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FIRST TYPE 1 DIABETES PATIENT IN EUROPE IS FREE FROM INSULIN THERAPY AFTER UNDERGOING DRI BIOHUB TRANSPLANT TECHNIQUE



The DRI team submitted for publication the data from the preclinical study results using the biologic (biodegradable) scaffold engineered onto the surface of the omentum, which led to the FDA-approved Phase I/II clinical BioHub trial. The study appeared on the cover of the journal *Diabetes*.

A 41-year-old man who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11 has become the first patient in Europe to discontinue insulin therapy after receiving a transplant of islet cells using the Diabetes Research Institute's innovative technique. Following the DRI's BioHub protocol, Drs. Federico Bertuzzi, head of the Islet Transplant Program, Mario Marazzi, head of the Tissue Therapy Unit, Luciano De Carlis, director of General Surgery and Transplantation, and collaborators at Ospedale Niguarda Ca' Granda in Milan, Italy, transplanted the insulin-producing cells within a biological scaffold engineered onto the surface of the omentum, a highly vascularized tissue covering abdominal organs. This successful post-transplant outcome confirms the initial results achieved by the DRI last August 2015.

Ospedale Niguarda Ca' Granda is a member of the worldwide Diabetes Research Institute Federation, a global alliance of researchers and medical centers that collaborate and share promising findings in order to accelerate research toward a cure for diabetes. After completion of the first BioHub transplant, DRI researchers shared their transplant protocol with DRI Federation members with the goal of replicating these results quickly to help the millions living with type 1 diabetes around the world.

"I warmly congratulate the team of Niguarda, the first team of the DRI Federation in Europe and in the world to have confirmed the initial results achieved last year in Miami. This tissue-engineering technique will be essential for allowing clinical testing of new technologies for preventing the use of anti-rejection drugs which currently limit the applicability of islet transplantation to the most severe cases of type 1 diabetes," said DRI Director Dr. Camillo Ricordi.

> Continued on page 11

Generosity Abounds



Several donors, including **Bonnie Inserra** and the Inserra Family Foundation, were recognized for their generosity.

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Pit Stop at the DRI



NASCAR driver **Ryan Reed**, who has type 1, stopped by the DRI before his big South Florida race.

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Pro Athletes at Kids' Carnival



Professional Snowboarder **Sean Busby** and other athletes with type 1 diabetes met with families at the Kids' Carnival for a Cure on Long Island.

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What's Cooking?



Top chefs cooked tableside for guests at Out of the Kitchen. Pictured are **Marc Goodman, Ray Allen, Josh Rednik** and **Sam Talbot**.

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A Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

In January of 2016, I assumed the role of Chairman of the National Board of the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation. Since that time, the DRI has continued to make significant strides in finding a biological cure for diabetes. While the Institute and the great scientists who work there, led by Dr. **Camillo Ricordi**, continue their work, we at the Foundation continue to face significant challenges in raising the dollars necessary to support their research.

The success of the first DRI BioHub transplant patient, **Wendy Peacock**, was a significant achievement. The fact that she was producing insulin on her own within days of the procedure and was completely free from insulin therapy has filled us all with real hope for finding the cure.

In August, Wendy returned to the DRI for her one-year follow-up appointment. She remains insulin free and hopeful that our scientists can apply key findings from this clinical trial toward the next step – and ultimately offer life-changing cell therapy to all who can benefit. To enable you to keep abreast of important news like this, please follow us on our social media channels. During her one-year visit, Wendy connected directly with a captive audience via a Facebook LIVE video session, which instantly streams content as it's being filmed. Our followers were able to suggest questions and get personalized feedback from Wendy.

As you read in the cover story, the preliminary results of this clinical trial were confirmed in June of 2016 by DRI collaborators in Milan who followed the same BioHub protocol with a 41-year-old man with type 1 diabetes. He became the first patient in Europe to discontinue insulin therapy after receiving a transplant of insulin-producing cells using the innovative technique developed at the DRI.

While we continue to watch this historic process unfold and are encouraged by the promising outcomes achieved, we remain aware that

there is still work to be done. That's why all of you – our generous supporters – are vitally important to our mission.

Some of you invest substantial resources and provide critical funding for the DRI's cure-focused research. We are pleased to recognize your extraordinary generosity through our Cycle of Discovery donor recognition program (page 6). One of these awards was presented to **Fran and Donald MacMaster**. Their family has been dealt three type 1 diabetes diagnoses. I believe their journey will undeniably touch and inspire you (page 12).

Others choose to create a legacy that provides a stream of funding beyond their lifetime by including the DRI in their estate plans. We would like to introduce you to one of those generous individuals, **Jeanine Forman-Ham**, who feels proud to be "part of the DRI family." She served on our board of directors for more than a decade and has contributed in many ways, one of which is a gift of appreciated stock (page 4).

Many of you have found that even small gifts can make a big impact. Several supporters have developed personal fundraising events and campaigns through our Diabetes Diplomats program (page 5). Even more people participate in our fundraising events, and you'll read about the committees, chairpersons, and sponsors who help make these special events successful. Importantly, we want to recognize our long-time partners, North America's Building Trades Unions, who have once again proved that their commitment to a cure is unwavering (page 13).

All of us can play a part in the collective effort to eradicate this disease forever. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

William J. Fishlinger
Chairman of the Board

IN MEMORY OF THREE BOARD MEMBERS

With great sadness, the Diabetes Research Institute and Foundation mourns the loss of three dear friends and former board members, **Nathan J. Esformes**, **Jerrold Goodman**, and **Eugene Milgram**.

Nate Esformes, who was the president and co-owner of Triple E Produce and Pacific Tomato Growers, passed away in October 2015. He and his family became entrenched in the diabetes community when his daughter, **Elizabeth**, was diagnosed with diabetes decades ago. He and his wife, **Annie**, served as members of the board of directors for more than 30 years. A former Board Vice Chairman, Nate was the founder of

the Committee of 500, a group of generous donors who provided annual support to help find a cure for diabetes. In recognition of the family's generosity, the DRI's first floor suite of diabetes education center offices and lecture rooms are named the Esformes Pavilion.

In December of 2015, we lost Jerry Goodman, a retired banker and generous philanthropist who supported a number of worthy organizations in his South Florida community. He and his wife of 50 years, **Jane**, could always be seen at several DRI Foundation fundraising events, along with his mother, the late **Ruth Schwartz**. They decided to become

BILL FISHLINGER ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL BOARD; JONATHAN TEPPER JOINS NORTHEAST BOARD

The Diabetes Research Institute Foundation is pleased to announce that **William J. Fishlinger** (Bill) has been elected Chairman of the National Board, and **Jonathan Tepper** has joined the Northeast Region Board.

As was reported in the last issue of Focus when he served as Vice Chairman, Bill has been a member of the board since 2008, has served in the position of Treasurer, and also chaired the Finance Committee. As the founder and former CEO and Chairman of The Wright Insurance Group and its subsidiary companies, Bill is well-positioned to move the DRIF forward. A graduate of the University of Maryland and St. John's University School of Law who also served with the US Air Force, Bill is Chairman and CEO of Gramercy Risk Holdings, LLC, a company he created that provides financial, operational, and legal resources for both domestic and foreign property and casualty insurance entities across the country.

Finding a cure for type 1 diabetes – for his daughter and millions more – is Bill's personal mission. Hear his story in his own words by watching his video online: DiabetesResearch.org/Bill-Fishlinger-Elected-DRIF-Chairman.

