If you felt the ground tremble on November 19, 2015, it wasn’t due to one of southern California’s frequent tremors.

Rather, the earth shook from the excitement of old becoming new, as HMRI symbolically broke ground for its exciting new Biomedical Research Building. A large crowd cheered as an old structure on the site came down to make way for a revolutionary leap in the evolution of our mission to change lives through patient-focused research.

Our goal is to have the Biomedical Research Building opened by mid-2017. With 35,000 ft² of clinical and laboratory space, the building will transform the way HMRI does the work of biomedical discovery. From facilitating scientific collaboration to easier integration of different disciplines, from greater accessibility for patients to speeding up the “bedside to bench” progression to new treatments, HMRI will create a model for organizations of its kind across the country.
The first major publication from HMRI’s mild traumatic brain injury study is “Brain Activation Profiles in mTBI: Evidence from Combined Resting-State EEG and MEG Activity” by Li L., Pagnotta M.F., Arakaki X., Tran T., Strickland D., Harrington M., and Zouridakis G.

Although several of the scientists and researchers listed above work at HMRI, the one name that stands out for HMRI staff is “Strickland D.”

“Strickland D.”—better known as Dave Strickland, “Facilities Dave” or “Dave #1” around here—normally maintains our buildings and labs with the help of Todd Franklin. But this past year, he added a well-deserved new achievement: published scientific researcher.

Dave’s road to getting published took several twists and turns. Dave graduated from Sonoma State University with a BA in English plus an emphasis in creative writing. His education led him to work at YMCA in San Francisco, serving her as she learned how to operate the MEG and helping her collect study participant data.

Dave says the surprising and enjoyable part of working with study participants was that, in addition to learning how to hook them up to electrodes and run tests, he learned how to put them at ease and make them feel comfortable. He did that by treating them as he would want to be treated, an “every man” approach which he says they appreciated. “He’s a natural at patient interactions as well as being whip-smart and energetic,” says HMRI President Dr. Csete.

Several months later, Thao mentioned to Dave that she would talk to the Principal Investigator (PI) on the MEG research project about getting Dave’s name on the paper they would publish. Dr. Mike Harrington, also a PI on the project, agreed.

“I couldn’t believe it, until I saw my name on a draft... that’s when it became real”

“I couldn’t believe it,” says Dave, “until I saw my name—Strickland D.—on a draft before it was presented in Europe. That’s when it became real. What’s even better is that I understood the purpose and objective of the study—especially related to the NFL and the long-term implications of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). I could see how we were using a multi-disciplined approach to study TBI.”

Dave believes it’s important that non-science staff at HMRI have the opportunity to participate in research. He also films the weekly lectures at HMRI for our library. Says Dave, “Our speakers are often HMRI collaboration partners. They give us insight into who they are and how they work, and hearing them helps me understand Dr. Csete’s vision of HMRI’s multi-disciplinary teams.”

He’s also come to understand why it’s important for scientists to publish. “You get your name out there. If you don’t, people don’t know who you are. If a scientist is not publishing, then he or she must not be discovering anything new, anything important.”

Finally, Dave says, “Now I must decide to move in the direction of science, to really take my place and be part of something bigger, and to really make a difference.”

“Dave makes HMRI a better place for all of us to work,” says Dr. Csete. “He’s already had an impact.”

When Dr. Bob Kloner moved his laboratory to HMRI a year ago, HMRI also became the home base for the Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics (JCPT), as Dr. Kloner is the journal’s Editor-in-Chief (EIC). The editorial board of JCPT is a veritable who’s who of cardiology, and now features HMRI prominently in the masthead. In addition to Dr. Kloner, the editorial board includes Sharon Hale, Dr. Marie Csete, and Dr. Wangde Dai, all from HMRI.

Why put in all this volunteer work? “A good editorial board reviewer makes a paper better than it was when submitted, often an opportunity to do some career development for younger authors, and can shape the field by highlighting important papers in editorials,” says Csete. The upside of editing, too, is keeping abreast of the latest work in the field. Dr. Csete also serves on the founding editorial board of Stem Cells Translational Medicine, which now has a substantial ‘impact factor.’ The impact factor reflects how often published papers are cited by other authors in later publications.

