

# MEN *of* DISTINCTION



**Tracy Dieterich**  
*and*  
**The Men of Distinction Steering Committee**  
*welcome you to the*

# MEN *of* DISTINCTION

**15TH ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON**

*Honoring*

**Stanley Appel, M.D.**  
**John R. Butler, Jr.**  
**Keith Mosing**  
**Jim Postl**

Presented by



**TENENBAUM**  
JEWELERS

**May 4, 2022**  
River Oaks Country Club

Dear Friends of Men of Distinction,

It is a pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the 2022 Men of Distinction Luncheon. 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. We are blessed to live in a city that has the best medical center in the entire world. To date, this event has raised in excess of \$5 million thanks to your generosity.

Houston has had a tremendous history 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 today to recognize their efforts and thank them for their contributions to our great city.

Sincerely,

Tracy Dieterich  
2022 Luncheon Chair

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## LUNCHEON CHAIR

Tracy Dieterich



## STEERING COMMITTEE

*Front row left to right: Oliver Badgio, Jesse Tutor, Devinder Bhatia, Scott Evans*

*Back row left to right: Tracy Dieterich, Stephen Lewis, Ed McMahon, Danny Klaes, David Wuthrich*

*Not pictured: Michael Mithoff, Tony Gracely, Billy McCartney, Butch Mach, Scott Schwinger, Steve Mach, Tony Bradfield*

## WHAT IS THE MEN OF DISTINCTION?

*The luncheon was created fifteen 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.*

*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](http://www.menofdistinction.org)*

# ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON PROGRAM

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Tom Koch**

## STAR SPANGLED BANNER

**Senior Master Sergeant Promise Harris**

## INVOCATION

**Dwight Edwards**

## PRESENTATION OF 2022 BENEFICIARIES

## LUNCH

## PRESENTATION OF 2022 HONORIES

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Tracy Dieterich**

## 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 Medeira Sauce and Horseradish Whipped Potatoes*

### **Chocolate Pecan Ball**





## STANLEY H. APPEL, M.D.

Stanley H. Appel, M.D. is Chair of the Stanley H. Appel Department of Neurology, Director of the MDA/ALS Research and Clinical Center at Houston Methodist Hospital and Co-Director of the Houston Methodist Neurological Institute. He is also the Peggy and Gary Edwards Distinguished Endowed Chair for the Treatment and Research of ALS, and Director of the Ann Kimball and John W. Johnson Center for Cellular Therapeutics at Houston Methodist Research Institute, and Professor of Neurology at Weill Cornell Medical College.

He is a native of Massachusetts and alumnus of the Boston Latin School. Dr. Appel received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and his medical degree from Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. He did his medical internship at Massachusetts General Hospital and his Neurology residency at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Pennsylvania. He trained in molecular biology at the NIH and then joined the faculty at Duke University. In his mid 30s, Dr. Appel was appointed Chair of Neurology at Duke, becoming one of the youngest Chairs of Neurology in the nation, and the James B. Duke Professor of Neurology.

In 1977, Dr. Appel was recruited by Dr. Michael E. DeBakey to Baylor College of Medicine as Chair of Neurology and Director of the Neuroscience Program. During his tenure as Chair, Dr. Appel established the first multidisciplinary ALS Clinic, which is now the gold standard for ALS care throughout the country, providing patients with a wide range of medical services to enhance their quality of life. He also established a National Institute on Aging Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Baylor and served 8 years as Director of the Center. He recruited many outstanding physicians and scientists, and Baylor Neurology became recognized as one of the top programs in the US.

In 2005, Dr. Appel was recruited to Houston Methodist Hospital to Chair a newly established Department of Neurology. Under his leadership the Dept has grown to more than 35 full-time physicians and scientists with clinical and scientific excellence in stroke, neuromuscular disease, Alzheimer disease, and movement disorders, A Neurology residency program was established and has grown to include 25 first-rate Neurology residents.