Now serving on the Northeast Region Board, Jonathan Tepper is Managing Director at Telos Asset Management, NYC, which manages \$1.9 billion of CLOs and corporate credit investments and is a subsidiary of Tiptree Financial. Previously, he was a Director at Tricadia Capital Management, LLC, Vice President of Cohen & Company, and AVP at PB Capital.

Jonathan received his MBA at Columbia University Business School and his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan, BA,

Economics. He lives in Oyster Bay Cove, NY, with his wife **Edra** and their three children, **Hanna, Madden** and **Isla**.

The family is committed to finding a cure for Edra, who has type 1 diabetes. Jonathan and Edra became involved with the DRIF through their friendship with **Dara** and **Jeremy Melnick** and the Waller family. Jonathan served on the Crystal Ball committee in 2013 and 2014 and on the Dreams in the City committee in 2015. He has successfully obtained corporate sponsorships for Dreams in the City, the Crystal Ball and Rod Gilbert Golf Classic. The family also participates in the Kids' Carnival for a Cure. Edra co-chaired the 2014 Champions for Charity event and was honored at the Crystal Ball in 2016.



1. William J. Fishlinger
2. Jonathan Tepper

involved with the DRI because Jane's brother died at a young age from diabetes. In addition to being a generous donor, Jerry was instrumental in getting Carnival Cruise Lines more involved with the DRI.

Eugene Milgram, a prominent South Florida businessman and investor, passed away in March of last year. He had been a member of the DRIF's board of directors for many years, and along with his wife, **Charlotte**, who he was married to for 65 years, was a very generous supporter of the DRI's work toward a cure. They were involved with several of the DRI Foundation's fundraising events and programs, including Love and



1. Nate Esformes, 2. Jerry Goodman, 3. Eugene Milgram.

Hope, the Committee of 500, and On Target, a group that their daughter, **Michelle Robinson**, co-founded.

These three gentlemen left an indelible mark in our hearts and will not soon be forgotten.

PASSIONATE ABOUT A CURE AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



A child's diagnosis of type 1 diabetes is devastating for parents – even when that child is a grown adult. Jeanine Forman-Ham can attest to that. Her son, David Hayes, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1994 at age 30.

She knew she wanted to help him and decided the best way to do that was to get involved in finding a cure for David and millions more.

Having learned of the Diabetes Research Institute from David, she contacted Dr. Daniel H. Mintz, the Institute's founder and scientific director at the time. From him, she learned more about diabetes than any other source. After learning about the DRI's groundbreaking research, Jeanine felt strongly about investing in the DRI's mission to cure diabetes.

"I was less sophisticated and more emotional back then, but I was inspired by the dedication of the scientists and the progress that had already been made at the DRI," she said.

Based on advice from her stock broker, Jeanine began to contribute appreciated stock. "By donating appreciated stock that I have owned for more than one year, I don't have to pay capital gains tax and the full amount goes to the DRI Foundation," she stated. This has benefited Jeanine, as she receives a tax receipt for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift, and she is able to avoid paying the long term capital gains tax that she would otherwise owe if she sold the stock and used the funds for another purpose.

During her career, Jeanine spent many years in New York and Massachusetts, working with speech and hearing impaired students. She also served on the DRI Foundation's board from 1998 through 2010.

"I was impressed with the people serving along with me. Barbara Singer, one of the DRIF's founders, became a dependable friend, as is Gary Kleiman, Senior Director of Medical Development, who has always helped me interpret technical research reports," explained Jeanine.

Today, Jeanine resides in Boulder, CO, and is enjoying the pleasures of retirement. She lives in an active community, where she loves to take long walks and relishes in the camaraderie of dear friends. She continues to express her creativity through writing essays, and always keeps abreast of the promising work being conducted at the DRI.

"I feel like I am part of the DRI family, and we all share a common goal. If I don't live to see a cure, I want to continue to contribute after I'm gone." Considering her long range plans, Jeanine included a gift to benefit the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation in her trust. Working closely with her attorney, Jeanine developed a plan to provide for her family and to the causes that are important to her.

The DRI and Foundation are deeply grateful for Jeanine's longstanding commitment to our mission. In appreciation of her plans to provide for the DRI beyond her lifetime, Jeanine has been recognized as a member of the DRI Heritage Society, and a plaque with her and her late husband's name was added to a wall of honor at the Diabetes Research Institute.



THE IRA ROLLOVER IS PERMANENT!

Last year, Congress passed legislation extending the charitable IRA rollover and making this provision permanent for future years. For those who are 70 ½ years of age or older, up to \$100,000 can be transferred directly from traditional or Roth IRA to one or more qualified charities such as the **Diabetes Research Institute Foundation** free from federal income tax each year. There may also be state income tax savings. Amounts given in this way count toward required IRA minimum withdrawal amounts for the year of the gift.

It is important to not withdraw funds prior to making the gift, but have the gift distributed directly from an IRA to the qualified charity(ies).

Learn more about these special opportunities by contacting: Jill Shapiro Miller at jshapiro@drif.org or 1-800-321-3437.

BE THE HERO... BECOME A DIABETES DIPLOMAT!

Diabetes Diplomats are a league of students, teachers, parents, grandparents and other family members and friends who are taking the search for a cure into their own hands. They come from all over the world and serve as advocates, educators and event fundraisers in their schools, neighborhoods and online. Some have diabetes. Some don't. But they have all decided to "Be the Hero" by helping to find a cure for this disease that affects more than 29 million children and adults in the U.S. alone.

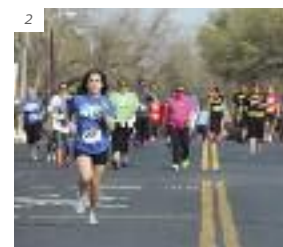


Chatham Turkey Trot

Diabetes advocate and dad **Curt Ritter** – whose daughter, **Mollie**, has type 1 diabetes – celebrated another successful Chatham Turkey Trot event in New Jersey. This year nearly 1,000 runners gathered for the fundraiser, which gives members of the community a chance to have a fun day out and participate in a one-mile Family Fun Run and USA Track & Field Certified 5K Race. All proceeds from the Turkey Trot help raise critical funds for the Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department and the DRI. With the support of his community, Ritter helped raise more than \$8,500 – and the event has become a Thanksgiving Day tradition for the Chatham community.

Super Hero Run Texas

The annual 5K Superhero Run benefiting the DRI was held in Elgin, TX, and hosted by Superhero Mom **Jodie Lopez** and her family. This event helped bring in more than \$8,000 for cure-focused research thanks to the generosity and participation of members of the community. DRI BioHub islet transplant recipient **Wendy Peacock** – who has been insulin-free since her procedure last year – was the guest speaker at the event, where she shared her remarkable story of how it changed her life for the better. There were many super heroes involved, both in and out of costume, that helped make a difference for people living with diabetes that day.



DiaBEAT This!

The 4th annual DiaBEAT THIS! was held at West Broward High School in Florida this spring. The school's Student Organization of Anatomy & Physiology (SOAP) organized the program that included diabetes education, a tournament basketball game, and many other activities to benefit the DRI. Science teacher **Maria Muniz**, along with SOAP, created the event to raise awareness, and is quick to

emphasize that the kids organize the entire evening. SOAP members came to the DRI to present a check, tour the Institute, and speak to the researchers. They donated more than \$11,000 thanks to the amazing efforts of this extremely engaged group of young people.

