INVEST IN THE
INGALLS IMPACT FUND
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Join us Monday, September 27, 2021
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Register online: ingallsfoundation fisheriesgivesmart.com
Call: 708.915.6115 for additional information
Registration is free; Please register by September 24

Join us for an informative session with endocrinologists Ilene Toney, MD, and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialists and Dieticians Mary London. Learn how your philanthropic support is educating and empowering communities through a new Diabetes Education and Prevention Program.

Is Diabetes Worth Losing Your Lifestyle?
Hey! Is Diabetes Worth Losing Your Lifestyle?
Dr. Orth Honored as Ingalls Open Raises $175K

A special Ingalls Open golf outing this year welcomed nearly 190 golfers to Olympia Fields Country Club and paid tribute to event founder Dr. David Orth during a banquet awards ceremony, honoring his years of service to the hospital and foundation.

A pioneer in Retinal research who founded the Irwin Retina program at UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial, Dr. Orth retired this year after more than three decades of service on the Ingalls Development Foundation board.

“The recognition wasn’t necessary, but appreciated,” said Dr. Orth. “Congratulations on a fabulous turnout and a highly successful event,” he said. A record 122 golfers teed off on the championship North Course, host to four major professional championships and multiple national amateur events.

“You and your team do a great job year after year conducting the Ingalls Open,” said Foundation board member LeNita Johnson. “The golf was challenging and rewarding and I will be using my 2nd place gift card very soon.”

Another 66 golfers played the South course and enjoyed a staggered start from the record crowd on the North Course contributing to an excellent pace of play under bright sunshine and blue skies. Event Director Lisa Barker recruited a team of 30 volunteers who facilitated the registration, contest hole and awards banquet ceremonies seamlessly to contribute to one of the most successful events ever.

In addition to our Retina program, proceeds raised will support the Ingalls Impact fund that invests in patient care programs such as COVID-19 relief, food insecurity, oncology care services and community health programs benefitting patients and caregivers throughout the Southland.
Foundation Investment Transforming Access to Medical Information

Imagine logging into your personal, private portal and instantaneously seeing your entire medical history on your phone, your laptop or electronic device.

What if your physician had access to your entire medical history, from every specialist you’ve ever seen at any other hospital, on the same system during your next visit?

Think about the impact on an organization as complex as UChicago Medicine which can seamlessly and effortlessly share complex medical information at a moment’s notice to any Ingalls office, hospital department or outpatient care setting.

That is where UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial is headed today, one year since the Foundation approved a $5 Million transfer of assets to implement the Epic electronic health record system.

“It’s an amazing tool,” says Poonam Desai, Executive Director Ambulatory Operations at Ingalls and part of the Epic implementation executive leadership team. “We are about a year away from full implementation,” says Poonam. Not only does Ms. Desai understand the challenges and complexities around implementation of Epic, she also understands the benefit as the mother of young children. “The My Chart app contains all of my kids vaccination records. I don’t carry any paperwork to any appointment anymore, ever.”

The challenges in implementing a new, complex IT system are immense, including the robust training required to bring physicians and staff up to speed. But the doctors who are already trained or familiar with Epic rave about the benefits to their patients.

“It is equally beneficial for the providers as the patients by significantly reducing the amount of outside work we need to complete, so we can focus our time on taking care of patients the best we can,” says Dr. Kaveh Rahmani.

Dr. Rahmani also says, “Patients will have access to everything online. They can refill drug prescriptions, look up lab results, make appointments or confirm future appointments.”

Beyond the technology, beyond the impact on patient care is the value of building a culture of collaboration, teamwork and understanding between the Hyde Park and Harvey campuses at UChicago Medicine.

“It’s been good to see the collaboration between Hyde Park and Ingalls to really enrich patient care and work as a system,” says Clara Guixa-Llusani. Clara is the executive in charge of implementation from UChicago Medicine. “It’s making us think differently about how we enable technology to support our care beyond the Hyde Park campus.”

When asked about the impact of the foundation’s support and leadership in getting this project going, Dr. Rahmani said, “I don’t think you can place a monetary value on the contribution the Foundation is making. It has been immensely helpful and thoughtful.”