Dr. Appel is an internationally renowned researcher, neurologist, and teacher. His research has focused on developing new insights into the neurodegenerative diseases, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), all of which are devastating disorders with little meaningful therapy. His studies have documented the role of neuroinflammation, driving both burden and progression of disease, resulting from the failure of regulatory T lymphocytes (Tregs) to suppress inflammation. He discovered that expansion of Tregs outside the body restores their neuroprotective anti-inflammatory function. Autologous infusions of these expanded Tregs then formed the basis of 2 FDA-approved first-in-man clinical trials in ALS with promising results. Further studies are underway utilizing this novel Cell Therapy to offer hope for ALS patients, addressing their unmet needs and enhancing their quality of life.

Dr. Appel is a member of numerous professional societies and committees and is the author of 15 published books and over 450 articles. He has received a number of awards for his accomplishments in Neurology and Biochemistry: including the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons Gold Medal Award for distinguished achievements in medicine; the Sheila Essey Award of the American Academy of Neurology for outstanding research in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis; Fellowship of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Baylor College of Medicine Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award; MDA's Wings Over Wall Street Diamond Award; Texas Neurological Society Lifetime Achievement Award; the International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations Forbes Norris Award for "compassion and love for humanity in research and treatment in patients with ALS;" and the John P. McGovern Compleat Physician Award to a US physician for "extraordinary contributions to medicine and humanity."

Over the course of his medical career, Dr. Appel has trained and mentored over 300 neurologists, many of whom have gone on to chair their own Departments of Neurology in the U.S. and Europe. While some of his students have retired, Dr. Appel is still going strong as a clinician, researcher and teacher. He will be retiring from the Chair of Neurology as the longest tenured Neurology Chair in the nation for 52 years and transitioning to Directorship of the Cell Therapeutics programs of the Ann Kimball and John W. Johnson Center at Houston Methodist. Providing hope for his patients and training and mentoring future Neurologists/Scientists will be his most lasting legacies. One of his grandchildren is following in his footsteps, having attended medical school at his alma mater, Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons.





GITTINGS

## JOHN R. BUTLER, JR.

John was born in Shreveport, LA in 1939 and moved to Houston in 1946 with his family. After graduation from Kinkaid in 1957, he attended Stanford University and was elected pledge class his fraternity, Delta Tau Delta. He lettered in football all three years, was honorable mention All-Coast two years, and was elected co-captain his last year. He received his BS ChE upon graduation. He also played rugby for four years at Stanford and for several years after graduation for the Houston Rugby Club.

After graduation he worked for Humble Oil & Refining, Delta Engineering, Alaska Interstate, and Butler, Miller & Lents Engineering before founding GeoQuest International, Inc. He served on the Board of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Visitors of M. D. Anderson, the first Board of the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority, and as one of three members of the Texas Highway & Public Transportation Commission during Gov. Bill Clements administration.

John served as non-executive Chairman of the Board of BreitBurn Energy Partners, (NASDAQ) L.P., an oil and gas (upstream) MLP, headquartered in Los Angeles, CA.

John formerly served on the Board of Anadarko Petroleum Corp., a Fortune 500 company. He was board member for 15 years, was a member of the Executive Committee, and served as Chairman of the Audit Committee. Anadarko was an oil and gas exploration and production company and one of the largest in North America.

He also served on the Board of Directors of The Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), a 501 C- company where he was Chairman for around 15 years. He also was on the Board of the Texas Tri-Cities Chapter of NACD and served on the Board of the International Association of Geophysical Contractors. John is Chairman of J. R. Butler and Company, a privately owned oil and gas consulting firm.

Other positions John has held in the past include directorships at Howell Petroleum Corp. (NYSE) and Bayou Resources, Inc., an oil and gas exploration and development company. Both companies were sold. John was Chairman and CEO of GeoQuest International, Inc., Senior Chairman, Petroleum Information, a wholly owned subsidiary of GeoQuest International, Inc., and Vice Chairman, Petroleum Information Corp./Dwights, LLC, which was sold to IHS.