Sydney's Bracelets

Fourth grader **Sydney Mrejen** didn't hesitate to spring into action after being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes a year ago in an effort to help reach a cure. Using her creativity, crafting skills, and a little help from her mom, she began selling hand-crafted bracelets in her South Florida neighborhood. She donated all proceeds to the DRI during a visit to the office. She continues to create and sell bracelets and actively participates in other events to help the DRI.



Brooke and Isabelle's Birthday Fundraiser

Twins **Brooke**, who has type 1 diabetes, and **Isabelle Goldfarb** recently raised \$3,800 for the DRI to commemorate their birthday. In lieu of gifts, they asked their loved ones to make donations to the DRI to advance research toward a cure. They also stopped by the Institute to present the funds they raised and take a tour. These superstar twins also attended the annual A Gift of Love...A Gift of Hope Luncheon benefiting the DRI in Boca Raton, FL, where Brooke spoke about her experience living with T1D and the importance of reaching a cure.

It's plain to see, when you create a fundraiser for the Diabetes Research Institute, you will Be the Hero to everyone who is hoping for a cure. As Tom Karlya always says, "Just don't do nothing." Email him at TomKarlya@drif.org today to get started! You're never too old or too young to join the Diabetes Diplomats!

1) A runner warms up at the starting line of the annual Chatham Turkey Trot, 2) Participants run toward a cure at the Superhero Run in Texas, 3) West Broward High School's Student Organization of Anatomy & Physiology Club visit the DRI and present a check to DRI Foundation VP Tom Karlya (left), 4) Sydney presenting a check to Tom at the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation office, 5) Brooke and Isabelle take a tour of the DRI, pictured with the DRI's Dr. Juan Dominguez-Bendala, their grandparents Natalie and Harry Olstein, and their mom Carolyn Goldfarb.

FOUNDATION DONORS RECOGNIZED

Awards from the DRI Foundation's Cycle of Discovery series were presented to donors who recently made major gifts. The award program corresponds with the Foundation's cumulative giving designations. Awards were presented individually and at Foundation events.



DONOR LEVEL		AWARD
Visionaries Chairman's Council Leadership Council Governors' Society Distinguished	\$10,000,000+	Innovation Validation Perpetuation Translation
	\$5,000,000+	
	\$1,000,000+	
	\$500,000+	
Humanitarians Grand Founders Founders Benefactors	\$250,000+	Realization Exploration Hypothesis Query
	\$100,000+	
	\$50,000+	
	\$25,000+	



VALIDATION AWARD: Bonnie Inserra accepting for The Inserra Family Foundation with Josh Rednik, President and CEO of the DRI Foundation (1).

PERPETUATION AWARD: Kelly and Harold Doran (2).

REALIZATION AWARD: Irene and Sy Cohen (center), flanked by their son-in-law and daughter, Bob and Diane Cohen (3), Marc Goldfarb accepting for the Olstein Family for Brooke Goldfarb (4), John and Melinda Ladyzinski (5), Donald and Frances MacMaster (6).

EXPLORATION AWARD: Greg Besner accepting for Willa's Wish Foundation (7), DRIF Northeast Region Co-chairman of the Board Bruce Siegel accepting on behalf of the family of William Entenmann (8), Carl R. Kuehner III (9), Meryl R. Lieberman (10), Francine Lowe (11), Elaine and Lawrence Raia (12).

HYPOTHESIS AWARD: Jonathan Bennis accepting for Icon Interiors, Inc. (13), Robert Moss and Nina Blumenfeld (14), Leo Field accepting for the Field Family Foundation (15), Marc Goldfarb accepting on behalf of himself and Carolyn Goldfarb (16), Barbara and Donald Kaufman (17), Alan and Nancy Manocherian (18), Marc Taub accepting for The Taub Family and Palm Bay International (19), Alice and William Tenet (20).

QUERY AWARD: Brian Bateman and Michael Gerazounis accepting for MG Engineering D.P.C. (21), Bob Bennis (left) accepting for CONDE NAST, with son Jonathan Bennis, Icon Interiors, Inc. (22), Anthony E. Childs (23), Andrew Cooke accepting for Hines Interests LP – East Region (24),

FOUNDATION DONORS **RECOGNIZED** *(Continued...)*



QUERY AWARD: Peter L. DiCapua (25). Mike Doherty accepting for BMS, LLC (26), Jeffrey Fresse, Knights of Pythias Diabetes Research Association, Inc. (27), Kenneth Von Glahn accepting for PARK AVENUE BUILDING & ROOFING SUPPLIES (28), Richard Heller accepting for Titanium Scaffold Services, LLC (29), Michael Fichtel and Heath Eskalyo accepting for Kelley Kronenberg Attorneys at Law (30), Robert J. Marziotto accepting for NEAD ELECTRIC INC (31), Bill McDonald Jr. and Linda McDonald (32), Frank Pusinelli accepting for RXR REALTY (33), John Rinaldi and Charles Rinaldi accepting for Madison Service Corporation (34), Greg and Denise Rosenberg with son Jake (35), Richard Saybolt accepting for Astoria Bank (36), Ed and Donna Sirlin (37), Ed Sirlin accepting for Signature Bank (38), Naomi Shapiro and DRI Foundation Senior Vice President Lori Weintraub (39), Stephen Winter accepting for Related Companies (40).

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

WITH DAVID BAIDAL, M.D.

This past year, DRI researchers focused on moving promising research into the clinical trial phase of testing, a multidisciplinary effort that requires the significant involvement of the Institute's clinical transplant team. The BioHub pilot trial alone was a major undertaking: from preparing the transplant protocol and working with the Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory bodies for approval, to screening hundreds of people, selecting the candidates, performing the transplant procedure and managing the patients' progress.

With the Institute's increasing need for clinical research expertise, Dr. David Baidal, who served in the DRI's Clinical Islet Transplant Program (CITP) as a post-doctoral fellow, re-joined the team at precisely the right moment.

Dr. Baidal had trained under Dr. Rodolfo Alejandro, director of Clinical Islet Transplantation, and DRI Director Dr. Camillo Ricordi, where his research primarily focused on identifying metabolic markers predictive of islet transplant dysfunction. In light of his clinical and research interests in type 1 diabetes, he then pursued a fellowship at Beth Deaconess Medical Center and Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard School of Medicine. Following the completion of his fellowship, he returned to the DRI in July of 2015 to again be a part of the clinical islet transplant team and serves as assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

At a time when the Institute is developing more efficient and effective methods of translating research to clinical trials, Dr. Baidal plays an integral role in this process. In recognition of his important work, Dr. Baidal was recently selected to receive the Marc S. Goodman Prize to an Outstanding Young Scientist at the DRI, a prestigious honor that carries an award of \$10k to be used to advance research toward a cure for type 1 diabetes.



Q. Having trained at the DRI, what were some of the highlights of your tenure here?

A. During my time with the Clinical Islet Transplant Program, I was introduced to clinical research and learned several aspects of the management of a clinical research program, as well as the medical care and evaluation of graft function of the islet transplant recipient. Under the direct supervision of Dr. Alejandro, I was trained in the use of various metabolic tests aimed at assessing the function of the transplanted pancreatic islets and focused on the identification of markers that could predict islet graft dysfunction. Without a doubt, the highlights of my time here were being able to witness the benefits that islet transplantation can bring to patients with unstable type 1 diabetes complicated by severe hypoglycemia. Experiencing the dramatic change in quality of life of patients being rendered insulin free and how this enabled them to pursue aspects of daily life that had previously been restricted due to their poor glucose control was extremely rewarding.

