

# leading

## THE WAY

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*Letitia Hayes,  
Karen Morahan,  
Shayma Musa (L-R)*

# Opportunity RISES



## UPMC JAMESON SCHOOL OF NURSING AT UPMC HAMOT

Nursing is America’s most trusted profession and has been so for nearly two decades.

*December 2020 Gallup Poll*

As director of the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot, Karen Morahan, PhD, RN, has a wonderful problem. The brand-new school, set to open this fall in the renovated Wayne School building, originally planned for 54 students in its first class. However, the demand for a place in its program has outpaced the plans. Karen found herself studying blueprints and exploring hallways, closets, and more to find places to put students. Her sleuthing has worked and enrollment is now adjusted to accommodate more than 80 students. Such happy tweaking is indicative of a success story in the making.

The notable momentum behind the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot is powered by the support of Hamot Health Foundation, UPMC Hamot Aid Society, and the HHF Board of Corporators. An investment of \$420,000 has provided funding toward facility and construction costs, while scholarships in excess of \$200,000 will be available to the opening class of students.

At HHF, the excitement is real. And we are hardly alone. Throughout the region, the innovative nursing institute is drawing favorable attention for the potential and opportunity it represents. Karen explains how just about everyone can find reason to ride the wave of excitement.

*The renovated Wayne School building will serve as home for the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot, in addition to other health care, job training, and social service providers.*

- If you are a local patient, know that a nursing pipeline is being developed to ensure the delivery of UPMC Hamot’s trusted health care for decades to come.
- If you are passionate about inclusion and equality, take hope in a newly established path toward a more diverse workforce.
- If you care about the future of Erie, get excited about a new training program leading to employment with life-sustaining wages.
- If you like to see proud neighborhoods, note the school’s intentional location. Situated in the heart of a neighborhood primed for fresh development, the Wayne School building is a visible and tangible representation of what can be.
- If you are UPMC Hamot or any other health care organization, your recruiting opportunities just got a major shot in the arm. Expect to see dozens of well-trained nurses pumped into the local job market.
- If you believe in collaboration, UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot is your program. The partnership between UPMC Hamot and Gannon University creates a valuable blend of bedside and classroom experience.
- If you have aspirations for career growth, understand that graduates of this RN program immediately receive a pathway to a BSN degree at Gannon University.

HHF is pleased to introduce two local individuals who are ready to get their opportunity on!



*Letitia Hamilton is considered the first graduate of the Hamot School of Nursing.*



*Letitia Hayes is a member of the inaugural class of the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot.*

UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### A Tale of Two Letitias

In 1891, Letitia Hamilton was the first graduate of Hamot Hospital's Training School for Nurses. Photos of Letitia reveal a young woman wearing a serious expression and a starched white nursing cap. The gaze in her eyes invites one to imagine the woman she was and her experiences as a nurse in a much different time and place.

Fast forward 130 years to 2021. By some quirk of fate, another Letitia — Letitia Hayes — is now set to enter the first class of the new UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot. Two Letitias. Two women drawn to a profession of caring service. Each enrolled in the maiden class of their chosen nursing schools. Differences between them surely exist, but at least one common denominator stakes its claim. The name "Letitia" means joy. The family has shared that the first Letitia was a joyful person with a passion for nursing, and there is no doubt about the second. Letitia Hayes bubbles over as she explains, "Joy — that's me all the way!"

Letitia Hayes is close to her mother, Semone, who has worked in health care for 30 years. Wanting to follow Semone's lead, Letitia began working in health care early on and earned her LPN in 2014. She set her dreams on becoming a registered nurse. Observing her potential, Letitia's RN coworkers at St. Mary's Asbury Ridge encouraged her to go to nursing school. Letitia was determined to make it happen someday, somehow.

Compassion defines Letitia's energy. "People tell me I'm too nice, but I just knew I had to find the right outlet for my compassion." When she heard about the new UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot — amazingly located in her own neighborhood — she knew this was her chance. Inspired by her mother and motivated by her compassion, she applied to the program and was accepted.

*"I just knew I had to find the right outlet for my compassion."*

— *Letitia Hayes*

With the heart and vision only a mother possesses, Semone knew all along this day would eventually come for her daughter. "You were always smart and into bettering yourself," she told Letitia. True. As an adult, Letitia developed her own personal three-point formula for success: compassion, skill set, and work ethic. Take your compassion, build a skill set, and work hard to prove yourself.

As a 31-year-old single mother of three young and boisterous boys, Letitia knows going back to school won't be easy, but she's ready. According to Letitia, "Everything in life is hard. You choose your hard." Still, she has no problem when it comes to naming her specific dreams in nursing. With new opportunity on her horizon, Letitia senses she has the world on a string and beams, "I want to try it all!"

