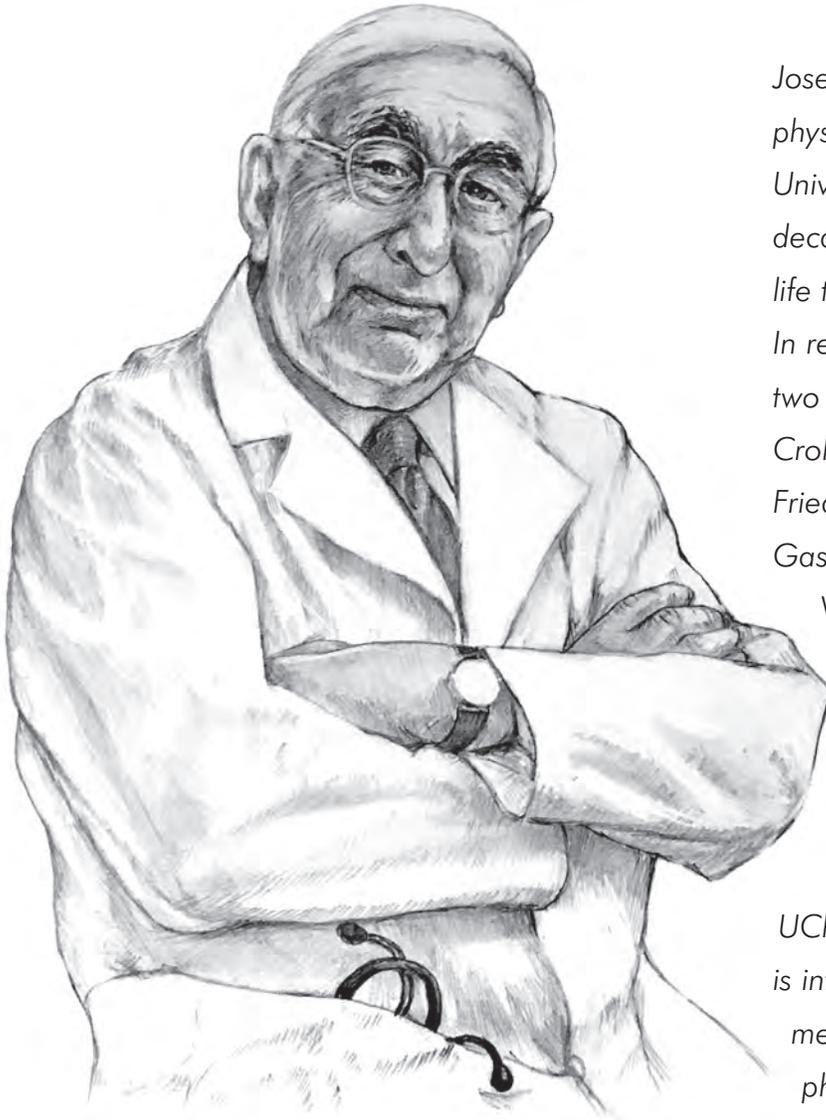
and was the first author on the 2019 clinical guidelines for the treatment of ulcerative colitis. He is currently serving a three-year term as Chair of the National Scientific Advisory Committee of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. Dr. Rubin is the Deputy Chair of the International Organization for the 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.*



# ABOUT THE JOSEPH B. KIRSNER AWARD



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.

Joseph B. Kirsner Award artwork commissioned by Beatrice G. Crain, the first recipient of the award in 2021.

**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**

# JOSEPH B. KIRSNER AWARD

## PRESENTED BY SY TAXMAN



Sy and Nancy Taxman

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

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.



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.

# HONOREE

## IRA HANAN, MD



Professor of Medicine  
University of Chicago

The GI Research Foundation is proud to honor Dr. Ira Hanan for his lifetime of service as a faculty member and physician at the University of Chicago Medicine.

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 Connelly, 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.



# CHAMPIONS FOR A CURE

WITH GREAT  
APPRECIATION  
+ THANKS TO  
OUR ANGELS!



GI RESEARCH  
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## “Invisible” diseases will soon have no place to hide.

