

MEN *of* DISTINCTION

Scott Schwinger

and

The Men of Distinction Steering Committee

welcome you to the

MEN *of* DISTINCTION

12th ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Honoring

Craig Biggio

Rufus Cormier

Jim McIngvale

David Poplack, M.D.

May 2, 2018

River Oaks Country Club



Scott Schwinger
*2018 Men of Distinction
Awards Luncheon Chair*

Dear Friends of Men of Distinction:

It is a pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the 2018 Men of Distinction. We are most grateful for the support you have demonstrated for this year's honorees and for the pediatric research, education, and patient programs in the Texas Medical Center that benefit from this luncheon. To date, this event has raised in excess of \$ 4 million thanks to your generosity.

Houston has had a tremendous year of both triumph and tragedy. Today, we honor four, true Men of Distinction who have served as leaders on both fronts and who uniquely represent the Houston spirit of compassion, hard work, integrity and service. Thank you for joining us here to recognize their efforts and thank them for their contributions to our great city.

Sincerely,

Scott Schwinger
2018 Luncheon Chair

LUNCHEON CHAIR
Scott Schwinger



STEERING COMMITTEE

*Front Row left to right: Haag Sherman, Bret Aldridge, Scott Schwinger, Tony Gracely, Jesse Tutor
Back Row left to right: Harry Mach, Danny Klaes, David Wuthrich, Micheal Mithoff, Ed McMahon, Steve Mach, Ric Campo, Tony Bradfield
Not pictured: John Eads, Don Jordan, Bobby Tudor, Philip Bahr, Paul Somerville, Lisa Kennedy, Paul Murphy, Colter Lewis, Scott Evans, Don Jordan, Jack Kendall, Joe Cleary, Danny Klaes, David Solomon, Billy McCartney, Clarice Schlinger*

WHAT IS THE MEN OF DISTINCTION?

The luncheon was created twelve years ago by a small group of volunteers, who wanted to pay tribute to those MEN in the Houston community who have distinguished themselves through their leadership as businessmen, volunteers and philanthropists ... And to simultaneously raise funds to support pediatric biomedical research, education and patient care in the Texas Medical Center.

In keeping with the spirit of philanthropy shown by these distinguished gentlemen, ALL of the proceeds from the luncheon stays right here in Houston for the direct benefit of children's causes at the Texas Medical Center.

Honorees and beneficiaries for each year are chosen by a unanimous vote of the Men of Distinction Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of men and women in the community who desire to help promote our charitable endeavors. We are very proud of the fact that everyone who has chaired our luncheon for the past ten years has asked to remain an active member of our Steering Committee.

If you would like to know more about our organization, please contact our Steering Committee chairman, David Wuthrich at 713-204-0216.

www.menofdistinction.org

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON PROGRAM

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Tom Koch

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Promise R. Harris, MSgt. Texas Air National Guard

INVOCATION

PRESENTATION OF 2018 BENEFICIARIES

LUNCH

PRESENTATION OF 2018 HONOREES

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott Schwinger

MENU

WEDGE SALAD

CRISP ICEBERG, ROMA TOMATO, PICKLED RED ONION, BRIE CHEESE AND CHOICE OF DRESSING

PETITE FILET OF PRIME BEEF TENDERLOIN

CARAMELIZED CIPOLLINI ONION, MUSHROOM MADEIRA SAUCE AND HORSERADISH WHIPPED POTATOES

CHOCOLATE PECAN BALL



Craig Biggio

Born December 14, 1965 in Smithtown, New York, Craig Biggio was a football star at Kings Park High School on Long Island and seemed destined to become one of the top recruited running backs in the nation. But his grades did not measure up to his achievements on the gridiron.

Biggio settled on a partial baseball scholarship to Seton Hall University and quickly established himself as a pro prospect. In 1987 he was taken in the first round (22nd overall) by the Houston Astros in the MLB draft. After just 141 minor league games over parts of two seasons, during which he compiled a .344 batting average, Biggio was called up to the Astros in June of 1988.