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Shayma Musa



"Family is my battery," proclaims 21-year-old Shayma Musa. "I do it all for them." The oldest of nine children, Shayma is a devoted daughter who wants nothing more in life than to make her parents proud and return their abundant love and support. Her parents, siblings, and grandmother brim with pride at her decision to become a nurse. Raised to be kind, genuine, and honest, Shayma is intent on being a strong role model for her eight younger siblings. This tight-knit family exhibits a strong value system as they cling to the safety and love of one another, adhere to a strong moral compass, and aim high for a better life for the younger generation. Shayma is well on her journey to meeting this purpose.

Shayma graduated from Edinboro University in 2020 armed with degrees in health sciences and journalism as well as a minor in psychology. She currently serves in an AmeriCorps VISTA position at the Mercy Center for Women, working to provide housing for needy women and children. Shayma holds to the principle of treating others as you wish to be treated. The work is "super rewarding," yet she longs to draw even closer to those in need.

Believing that nursing is the answer to her longing, Shayma made the decision to attend UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot. Influenced by her education and experiences, she believes a role in community nursing is her calling. She envisions herself providing specialized care in highly sensitive situations, such as domestic violence and homelessness.

Considering Shayma's tenets in life, any community would do well to have her as a resource. "Erie is at a nexus," as Shayma sees it. "I want to be part of the good things that are coming!"

As she spreads her irresistible blend of pride, enthusiasm, and community zeal, Hamot Health Foundation is bent on helping Shayma along with other local students attain success and fulfillment.



Letitia Hamilton display at UPMC Hamot recognizing her place in Hamot's history.



Letitia Hamilton's diploma celebrates the start of nursing education at UPMC Hamot, a proud legacy continued today.

# ECAT — CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCCESS AT WAYNE SCHOOL



*Main entrance at the Wayne School building will welcome students, employees and community members.*



*The fresh interior of the building brings light and color into the space.*



ECAT's journey to become Erie's replication of the proven Manchester Bidwell education model began nearly a decade ago when a group of local business leaders heard Bill Strickland speak at Mercyhurst University. Bill's message was a simple one, built on his three core philosophies — environment shapes behavior, people are assets, and creativity fuels enterprise. According to Bill, you can change lives and even change entire communities by empowering people with education, beauty, and respect.

Armed with this vision, ECAT's first board members, chaired by Hamot Health Foundation's own Boo Hagerty, created a nonprofit organization in 2017 to bring this work to Erie. They took another step forward by hiring Executive Director Daria Devlin in 2019, and then made a bold decision to purchase the former Wayne School at 6th Street and East Avenue and make it the organization's home. With the help of a transformational \$1 million gift from Hamot Health Foundation, ECAT was able to close on the region's first New Market Tax Credit transaction, providing nearly \$10 million to renovate the aging building into a community asset and hub.

*"At some point in our lives, most of us have heard a variation of the saying that 'anything worth having is worth waiting for.' As we prepare to move into the next phase of our work at the Erie Center for Arts and Technology (ECAT), I can't help but think that this is true."*

— *Daria Devlin, Executive Director, ECAT*

With all of this critical groundwork now behind us, ECAT is finally ready to begin the important work of changing lives through youth arts programming and adult job training. In fall 2021, we'll open our doors to middle and high school students for after-school programming, and to adults who are ready to start new careers in health care, insurance, and manufacturing. They will come to ECAT to experience new things or make a fresh start. And, most importantly, they will come with no obligation to pay tuition or fees because of organizations like HHF. At every step on this long journey, ECAT's volunteers, supporters, and champions have moved the vision forward, making "the impossible possible" as Bill Strickland encouraged. With the real work now beginning, we're ready to show that, truly, it was worth the wait.





# MWRI IN ERIE'S EXPANSION, OPENS DOORS TO BETTER CARE, RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

*By Courtney McCrimmon*

Early in the fall of 2019, the Erie Community Foundation (ECF) announced a \$6 million grant to expand Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI) to Erie, Pennsylvania. The grant was the largest made in ECF's history, and it marked the first time MWRI expanded outside of Pittsburgh. "The Erie community rallied to bring women's health research here in a really unprecedented way," said Linda Paterniti, director of operations for MWRI in Erie. "The ECF's grant served as the impetus to make this expansion a reality. With additional support from Hamot Health Foundation (HHF), UPMC, Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation (MWRIF) and Penn State Behrend, the initiative was able to come alive."

From the creation of a new biomedical commercialization and translational research lab at Penn State Behrend's Knowledge Park to bringing locally focused clinical medical research trials to the region, the expansion will improve the health of women while creating a new employment sector in Erie's economy.