A new wave of journals seems to appear every day. Many HMRI scientists receive invitations to join these newly established editorial boards. HMRI’s Alfred Fonteh recently joined the editorial board of the Journal of Glycomics & Lipidomics after receiving invitations from several other journals. He decided on JGL because it fits his interest and expertise, but also to “champion research on lipids and human diseases.”

In addition to editorial board service, many HMRI investigators are called to review papers in their areas of expertise. These reviews also serve as a training ground for future editorial board members, and the quality of reviews is so-called “har” reviews are carefully monitored by active editorial boards.

Thanks to the HMRI scientists who devote so much volunteer effort to assure the quality of the scientific literature! You keep us well-informed and make HMRI known around the world!
LEADING THE CAMPAIGN TO MOVE HMRI FORWARD
Meet The Campaign Leadership

Helen Baatz, Co-Chair
A registered nurse for 53 years, her professional background includes 29 years at Monte Vista Grove Homes, where she held the role of CEO for 16 years. In addition to her role as HMRI Campaign Co-Chair, she also serves on the HMRI Board of Directors.

C. Joseph Chang
Actively involved in the San Marino community, Joseph serves on the San Marino Unified School District Board of Education. Serving in many hospital administration roles, Joseph most recently served as President and CEO of East Valley Hospital Medical Center.

Dorothy Hull
Longtime Alhambra Guild Member and former Guild President, Dorothy is still very active in volunteerism at the hospital. She is a strong supporter of the Campaign Cabinet, and in 2013, HMRI received some unexpected and inspiring news: Dorothy had included HMRI in her estate plans. The extraordinary gift of $2 million that resulted from her generosity was designated by her to create a fund titled, “The Dorothy Hull Chair in Medicine” which would support research at HMRI in the engineering, cancer molecular genetics or other disciplines which will extend and enrich the programs at HMRI.

HONOR SOMEONE YOU LOVE, ADMIRE OR WISH TO REMEMBER
NAMING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEW HMRI BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH BUILDING

- Multiple Use Areas such as the Auditorium, Patient Waiting Areas, Sustainable Garden, Medical Art Display, Conference Room, Conversion Space
- Laboratory Spaces for discovery in Neurosciences, Cell & Cancer Biology, Liver Disease, Heart Disease, Diseases of Pregnancy, and more
- Clinical Studies, Scientists’ and President’s Offices

For more information about these and other recognition opportunities, please contact us at 626-795-4343, or philanthropy@hmri.org

A GIFT FOR SCIENCE, A GIFT FOR ETERNITY
Marylou Ingram’s $2 million bequest

Marylou Ingram left an amazing legacy of work in medical research. In a career encompassing almost seven decades, Dr. Ingram’s work paved the way toward understanding how cells relate to one another, the processes of disease at the cellular level, and the cellular architecture of tumors. She mentored innumerable students and colleagues, blending artistic creativity and ingenuity with tenacious perseverance and courage, plus a methodical diligence and critical attention to the fine details. All the more wonderful a story because so few women were in medical school at the time Dr. Ingram trained, and only a fraction of those MDs went on to research careers.

You might think that after devoting 30 years of her professional life to HMRI that she felt she had done enough here. However, even after her last days in the lab, Marylou wasn’t done with her contributions to the cause of medical scientific discovery. Upon her passing in 2013, HMRI received some unexpected and inspiring news: Marylou had included HMRI in her estate plans. The extraordinary gift of $2 million that resulted from her generosity was designated by her to create a fund titled “The Marylou Ingram Chair in Medical Science Research” that would support research at HMRI in the engineering, cancer molecular genetics or other disciplines which will extend and enrich the programs at HMRI.

Having developed model systems and tests that contributed to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as prostate cancer, Dr. Ingram knew that a true legacy is not just a body of work. She wanted to show that our ultimate legacy comes when we make a statement of values, when we act selflessly by caring for the future well-being of all human beings.

Marylou Ingram passed away in August 2013 at the age of 93. She will be in our hearts, and inspiring our work, forever.

TURN WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT INTO YOUR LEGACY

Donors who include HMRI in their estate plans become members of the HMRI CATALYST SOCIETY. This special group honors and recognizes donors for their foresight, shares personal stories and connects with other like-minded supporters, and informs other interested donors about the best ways to structure their gifts for greatest impact.