The 1990s were a watershed time in Biggio's personal and professional lives. In February 1990, he married his girlfriend, Patty Egan, who he met while at Seton Hall. The couple has three children, sons Conor and Cavan and daughter Quinn. By 1991, Biggio was a .295 hitter who had made his first all-star team. In 1992, he became Houston's second baseman, appearing in all 162 games and making his second all-star team. Biggio joined the 3,000 hit club in 2007, his last year in the big leagues. In all, he spent 20 seasons with the Astros, hitting .281 with 1844 runs scored (15th all time) 291 home runs and 414 stolen bases. He won five Silver Slugger awards and four Gold Glove awards. He is the only player in baseball history with at least 3,000 hits, 600 doubles, 400 stolen bases and 250 home runs.

"Being a parent, a dad, is the most important thing I'll ever do", says Biggio. Looking back on his career, he recalled "I tried to play the game hard and play the game right every single day. I remember where I came from and I remember how hard it was to get to the big leagues and I try to go out there and play every game like it was going to be my last game."

In addition to his on field accomplishments, Biggio won the Branch Rickey Award for community service in 1997 and, in 2007, the Roberto Clemente Award, which is given to the player who best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual contributions to his team. He was also the recipient of the Hutch Award and Thurman Munson Award, both focusing on community service. He has been an active supporter of Texas Children's Hospital, The Miami Project and Astros in Action. Biggio has been a supporter and national spokesperson for the Sunshine Kids Foundation for over 25 years. He helps by raising awareness for the organization, holding celebrity golf tournaments and hosting annual parties at Minute Maid Park. Craig also makes personal visits to the Sunshine kids and their families. He has raised over 5 million dollars for the Sunshine Kids organization.



Rufus P. Cormier

Rufus P. Cormier, a native of Beaumont, Texas, attended Southern Methodist University as one of the three members of the second class of African American scholarship athletes to play football in the Southwest Conference. At SMU, he was co-captain of the varsity football team, named outstanding defensive player in the 1968 Bluebonnet Bowl, and named to the second consensus All-Southwest Conference team.

After graduation from SMU with honors and receiving the Avella Winn Hay Award as outstanding senior student in 1970, he attended Yale Law School, graduating in 1973. He then served as Special Assistant to John Doar, Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee for the Nixon Impeachment Inquiry, before joining Baker Botts L.L.P. as a corporate and finance lawyer, where he became the first African-American partner in a large Houston law firm in 1981.

In addition to his legal practice, Rufus has been involved in numerous civic, philanthropic and educational activities. His affiliations have included serving or having previously served as Chairman of the Board of Regents of Texas Southern University, as a member of the Bush Clinton Coastal Recovery Fund Committee, the Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors of the MD Andersen Cancer Center, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Center for Houston's Future, the Executive Board of SMU's School of Law, the Board of Trustees of St. John's School, the State Bar Grievance Oversight Committee, the Executive Committee of the Yale Law School Association, the Yale University Council Committee on Yale Law School and the Houston-Harris County Sports Facility Public Advisory Committee, as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Houston Bar Foundation and the American Red Cross (Greater Houston Chapter), as a commissioner of the Houston City Planning Commission, and as a member of the Boards of Directors of the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, the Center for American and International Law, the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation and the United Way for the Texas Gulf Coast.

Honors Rufus has received include Community Partners' Father of the Year Award, the National Conference for Community and Justice's Humanitarian Award, the SMU Letterman Association's Silver Anniversary Mustang Award, the Anti-Defamation League's Karen H. Susman Jurisprudence Award, the Houston Bar Association Auxiliary's Leon Jaworski Award, and the Spouses of Houston Barristers' Legal Legend Award; selection by the Texas Jaycees as one of its Five Outstanding Young Texans and by Texas Monthly and Law and Politics magazines as a Texas Super Lawyer; and listing in The Best Lawyers in America.

Rufus and his wife, Yvonne Clement Cormier, M.D., Ph.D., have two adult children, Geoffrey Cormier, who is in the energy business, and Claire Cormier Thielke, who works in the real estate development sector.

Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale

Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale is a Texas-grown phenomenon who knows how to “Save You Money, TODAY!”

In 1981, Mack and his wife, Linda, started Gallery Furniture with five thousand dollars and a dream. Mack began television advertising early on and with his motto of “early to bed, early to rise, work like hell and advertise,” he quickly became a household name.