Q. Why did you want to return to the DRI?

A. I wanted to pursue a career in clinical research and I remained interested in cellular therapies for type 1 diabetes. In order to achieve this goal, I needed to join a team that had a track record of excellence and innovation in diabetes research. Having worked at the DRI, I was fully aware of the outstanding team of

scientists working together towards a cure for type 1 diabetes. Thus, the decision to come back to the DRI was actually a very easy one.

Q. What is your primary role now?

A. I have re-joined the Clinical Cell Transplant Program and I will focus on the management of islet transplant recipients, development of new clinical trials for islet transplantation, and testing of novel therapies for the treatment of patients with new onset type 1 diabetes. I will also provide medical care to patients with endocrine diseases, in particular patients with type 1 diabetes.

Q. Many of the DRI's islet transplant patients, whom you have met and cared for, are enjoying long-term insulin independence. How do you feel about that progress?

A. It is both exciting and rewarding having been a part of the team that initially took care of those patients and now being able to see that those transplants have resulted in insulin independence for many years. The goal now is to identify what are the critical factors leading to long-term insulin independence so that these results are not limited to a small group of patients.

Q. You returned to the DRI after the team received FDA approval for the BioHub clinical trial, and just a month prior to when the first transplant took place. What are your thoughts about the overall progress that's been made?

A. There is an urgent need to identify an optimal transplantation site that will allow for better long-term results, minimize early islet loss, and allow for testing of novel techniques such as encapsulation of islets and/or immunomodulatory cells in order to minimize or eliminate the need for long-term immunosuppression. The DRI has been actively involved in identifying such a site and received FDA approval to test the omentum as a novel islet transplantation site. This is a huge step in moving the field forward and I feel extremely fortunate of having returned to the DRI at the time where this trial had just started. Hopefully, results from this clinical trial may allow us to demonstrate that the omentum is a safe alternative to the liver for islet transplantation.

Q. What would you like others to know about the islet transplant program?

A. I will highlight what is already known, that this institution is a leader in diabetes research and is working tirelessly to find new therapies for type 1 diabetes with the ultimate goal of achieving a cure. Islet transplantation has demonstrated to be effective in improving glucose control and eliminating severe hypoglycemia in patients with poorly controlled type 1 and we are working to optimize long-term results and minimize risks in order to make this procedure potentially available to a wide range of patients.

AROUND THE DRI

GRANT AWARDS WILL HELP TRANSLATE IMMUNOENGINEERING RESEARCH TOWARD CLINICALLY APPLICABLE THERAPIES



Dr. Alice Tomei (left) and Dr. Diana Velluto work in the lab to refine conformal coating technology.

Dr. Alice Tomei, director of the DRI's Islet Immunoengineering Laboratory, and her team have pioneered research to engineer new therapies for type 1 diabetes (T1D). A key project is the development and implementation of an innovative encapsulation platform technology for insulin-producing cells, which is designed to overcome the many limitations of islet encapsulation. Similar to shrink-wrapping, these "conformal" coatings individually cloak each transplanted islet, which are different shapes and sizes, with an ultra-thin barrier to camouflage them from the recipient's immune system.

Protecting transplanted insulin-producing cells is critical for sustaining their long-term survival and function because there are two immune system-related forces at work in type 1 diabetes (T1D). First, when a foreign organ or cell is transplanted into the body, the immune system will recognize that this is not its own "self" and take measures to reject it. Second, the transplanted insulin-producing cells will be destroyed by the same autoimmune attack that caused T1D. The ability to successfully transplant encapsulated islets may overcome these immune system challenges and do so without the need for anti-rejection drugs.

Dr. Tomei's team has already demonstrated that conformal coated islets provide a smaller volume for transplant – the coated islets are

similar in size to non-coated (naked) islets, which can reduce the total volume of transplanted cells. They also showed that conformal coatings do not delay insulin release in response to changes in blood sugar while allowing sufficient and much-needed oxygen to enter the cells. Finally, they demonstrated that conformal coated islets can reverse hyperglycemia and function in experimental models of diabetes for more than 100 days. Recently, the team has focused on optimizing the coatings with islets and with stem cell-derived insulin-secreting cells.

Thanks to the ongoing funding provided by the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, in addition to several new grants awarded by the JDRF, Semma Therapeutics, and the NIH (National Institutes of Health), including a prestigious JDRF career development award, Dr. Tomei and her team will take the next series of steps to advance this work with the final goal of testing the technology in clinical trials of islet transplantation without the use of immunosuppression. In the next phase of their studies, they will test the conformal coated islets in experimental models that more closely mimic the T1D disease process in humans, including preclinical studies in collaboration with DRI colleagues Drs. Dora Berman-Weinberg and Norma Kenyon.

Building on the expertise of assistant scientist and chemist Dr. Diana Velluto, the team will also refine the conformal coating platform technology to include oxygen carriers and agents to reduce inflammation, stimulate the growth of blood vessels, and provide further protection within the transplant site.

In a related arm of this research that has also been awarded JDRF funding, Dr. Tomei has teamed up with two DRI immunologists, Dr. Allison Bayer, research assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, co-principal investigator of the grant, and with Dr. Alberto Pugliese, director of immunogenetics and co-investigator. The team will work to engineer implantable biomaterials incorporating CCL21, a particular molecule that has been shown to promote immune tolerance, together with engineered hydrogels, gel-tethered fusion proteins, and other target molecules that may help establish tolerance.

"We need to demonstrate efficacy of conformal coatings in spontaneous models of diabetes and in larger models of T1D before moving to humans, as well as scale-up the fabrication process to allow encapsulation of hundreds of thousands of islets in a short amount of time," said Dr. Tomei. "We are grateful for the significant support that will keep our work moving forward to benefit people living with T1D."

DRI STUDY SUGGESTS THAT TWO AGENTS MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED WITH LONG-TERM ISLET TRANSPLANT SURVIVAL

Islet transplantation is an effective therapy for those with type 1 diabetes, though transplant outcomes worldwide vary dramatically among those who receive the cell replacement procedure, with some patients maintaining freedom from insulin injections for more than a decade. To better understand the reasons for this disparity, a team of DRI scientists, led by Dr. Luca Inverardi, deputy director of translational research, conducted a retrospective analysis on the data from a cohort of 44 patients who received islet transplants at the DRI between 2000 and 2007.

In an article published in the scientific journal *PLoS One*, they report the intriguing findings that emerged from this analysis. The data indicate that transplanted islets survived longer in individuals treated with the agents Filgrastim (G-CSF) and Exenatide (GLP-1 agonist), and even longer in individuals treated with both drugs. The data may be of assistance in further improving islet transplantation – and potentially other organ transplant – outcomes.

Importantly, these findings were key in designing the DRI's FDA-approved Diabetes Islet Preservation Immune Treatment (DIPIT) trial – which will use those two agents and three others in combination in an attempt to preserve insulin secretion in recent onset type 1 diabetes.



BIOHUB TRANSPLANT IN EUROPE *(Continued from cover)*

Dr. Ricordi and collaborators from the DRI at UM have been providing assistance to selected teams worldwide by sharing protocols and equipment, as well as through the DRI's telescience platform, which enables researchers in different parts of the world to "virtually" work together side by side.

"Our team is building on decades of progress in clinical islet transplantation toward the development of the DRI BioHub, a bioengineered mini organ that mimics the native pancreas to restore natural insulin production in people with type 1 diabetes," said Dr. Ricordi.

