

Women's Health 2020 Donor Impact Report – Your Generosity at Work

Dear {SALUTATION},

Thank you for directing your generous philanthropic support to women's health at NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore). Such contributions enable NorthShore to address racial inequity in maternity care, conduct promising research and serve as a top-quality health resource for women from all backgrounds in every phase of life. Thank you for entrusting us with your gifts and for helping us provide compassionate, innovative care throughout the North Shore and surrounding communities.



Tackling Disparities in Maternal Health

NorthShore OB/GYN and maternal-fetal medicine specialist [Ann Borders, MD, MSc, MPH](#), is a passionate advocate for improving quality of care for the most vulnerable. As the co-founder and executive director of the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC), she applies her expertise to improve the health and well-being of pregnant women, mothers and infants. The nationally recognized network of healthcare providers, patients and policymakers operates multiple initiatives to achieve better outcomes statewide.

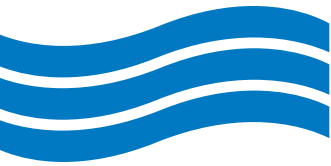
for White infants. The ILPQC aims to improve these statistics by partnering with Illinois' birthing hospitals and neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). The ongoing pandemic revealed this problem. "COVID-19 brought its own set of issues around disparities but also highlights issues that have been there all along," said Dr. Borders. As of mid-July, Illinois Department of Public Health data indicated 72% of pregnant women who had COVID-19 were Black or Hispanic, while only 29% of Illinois' population is Black or Hispanic.



One complex and alarming problem the ILPQC is tackling is the disparities and inequities in maternal and infant mortality for ethnic minorities. Black women are six times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related complication than White women, while infant mortality in Illinois is two to three times higher for Black infants than

In Memory of Our Friend, Bill

More than 250 grateful patients and colleagues of the late [William C. Banzhaf, MD](#), joined together to memorialize Dr. Banzhaf through the creation of The William C. Banzhaf, MD, Fund of Obstetrics and Gynecology Education. The Banzhaf Fund will support education and training opportunities for early-career OB/GYNs, including funds for resident education and enrichment, participation in an international program for underserved women and an award for technical skill in obstetric forceps.



Your Gift Changing Lives



EMPATHY Study Explores Painful Menstruation

More than 50% of women in the United States suffer from painful periods, putting them at risk for chronic pelvic pain disorders. [Frank Tu, MD, MPH](#), and [Kevin Hellman, PhD](#), of the Division of Gynecological Pain and Minimally Invasive Surgery, are co-investigators of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded “EMPATHY” study, which explores what factors underlie the emergence of menstrual pain and may predict the development of chronic visceral pain and general sensory sensitivity. The five-year study follows the progression of 375 adolescents using sensory testing, diary evaluations and the monitoring of brain activity. The study protocols will allow the most comprehensive identification of factors responsible for the development of menstrual and chronic visceral pain in a young cohort to-date.



Promising Strategy for Preventing Ovarian and Uterine Cancer

Prevention may be the key for decreasing morbidity and mortality from ovarian and uterine cancer. With support from [Bears Care](#) and other donors, [Gustavo Rodriguez, MD](#), NorthShore’s Matthews Family Chair of Gynecologic Oncology Research, has demonstrated that progestins—synthetic forms of the body’s naturally-occurring hormone progesterone—combined with vitamin D may be effective in preventing ovarian cancer as well as cancers arising in the uterine lining, which is the most common gynecologic cancer. Dr. Rodriguez hopes to translate this knowledge into the development of a pharmacological intervention to prevent such cancers.

Interventions for Perinatal Depression

NorthShore’s perinatal depression program provides universal screening for depression in pre- and postnatal patients and live hotline support for at-risk women. Such services have been in particular demand throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Support from [Muneer Satter and Kristen Hertel](#) and the [National Alliance on Mental Health \(NAMI\)](#) funded the development and testing of a smartphone app to identify women at high risk for perinatal mood disorders. Co-investigators [Richard Silver, MD](#), and [Jo Kim, PhD](#), published research validating

this mobile health technology as a promising strategy.

SAVE MOMS

SAVE MOMS is a data-driven solution to protecting and preserving maternal health. In the United States, severe maternal complications before, during and after pregnancy continue to rise. NorthShore is tackling this problem head-on. SAVE MOMS identifies early indicators of potential risks by using Epic, NorthShore’s sophisticated electronic health record (EHR) system, to continuously track the mother’s maternal health before, during and after delivery. In this manner, the healthcare team can be alerted to monitor and provide treatment to avert a disaster. Funds raised by the [NorthShore Auxiliary](#) support SAVE MOMS.

Perinatal Family Support Center

Thoughtful and generous donors make it possible to provide tangible resources to assist families through NorthShore’s Perinatal Family Support Center. The Center’s services help women and their families deal with challenges related to pregnancy, birth, prematurity and perinatal loss. Clinical staff from several disciplines work hand-in-hand with nurses and physicians to help families needing crisis intervention, providing emotional support and links to community resources while promoting family stability. The Center’s complementary inpatient and outpatient services are compassionate and culturally sensitive, drawing on the best-known practices nationwide.



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If you prefer not to receive further communication from NorthShore Foundation, simply email your request to philanthropy@northshore.org; contact [\(224\) 364-7200](tel:(224)364-7200); or mail to 1033 University Place, Suite 450, Evanston, IL 60201.