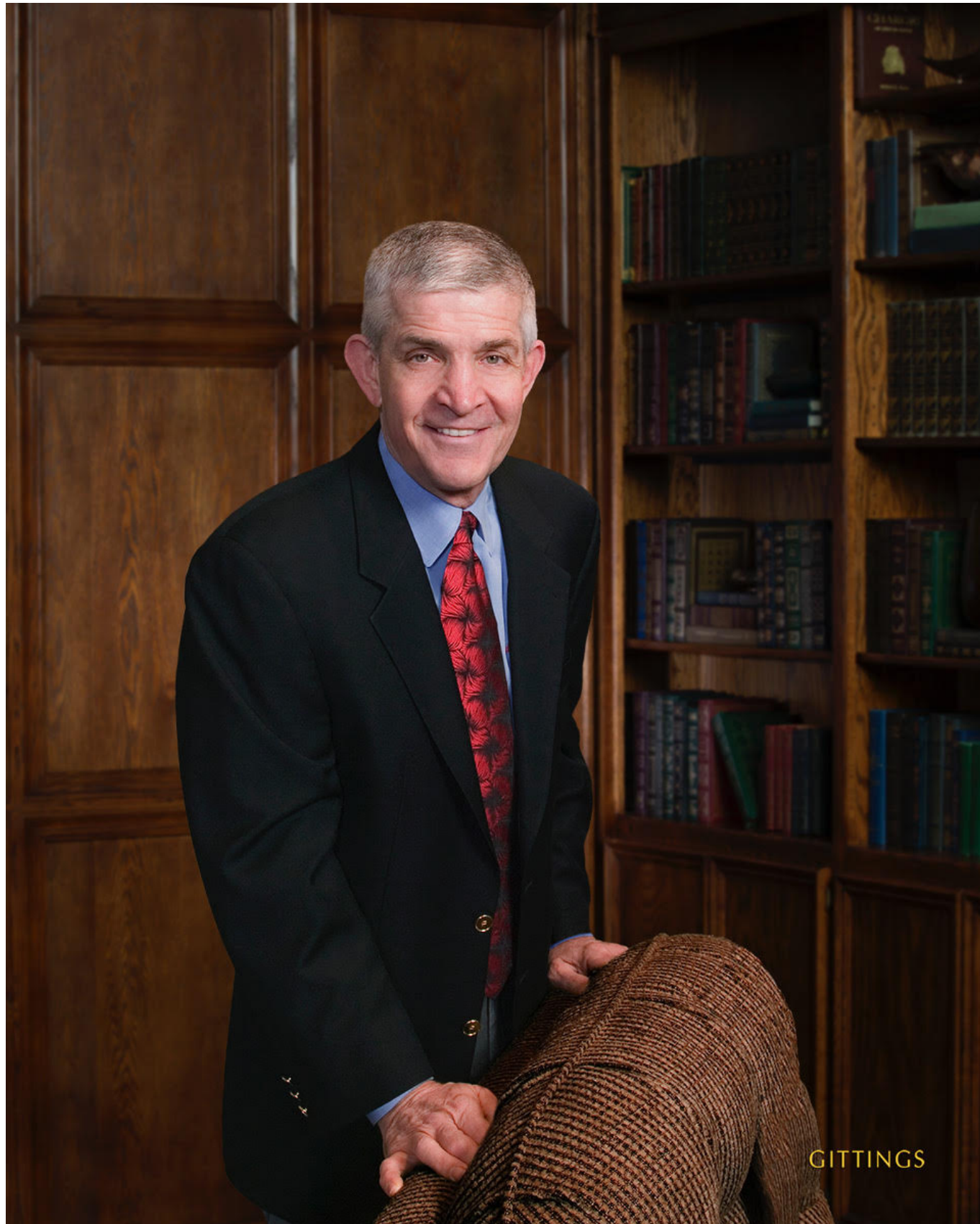
Gallery Furniture has seen a lot of expansion over the years with the re-build of the flagship store as well as the addition of the Galleria location and the third, largest store located in Fort Bend County on Grand Parkway, which features a 165,000 square foot showroom. Even with multiple locations, Gallery Furniture still lives up to its promise of delivering quality furniture, mattresses and home electronics TODAY.

The success of Gallery Furniture is mostly attributed to Mack’s “do-whatever-it-takes” approach to pleasing the customer. With three locations, Gallery Furniture sells the most furniture and mattresses in the nation per square foot including brands such as Tempur-Pedic, Mayo, United Leather, American Leather, Lane, Broyhill, Flexsteel and of course solid wood furniture, made in America.