In this latest procedure, as was done in Miami, the donor islets were implanted within a biodegradable scaffold, one of the platforms for a DRI BioHub, made by combining the patient's own blood plasma with thrombin, a commonly used, clinical-grade enzyme. Together, these substances create a gel-like material that sticks to the omentum and holds the islets in place. The omentum is then folded over around the biodegradable (biological) scaffold mixture. Over time, the body will absorb the gel, leaving the islets intact, while new blood vessels are formed to provide critical oxygen and other nutrients that support the cells' survival.

Currently, islet cells are infused into the liver, but many of the cells do not survive in that environment. Most importantly, the reason for developing this alternative site is that the BioHub technology will eventually allow for the introduction of additional technologies and components to eliminate the need for anti-rejection drugs. This FDA-approved Phase I/II BioHub clinical trial is testing the omentum as an alternative transplant site.

At the recent 76th Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association held in New Orleans, LA, in June, Dr. David Baidal, Assistant Professor of Medicine and member of the DRI's Clinical Islet Transplant team, presented the data on the DRI's first patient transplanted under the BioHub protocol, which has demonstrated thus far that **"an islet-containing resorbable biologic scaffold transplanted within an omental fold appears to be a safe alternative to intra-hepatic (in the liver) islet transplantation with comparable results,"** though long-term follow up continues.

ONE FAMILY'S FIGHT AGAINST DIABETES



A family photo from a few years back shows Andrew, Nicole, Donald, Jr., Fran and Don MacMaster.

The MacMaster family is on the offensive. Laser-focused on a biological cure, the family has directly targeted diabetes – a disease that began waging war on them long ago.

“I was the outlier,” said Fran MacMaster, the matriarch of the family who was diagnosed with type 1 at age 10. There was no

previous history of diabetes in her family. And although she has no “war stories so to speak” from her youth – when blood sugar testing was more like a science experiment, she says – it would not be the only time diabetes would strike.

Fran continued to battle diabetes throughout her career, becoming a nurse and a certified diabetes educator, in order to arm others affected by the disease with the knowledge to live well with it. She married Donald MacMaster, a New Jersey trial attorney, and they had four children together: Donald, Jr., Andrew, Katie, and Nicole. Since before they were born, Fran was always concerned her children might develop diabetes.

“I used to creep into their rooms in the middle of the night to test their blood sugar. I’d prick their fingers when they were sleeping, and then hide under the bed if they moved,” she recalled.

Her worries became reality when Andrew was diagnosed with type 1 at age 4. Fran and Don were on the lookout for the signs, and they caught it early. But it was Katie’s diabetes diagnosis that came out of left field.

“We didn’t see it coming,” Fran explained. They didn’t recognize the symptoms, and it was actually Katie – well versed in all things diabetes – who told her parents that she thought she had it. “I didn’t think it could be true...didn’t want it to be true...but I knew we could deal with it since we already had two in the family with diabetes. Katie had a hard time handling the whole process though,” said Fran. Katie lived with it for one year before she passed away at age 12 – unrelated to diabetes.

Through the tragedy, the MacMasters were immersed with an out-pouring of support from friends and family, and donations in Katie’s memory, which they gifted to the Diabetes Research Institute (via the Foundation for Diabetes Research). A plaque at the Institute bears her name, and Katie will forever be part of the mission to find a cure for the disease that has plagued her family. The MacMasters’

resolve to find a cure was stronger than ever, igniting a need to contribute to the cure in the best way possible. Don and Fran traveled to Miami to learn more about the DRI’s research firsthand.

“It was inspiring,” said Don. “It’s a relief to know that there’s an organization that is aggressively working to get rid of this disease – not just to manage it, but to cure it. For me, that was key.”

“After walking out of the DRI,” he continued, “our next decision was an easy one.” It was the final push the family needed before making a generous pledge of \$250,000 to the DRI to further develop the area of immune tolerance – so that patients can accept transplanted insulin-producing cells long-term without the need for anti-rejection drugs and reverse the autoimmune destruction that caused the onset of the disease. It is their hope that one day Andrew will be free from insulin therapy.

“Before Don and I got married, we had a long conversation about me having diabetes...our future and the possibility that our kids would have it, too,” stated Fran. Don quickly followed with, “It was no contest! But it is our hope that Andrew will never need to have that same conversation with the one he chooses to marry.”

Fran concluded, **“Diabetes has owned me as a person, as a parent, and as a professional. It has consumed my life, and I need it to stop. With my family’s support, and the added generosity of so many others that give to the Diabetes Research Institute, the scientists will have the tools they need to make diabetes a thing of the past.”**



Katie was the third to be diagnosed with type 1 in the MacMaster family.

NORTH AMERICA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS' UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO A CURE

For decades, the Diabetes Research Institute and Foundation have had a strong and dedicated partner in North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU). This wonderful relationship was highlighted earlier this year during the 30th anniversary of the highly anticipated Labor of Love fundraising event, where the men and women of NABTU once again lived up to their motto: Value on Display. This amazing, annual event helped provide more than \$400,000 to the DRI toward its goal of reaching a biological cure for those living with diabetes.

Hundreds of participants gathered May 21-23, 2016 in Baltimore, MD, and enjoyed various activities, including a poker tournament, a sporting clays competition, and a fishing tournament, as well as the annual softball and golf tournament. Spearheaded by the Governing Board of Presidents of the NABTU, this year's Labor of Love not only proved to be a fun weekend for a great cause, but a milestone year with total donations to date from the NABTU's hard work surpassing the \$53-million mark.

"North America's Building Trades Unions are proud of our efforts to support the exciting and groundbreaking research being conducted by the Diabetes Research Institute," said Sean McGarvey, President of North America's Building Trades Unions in a recent statement. "And we will continue these efforts especially in light of the fact that DRI has made some very exciting advances that have moved us closer to a cure for diabetes."

But, Labor of Love is just one of several NABTU efforts. Others include the D.A.D.'s Day (Dollars Against Diabetes) campaign, which according to the NABTU, has been the cornerstone of the Building Trades union fundraising initiatives for decades. For this D.A.D.'s Day, each Council or Local Building Trades Union organizes its own event – which can range from bowling and softball tournaments to golf outings and much more. The men and women dedicate their time to get sponsorships, registrations, raffle prizes, and volunteer participation – which all leads to thousands of dollars for research.

Aside from financial support, our Institute's state-of-the-art research facility in Miami, FL, was constructed by the hands – and hearts – of union skilled craft construction professionals – and for that and every effort since, we are forever grateful to the NABTU and their unwavering and continued support.

1. NABTU's Secretary-Treasurer Brent Booker, President (and DRIF National Board Member) Sean McGarvey, Vice President of the DRI Foundation Tom Karlya, and President and CEO of the DRI Foundation Josh Rednik celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Labor of Love Weekend.
2. IUEC Local 71 Miami's Greg Levinson and Abel Arabic (also Golf Chair) and Vice President Business Manager Robert Stoops are congratulated by NABTU's Co-director Robb Severn for their successful D.A.D.'s Day event.
3. Associate Director of Sales Jon Clinton and Caesars Entertainment National Sales Manager Judy Sereni present their annual check from their "dollar per night" donation at the Labor of Love Weekend.



NASCAR DRIVER RYAN REED VISITS THE DRI

NASCAR Driver and type 1 diabetes advocate Ryan Reed (left) and the Eli Lilly and Company team visited the Diabetes Research Institute – ahead of a race at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Ryan, who has been beating the odds while living with T1D and racing, gave an inspirational talk to patients at the DRI and answered questions. He was then led through the Institute by DRI Foundation President and CEO Joshua Rednik (right) and visited some of the labs, including that of Dr. Chris Fraker (center), who was also diagnosed around the same age as Ryan and is now working toward finding a cure for the disease. This is the second consecutive year that Ryan has visited diabetes treatment centers while traveling for races.