By informing HMRI about your plans, we can make sure you’re included in the HMRI CATALYST SOCIETY. “It’s so important for us to know about someone’s estate plans at the time they make them, so that we can have the opportunity to thank donors and their families in person and celebrate them,” says Dan Maljian, HMRI Vice President of Philanthropy.
Patrick Chang, now a medical student at Tulane, is a poster child for student research at HMRI. His success highlights the importance of sustained research time (our new year-long program) for our undergraduate and post-baccalaureate trainees.

Patrick spent several years studying liver disease in the HMRI Liver Center directed by Myron Tong, MD, PhD. During that time he also learned about clinical research, collecting data on the side-effects of various drug combinations used to treat hepatitids. In November, the results of studies they conducted at HMRI were presented by Patrick at the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association: National Hepatitis B and C conference in San Francisco. In fact, Patrick won a competitive travel award to attend the conference. In addition, the paper describing this work, “Adverse events associated with ribavirin in sofosbuvir based therapies for patients with chronic hepatitis C: A community practice experience,” was recently accepted for publication in the Journal of Digestive Diseases.

The other authors on the paper are Lori Tong RN, MSN along with two other student researchers who contributed to the effort, Thatcher Huyhn (now a student at Nova Southeastern University studying for her DO) and Alex Rossinski (now a UC Irvine medical student). For all three students, the research experience at the HMRI Liver Center was certainly important for their application and acceptance to medical school. More importantly, the processes of collecting and analyzing data, writing a paper and following it through the editorial process to submission (see accompanying article on editorial boards), are usually encountered much later in medical training. Dr. Tong’s teaching and research will certainly prepare these students to enter the clinical research realm early in their careers.

Patrick reports that he is also an officer in the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association at Tulane, and very active in grassroot organizations that connect Tulane to the Asian American community in New Orleans, including work at health fairs and with the “Be the Match” bone marrow registry.

His volunteer work sounds like a full-time commitment, and his passion for volunteerism is no surprise given the example set by Patrick’s father, C. Joseph Chang. Joseph, who knew of HMRI because of Patrick’s work in the Liver Center, volunteers his considerable knowledge of the community to HMRI. Joseph is an energetic, tireless volunteer, working diligently on the HMRI Capital Campaign Cabinet, and he is the newest member of the Innovators, contributing $100,000 to the new HMRI laboratory.

Joseph Chang is a long-standing member of the San Marino Unified School District Governing Board, and has served as an officer of many organizations including the San Gabriel Valley Red Cross and the San Marino Public Library. Professionally Joseph is a health administrator, so he understands the needs of HMRI as well as its wonderful benefits to students like Patrick. We know Patrick will make a mark on medicine, following in the example set by Patrick’s father, C. Joseph Chang.

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The event will begin with the screening of the film “FRONTLINE: League of Denial: The NFL’s Concussion Crisis,” which chronicles the work of Dr. Bennet Omalu, Chief Medical Examiner for San Joaquin County and a professor at UC Davis. The screening will be followed by presentations given by clinicians and researchers on Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, stroke, brain tumors, traumatic brain injury, and migraines, as well as questions & answers with our panel of experts. Eligible student athletes will also be able to enroll in a traumatic brain injury prevention and monitoring program and obtain appointments for complimentary brain imaging scans at HMRI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HMRI BRAIN DAY, CONTACT CHERISE CHARLESWELL, 626-397-5840.

In 2015, HMRI received over $6 million in philanthropic support. Gifts came from private foundations, corporate partners, and most commonly from individuals and families around our region.

One recent donor who was particularly inspired to contribute to HMRI’s mission is Francine Hakin Katz. Francine generously joined our Innovator donor group with a gift of $100,000. When she read an article in the Pasadena Star News on January 12, 2016 about our new building initiative, she told us “I feel so wonderful that I am a part of this exciting and important project.” Thanks to Francine and to all of the hundreds of people who join us each year in advancing the cause of medical research. You are heroes!
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
www.hmri.org

SAVE THE DATE
Monday, November 14, 2016
The 5th Annual HMRI Lynn Smith Founders’ Classic
benefiting the FORWARD campaign for
HMRI’s new Biomedical Research Building
Annandale Golf Club
Pasadena, California