"Each of the project's strong champions has committed multiple millions of dollars to make our region's dreams become reality — including new jobs in our downtown, increased flow of federal dollars, and improved women's health," said recently retired ECF president Michael Batchelor. "In 2018, we announced a five-year, \$30 million grantmaking and community leadership framework to help transform our region. This collaborative checked all the right boxes, and we look forward to future significant investments in the coming years."



“Dr. John Comerchi and I started seeing gynecologic cancer patients through what was then Hamot Hospital in 2011,” said Dr. Edwards. “We drove to Erie twice a month to start building an oncology presence there. We were immediately welcomed by the patients, particularly those who would have had to travel for care otherwise.”

Their early success encouraged hospital leaders to address other gaps in women’s health subspecialty care. By 2013, experts in urogynecology, reproductive endocrinology, and high-risk pregnancy care joined Drs. Edwards and Comerchi. Their success was followed by establishment of a UPP generalists group.

“By 2016, through adding a combination of generalists and specialists, we had a very fleshed out group of physicians seeing and treating patients in Erie,” said Dr. Edwards. This critical mass of faculty set the stage for bringing MWRI to Erie.

“The Erie community really understands the importance of women’s health research,” said Michael Annichine, MWRI’s CEO. “We have active, vocal supporters with a strong vision for Erie’s future and their engagement has been critical to our success.”

“We work in a culture that values evidence-based care and innovation. It was just a matter of time until we recognized the need to extend research opportunities to our patients in Erie,” said Halina Zyczynski, MD, MWRI in Erie’s medical director.

Building infrastructure despite a year of pandemic-associated challenges, Dr. Zyczynski, along with Paterniti, have met most of their timelines. Early wins included hiring a talented team of core employees to serve as study coordinators, subject recruiters, and laboratory technicians. “We were extremely impressed with the pool of talent we had to draw from,” said Dr. Zyczynski.

After several tours throughout the building, the group found “ideal” space on the main floor of the Women’s Hospital for the Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) and within Labor and Delivery for the Obstetric Specimen Procurement Unit (OSPU). “We are grateful to David Gibbons, the president of UPMC Hamot, for supporting this important endeavor with such premium space,” said Dr. Zyczynski. “Being adjacent to clinical care space is a huge advantage in that it fosters collaboration between clinical and research staff and makes it easier for women to attend both clinical and research visits.”

In March, the CTRC opened its doors to investigators and study participants. The state-of-the-art tele-research room enables local research staff and trial participants to engage in study visits with Pittsburgh investigators.

## Laying the foundation

More than a decade has passed since Robert Edwards, MD, chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital and co-director of the Women’s Cancer Research Center at MWRI led by example and initiated a gynecologic oncology consultation service at the newly built Women’s Hospital of UPMC Hamot.

*“The Erie community rallied to bring women’s health research here in a really unprecedented way.”*

— Linda Paterniti

*continued*



*Halina Zyczynski, MD, MWRI in Erie Medical Director*



*Ashley Berg, Research Operations Coordinator, processing specimens.*

*“We work in a culture that values evidence-based care and innovation. It was just a matter of time until we recognized the need to extend research opportunities to our patients in Erie.”*

*— Halina Zyczynski*

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The tele-research room addresses the digital, transportation, and financial barriers that have previously limited Erie-area women from access to novel therapies and studies aimed at improving scientific understanding of women’s health.

The team has launched six clinical trials and introduced the Steve N. Caritis MOMI Biobank and Database. These protocols were extensions of Oakland-based studies, a process which has become very easy with inclusion of UPMC Hamot in the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board applications.

### **Local opportunities and building successes**

Part of the reason for the team’s early success is the collaboration between Dr. Zyczynski and Paterniti. They are both persistent and creative in confronting barriers and finding the “yes” in any given situation.

While there are many benefits to the Erie community, the relationship is equally beneficial to MWRI investigators. According to Dr. Zyczynski, in addition to the community’s demographics, the partnership provides MWRI researchers access to a population with distinct environmental exposures — those of the nearby agricultural sector and Lake Erie.

Erie research operations are poised to aid investigators in their study of rural health disparities, a key initiative with of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Families hold deep roots in Erie. Generational stability provides investigators access to grandmothers, mothers, and daughters for epigenetic and genomic studies.

The expansion of MWRI into Erie is still in its formative phase, but with such a strong foundation, everyone agrees that the original vision of a robust, diverse research community, supported by national grants and industry partnerships, is coming to fruition.