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CURE
BE WITH
YOU



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DiabetesResearch.org/May-The-Cure-Be-With-You-shirts

LET ME COUNT THE WAYS TO GIVE

Your generous support is so critical and so appreciated! There are many ways that you can help the Diabetes Research Institute find a cure. Here are a few examples of easy ways to give, and we have additional ideas posted on our website at DiabetesResearch.org/Ways-to-Give.

Workplace Giving Campaigns

Does your office participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or United Way workplace giving efforts? As the season for these two campaigns begins, many companies encourage employees to support charitable organizations. These annual contributions add up to a significant amount of income for the scientists at the Diabetes Research Institute each year. Gifts are tax deductible and can be made through a payroll deduction program. Your support helps us offer Real Hope to Real People affected by diabetes. Please support the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation through your workplace campaign because tomorrow isn't soon enough to cure everyone living with diabetes.



Tribute Gifts

A tribute gift made in memory of a loved one who has passed or in honor of a special occasion is a meaningful way to recognize someone while supporting the critical work of the DRI. Whether you're keeping treasured memories alive or celebrating accomplishments, it's a great way to show how much you care. Upon making the donation, a tribute card will be mailed to the person you designate. The gift is also tax-deductible. Learn more at DiabetesResearch.org/Tribute-Gift.

ADVANCING RESEARCH TO PATIENTS

At the Diabetes Research Institute and Foundation, we have an unparalleled commitment to discovering a biological cure for diabetes. It underscores everything we do. Thanks to all of you – our generous supporters – DRI scientists have been able to make great progress in the past year, while advancing research to patients through clinical trials of the DRI BioHub protocol.

The 2015 Annual Report, which details many of the scientific achievements made over the last year, as well as the Foundation's fundraising activities, was recently posted to our website at DiabetesResearch.org/Annual-Report. You can also request a hard copy to be mailed to you or someone you think might be interested in our life-changing work. Contact us at 1-800-321-3437 or info@drif.org.



EVENTS

Empire Ball

The 32nd annual Empire Ball, presented by the Real Estate Division of the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI) Foundation, took place at New York's Grand Hyatt Hotel. The metropolitan area's real estate and construction community united again to raise \$1 million for the cure-focused work of the DRI. Emceed by sports broadcaster **Michael Kay**, the evening included a lavish cocktail reception and dinner program, live music and an informative update on the progress being made at the DRI from Foundation President and CEO **Joshua Rednik**.

During the program, **Carl R. Kuehner III**, chairman and chief executive officer of Building and Land Technology, was presented with the Leadership Award. **William Sotomayor**, regional director, New York at Ware Malcomb, received the Camillo Ricordi Humanitarian Award. **Avi Itzikowitz**, director of operations at ATCO Properties and Management, Inc., accepted the Distinguished Service Award.

Empire Ball Chairman **Peter L. DiCapua** was honored with the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award, which will be known hereafter as the Peter L. DiCapua Lifetime Achievement Award. **Charles Rizzo**, the guiding light behind the Empire Ball, presented the award to his longtime friend, who he noted has devoted himself to this event and cause through the decades, even though he has no family connection to diabetes. In recognition of his commitment and leadership of the Empire Ball, a commemorative plaque will be displayed permanently at the DRI to honor Peter's support in helping to "Unlock the Cure" for diabetes.



Chairman Peter L. DiCapua (center) with the honorees (l-r) Bill Sotomayor, Avi Itzikowitz, and Carl R. Kuehner (far right), with his nephew, Matthew Boswell.

The Donaldson Organization Golf Outing



The famed Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY, played host to the Fifth Annual Donaldson Organization Golf Outing. Nearly 300 golfers played on two courses throughout the day, and more guests joined them for dinner. Thanks to lead sponsor **Bob Donaldson** and the hard work and generosity of many others, last year's event raised nearly \$700,000. Honorees **Jonathan Bennis**, principal, Icon Interiors, Inc., and **Patrick J. Dolan**, property manager, Boston Properties, were recognized for their leadership. During the program, DRI Director **Dr. Camillo Ricordi** was called up to speak on the latest progress made at the DRI. The Donaldson family has been completely devoted to reaching a cure ever since the T1D diagnosis of Bob's young grandson, **Matthew**. Pictured (l-r) are **Sheri and Doug Donaldson**, with sons **Ty and Matthew**, **Bob and Christie Donaldson**. Look for coverage of the 2016 event in the next issue!

All In for a Cure



Players went All In for a Cure at the Grand Havana Room in midtown Manhattan and helped raise more than \$300,000 for the DRI at the annual Texas Hold'em poker event. More than 200 attendees enjoyed fine wines, spirits and cigars, while taking in scenic views of Manhattan and playing lively hands of poker. In its eight-year history, the event has grossed well over \$2 million for the cure-focused work of the Diabetes Research Institute. The event was co-chaired by **Samantha Shanken Baker** (not pictured), **Greg Rosenberg**, **Isaac Khafif**, **Jordan Dickstein**, **Troy Gregory**, and **Ricardo Salmon** (pictured l-r).

EVENTS

Fall Into Fashion



Long Islanders proved that philanthropy is always in style at the 17th Annual Fall Into Fashion Luncheon and Fashion Show at the beautiful Garden City Hotel. Guests enjoyed the unveiling of MaxMara Americana Manhasset's 2016 Resort Collection in a runway show that dazzled the audience, plus a wonderful lunch and a research update from DRI Foundation President and CEO **Joshua Rednik**. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to diabetes professionals **Sheila Dennehy** and **Margaret Pellizzari** for their great contributions to members of the diabetes community. With the generous

support of sponsors, attendees and auction prize donors more than \$160,000 was raised for the cure-focused work conducted at the Diabetes Research Institute. Pictured are Co-chairs **Eileen Zinn**, **Korey Liebman** and **Fran Helfant**.

Love and Hope



The Love and Hope Committee, led by Executive Chairman **Sandra Levy**, kicked off their fundraising season with the 42nd annual Preview Party, where 200 guests enjoyed a fabulous evening at the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort while helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the DRI. The celebration offered a sneak peek of the Love and Hope Ball, which was aptly coined Fantasy at the Fontainebleau for its return to the fabulous and chic Fontainebleau Miami Beach. Held on February 6, 2016, the black tie affair was emceed by WSVN TV News Anchor and Deco Drive Co-host **Lynn Martinez** and

began with a bang at the hotel's exclusive LIV Nightclub. After the cocktail reception, more than 450 guests were ushered to a glamorous ballroom for dinner and dancing. Love and Hope International Chairman **Barry Gibb** (pictured with with **Linda**, **Ali**, and **Therese** and **Ashley Gibb**) addressed the audience and noted that the DRI is his and his wife Linda's "favorite charity." Humanitarian Honoree **Francine Lowe**, Honorary Chairman **Barbara Shapiro**, Love Honorees **Donald** and **Barbara Kaufman**, and Hope Honoree **Dalia Glottmann** were all recognized that evening – including a special thanks to the late **Norman Shapiro**. Norman will remain in the hearts of all of us at the Diabetes Research Institute and Foundation, for his kindness, generosity and commitment to finding a cure for diabetes.

