



GI Research  
Foundation

*Partner With Us*

**TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH RESEARCH**

**SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026**

**RADISSON BLU AQUA HOTEL | CHICAGO**

IMAGINE

2026

*Research  
Foundation  
Annual  
Ball*

## BY PARTNERING WITH THE GI RESEARCH FOUNDATION, YOUR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT DRIVES LIFE-CHANGING DIGESTIVE DISEASES AND GI CANCERS RESEARCH.

### *The Problem*

60 to 70 million Americans live with a digestive disease—from Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis to GI cancers, pancreatic and liver disease. These conditions cause daily distress, debilitating pain, and, too often, fatal outcomes.

### *The Solution*

Donations to the GI Research Foundation fuel innovation—accelerating the development of new diagnostics, therapies, prevention strategies, and cures for digestive diseases. This research has the power to improve patient outcomes and eliminate suffering.

Our collaboration with the world-renowned University of Chicago Medicine Digestive Diseases Center helps ensure success. Our independence allows us to provide early seed funding for novel ideas—support that is often unavailable from other sources.

### *The Success*

#### **Groundbreaking Results**

- Discovered the first gene associated with Crohn's disease.
- Identified genetic and environmental factors contributing to colorectal cancer.
- Performed the first living donor transplant from parent to child.
- Uncovered immune factors linked to celiac disease.
- Led international trials that resulted in a cure for hepatitis C.

#### **Bold Research Pipeline**

- Advancing our Regenerative Medicine for Digestive Diseases campaign—to heal damage, restore organ function, and regrow healthy tissue.
- Exploring intestinal microbiota transfer to treat GI diseases.
- Using ultrasound technology to eliminate liver tumors.
- Developing therapeutic strategies for metastatic colorectal cancer.
- Studying the role of gut inflammation in anxiety and depression.

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the 2026 GI Research Foundation Annual Ball, where we will celebrate groundbreaking research dedicated to treating, preventing, and curing digestive diseases—and honor the extraordinary generosity of our donors.

Guests will enjoy live music by Michael DelGuidice, a cocktail reception, dinner, mission-focused program, and meaningful opportunities to connect with leading innovators and visionaries.

Your support is an opportunity to show your commitment to improving the lives of patients living with digestive diseases. We invite you to be part of this extraordinary celebration.

Mike DelGuidice is an acclaimed vocalist, songwriter, and recording artist. Best known for touring the world with Billy Joel—including performing throughout Joel’s historic 10-year residency at Madison Square Garden—Mike has earned a reputation for his extraordinary voice, dynamic stage presence, and breathtaking performances, including his standout rendition of the aria *Nessun Dorma*. Mike has shared the stage with legends such as Bruce Springsteen, Sting, Bryan Adams, Tony Bennett, Paul Simon, John Mayer, John Mellencamp, and Adam Levine. His talent has been highlighted on NBC’s *Today*, CBS *This Morning*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, CNN, and more. Alongside touring, Mike has released three albums, with a fourth on the way, and wrote the theme song for Kevin James’ sitcom *Kevin Can Wait*.



## JOSEPH B. KIRSNER AWARD

*Howard A. Grill*



Joseph B. Kirsner, MD, PhD, was a renowned physician-scientist and educator who helped establish UChicago Medicine as a worldwide authority in digestive diseases. The Joseph B. Kirsner Award recognizes those who have made a substantial commitment to impact and further the GI Research Foundation's mission.

The GI Research Foundation Board of Directors is honored to present Howard A. Grill with the 2026 Joseph B. Kirsner Award.

For more than 30 years, Howard has dedicated his time, expertise and knowledge to advancing the Foundation's mission. From his start on the Associates Board (now the Emerging Leaders Council) to his current roles as Vice President of Finance/Treasurer, Howard has served in every executive position, including many years as Ball Chair and President. Today, as Vice President of Finance/Treasurer, chair of the Finance Committee, and a driving force behind research funding and Ball efforts, Howard continues to guide the Foundation with vision and dedication. A grateful patient himself, Howard has transformed his personal experience into a legacy of service, strengthening the Foundation and improving the lives of digestive disease patients worldwide.