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*Better Health, Brighter Future*



## Better Health, Brighter Future

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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  
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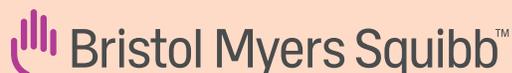
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*Thank You!*

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,

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CHUDNOVSKY  
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In appreciation and gratitude to the  
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With special thanks to our friend

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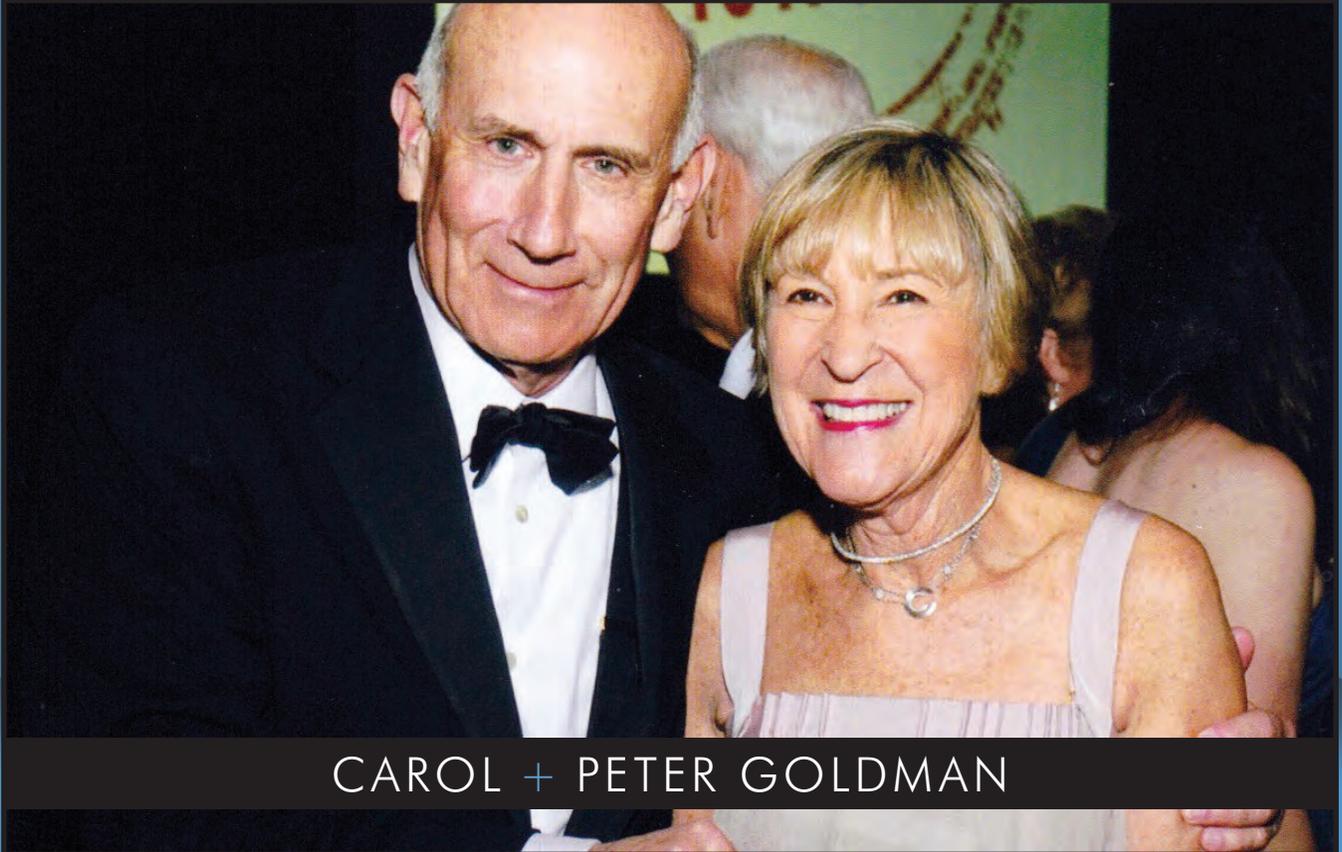
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*Thank you*

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  
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# CHAMPIONS

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.

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# *Congratulations!*

to Sy Taxman, David Rubin and  
Ira Hanan on your fabulous achievements.