**This article was originally published in MAGEE magazine, Spring 2021.**



# The Long and Winding Road

Time for “Dr. D.” to sit back and enjoy the soft-serve.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Jim and Dorie DeMatteis

Ask them and they will gladly tell you. Why have James DeMatteis, MD, and his wife Dorie remained loyal friends of Hamot Health Foundation for so many years? At the top of their list is a promise from HHF that every dollar donated stays in Erie for the betterment of this community. It’s a promise that matters to the couple and harkens back to their love for the region. “HHF has stayed true to their mission to serve our own community,” states Dorie. Just as important to the couple as content of promises made is the assuredness of HHF’s commitment to those promises.

Dr. DeMatteis and Dorie recently reminisced with the Foundation about the 37 years they have been on the scene at UPMC Hamot. Their story is one filled with humorous twists, serious turns, and more than a few surprises. If ever there was a time to share it, that time is now. After a long and distinguished career in neurology, Dr. DeMatteis is winding down and retiring from hospital life. He will contribute as a provider in telemedicine, but is otherwise ready to clean out his office to help make space for a younger generation of highly specialized neurologists. He has great faith in his replacements, resting in the

knowledge that he has been deeply involved in hand-picking and preparing them for this pivotal point in time. Still, the loss of his departure is real, especially to close colleagues, like neurologist Jeffrey Esper, DO, who looks to Dr. DeMatteis as “my inspiration” and “a true visionary.”

Affectionately known for years around Hamot as “Dr. D.,” James DeMatteis is the son of Albert A. DeMatteis, MD, and his wife, Adele. A busy thoracic surgeon in Altoona, Albert eventually moved his practice to St. Petersburg, Florida. As might be expected, Dr. DeMatteis confirms that he was inspired by his father to follow in his physician footsteps. However, he gives his mother primary credit for his decision to become a doctor. She pushed both Jim and his older brother, Ralph, toward medicine and today both are thankful that she did.

When Albert passed in 1996, Dr. DeMatteis and Dorie established a fund with HHF in his honor. The Albert A. DeMatteis Fund supports enhanced neurological care at UPMC Hamot through any means possible, including programs, services, and technology. The fund further targets neurological

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education and research, as demonstrated by sponsorship of UPMC Hamot's Annual Neurological Conference. This conference is sought-after and draws attendees from all disciplines of neurological care year after year.

At the heart of the fund and of special significance to Dr. DeMatteis is the neurology residency program at UPMC Hamot. The Albert A. DeMatteis Fund enriches the residency program through both practical and creative channels, such as educational resources and resident wellness programming. Providing superior neurological training is a timeless priority that never waivers.

Together, Dr. DeMatteis and Dr. Jeff Esper established the Neurology Residency Program in 2003 at what was then Hamot Hospital. Since that time, Dr. DeMatteis has devoted much of his career to resident training. Excelling in placements all over the nation, graduates of the program stay in touch and are thankful for the outstanding training they received at Hamot — a personal return on investment that Dr. DeMatteis clearly relishes.

Albert A. DeMatteis is more than just a name. Dr. DeMatteis and Dorie would like you to know a little about the man behind the fund. Albert was a first generation American of Italian heritage and the first in his family to be college educated. He valued and promoted education with fervor. To his family, a fund to benefit resident training was a fitting way to memorialize him. On a personal level, Dorie shared that "he was the kindest, gentlest man." She warmly described the thoughtful care and attention her soft-spoken father-in-law had brought to her life.

Talk about busy! Dr. DeMatteis came to Hamot Hospital in 1984. The only neurologist on staff at the time, he was on call 24 hours a day for an entire year. Dr. DeMatteis went on to develop clinics for multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's patients. He also became the stroke medical director at HealthSouth Erie, today known as Encompass Health. With a consistent focus on ever raising the level of neurological care at Hamot, Dr. DeMatteis worked to help bring on additional physicians dedicated to specialized areas of neurology. During this era, Dr. DeMatteis served as division chief over multiple terms.

All of this came in the years following a memorable sit-down with John Malone, former president of Hamot Hospital. John shared his vision for Dr. DeMatteis and the Neurology Department. "You will lead the program," he explained, which was then in its infancy. Humbled and surprised, Dr. DeMatteis thought the idea was "nuts." But as he labored through the years for his patients, residents, and colleagues, he was



*Dr. Albert A. and Adele DeMatteis*

once again surprised — this time to realize he was indeed fulfilling a vision of leadership.

Dr. DeMatteis likes to steer the conversation to people who have influenced his life for the good, and it is a joy to indulge him. Besides John Malone, he praises his close friend and colleague, Dr. Jeff Esper, as "a superb neurologist" who has "anchored the Neurology Residency Program" since its inception. Lynn Rupp, vice president of

administrative services at UPMC Hamot, has always put faith in him and helped him believe in himself. Dr. DeMatteis also named Gene Connell, a long-time running buddy with wisdom in abundance and a willingness to share.