He was on the Board of Directors of River Oaks Country Club, the Petroleum Club of Houston, and the Coronado Club where he served as President. He is currently on the Board of Visitors of the University of Houston and the Methodist Hospital DeBakey Heart & Cardiovascular Council. He also serves on the engineering council at Houston Baptist University.

He and his wife, Penny, married while John was at Stanford and have 6 children and 17 grandchildren.





GITTINGS



## KEITH MOSING

Keith Mosing joined his family oilfield service business as a teenager, founded by his grandfather, Frank Mosing in 1938. The invaluable lessons learned while working with his family were priceless – Keith attributes his success in life, his incredible work ethics, and integrity from learning and working with his grandfather, father, uncles, and a team of employees that are like family to him.

Keith founded Frank's International H.K. Ltd (FI) in 1981 – expanding the company worldwide, operating in 66 countries around the globe. Keith held the position of CEO for over 35 years and is presently a Director after FI N.V merged with Expro Group Holding N.V. FI was listed as one of the Houston Business Journal's "Fast 100" Company under his leadership. Keith has been named Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young in 2003.

Keith received his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army after serving overseas with 1st Armored Division. Keith received his Bachelor of Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU). In 2012, he received the alumni philanthropist award from ERAU. Keith also holds an Airline Transport Pilot's license in both jets and rotor-wing aircraft, helicopters.

Keith feels he and his family are blessed with the opportunities to pursue various ventures. Through diligent work and putting God first, he was able to achieve success.

Keith has always felt an unwavering commitment to mentor, uplift and help others succeed as well. It is Keith's goal not to leave this world without making a difference.

Keith's primary philanthropic endeavors are for children, advancement in medical research, technology advancement and First Responders and St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Keith is an active director of University of Houston Energy Advisory Board, Memorial Hermann Foundation, Houston Police Foundation and The Joy School. Keith served on Mayor Turner's Task Force Committee. He has also served as a Director for Chuck Norris' Kickstart Kids for 28 years. Keith and the love of his life, Alice maintained their dedication to TEACH for teachers, Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation and Space Center Houston.

Keith and Alice have a profound love, respect and appreciation for our country, The United States of America., and for all the men and women who fought and died for our liberties and freedoms. They are blessed with two beautiful twin boys Marshall & Nicolas. Every day is a new adventure with these precious sons. Because of their strong Christian values, Keith and Alice make a steadfast team. Together, they will continue to give their heart, home, time, funds, leadership, and creativity to their local community, country and wherever God leads them.



GITTINGS

## JIM POSTL

Jim Postl is the former President and Chief Executive Officer of Pennzoil-Quaker State Company and left following its acquisition by Shell Oil Products U.S in October 2002.

Postl joined Pennzoil in October 1998, prior to the formation of Pennzoil-Quaker State Company. He was named president and chief operating officer and was elected to the board of directors when the new company was formed. In May 2000, he was named president and chief executive officer.

Postl has more than 30 years of management experience in consumer products. Over the course of his career, he has been responsible for a broad array of consumer products ranging from snack foods to soft drinks to health and beauty aids. He served as president of Nabisco Biscuit Company from 1996 to 1998 and was president and chief executive officer of Nabisco International from 1994 to 1996. Prior to joining Nabisco, Postl held a variety of management positions with PepsiCo, Inc. over a 19-year period. Prior to his tenure at PepsiCo, Postl held several brand manager positions at the Procter & Gamble Company.

He has served on the boards of American Funds, Pennzoil-Quaker State Company, Pulte Homes, Cooper Industries, Pan American Beverages, Auto Zone, Northwest Airlines and Centex.

Postl is also very active in the community. He is past chairman of the national board of the American Heart Association and past chair of the AHA SouthWest Affiliate. He is also past chairman for Memorial Hermann Foundation and Foundation for Jones Hall. He currently serves on the Board of Advisors for Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management at Rice University, and on the boards of the Memorial Hermann Foundation, Foundation for Jones Hall, Society for the Performing Arts, Houston Zoo, Holdsworth Governing Board, Greater Houston Partnership and Good Reason Houston. In the past, he has served on the boards of the Memorial Hermann Hospital System, Houston Area Women's Center, and the United Way of the Greater Houston Area. Postl was the founding chair of Early Matters, a historic coalition on early childhood education. He was the 2005-2006 Chair for Houston's United Way Campaign and the Hurricane Relief Fund. In 2019 Postl was honored as the award winner for Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and in 2021 Jim, and his wife Beverly, were honoree's at the Memorial Hermann Foundation Circle of Life Gala for their lifetime of charity, kindness and generosity.