**Keep up the amazing work!**

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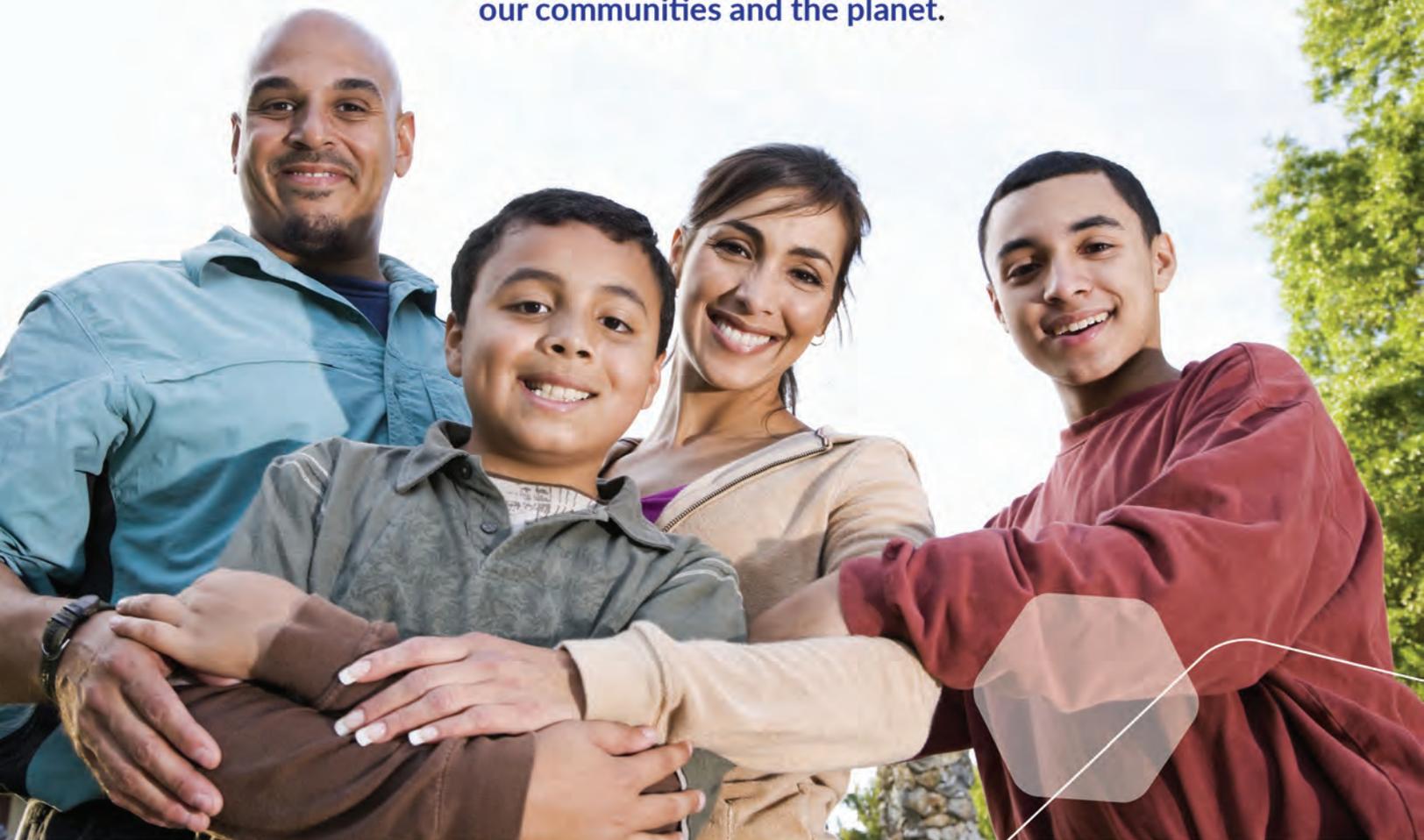
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The comprehensive clinical care that you and the GI Section provide is a living testimony and source of inspiration for countless individuals.

**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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Dr. Benjamin Shogan  
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**KATIE CHUDNOVSKY + FAMILY**



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*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 –**  
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lucky to have Dr. David  
on our family tree!