Mack’s strong work ethic is matched by his philanthropy and exceeded only by the commitment he has to his family. Past charitable contributions include:

- Co-founded the Peace of Mind Foundation for those affected by Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- One of the largest contributors to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo with over \$4 million given
- Funded St. Luke’s Mobile Stroke Unit
- Large contributor to Texas Heart Institute, Baylor College of Medicine and Harvard Medical School
- Instrumental in getting Menninger Clinic to move to Houston to provide mental health care to Houston by providing a multi-million dollar donation
- Annual Christmas Giveaway furnishing hundreds of households of furniture for the past 30 years
- Helped start and continuously fund the KickStart Kids Program in Houston
- Furnished USO facilities around the world
- Furnished George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M
- Sponsored Habitat for Humanity home
- Hosted events for and donated to the Salvation Army
- Donated thousands of dollars of furniture to hundreds of teacher lounges in Houston area schools
- Helped to raise over \$12 million dollars for the Bush/Clinton fund to aid those affected by the Tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- Underwrote YMCA playground at Reliant Stadium for Katrina evacuees as well as housed several hundred evacuees during hurricane crisis
- Underwrote National OCF Conference held in Houston
- Recipient of Mental Health Association Award in 2005
- Underwrote wolf exhibit for The Houston Zoo
- Built and paid for tennis facility at Yates High School
- Donated tennis racquets to inner city kids that would not otherwise have the opportunity to take tennis lessons
- Sole sponsor of Pilgrimage of Faith sending 500 kids and chaperones from the Galveston/Houston Catholic Dioceses to Rome
- Fed 25,000 people Thanksgiving dinner for several years
- Bought 10,000 toys for needy children, distributed during the holiday

In addition to Gallery Furniture, Mack and Linda also own and operate Westside Tennis and Fitness and enjoy spending time with their children James, Laura, Elizabeth and Regina, and their three grandchildren.





David Poplack, M.D.

David G. Poplack, M.D., has served as Director, Texas Children's Cancer Center since 1993. He holds the Elise C. Young Chair of Pediatric Oncology and is Chief of the Hematology-Oncology Service, Pediatric Department, Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Poplack leads the country's largest Pediatric Hematology-Oncology program.

Dr. Poplack is a graduate of Tufts University. He received his M.D. from Boston University School of Medicine, completed his pediatric internship at Stanford University, his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital in Boston and his pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Prior to joining Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Poplack was Deputy Branch Chief of the Pediatric Branch, National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Poplack is internationally recognized as a leader in the field of pediatric cancer. He has authored more than 365 original articles and book chapters in the field. He is co-editor of Principles and Practice of Pediatric Oncology, the leading textbook of pediatric oncology, which is in its seventh edition. Dr. Poplack has served on many national and international committees, including panel appointments at the National Institutes of Health, the F.D.A. and the Institute of Medicine and as an appointed member of the National Cancer Institute's Board of Scientific Counselors. In 2016, Dr. Poplack was awarded the American Society of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Distinguished Career Award as well as the Hyundai Hope on Wheels Lifetime Achievement Award.

Over the past 25 years Dr. Poplack has built Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers from a small program with 6 faculty and 42 staff into the largest program of its type in the country with over 190 faculty, nearly 1000 staff and 46 state-of-the-art research laboratories!

Dr. Poplack is the developer of the Passport for Care, a unique, web-based resource that provides childhood cancer survivors with a personalized plan to guide their long-term follow-up. This system, available on survivors' smart phones, is being used by tens of thousands of survivors nationwide.

Dr. Poplack also is the Director of Texas Children's Hospitals' Global HOPE (Hematology-Oncology Pediatric Excellence) program. This transformative, capacity building program is establishing seven Centers of Excellence in Pediatric Cancer and Hematology care in six Sub-Saharan African countries.

Dr. Poplack is known for his mentorship. He has trained many of the current leaders in the field of pediatric hematology-oncology. He and his wife, June, have three children and three grandchildren.