Above all, this man's favorite and most significant influence is his wife, Dorie. With a wry smile, he confesses, "she has succeeded in building our life together, despite me." Together they have raised a family of three. Aaron owns a computer and satellite business based in Erie, Jimmy is a loan officer in Cleveland, and Renee, "the baby," completed her doctorate in clinical psychology this spring. Dr. DeMatteis and Dorie are exceedingly and rightfully proud of their successful brood.

Let's talk more about Erie County-born and raised Dorie DeMatteis. Yes, the rumors are true. She has, in fact, opened a charming and tempting ice cream shop in Harborcreek. The Double Dipper opened in April, serving both soft-serve and hard ice cream delights via outside window service. Dorie and her brother, Rick Hesch, launched their vision for the sweets shop, which was two years in the making. The siblings have been business partners in the past and work well together. How does this enterprise fit with husband Jim's plans for semiretirement? Dr. DeMatteis might be slowing down a bit, but Dorie needs to stay busy. Very busy. No matter, Dorie has put him to work as chief taster at the Double Dipper. He has gleefully accepted the coveted position.

As Dr. DeMatteis and Dorie stare down the next stage of life, they are thankful for all that has come to be. "UPMC Hamot and Hamot Health Foundation have been very supportive," Dr. DeMatteis declares while Dorie nods her firm agreement. The duo will continue to contribute to the quality of life in the region through their talents and endeavors and enjoy every minute. Never mind that Dorie is "allergic to snow," a minor problem she laughs off as a cost of glorious springs and summers in Erie-land.

This revered twosome will also continue to be faithful friends of Hamot Health Foundation and show us all how it's done. Trust us, it's a beautiful sight to behold.

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Danielle Bates

Hamot Health Foundation exists to change lives for the better. This is a mission that motivates us to roll up our sleeves daily and strive to develop opportunities for as many lives as possible — both down the street and around the world.

Our work is led by the exceptional Hamot Health Foundation board of trustees; these men and women propel our mission forward as they offer invaluable guidance. It is their expertise that allows us to stay focused on the important work in front of us today, while at the same time maintaining a clear vision for the future.

Case in point — meet Danielle Bates. Danielle joined the HHHF board in 2017 and has ever since proven her business acumen time and time again. Danielle consistently brands her projects with success. We are proud and grateful to have this go-getter on our team.

It's hard to know where to begin when describing Danielle. Then again, it may be even harder to know where to stop! An accomplished professional, Danielle is a CPA and vice president of finance at Accudyn Products, Inc. A successful family-owned and run manufacturing business, the company specializes in engineered injection molding. Accudyn boasts headquarters in Erie, a second plant in Mexico, and customers all over the globe.

Danielle is a lover of her community. She carefully considers which causes will benefit the most from her specific skill set. As to why Danielle specifically aligns with HHHF, she “loves organizations that are willing to think big and, most of



# THE DILIGENCE FACTOR

*In her role as board of trustees member, Danielle Bates typifies the forward-thinking ideals of Hamot Health Foundation.*

all, think strategically.” To Danielle, HHHF demonstrates a unique capacity to imagine great things for the community as well as the tenacity to go after them. She finds the symmetry between her personal calling and her work on the board to be richly rewarding.

Danielle's favorite projects are transformational in nature — projects that have the power to elevate a community and heal the bruised lives of those who need it most. Citing HHHF's involvement in the Wayne School project and the Erie Center for the Arts and Technology (ECAT), Danielle gravitates to initiatives that

remove barriers to healthy ways of living. She's also passionate about the health of mothers and babies, an attitude modeled by her own mother and inspiration, Peg Bly, former president of Accudyn. It only makes sense that Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI), the MOMI Biobank, and other similar HHHF projects resonate deeply with Danielle.

Family is Danielle's number one priority and fuels her passion to see families thrive throughout the community. Danielle is wife to husband Tim and mother to Lily, 4, and Benjamin, 10 months. She is also involved at

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*“I love organizations that are willing to think big and, most of all, think strategically.”*

— Danielle Bates

Millcreek Community Church where she and her family attend. Ever true to her commitment to mothers and babies, Danielle runs the Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program there. She also homeschools her own preschooler, Lily.