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**OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING LIVES  
WITH PATIENTS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO**

*Dedicated to Innovation.  
Support With Speed and Care.  
Building Future GI Leaders.  
Fostering Novel Ideas.*

# DIAMOND SPONSORSHIP

*\$100,000 INVESTMENT*

## *Recognition*

- Save-the-Date
- Invitation
- Website with hyperlink
- E-newsletter feature
- Press Releases

## *At the Ball*

- Two (2) tables of 10 with premier seating
- 20 tickets to the *Partners in Science* reception
- Welcome Remarks at *Partners in Science* reception OR Main Event
- *Partners in Science* Reception Signage (premier logo placement)
- Exclusive recognition in program slide deck
- Ball Program (verbal and digital recognition)
- Event Signage (premier logo placement)
- Program Book (full-page ad)
- Logo placement on cocktail napkins



# PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP

*\$75,000 INVESTMENT*



*Recognition*

- Save-the-Date
- Invitation
- Website with hyperlink
- E-newsletter feature
- Press Releases



*At the Ball*

- Two (2) tables of 10 with premier seating
- 20 tickets to the *Partners in Science* reception
- Welcome Remarks at *Partners in Science* reception OR Main Event
- Exclusive recognition in program slide deck
- Ball Program (verbal and digital recognition)
- Event Signage (premier logo placement)
- Program Book (full-page ad)



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# GOLD SPONSORSHIP

*\$50,000 INVESTMENT*



*Recognition*

- Save-the-Date
- Invitation
- Website with hyperlink
- E-newsletter
- Press Releases

*At the Ball*

- One (1) table of 10 with premier seating
- 10 tickets to the *Partners in Science* reception
- Exclusive recognition in program slide deck
- Ball Program (verbal and digital recognition)
- Event Signage (premier logo placement)
- Program Book (full-page ad)



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# SILVER SPONSORSHIP

*\$25,000 INVESTMENT*



- Save-the-Date
- Invitation
- Website
- E-newsletter
- Press Releases



- One (1) table of 10 with premier seating
- 4 tickets to the *Partners in Science* reception
- Ball Program (digital recognition)
- Event Signage (premier placement)
- Program Book (full-page ad)





# BRONZE SPONSORSHIP

*\$15,000 INVESTMENT*



- Save-the-Date
- Invitation
- Website
- E-newsletter
- Press Releases



- One (1) table of 10 with premier seating
- Ball Program (digital recognition)
- Event Signage
- Program Book (full-page ad)



# SPONSORSHIP

*\$10,000 INVESTMENT*



*Recognition*

- Save-the-Date
- Invitation
- Website
- E-newsletter
- Press Releases

*At the Ball*

- One (1) table of 10 with premier seating
- Ball Program (digital recognition)
- Event Signage
- Program Book



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# VIDEO SPONSOR

*\$5,000 INVESTMENT*



*Recognition*

- Save-the-Date
- Invitation
- Website
- E-newsletter
- Press Releases

*At the Ball*

- Four Tickets
- Ball Program (digital recognition)
- Event Signage
- Program Book



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# COMMITMENT FORM

NAME FOR SPONSOR LISTING

SPONSOR LEVEL

## CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

EMAIL

PHONE

WEBSITE

NO. OF ATTENDEES

## PAYMENT DETAILS

**PAY BY CREDIT CARD CARD: [CLICK HERE](#) OR CALL (312) 332-1350**

**PAY BY CHECK: PLEASE MAIL TO ADDRESS BELOW.**

**CONTACT: DEBORAH BARNARD AT 312-724-9150 OR [DBARNARD@GIRF.ORG](mailto:DBARNARD@GIRF.ORG)  
GI RESEARCH FOUNDATION | 2070 GREEN BAY RD #167 | HIGHLAND PARK, IL 60035**