PAST HONOREES

D. Kent Anderson, 2007*
James A. Baker III, 2012
Thomas D. Barrow, Ph.D., 2010*
Fred C. Burns, 2011
George H.W. Bush, 2012
Ernest Cockrell, 2014
Denton A. Cooley, M.D., 2009*
James W. Crownover, 2013
O. Holcombe Crosswell, 2011
Harry Cullen, 2016
Michael DeBakey, M.D., 2008*
James H. “Red” Duke, Jr., M.D., 2011*
DanDuncan, 2007*
Ralph Feigin, M.D., 2008*
Charles Fraser, M.D., 2014
O.H. “Bud” Frazier, M.D., 2015
Harry Mach, 2015
Gerald Hines, 2016
Ned Holmes, 2014
Walter Johnson, 2008
Don D. Jordan, 2008
Mark Kline, M.D., 2016
Berdon Lawrence, 2017
Paul Loyd, 2014
John P. McGovern, M.D., 2007*
Alexander K. "Mike" McLanahan, 2017
Drayton McLane, Jr., 2009
Robert C. McNair, 2013
John Mendelsohn, M.D., 2010
George P. Mitchell, 2011*
Richard Mithoff, 2017
James Pool, M.D., 2017
H. John Riley, 2015
Corbin J. Robertson, Jr., 2008
Marc J. Shapiro, 2011
Lester Smith, 2007
Mike Stude, 2010
Charlie Thomas, 2013
J. Virgil Waggoner, 2009*
David Weekley, 2015
James T. Willerson, M.D., 2013

**deceased*

PAST BENEFICIARIES

2017
Michael A. Belfort, M.D.
Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital
Penelope E. Bonnen, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Matthew R. Greives, M.D.
Children's Memorial Hermann and University of Texas McGovern
Medical School at Houston (UT Health)

2016
Carolyn L. Cannon, M.D.,Ph. D.
Texas A&M University and Texas Children’s Hospital
Joseph L. Alcorn, Ph.D.
University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical
Sciences and Pediatric Research Center and Children’s
Memorial Hermann Hospital
Jared Howell, M.S., B.S.
Baylor College of Medicine

2015
David I. Sandberg, M.D., FANNS, FACS, FAAP
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
(UTHealth) Medical School and MD Anderson Children’s
Cancer Hospital
Jon E. Tyson, M.D.
UT Health
Jared Howell, M.S., B.S.
Baylor College of Medicine

2014
Sundararajah Thevananther, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Liver
Center
Richard Kellermayer, M.D., Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital

2013
Joseph F. Petrosino, PH.D.
DBaylor College of Medicine
Charles S. Cox, Jr., M.D.
University of Texas -Houston/ Children’s Memorial
Hermann Hospital

2012
Brendan Lee, M.D., PH.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Laurence J.N. Cooper, MD., Ph.D.
The University of Texas M.D.Anderson Cancer Center

2011
Brendan Lee, M.D., PH.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Donald L. Yee, M.D.
Texas Children’s Hospital

2010
ZoAnn E. Dreyer, M.D.
Texas Children’s Cancer Center
Cynthia E. Herzog, M.D.
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

2009
Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D.
Texas Children’s Hospital
Judith Z. Feigin, Ed.D.
Texas Children’s Hospital

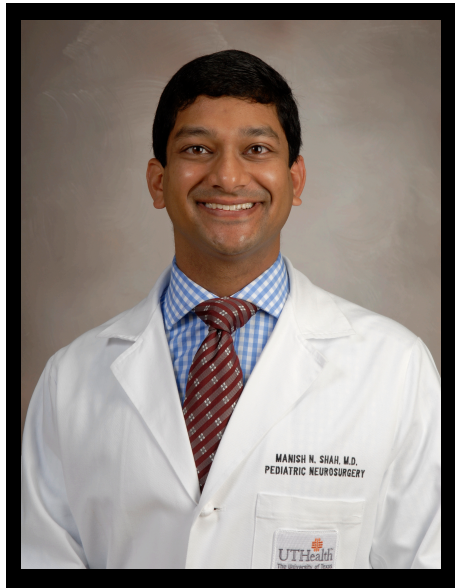
2008
C. Kent Osborne, M.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
David G. Poplack, M.D.
Baylor College of Medicine

2007
George D. Ferry, M.D.
Texas Children’s Hospital
James Versalovic, M.D., Ph.D.
Texas Children’s Hospital

2018 MEN OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM BENEFICIARY

Manish N. Shah, M.D.