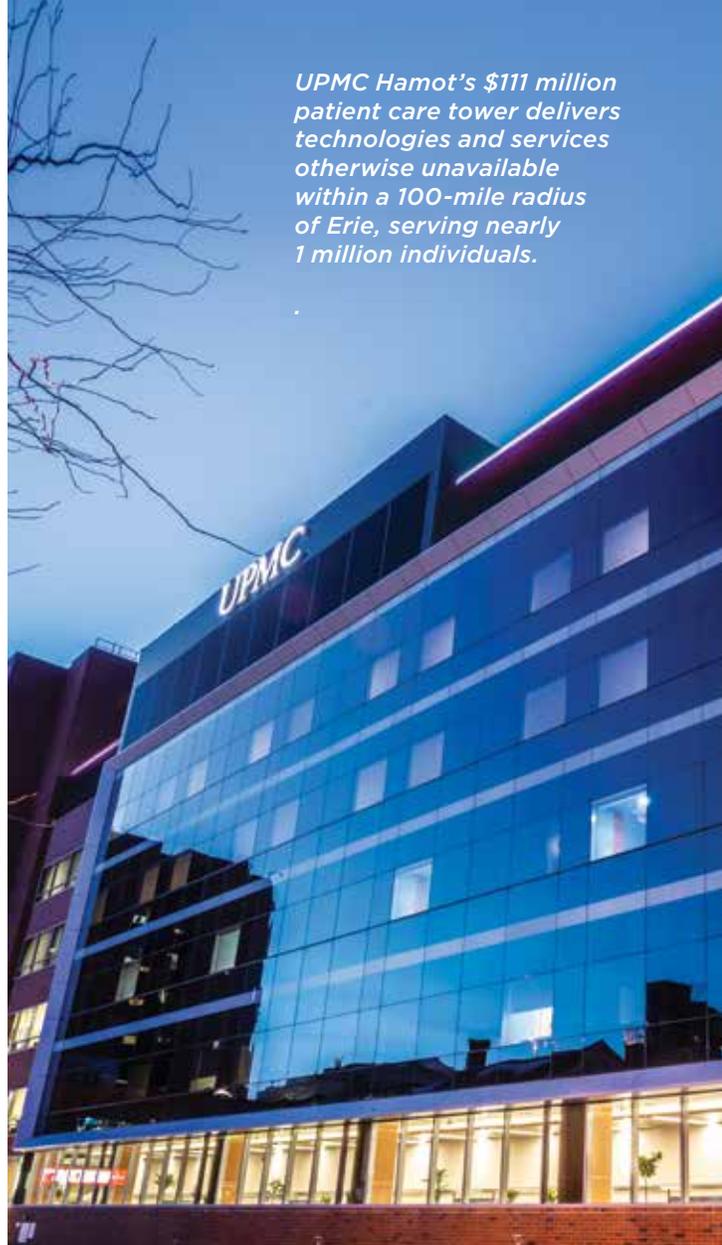
At Accudyn, Danielle works with several family members, including her parents, Tom and Peg Bly, who co-founded the company in 1997. Brothers Ted Bly (current president of Accudyn) and Jon Bly, husband Tim Bates, and sisters-in-law Amanda Bly and Deborah Bates all join the ranks at Accudyn, where taking care of employees is a genuine point of pride.

Accudyn’s culture of caring was clearly demonstrated during the pandemic through a successful collaboration with Hamot Health Foundation. HHF engaged in a large-scale effort to contact companies throughout the region and offer COVID vaccination scheduling to employees. Danielle developed a creative system to utilize Accudyn’s human resource department as a hub for scheduling. The final outcome was improved vaccine accessibility for Accudyn employees facing challenges such as language barriers, nonownership of personal phones, and responsibility to work schedules on a busy manufacturing floor. Danielle’s brainstorming succeeded; an estimated 15% of employees scheduled vaccinations who would have not done so without this system in place.

While business is all in the family for Danielle, so is generosity. The Bly and Bates families recently came together in support of UPMC Hamot’s new patient tower by dedicating a nurses station in honor of Danielle’s grandmother. Impressed by modernized signage for the project, including photos and meaningful text, the family reached a joint and enthused decision to get involved. They viewed the move as not only a unique tribute to their loved one, but also a great investment in local health care.

Just as Danielle is inspired by the transformational work of Hamot Health Foundation, we are likewise inspired by Danielle. She embodies a give-back attitude that reflects gratitude for a life filled with family, community, and purpose.

*UPMC Hamot’s \$111 million patient care tower delivers technologies and services otherwise unavailable within a 100-mile radius of Erie, serving nearly 1 million individuals.*



*David M. Zurn, longtime UPMC Hamot corporator and former board chair, poses with his children, (L to R) Rena Zurn, Christopher Zurn, and Amelie Zurn-Galinsky at the dedication of the Zurn Family Atrium.*

# UPMC HAMOT PATIENT CARE TOWER



## Donors Bring New Facility to Life

If you passed UPMC Hamot on E. 3rd Street over the past three years, it would be difficult to miss the change underway. The demolition of the former UPMC Hamot Professional Building created a space that was soon filled with construction crews, excavators, cement mixers, and cranes; steel beams rose skyward and were followed by brick and glass.

