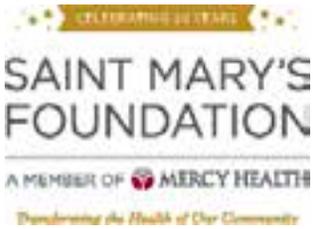


# Reaching new heights in health care philanthropy Pinnacle



**The Newsletter of  
Saint Mary's Foundation**

Saint Mary's Foundation is dedicated to building relationships that inspire financial support from the community to advance the mission of Mercy Health Saint Mary's.



**In this issue:**

A Message from  
Saint Mary's  
Foundation Chair  
Deb Bailey  
▶ **PAGE 2**

Up on the Roof  
▶ **PAGES 4-5**

Mercy Health ALS  
Ice Bucket Challenge  
▶ **PAGE 6**

*up next*  
Class of 2014  
▶ **PAGE 6**

Celebrating 50 Years  
▶ **PAGE 7**



INVESTMENT  
COLLABORATE  
TECHNOLOGY  
RESEARCH

Showcasing our **partnership** with:



**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
College of Human Medicine



RESULTS  
CUTTING  
EDGE



STATE  
OF THE  
ART  
INNOVATE  
DISCOVER

**T**he mission of Saint Mary's Foundation is to inspire financial support from the community and advance patient care at Mercy Health Saint Mary's. We are dedicated to making impactful investments throughout the hospital and through our community partners, and last fiscal year nearly \$1 million was provided to programs and services to help improve the patient care experience.

More than \$153,000 of our investments were awarded to deserving research, programs, services

and medical studies. One of the most substantial awards granted was to Dr. Katrina Paumier, junior faculty at Michigan State University, Department of Translational and Molecular Medicine. Dr. Paumier requested funds to conduct basic animal research to help understand brain changes in Parkinson's disease, leading to the development of medications that can be used in human clinical trials. Funding supported a full-time research technician to care for the lab animals and to run the day-to-day experiments, allowing the faculty member to focus

*(continued on page 3)*

# Cover story, continued

on scholarly work. This research produced unexpected findings that may have implications for new drug therapies for treatment of Parkinson's disease. The work has stimulated multiple collaborations within both academia and industry. Dr. Paumier has submitted a 2014 request for continued funding that should provide sufficient data to apply for independent National Institutes of Health funding.



Left to right: Dr. Katrina Paumier, Priyanka Saha (intern), Stephanie Celano, M.S. (laboratory manager), Emily Schulz (laboratory technician) and Timothy Ramnarine (intern).

Dr. Paumier's studies are impactful not only for the overall health of the community, but for more than a decade, Mercy Health Parkinson's has been delivering comprehensive cutting-edge care. There is currently no cure, although treatment options include medications and surgical procedures. Each individual diagnosed with Parkinson's disease will experience a combination of symptoms and a response to medications that are unique to that person. For that reason, effective treatment must be formulated for each Parkinson's patient.

Dr. Paumier's exciting findings within her research will help transform the treatment and outcome for Parkinson's patients, and Saint Mary's Foundation is honored to contribute to the success of her studies.

## Local Statistics:

- Parkinson's disease affects approximately **200** newly diagnosed patients each year in the West Michigan area (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Allegan, Barry, and Ionia counties).
- Approximately **1%** of people over the age of 60 and **2%** of those over the age of 70 will be stricken with Parkinson's disease, but the disease is not limited to the elderly.
- **15%** of Parkinson's patients are younger than 51 years, and **10%** are under the age of 40.
- **55 out of every 100** Parkinson's patients are men and 45 are women.
- The progression of the disease from diagnosis to major disability occurs over a **10-20** year period. As the disease progresses, it becomes more complicated to treat medically, requiring close follow-up care and more complex drugs to manage the symptoms.

## National Parkinson's Statistics:

- As many as **one million** Americans live with Parkinson's disease, which is more than the combined number of people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS).
- Approximately **60,000** Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease each year, and this number does not reflect the thousands of cases that go undetected.
- An estimated seven to **10 million** people worldwide are living with Parkinson's disease.
- Incidence of Parkinson's increases with age, but an estimated **four percent** of people are diagnosed before age 50.
- Men are **one and a half times** more likely to have Parkinson's than women.

Source: Parkinson's Disease Foundation

## CONGRATULATIONS!



New Saint Mary's Foundation Trustee, **Lizzie Williams**, is the winner of the 2014 ATHENA Young Professional Award, which was announced on September 18. The ATHENA Young

Professional Award recognizes an emerging leader for their contributions to community, professional excellence, and commitment to serve as a personal and professional role model to young women. Congrats Lizzie!



**Keri Kujala**, Manager of Special Events & Donor Relations at Saint Mary's Foundation, was the winner of the Grand Rapids Young Professional's Community Impact Award. This award

recognizes a young professional who truly aspires to make our community better by raising awareness, educating others and promoting improvement through use of their time, energy and talents. Well-deserved, Keri!



**Kelli Smith**, Senior Special Gifts Officer at Saint Mary's Foundation, was accepted to Leadership Grand Rapids (LGR), which is a nine-month community leadership program

committed to enhancing and connecting leaders from business, non-profits and government. LGR is designed for current and emerging leaders who have the capacity to make a positive impact in the community. Congratulations Kelli!