McGovern Medical School and Children's Memorial Hermann



Manish N. Shah, M.D. is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neurosurgery and Director of Pediatric Spasticity and Epilepsy Surgery at McGovern Medical School and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. His is an academic pediatric neurosurgeon-scientist with research and clinical interests in the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of cerebral palsy and epilepsy. He earned an A.B. degree in Physics from Princeton University with a certificate in Biophysics and was elected to the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society. At Princeton, he worked in the laboratory of Professor Robert Austin and co-authored his first basic science paper pertaining to the design and creation of a micro-fabricated magnetic cell sorter for the inexpensive separating of magnetically tagged cells of interest, such as tumor cells and fetal blood cells. He then obtained an M.D. degree at Vanderbilt University and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honors society. At Vanderbilt, he worked for three years in the laboratory of Professor Bruce Carter studying c-Jun and JNK signaling in embryonic mouse dorsal root ganglia as a model for diabetic neuropathy. He next trained for seven years as a neurosurgical resident at Washington University in St. Louis, a historically, internationally regarded program for educating neurosurgeon-scientists. While there, he was awarded an NIH T32 postdoctoral fellowship, where he worked in the laboratory of Professor Marcus Raichle, a prominent Kavli-award-winning

functional neuroimaging scientist who discovered the default mode network of the brain, along with Professor Avi Snyder. There he learned the complexities of resting state functional MRI analysis in children with epilepsy, co-first-authored a PNAS publication entitled "The Role of Resting State Functional Activity in Human Brain Development", providing the first direct evidence that normal resting state brain network architecture may be necessary for normal development. During his training, Dr. Shah won the Medical Student Teaching Award as well as the AANS Annual Meeting First Prize for a Pediatric Poster. After residency, he completed a clinical fellowship with Professor Tae Sung Park at St. Louis Children's Hospital to further his sub-specialization in pediatric neurosurgery. There he learned the SDR technique and, most crucially, patient selection from Dr. Park, a world-renowned expert in the treatment of cerebral palsy with SDR who has successfully helped almost 4,000 spastic children.

After completing his fellowship, he was recruited to McGovern Medical School and MD Anderson to create and direct a team to treat children with spasticity and cerebral palsy, the Texas Comprehensive Spasticity Center, which has successfully evaluated and treated over 300 children from the greater Houston area in three years. His research expertise in pediatric functional neuroimaging, pediatric neurosurgery, as well as clinical experience in quality improvement and patient safety is directly related to the aims of the proposed research in children with cerebral palsy. He has published 19 articles in highly-respected clinical and basic science journals and written a textbook chapter on congenital spine abnormalities. Dr. Shah has also served as an ad-hoc reviewer for a number of neurosurgery journals. Dr. Shah currently has an NIH LRP award from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Child Health and Human Development for his CP research. He has been listed in Houstonia's Top Doctors for the last 3 years and was named a Texas Super Doctor Rising Star this year. In 2017, he won the prestigious AANS Young Neurosurgeon Committee's Public Service Citation for his five years of neurosurgical mission work treating children with hydrocephalus at Project MediShare in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Dr. Shah also co-directs the neurosurgery medical student rotation at McGovern Medical School.

2018 MEN OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM BENEFICIARY

Sanjiv Harpavat, M.D., Ph.D.

Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital



Dr. Harpavat practices at Texas Children's Hospital and cares for children with biliary atresia, the most common reason for organ transplantation in pediatrics. His research takes a multi-disciplinary approach to improving our understanding of the disease. Dr. Harpavat is currently testing a novel medication to improve outcomes in biliary atresia, research which is possible because of the generous support from Men of Distinction. In addition, Dr. Harpavat leads a large National Institutes of Health-funded study focused on developing new ways to detect biliary atresia in the newborn period. His team is currently screening newborns throughout Houston and the South Texas region.

2018 MEN OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM BENEFICIARY

Mary Elizabeth M. Tessier, M.D.

Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital



Dr. Tessier cares for patients at Texas Children's Hospital with both gastrointestinal and liver diseases. She has a particular interest in the role of the microbiome in children with liver disease, particularly biliary atresia. Biliary atresia is a devastating disease during infancy and is the most common diagnosis leading to pediatric liver transplant. Dr. Tessier is currently leading a microbiome study in infants with biliary atresia, which is examining how the microbiome impacts outcomes in this disease. This study is possible due to the generous support of the Men of Distinction. She hopes to find novel ways to treat this disease - which currently has limited treatment options- via manipulation of the microbiome.

2018 MEN OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM BENEFICIARY

Ennio Tasciotti, Ph.D.

Houston Methodist



Dr. Ennio Tasciotti graduated in Molecular Biology at Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa in 2000, and earned a PhD in Molecular Medicine in 2005 at the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. In 2006 he accepted a Postdoctoral position at the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Texas' Health Science Center. In 2008 he published his first research on 'multistage nanodelivery system', which becomes a cover story on Nature Nanotechnology and was selected by Nature Medicine as one of the "Top 5 breakthroughs in Nanomedicine".

In 2009 he became an Assistant Professor at the first Department of Nanomedicine in an American Medical School and in 2010 he was recruited by Houston Methodist Research Institute as Chair of the Department of Nanomedicine. Dr. Tasciotti is an Associate Professor of Nanomedicine at the Institute of Academic Medicine, serves as Director of the Center for Biomimetic Medicine at the Department of Regenerative Medicine, and Director of the Center for Musculoskeletal Regeneration at the Department of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine of Houston Methodist Hospital. Dr. Tasciotti holds affiliated and honorary positions in 6 universities in USA, Europe and Asia. His research interests are in the field of biomimetic nanomaterials for drug delivery and tissue engineering.

In his career he received over \$15M by DoD and DARPA to create bioactive nanomaterials to regenerate musculoskeletal tissues, and over \$10M from NIH, NSF, CPRIT and private foundations to develop nanoparticles for drug delivery. He coordinates a multidisciplinary research group of 20 people, has published more than 130 research articles, filed 15 patent applications, contributed to 12 technical books and presented at over 200 international conferences. The main focus of his laboratory is translational research for the development of new surgical and clinical approaches using nanotherapeutics. In particular: 1- Biomimetic materials to improve musculoskeletal tissue regeneration; 2- Artificial biomimetic extracellular matrices to modulate immune response; 3- Bioinspired delivery platforms for the active targeting of inflammation; 4- Nanostructured hydrogels for the localized release of clinically approved drugs.



Paul E. Klotman, M.D.

Dear 2018 Men of Distinction:

Today's honorees, Craig Biggio, Rufus Cormier, Jim McIngvale and David Poplack, M.D., Deputy Director of the Dan L Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine, and Director of the Texas Children's Cancer Center, are truly Men of Distinction whose efforts serve our community.

Thank you for supporting faculty and programs at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital. Sanjiv Harpavat, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of pediatrics at Baylor, and Mary Elizabeth Tessier, M.D., Clinical Postdoctoral Fellow in Baylor's Department of Pediatrics, appreciate the financial support provided by the Men of Distinction luncheon proceeds.

The funds from this event sustain research that answers fundamental questions about human biology and health. Thank you for creating this gift that benefits children in Houston.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Klotman, M.D.
President, CEO and Executive Dean
Baylor College of Medicine

Dear 2018 Men of Distinction:

On behalf of Memorial Hermann Health System, congratulations to this year's honorees: Craig Biggio, Rufus Cormier, Jim McIngvale and David Poplack, M.D. Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital and our academic partner, McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, are proud to join the Men of Distinction in recognizing these remarkable individuals who have made a significant impact on the Houston community through their inspiring vision, leadership and service.



Susan Distefano

Founded in 1986, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital (CMHH) is the primary teaching hospital for the pediatric and obstetrics/gynecology programs at McGovern Medical School. CMMH offers care in more than 40 pediatric and women's related specialties including the latest advances in maternal-fetal medicine and neonatal critical care services, in addition to renowned programs in pediatric trauma, neurosciences, pulmonology and cardiac care. As one of only two Level IV NICUs in Southeast Texas, CMHH cares for babies born as early as 23 weeks. More than 37,000 infants, children and adolescents up to age 17 come to CMHH annually.

We are very grateful for the selection of Dr. Manish Shah, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neurosurgery and Director of Pediatric Spasticity and Epilepsy Surgery at McGovern Medical School and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. It is an honor to partner with Men of Distinction in their incredible commitment to improve the lives of children in our community through the advancement of medical research, education and patient care.