The UPMC Hamot patient care tower, a pioneering facility guaranteeing critical care excellence to meet the growing needs of nearly 1 million individuals in 13 counties across Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York, received its finishing touches in early 2021. As the largest capital investment in the history of UPMC Hamot — the new tower has unrivaled features and is undoubtedly high-tech. Yet, it was the support of nearly 80 donors who helped to give the facility a powerful personal touch.

Beginning in 2020, Hamot Health Foundation offered a variety of exclusive dedication opportunities in the patient care tower's space ranging from individual patient rooms, to nursing stations, and entire ICU wings. A look down the tower's halls shows how employees, corporators, community members, grateful patients, and other donors made contributions in the name of their loved ones and shared their stories with beautiful signage featuring memories, quotes, and treasured photos. New donors and longtime supporters alike jumped at the chance to be part of the new building's legacy.

*"This is an incredible hospital, and it's due in part to special people like the Zurn family."*

— Boo Hagerty

On July 5, Hamot Health Foundation celebrated the dedication of a hallmark space in the patient care tower — the Zurn Family Atrium. Located on the first floor of the tower, this bright and open space provides a welcoming gateway and gathering space for guests while celebrating generations of Zurn family support for UPMC Hamot. HHF president Boo Hagerty thanked members of the Zurn family who have supported UPMC Hamot as trustees, volunteers, benefactors, and friends for nearly 60 years. Hagerty shared, "We could never thank the Zurn's enough for all they have done for UPMC Hamot and our community. This is an incredible hospital, and it's due in part to special people like the Zurn family."

Former board chair and longtime corporator David M. Zurn spoke on behalf of the family. Dave shared his deep appreciation for the exceptional care that UPMC Hamot has offered the Erie community for 140 years, and spoke candidly on the power of philanthropy, a force he first witnessed as board chair during the construction of the present-day south tower.

Each day, the new tower hums with energy as hundreds of employees bring life-changing medicine to critically ill patients under complex and rapidly changing conditions. But when a team member, patient, or guest takes a moment to read the signs illustrating the endless generosity of our donors, it is our hope they feel the community support that has strengthened UPMC Hamot since the beginning.

*There are a limited number of dedication opportunities still available for donors. For inquiries, please contact Nick Cianci at 814-877-2464 or [ciancin@upmc.edu](mailto:ciancin@upmc.edu).*

# LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Marlow H. Levy



**The future of UPMC Hamot and Hamot Health Foundation is bright with the support and vision of leaders like Marlow.**

In December of 2020, UPMC Hamot was excited to welcome Marlow H. Levy, RN, MBA, FACHE, as vice president of operations.

As vice president of operations, Marlow oversees several departments including Surgical Services, Ambulatory Surgery Center, Imaging, Laboratory, Environmental, and Nutritional Services, as well as closely collaborates with UPMC Hamot medical staff. He also oversees hospital construction, maintenance, safety, and several other operational areas of the hospital.

Marlow has more than 25 years of health care leadership experience. He most recently served as vice president of surgical services for Aurora St. Luke's, Sinai, West Allis, South Shore, and Grafton medical centers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. St. Luke's is an 850+ beds, quaternary medical center and part of an integrated health care network with more than 500 acute and specialty care sites.

Marlow has served in high-level leadership positions at the Mayo Clinic, Kaiser Permanente, Sentara Healthcare, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, numerous Naval medical care facilities, and the Naval Hospital Jacksonville.

*"We are very privileged to work alongside someone with Marlow's experience and expertise."*

— *Jaimee Black*

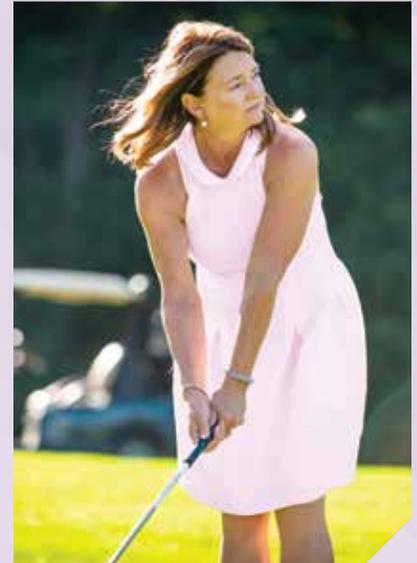
Marlow is a dynamic, forward-leaning health care executive with a depth of diverse experiences in health care strategy, growth, and process improvement.

Jaimee Black, vice president of operations at Hamot Health Foundation says, "We are very privileged to work alongside someone with Marlow's experience and expertise. He is fully supportive of our work at Hamot Health Foundation and understands the importance of a strong relationship between administration and our philanthropic community."