Jim and Beverly have two beautiful daughters and three handsome grandsons.



## PAST HONOREES

D. Kent Anderson, 2007\*  
John "Scotty" Arnoldy, 2020  
James A. Baker III, 2012  
Thomas D. Barrow, Ph.D., 2010\*  
Craig Biggio, 2018  
Fred C. Burns, 2011  
George H.W. Bush, 2012\*  
Ernest Cockrell, 2014  
Denton A. Cooley, M.D., 2009\*  
Rufus Cormier, 2018  
James W. Crownover, 2013  
O. Holcombe Crosswell, 2011  
Harry Cullen, 2016\*  
Michael DeBakey, M.D., 2008\*  
James H. "Red" Duke, Jr., M.D., 2011\*  
Dan Duncan, 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\*  
Jim McIngvale, 2018  
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  
Stewart Morris, Sr., 2019  
C. Kent Osbourne, M.D., 2020  
David Ott, M.D., 2019  
Gary Petersen, 2020  
James Pool, M.D., 2017  
David Poplack, M.D. 2018  
H. John Riley, 2015  
Corbin J. Robertson, Jr., 2008  
Marc J. Shapiro, 2011  
Lester Smith, 2007\*  
Mike Stude, 2010  
Charlie Thomas, 2013\*  
Bobby Tudor, 2019  
Jesse Tutor, 2020  
J. Virgil Waggoner, 2009\*  
David Weekley, 2015  
James T. Willerson, M.D., 2013\*  
Welcome Wilson, Sr., 2019

*\*deceased*

## PAST BENEFICIARIES

2020

David I. Sandberg, M.D., MS  
McGovern Medical School/UTHealth and Children's Memorial  
Hermann/ MD Anderson Cancer Center

Branko Cuglievan Gulman, M.D.

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Amy Hair, M.D. and Geoffrey A. Preidis, M.D., Ph.D.

Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine

2019

Matthew T. Harting, M.D., MS  
McGovern Medical School/UTHealth and Children's Memorial Hermann  
Alessandro Grattoni, Ph. D.  
Houston Methodist

Ennio Tasciotti, Ph.D. and Ava Brozovich, M.D., Ph.D. Student  
Houston Methodist and Houston Methodist/Texas A&M University

2018

Sanjiv Harpavat, M.D., Ph.D. and Mary Elizabeth M. Tessier, M.D.  
Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital

Ennio Tasciotti, Ph.D.

Houston Methodist

Manish N. Shah, M.D.

Children's Memorial Hermann and University of Texas McGovern Medical  
School at Houston (UT Health)

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

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.  
Baylor 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

2022 MEN OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM BENEFICIARY

Allison Speer, M.D.

*McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
and Children's Memorial Hermann*



Dr. Allison Speer is an Assistant Professor Pediatric Surgery at McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). She is an assistant professor with dual appointments in the Department of Pediatric Surgery at McGovern Medical School and the Department of Surgical Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

She was accepted into the Baccalaureate/MD program and awarded a presidential scholarship to attend the University of Southern California (USC) as an undergraduate. Dr. Speer graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and received her medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine at USC. She completed her general surgery residency training at Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. During residency, she completed a 3 year research fellowship investigating tissue-engineered intestine as a solution for short bowel syndrome at Children's Hospital Los Angeles in the laboratory of Dr. Tracy Grikscheit, a pediatric surgeon. Dr. Speer has received several research awards including the American College of Surgeons Surgical Forum Excellence in Research Award. Additionally, she received grant funding from the Ethicon-Society of University Surgeons Surgical Research Fellowship Award. Dr. Speer is passionate about education and mentorship and has received teaching awards as well. She enjoys mentoring at all levels, but particularly future surgeon-scientists. After residency, she completed fellowship training in Pediatric Surgery at Children's National Medical Center/George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Speer is Board Certified in Surgery and Pediatric Surgery by the American Board of Surgery.