Making an IMPACT

Since our merger, UChicago Ingalls Memorial has invested nearly $300,000 to community non-profits providing services to residents in alignment with our community health needs assessment. In June $55,000 in community impact grants were awarded to Family Christian Health Center and The Cancer Support Center. The Family Christian Medical Center has been long known for its mission to serve residents in underserved areas of the southland communities. FCHC recently open a new 5200 square feet maternal child health and wellness center. The Center includes an on-site lab and Centering pregnancy and parenting room.

The Cancer Support Center provides comprehensive supportive and wellness programs to thousands of people, annually. The Center gives strength, guidance, and support to anyone living with a cancer diagnosis, as well as to their loved ones. Recently the Center initiated the Kick It Cancer program with a focus on addressing health disparities faced by constituents in Burnham, Hazel Crest, Posen and Riverdale where breast and prostate are the most prevalent cancers in these areas.
Fantastic!! Excellent cooperation between departments to achieve this much-appreciated service for our patients with acute food insecurities which would impair health outcomes in so many ways!

Cressa Perish, MD

Oncology Food Pantry Grand Opening

A pantry stocked with healthy food is an important part of a cancer patient’s treatment. Thanks to our donors, including a $25,000 grant from United Way, the Ingalls Development Foundation in partnership with UChicago Medicine Feed 1st excitedly opened the doors to a new food pantry for oncology infusion patients on Tuesday, June 8th. The food pantry is a stepping stone to help oncology patients have a better quality life and medical outcomes through addressing any food insecurities.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as the “limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.” The lack of food and nutritious food can have a negative effect on a patient’s health outcome.

Food insecurity often forces patients to make trade-offs between food and other resources. Competing demands between food and medical care are likely intensified by a lack of insurance or inadequate prescription drug coverage. Individuals who are uninsured or who have public insurance are more likely to be food insecure compared with their privately insured counterparts.

Additionally, individuals in food-insecure households may experience anxiety as well as resulting nutritional deficiencies which may contribute to malnutrition and an increased risk of chronic disease such as depression, diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and sleep disorders. Buying essential groceries may prove difficult for a patient battling cancer and the financial burdens that follow.

Currently, the pantries are located in the Harvey and Tinley Park campuses with plans to open a third location in Flossmoor in the fall.

Infusion patients may receive food supplies freely, no questions asked.

“I am so grateful for the chance to attend college.”
Jovani Gil-Ramirez

Gil-Ramirez, a Thornton Township High School graduate, will be attending Trinity Christian College this fall after earning one of twelve community scholarships in June.

Since 2005, $325,000 in funding has been awarded to more than 170 students in District 205 through dollars raised at the annual Ingalls Development Foundation Benefit Show Gala and from corporate donors, including Synergy Behavioral Health. This philanthropic community benefit program is available only to eligible students attending Thornton Township, Thornwood or Thornridge High Schools. Students must have a B average or better, and plan to pursue careers in a healthcare related field.

This year’s scholars are:

- Ashley Carter
- Shaquan Coombs
- Charity Counts
- Jovani Gil-Ramirez
- Labria Gordon
- Desha Holloway
- Emily Jimenez
- Zakiyah Muhammad
- Fausat Rabiu
- Virginia Rodriguez
- Nakaya Short
- Zainab Yusuff-Akinbo

Western Illinois University
Loyola University Chicago
North Carolina A&T
Trinity Christian College
Bradley University
Illinois State University
University of Illinois at Chicago
Xavier University of Louisiana
Northern Illinois University
Oakton Community College
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Hospice and Palliative Care at Ingalls

Recently Eleanor Williams, Hospice Nurse Manager, conveyed a story about a family who could no longer care for their very ill loved one at home. They desperately needed comforting and wise guidance to make the ultimate decision and the UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial Hospice team was ready and able to help.

Hospice is care designed for patients with a life-limiting illness. Hospice is not where you go to die; rather, hospice professionals are trained to assist patients in living their lives fully, completely and without pain until the end of their lives.

Approximately three years ago, UChicago Medicine Ingalls Hospice moved to a new location within the hospital to better serve families and caregivers at this critical time. To further assist families, it is our desire to create a more calming, peaceful and reflective space. Please watch your mailboxes for a special opportunity help comfort families as they prepare to say good-bye to their loved ones.