A Gift of Love...A Gift of Hope Luncheon



The ladies of the Palm Beach Auxiliary came ready to play and to support the work of the DRI at the 17th Annual A Gift of Love...A Gift of Hope Luncheon and card party held at the exclusive St. Andrews Country Club in Boca Raton. Event Chairwomen (l-r) **Renee Aronin**, **Gloria Katz**, and **Natalie Olstein** welcomed 300 ladies to the sold-out luncheon, where they treated guests to an afternoon of card games and raffles. They also got a chance to hear how their support is helping the diabetes community directly from Olstein's 14-year-old granddaughter **Brooke Goldfarb** – who has type 1 diabetes. DRI Foundation President and CEO **Joshua Rednik** presented Renee with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her tireless efforts and

dedication to a cure over the years. The event raised \$135,000, and since its founding in 1998, the Palm Beach County Auxiliary has raised more than \$600,000 for the DRI.

DRI Walk with Walgreens



Thousands of people, which included more than 35 family teams, enjoyed a fun-filled day at the annual DRI Walk for Diabetes and Family Fun Day presented by Walgreens and held in Miami's Marlins Park on March 7. The event had a DRIRun4ACure 5K/10K and Kids' Superhero Fun Run, health booths, vendor booths, free goodies, bounce houses, face painting, meet and greets with Everglades Squad Fan Page/The 501st Legion Star Wars characters, Billy the Marlin of the Miami Marlins, and so much more fun for the whole

family. Thanks to family teams, sponsors, Walgreens scannable sales, and individual donations, this event raised more than \$250,000 for the DRI's cure-focused work. Pictured is this year's top fundraising family team, Team Super O, named in honor of 8-year-old **Olivia**, who has type 1 diabetes.

Kids' Carnival for a Cure



Pro Snowboarder/Riding On Insulin Founder **Sean Busby** (far left), Team Novo Nordisk Ultra-Marathoner **Stephen England** (center left), and sisters **Kaleigh Keogh** and **Kelliann Keogh** (far right) inspired hundreds of excited young fans at March's Kids' Carnival for a Cure at Dave & Buster's at The Source Mall in Westbury, Long Island. They greeted hundreds of kids and talked about defeating the odds in sports while living with type 1 diabetes. Along with getting to meet inspirational athletes, children in attendance also enjoyed video games, bowling, billiards, prizes, food, goody bags and other fun activities for the whole family. Co-chairs for the event were **Lauren** and **Steven Field**, **Frankie**

Lam, and **Susan Rubinstein**. The event helped raise more than \$97,000 for the DRI. Pictured center with the athletes is DRIF's Northeast Regional Director **Tony Childs**.

Out of the Kitchen



Popular South Florida chefs treated guests to the best seat in the house and helped raise more than \$180,000 at the 3rd annual Out of the Kitchen at the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort. Beyond Type 1 Co-Founder and Celeb Chef **Sam Talbot** and CBS Miami Reporter **Lisa Petrillo** emceed the event, which was chaired by **Amy** and **Scott Greenwald** and **Tammy** and **Steve Klein** (pictured), and featured 20 chefs including Chef Co-chairs 2016 James Beard Award semifinalist and one of Food & Wine's Best New Chefs of 2016 **Bradley Kilgore** of Alter and The Biltmore Hotel Executive Chef **Dave Hackett**. Each chef simultaneously prepared a three-course gourmet dinner for their 12 adventurous diners inside a ballroom. Guests also enjoyed a cocktail reception with pop-up restau-

rants from LILT Lounge, BH Burger, and DK Culinary Ventures, raffle prizes, a wine bar from Abaco Premium Wines, and a live auction which also featured a very special appearance by DRI supporters and restaurateurs, NBA superstar **Ray Allen** and his wife **Shannon** – who helped auction off and signed two pictures on canvas of his famous NBA Finals shot with the Miami HEAT.

Cooking for a Cure



The 13th Annual Cooking for a Cure was held in the beautiful setting of The View Grill in Glen Cove. The fundraiser was led by Co-chairs, **Delia DeRiggi-Whitton**, Nassau County legislator and DRIF board member, and **Rebecca Castronova** – both of whom have daughters that were diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when they were young. For everyone in attendance, it was a very special evening, featuring gourmet delights, music by **Chris Kinnear**, and a fabulous array of auction prizes. Pictured are DRIF Northeast

Director **Tony Childs**, Event Organizer **Stacy Sissons McKenna**, Glen Cove Mayor **Reggie Spinello**, Councilman **Joseph Capobianco**, Event Organizer **Sue Herbst**, Event Co-chairs **Rebecca** and **Delia**, and Councilwoman **Pam Panzenbeck**.

Shell Key West



The Shell Key West Fishing Challenge has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the DRI thanks to the participation of Shell employees, wholesalers and corporate sponsors. The three-day, deep-sea fishing competition took place April 21-24 on the beautiful waters surrounding Key West. The event is organized each year by **Crystal Blaylock**, who heads the family-owned Blaylock Oil. She's pictured with her sons **Cameron** and **Matthew Sanchez**. All of us at the DRI and Foundation were deeply saddened by the passing of the family's patriarch, **Hayden Blaylock**, in February of this year. Hayden was a champion to the National Mental Health Association, the event's original beneficiary, and the DRI – since he wanted nothing more than a cure for his grandson, **Matthew**, who has type 1 diabetes.

EVENTS

Sportsmen for Charity



The Sportsmen for Charity held another successful event at the Pawling Mountain Club, which is bordered by a 1,500-acre expanse of the beautiful Appalachian Trail National Park. Participants enjoyed a day of sporting clay shooting to help raise money for a diabetes cure. It was an outstanding success for the DRI and all the participants. The Sportsmen for Charity group hosts unique events throughout the year to benefit a variety of organizations, and they have been fundraising for the DRI for several years. Pictured are DRIF's Northeast Region Director **Tony Childs**, **Charles Guigno**, Emeritus Chairman Sportsmen for Charity, and **Chris Spano**, Sportsmen for Charity Chairman.

DREAMS in the City



New York philanthropists gathered at the 11th Annual DREAMS in the City gala at its new location **Cipriani 25 Broadway** in Manhattan – and helped bring the total raised to date to more than \$6.5 million for the cure-focused work of the DRI. Hosted by longtime co-chairs and sponsors **Samantha Shanken Baker**, **Bonnie Inserra**, **Meryl Lieberman**, and Young Professionals' Chair **Lindsey Inserra-Hughes**, the event recognized **Susan Weiner**, MS, RDN, CDE, CDN, and 2015 AADE Diabetes Educator of the Year (center), with the 2016 Dare to Dream award. Susan was chosen for this special recognition for her remarkable dedication and commitment to improving the lives of people with type 1 diabetes. Following the program,

which was emceed by Co-anchor of CBS 2 News This Morning and CBS 2 News at Noon **Chris Wragge**, guests enjoyed dinner, followed by dancing to the pumped-up music of **The Jay Prince Band**. Also pictured with Susan are DRI Director Dr. **Camillo Ricordi** (right) and DRI Foundation President and CEO **Joshua Rednik** (left).

Don Strock Diabetes Golf Classic



The 33rd Annual Don Strock Diabetes Classic drove in more than \$106,000 for the DRI. Tournament Host **Don Strock** (right) and Chairman **Bruce Fishbein** (left) of The Produce Connection, who founded the tournament, saw another strong show of support from more than 130 celebrity and amateur golfers, which included Miami Dolphins alumni **Dan Marino** and **Kim Bokamper**, other NFL pros, and radio's **John "Footy" Cross** and **Scott "Froggy" Langley**. Attendees played an 18-hole tournament, followed by a cocktail hour and an awards dinner with live and silent auctions. The evening closed out with trophy presentations for winning teams, the announcement of money board and raffle winners, and prizes for individual golf contests – which included Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive. Also pictured is Presenting Sponsor **Arthur Hertz** (center) of Dade Media.