Dr. Speer's clinical interests include intestinal failure and rehabilitation, advanced minimally invasive surgery, and thoracic/foregut surgery. She is the co-director of the Short bowel syndrome Therapy and Rehabilitation program. She is also a basic-translational scientist focused on developing novel regenerative medicine strategies for intestinal failure such as tissue-engineered intestine and cell-based therapies.

## 2022 MEN OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM BENEFICIARY

### Alessandro Grattoni, Ph.D.

#### *Houston Methodist*



Professor of Nanomedicine, Academic Institute

Full Member, Research Institute

Chair, Department of Nanomedicine

Frank J. and Jean Raymond Centennial Chair, Houston Methodist

Dr. Alessandro Grattoni obtained his bachelors and masters degrees in Mechanical Engineering at the Politecnico of Torino, Turin, Italy in 2005. During his masters degree thesis, he studied the osmotic pressure of non-ideal solutions through nanoporous membranes. This work produced two publications and two patents. A few months after starting graduate school in Biomedical Engineering at Politecnico of Torino in 2006, Alessandro Grattoni joined Dr. Mauro Ferrari's research team as a visiting student in the Department of Nanomedicine and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. In this new context, he engaged in the study of transport phenomena in silicon nanofluidic devices for drug delivery.

At the beginning of 2007, he began directing one of the four research platforms, the nanochannel Delivery System (nDS) project. Since then he has coordinated the work of his colleagues in the development and validation of nanochannel membranes for long-term administration of therapeutics from implantable capsules. His research focuses on the experimental and phenomenological analysis of concentration-driven transport in nanoconfinement tools and mathematical models of the nanofluidic system. Additionally he analyzes electrokinetic transport in nanochannels for the purpose of modulating the release of therapeutics from reservoirs. In collaboration with NanoMedical Systems Inc. of Austin, TX, Dr. Grattoni is working to translate innovations in nDS technology to clinical applications.

In April 2009 he was awarded the Heinlein Trust Microgravity Award to support diffusion experiments in microgravity conditions on-board the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft in early 2011. In May 2009 he completed his Ph.D. studies with fifteen peer-reviewed publications and five patent applications. In October 2010, he became an Assistant Member of The Methodist Hospital Research Institute and an Interim Co-Chair of the Nanomedicine Program.

Dr. Grattoni's research focuses on the development and clinical translation of implantable nanofluidic technologies for drug delivery, molecular sieving and cell transplantation. Silicon-based nanochannel membranes are developed for the controlled delivery of therapeutics by exploiting nanoscale physics, achieving a constant or tunable sustained release of molecules for extended periods of time. Dr. Grattoni's research relates to the experimental and theoretical analysis of molecular transport at the nanoscale and the in vivo investigation of long term, sustained delivery of therapeutics. Dr. Grattoni's research has received the support of NASA and State of Texas Emerging Technology Funds, as well as from NanoMedical Systems, Inc.



### A. Osama Gaber, M.D. , FACS, FAST

John F., Jr. and Carolyn Bookout Presidential Distinguished Chair in Surgery, Department of Surgery

Chair, Department of Surgery

Professor of Surgery, Academic Institute

Full Member, Research Institute

Program Director, Transplant Surgery Fellowship, Department of Surgery

Houston Methodist

Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Gaber serves as Chair of Houston Methodist's Department of Surgery. He received his first academic appointment in 1987, as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. He became an Associate Professor there in 1991, and received his full professorship and was named to the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation chair of excellence in transplantation in 1994. While at the University of Tennessee, Dr. Gaber also held professorships in the Departments of Pharmacy and in the College of Nursing. He was also the Medical Director for the University of Tennessee Bowld Hospital, and the Methodist University Transplant Institute.