Sincerely,

Susan Distefano
Senior Vice President & CEO
Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital



Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD

Dear 2018 Men of Distinction:

On behalf of UTHealth, I am pleased to congratulate the distinguished 2018 Men of Distinction Award recipients: Craig Biggio, Rufus Cormier, Jim McIngvale, and David Poplack, MD. Our city and the Houston healthcare community owe tremendous gratitude to these men of distinction-and, indeed, to all of Houston's remarkable philanthropic partners-whose dedication to the people of Houston have helped us grow and prosper during good times and bad. The ability to bounce back after the tragedy and heartbreak of Hurricane Harvey is the most recent example of their profound and positive impact on our friends, families, and neighbors.

We are also proud and honored that you have chosen, once again, an outstanding member of our UTHealth faculty as one of your medical beneficiaries. Manish Shah, MD, Director of Pediatric Spasticity and Movement Disorder Surgery at McGovern Medical School, is redefining how we diagnose and treat children with neurological disorders. Dr. Shah and all of our outstanding faculty and researchers continually expand the frontiers of knowledge to solve the greatest health challenges of our time.

Thank you again for your unwavering support of the people of Houston and for honoring these exceptional members of our community.

Sincerely,

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD
President and Alkek-Williams Distinguished Chair
UTHealth

Dear 2018 Men of Distinction:

On behalf of Texas Children's Hospital, I would like to congratulate this year's Men of Distinction honoree, Dr. David Poplack, who is a living legend in the field of pediatric cancer. He is a remarkable leader and oncologist and has been a transformative figure at Texas Children's in providing care and treatment for some of the most seriously ill children we see.

We also want to congratulate this year's beneficiaries from Texas Children's and Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Sanjiv Harpavat and Dr. Mary Tessier, for their important research in improving bile flow in biliary atresia. Both physicians are a very special part of the Texas Children's family and have made a real difference in the lives of countless children.

It is such an honor to continue our partnership with Men of Distinction, which has helped us meet the ever-evolving needs of our patients and their families and offer them hope for a happier, healthier future.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Wallace



Mark A. Wallace



Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD

To the 2018 Men of Distinction:

On behalf of Houston Methodist, I'd like to extend our congratulations to the four honorees who have been chosen as this year's Men of Distinction: Craig Biggio, Rufus Cormier, Jim McIngvale and David Poplack, MD. These men are giants in their respective fields, and they share another common bond: their unfailing love for our community and the dedication, leadership and hard work they have put in to make it a better place for all of our citizens. All four deserve this great honor.

We are extremely honored that our own Ennio Tasciotti, PhD, was chosen by the Men of Distinction organization as one of this year's three beneficiaries. As Associate Professor of Nanomedicine at Houston Methodist Research Institute and director of our Center for Biomimetic Medicine, he has been investigating the use of nano and biomaterials for drug delivery and regenerative medicine for the past decade.

Funding from Men of Distinction will help support Dr. Tasciotti's research in developing a cardiac patch for the repair of congenital heart defects. His strategy involves fabricating patches while patients are still developing in utero, and using them to deliver a material made from the embryos' own stem cells as a regenerative therapy to treat the heart disease. This promising patch would integrate with surrounding tissues and grow with young patients, alleviating the need for recurring surgeries and greatly improving the overall quality of life for these children.

We are grateful to be among the many worthy Houston institutions the Men of Distinction organization has chosen to support over the years for our contributions in improving health care through medical research. We thank everyone involved in this worthwhile effort, and applaud the accomplishments of both this year's distinguished honorees as well as those of our colleagues and fellow beneficiaries at Texas Children's Hospital and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

With sincere appreciation,

Marc I. Boom, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

LUNCHEON
SPONSOR

JOE AND CATHY CLEARY

PARTNER

CHARLIE THOMAS/DANNY KLAES/TONY GRACELY
ROLAETTE AND BERDON LAWRENCE

BENEFACTORS

HAAG SHERMAN/MICHAEL MITHOFF
THE MACH FAMILY
MCNAIR INTERESTS

SPONSORS

TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
LESTER AND SUE SMITH FOUNDATION
RUFUS AND YVONNE CORMIER
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