Crystal Ball



It was an evening of enchantment and elegance at the 18th Annual Crystal Ball, which brought together hundreds of Long Island's most charitable families and individuals at the Garden City Hotel. The evening's focus was crystal clear and resulted in more than \$398,000 raised for the DRI. The event paid tribute to (l-r) **Maggie Luebs**, **Edra Tepper**, and **Dara Melnick** – all living with type 1 diabetes – who received the gala's Rowland and Sylvia Schaefer Awards. The evening was highlighted by a special auction featuring unique items ranging from artwork and designer jewelry to a Rolex Watch Grand Sweepstakes prize provided by London Jewelers. Guests also enjoyed a cocktail hour, exquisite food and wines, plus dancing. The event was generously co-chaired by

National Board member **Bruce Waller** and NE Region Board member **Wendy Waller**, and supported by Presenting Sponsors **Bruce and Roberta Waller & Family**.

Rod Gilbert DRI Golf Classic



It was another sold-out Rod Gilbert DRI Golf Classic this summer at the scenic Pine Hollow Country Club in East Norwich, NY, on August 8, 2016. More than 150 golfers joined New York Rangers Legend **Rod Gilbert** (center) at this event, which annually benefits the DRI and is held in memory of **Anthony John Vitale** and **Helaine Shari White**. Tournament Directors **Eric Reeps** (left) and **Bob Zuckerman** (right) and the committee gave golfers a great day of birdies and bogeys, followed by a delicious dinner with a fabulous array of desserts, and an incredible live auction – which helped raise more than \$169,000 for cure-focused research at the DRI.

Supporters also celebrated and toasted to Rod since it was his 75th birthday. A belated Happy Birthday, Rod – and thanks for all you do for the Diabetes Research Institute!

Haute Tea



Wearing fine, floral-inspired crowns and their hearts on their sleeves, event Co-chairs **Lauren Geduld** (center right) and **Stacy Gibb** (right), along with the Young Society of Love and Hope welcomed more than 200 of Miami's most fashionable philanthropists to their 5th annual Haute Tea luncheon at the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort. Guests were greeted at the champagne reception by the aroma of the Haute Tea signature scent of water lily and jasmine in the room provided by Boca Raton-based scent diffuser specialists Aroma360. The garden-themed event, which was held in honor of Haute Tea co-founder **Jillian Posner** (left), was emceed by WSVN News Anchor and Deco Drive Co-Host **Lynn Martinez** (center left). The

afternoon proved to be everyone's cup of tea and guests enjoyed live and silent auctions, an exclusive shoe raffle prize, a delicious formal lunch, tea, live sketches by local artist **Sara Kaplan**, an exclusive **Neiman Marcus Bal Harbour** fashion show and a moving speech by d-mom **Lisa Grace** – whose son has type 1 diabetes. The luncheon wrapped up with prizes to the three top hats and looks, and gift bags for guests, courtesy of European Wax Center.

Phil Peterson's Key West Poker Run



Each year, more than 10,000 motorcycle enthusiasts descend upon Key West for the annual Phil Peterson's Key West Poker Run. Always held in September, participants receive poker sheets when they register to ride, and draw cards at designated stops along the route through the Keys competing for cash prizes and a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Upon reaching their destination, riders display their bikes and enjoy a "Biker Bash" party. For decades, this popular event, which is run by brothers **Dirk Peterson** and **Drew Peterson** (pictured in an older photo with their dad), has helped raise more than half a million dollars for diabetes research. None of

that could have happened without the support of the late **Phil Peterson**, who passed away on September 25, 2015. He will be warmly remembered by all of us at the Diabetes Research Institute and Foundation for the indelible mark he left in his South Florida community, the generosity he bestowed to so many, and the contribution he made toward finding a cure for diabetes.

Gold Coast Concours/Bimmerstock



Each year, thousands of people gather in New York's Glen Cove downtown business district for the annual Gold Coast Concours/Bimmerstock, benefiting the DRI. Presented by Martino Auto Concepts and Exotics4Life.com, the automobile show has become one of the largest on the eastern seaboard. The afternoon features more than 600 concept, exotic and fast cars, including one of only 297 rare Porsche 918 Spyders in the USA. Spectators also enjoy raffles, entertainment and live music at the event, which raises upward of \$70,000 for the DRI each year – thanks to generous sponsors and supporters. Pictured left to right are Event Co-chair **Joe LaPadula**, Nassau County Legislator and DRIF board member **Delia DeRiggi-Whitton**, Event Co-chair **Jon Holzer**, Glen Cove Mayor **Reginald Spinello**, DRI Foundation Northeast Regional Director **Tony Childs** and **Tim Tenke**.

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For information on the events or to make reservations, visit DiabetesResearch.org or call one of the DRI Foundation offices listed below.

CALENDAR

All In for a Cure

November 2, 2016 / **NEW YORK**

To be held at the Grand Havana Room, the ninth annual Texas Hold'em tournament will feature a silent auction, fine wines and spirits, exclusive cigars, hors d'oeuvres and a dinner buffet – all set in front of a backdrop of panoramic views of New York City.

Love and Hope Preview Party

November 4, 2016 / **FLORIDA**

To be held at the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort, the evening will begin with a fabulous cocktail reception and continue in the ballroom with dinner and dancing.

Barbara Singer Tribute

December 11, 2016 / **FLORIDA**

Barbara Singer was among the five

original founding families that started the DRI Foundation. Join us at the Diplomat Golf & Tennis Club in Hallandale as we pay tribute to her years of service and total commitment to finding a cure for diabetes.

Empire Ball

December 14, 2016 / **NEW YORK**

This always elegant, black-tie affair, to be held at The Grand Hyatt in NYC, attracts hundreds from the New York real estate industry.

Champions for Charity

December 1-3, 2016 / **LONG ISLAND**

At this annual holiday shopping benefit designed to raise funds for more than 80 not-for-profit organizations, a percentage of sales will be donated

to the DRI when using a Champions for Charity Card throughout the month. Shop, shop!

Love and Hope Ball

February 18, 2017 / **FLORIDA**

Spend the evening with Love and Hope at the 43rd annual "Magical Mardi Gras Gala," featuring a grand cocktail reception, spectacular décor, a sumptuous dinner, dancing and live entertainment at the Diplomat Resort & Spa.

A Gift of Love... A Gift of Hope Luncheon

February 27, 2017 / **FLORIDA**

Originated by the Palm Beach Auxiliary, this lovely luncheon features card playing and fun with friends at the Polo Club of Boca Raton.

DRI Walk Presented by Walgreens

March 4, 2017 / **MIAMI**

Thousands of families will join together at this family fun day, featuring a walkathon and 5K/10K run. Enjoy music, giveaways, refreshments, health booths and more.

Kids' Carnival for a Cure

March 4, 2017 / **LONG ISLAND**

Enjoy an afternoon of family fun at Dave & Buster's, featuring video games, inflatables, face painting, a buffet lunch and more.

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The Diabetes Research Institute Foundation supports the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The Foundation's mission is to provide the Diabetes Research Institute with the funding necessary to cure diabetes now. To obtain additional information or request copies of *DRIfocus*, please call (800) 321-3437, e-mail lweintraub@drif.org, or visit DiabetesResearch.org.

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