Dr. Gaber is a prolific researcher and has authored over 300 scientific papers, as well as more than 340 abstracts and numerous book chapters, and his research has been funded by numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and several national and local foundations. Dr. Gaber assumed his positions at the Houston Methodist Hospital and Research Institute in Houston in 2006.

While also conducting transplant immunotherapy research for liver and kidney whole organ transplants and allografts, the main focus of Dr. Gaber's research is in the transplantation of islets to alleviate diabetic complications. He and his collaborators have developed the protocol for long term islet culture and described the clinical transplantation of islets through the intestinal veins. Dr. Gaber's current studies center on the testing of gene therapy and other approaches to test for islet viability and assist the transplanted islets to develop a sustaining blood supply and resist rejection by the recipient's immune system.

## 2022 MEN OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM BENEFICIARY

Michael A. Belfort, M.D., Ph.D.

*Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine*



Michael A. Belfort, MD, PhD, is Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and Obstetrician and Gynecologist-in-Chief of Texas Children's Hospital. A specialist in maternal-fetal medicine and fetal intervention, Dr. Belfort most recently served as a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, and also as the Director for Perinatal Research, Fetal Therapy and Obstetric Telemedicine at HCA Healthcare in Nashville, TN.

With nearly three decades of practice focused on obstetrics, gynecology and maternal-fetal medicine, Dr. Belfort returned to Houston in late 2010 to fill the Texas Children's position, which became effective January 1, 2011.

Dr. Belfort has been actively engaged in shaping a new era at Texas Children's as the hospital recently opened the new Pavilion for Women and expanded into obstetrical and gynecological care to establish one of the nation's premier centers for women's, fetal and newborn health. Dr. Belfort serves as the medical director of Texas Children's Pavilion for Women, which offers women a complete range of obstetric and gynecologic services. The new facility focuses on family-centered maternity care, beginning before conception and continuing after delivery, and on high-risk births.

An accomplished researcher and educator, Dr. Belfort continues to focus on maternal and fetal medicine research at BCM, as well as to expand the college's current research initiatives.

A native of South Africa, Dr. Belfort received his medical degree (MBBCH) from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1981. Dr. Belfort has been awarded two post graduate research degrees, a Doctorate in Medicine (MD) from the University of Cape Town, South Africa in 1990, and a PhD from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden in 2001.

Dr. Belfort completed two residencies in obstetrics and gynecology — one at the University of Cape Town completed in 1989 and one at BCM completed in 1993 — and trained in anesthesiology in South Africa. He completed his fellowship in maternal fetal medicine at BCM in 1995.

From 1994 through 1997, Dr. Belfort served as director of labor and delivery and as director of obstetric intensive care at Ben Taub General Hospital, and was an associate professor in the divisions of maternal-fetal medicine, hypertension and anesthesiology at BCM. His teaching experience also includes serving as an adjunct clinical professor at Yale University School of Medicine where he worked with Yale faculty in the development of their Fetal Intervention Program.

Dr. Belfort is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and in Maternal-Fetal Medicine by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He also holds obstetrics and gynecology specialist qualifications in South Africa, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Dr. Belfort has received numerous professional awards for his contributions to research, teaching and medical practice. He is an author/editor of several textbooks, notably, "Hypertension in Pregnancy," "Obstetric Clinical Algorithms, Preeclampsia" and "Critical Care Obstetrics." An active member of numerous professional societies all over the world, Dr. Belfort has written more than 175 peer-reviewed scientific papers, numerous textbook chapters, abstracts and poster presentations.

Long dedicated to humanitarian causes, Dr. Belfort has participated in two medical mission trips to Tibet during which his group provided urgently needed medical care to families.

Dr. Belfort is happily married to his wife, Joanne, and the couple has two children, Sarah-Jo and Ben.

## 2022 MEN OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM BENEFICIARY

Sundeep G. Keswani, M.D.

*Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine*



Chief, Pediatric Surgery

Texas Children's Hospital  
Pediatric Surgeon, Fetal Surgeon, Texas Children's Hospital  
Surgical Director of Basic Science Research, Texas Children's Hospital  
Clayton Endowed Chair in Surgical Research  
Professor of Surgery, Pediatrics, and Obstetrics, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Keswani became the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at Texas Children's Hospital in October of 2020. He is also a member of the fetal surgery team and is the principal investigator for the Laboratory for Regenerative Tissue Repair. Dr. Keswani completed his adult general surgery training at Louisiana State University in his hometown of New Orleans and completed his pediatric surgery fellowship at St. Louis Children's Hospital and the Washington University School of Medicine. He also completed a research fellowship and fetal surgery fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Prior to coming to Texas Children's, Dr. Keswani was an attending surgeon at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Dr. Keswani's clinical interests are in fetal diagnosis and therapy, neonatal surgery, congenital diaphragmatic hernia, ECMO and pediatric wound care. His NIH funded laboratory studies the molecular mechanisms of regenerative fetal tissue repair and is actively developing novel therapeutics to achieve postnatal regenerative wound healing.

Dr. Keswani is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery in General and Pediatric Surgery.



Dear 2020 Men of Distinction:

On behalf of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the 2020 Men of Distinction honorees: John "Scotty" Arnoldy, C. Kent Osborne, M.D., Gary Petersen and Jesse Tutor. I also wish to express my gratitude to Men of Distinction for their commitment to improving the lives of Houstonians and patients around the world by supporting meaningful and groundbreaking medical research.

We are deeply honored that Branko Cuglievan, M.D., assistant professor of Pediatrics at MD Anderson, has been selected as a Men of Distinction beneficiary. Dr. Cuglievan treats our youngest patients through MD Anderson Children's

Cancer Hospital. He joined our faculty in 2018 after completing his Pediatric Hematology-Oncology fellowship at MD Anderson, serving as chief fellow.

Dr. Cuglievan's research seeks to assess tumor response in 24 hours by using an implantable microdevice that is the size of a grain of rice, preserving the native tumor physiology for the most accurate testing possible. His research is in collaboration with bioengineers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This technology has been recognized by the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Moonshot Program as one of several cutting-edge innovations that will pave the way for precision therapies.

MD Anderson built its reputation as the top-ranked destination for cancer care (U.S. News & World Report) by questioning, redefining and improving cancer treatment standards. Directly benefiting from that drive for discovery are the pediatric patients at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital – from the 1960s, when we originated the idea of combination therapy to treat leukemia, to modern advances in immunotherapy.

We continue to look ahead by developing new clinical technology with the potential to save countless lives. This is possible because of visionary and generous organizations like Men of Distinction. Thank you for your support in our mission to end cancer.

Sincerely,

Peter WT Pisters, M.D.  
President  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



Dear 2022 Men of Distinction,

On behalf of UTHealth, I am pleased to congratulate the distinguished 2022 Men of Distinction Award recipients: Stanley Appel, M.D., John R. Butler, Jr., Keith Mosing and Jim Postl. 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.

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. Allison Speer is redefining how we diagnose and treat children. Dr. Speer 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 Men of Distinction:

On behalf of Texas Children's, I would like to congratulate this year's Men of Distinction honorees: Dr. Stanley Appel, John R. Butler, Jr., Keith Mosing and Jim Postl. These remarkable men have made a profound impact on our Houston community through their inspiring vision, leadership and service.

We are honored that two Texas Children's physicians are among this year's beneficiaries. Dr. Michael Belfort and Dr. Sundeep Keswani are leading research efforts to improve long-term outcomes for the most fragile and vulnerable patients - premature newborns. Drs. Belfort and Keswani are both a very special

part of the Texas Children's family, and their work will make a difference in the lives of countless children and families.

It is such an honor to continue our partnership with Men of Distinction. We are grateful for your generous support in helping us create a healthier future for our patients and their families.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Wallace  
President  
Chief Executive Officer





SPECIAL THANKS TO  
TOM Koch / ABC-13  
Dwight Edwards  
SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT PROMISE HARRIS

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*Our sincerest gratitude to all who contributed after the printing deadline.*