Marlow holds a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Hampton University in Virginia. He received his Master of Science in management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, as well as a Master of Business Administration from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Levy is a board-certified health care executive and fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

# HAMOT HEALTH FOUNDATION GOLF OPEN RETURNS FOR 5TH YEAR

Funds raised are helping to build our newest breast cancer fund



In February, a long-time friend of Hamot Health Foundation made a generous contribution to launch the SLM Breast Cancer Fund. In Honor of Sandra Lynn Quigley Martin, the fund was established to help support breast cancer patients and families at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Erie and UPMC Hamot, with imaging, medications, specialty health care, transportation, short-term lodging, and other expenses related to diagnosis, treatment, and family support for women with breast cancer.

This fund will honor her life and aid other families who are financially burdened by their fight with breast cancer.

Sandy was a 1975 graduate of the Hamot School of Nursing and a nurse at UPMC Hamot for 26 years where she spent most of her career caring for the hospital's most critically ill patients. Sandy was 56 when she passed away on June 28, 2011, after a courageous battle with triple-negative breast cancer.

On Sept. 18, the annual Hamot Health Foundation Open will go PINK for Sandy and other women and men, and the families who are impacted by this disease.

*If you are interested in a team, sponsorship, dinner celebration, or have any questions, please contact us at 814-877-7020 or [hagertycf@upmc.edu](mailto:hagertycf@upmc.edu).*



A



B



D



E



F



H



L



I



# BEHIND THE SCENES

Our Behind the Scenes section gives you a glimpse into some of the smaller (although no less important!) projects we have been privileged to facilitate due to the leadership of our board and the generosity of our donors.



**A.** UPMC Hamot President David Gibbons stands with our four-legged health care heroes. The Therapy Dogs United team spent a lot of quality time with our patients and employees during some of the most challenging times we have ever faced as a health care system.

**H.** In September 2020, HHF and UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor teamed up with Congressman Mike Kelly's office to announce a \$1 million grant to support our Recovery Is Beautiful project. The goal of this program is to provide women in the region with knowledge and resources to help fight addiction and begin the amazing journey of recovery.

**B.** We once again partnered with iHeartMedia for our annual Bob-a-Thon fundraiser. As always, we are honored to work with Joe Lang to raise money for HHF's Children's Care Fund

**I.** Special thanks to RJ Messenger and Iron Empire Clothing for partnering with Hamot Health Foundation for the "Heroes in Action" fundraiser honoring and recognizing our health care heroes.

**C.** We love our partnership with the Eagle's Nest Program of Academic Distinction. This year, HHF provided the funding needed for their annual sports day, giving the students a welcome break from the academic rigor of the program.

**J.** Mother and daughter Jeanie Burns and Emily Clark, both leaders at Magee-Womens, UPMC Hamot, reunite with a NICU family at this year's Bob-a-Thon.



**D.** HHF's own Jaimee Black holds up the t-shirt that volunteers wore in August 2020 as we joined the United Clergy of Erie and other leadership organizations to promote education and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, HHF financed the distribution of over 1 million masks in the neighborhoods and communities that had the greatest need in these stressful and uncertain times.

**K.** On June 24, we celebrated a major milestone with the grand opening of the Magee-Womens Research Institute in Erie. We see this as the first of many ribbon-cutting celebrations. As our research projects grow, more jobs will be created, more space will be needed, and — most importantly — more patients in our region will have access to the finest and most innovative treatment options in the world.

**E.** Where do you store a brand-new vaccine at -78 degrees Celsius? In a freezer purchased solely for storage of the Pfizer vaccine. HHF is always proud to nimbly step up to the unanticipated needs of UPMC Hamot

**L.** To add some open-air and socially distanced fun, HHF teamed up with UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor to host DOGA — because who doesn't want to do a little yoga with your best friend?



**F.** At the Booker T. Washington Center, Bobby Fishers trains how to properly use the AED that was donated by HHF. Through the partnership between UPMC Hamot and HHF with area community centers, we were able to provide screening events, educational sessions, and vaccine clinics throughout the past 12 months, helping ensure that positive health care messages were hitting all corners of our community.

**M.** Health Care Heroes night at the ballpark was a time to recognize 40 of our extraordinary UPMC Hamot employees. These honorees represented our thousands of health care heroes for their hard work, thoughtfulness, and commitment throughout very challenging times.



**G.** HHF's Nick Cianci and Julia Fessler welcome one of the 2,700 employees who participated in our Hamot Strong event on the 140th anniversary of UPMC Hamot.



**HAMOT  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION**

302 French Street  
Erie, PA 16507  
814-877-7020

[HamotHealthFoundation.org](http://HamotHealthFoundation.org)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Dates

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

All Day



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 8**

2022