**– WE LOVE YOU! –**

MINDY, JEFF, DREW, JULIE, MATT, SHOSHANA,  
JON, ERIN, HANNAH, HENRY,  
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to Sy Taxman on your  
continuous service to GIRF.

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*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**



**Dear Dr. Rubin,**

*Congratulations!*

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.

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*Congratulations!*

**DR. DAVID RUBIN**

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**DR. RUBIN**

*Congratulations!*

on receiving the Joseph B. Kirsner Award. **Well deserved!** We are so grateful for your dedication, compassion and incredible care.

**MICHAEL, LOIS,  
HARRISON, ANDREW +  
CAITLYN MCCABE**

*Congratulations!*

TO THE BEST  
DOCTOR WE KNOW.

**DR. RUBIN,  
WE LOVE YOU!**

**SUSAN + HOWARD  
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## Acknowledgements

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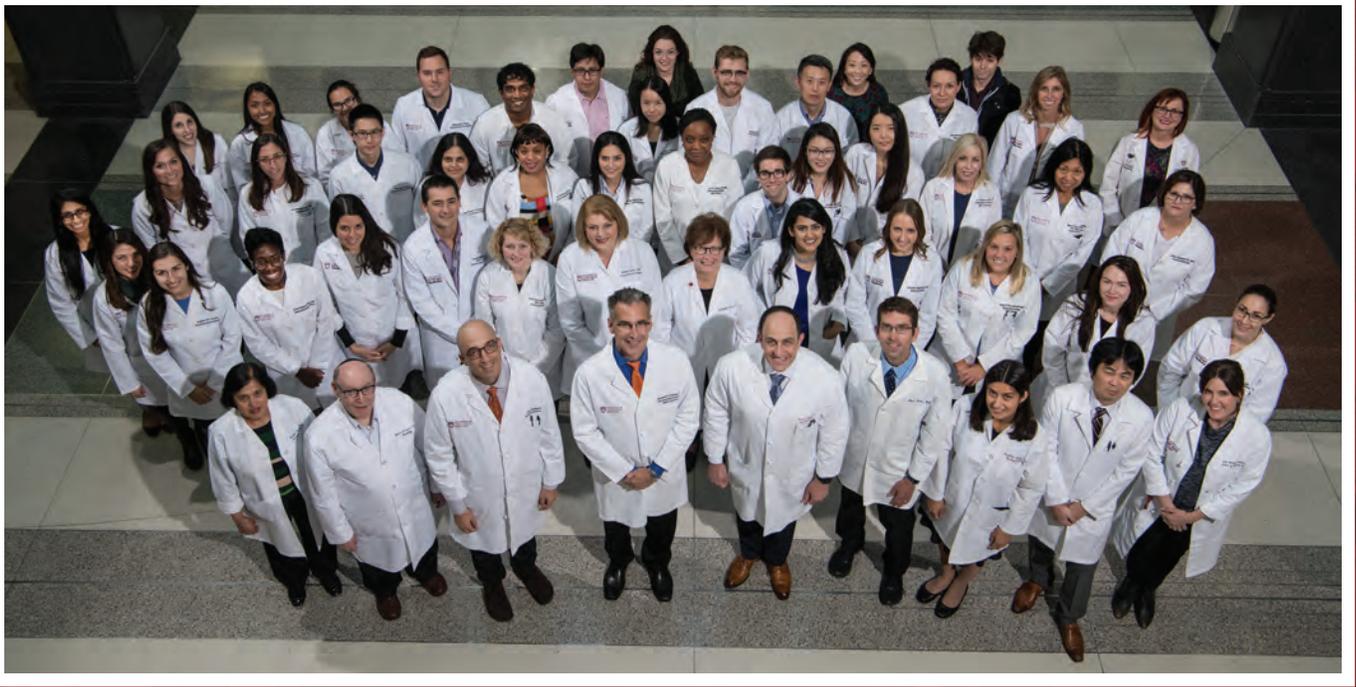


GI RESEARCH  
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We congratulate, Dr. David T. Rubin, the Joseph B. Kirsner Award recipient, and Dr. Ira Hanan, for their relentless dedication and altruistic service to the work of the University of Chicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center and on being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

**MAX WASSERMAN | BOB KALMAN**  
and the  
**MIRAMAR CAPITAL TEAM**



# CHAMPIONS

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

