



## ENDOWMENT IMPACT SUMMARY

# Heart and Vascular Center Impact Report

Thank you for your support of The MetroHealth Heart and Vascular Center. Your generosity helps us deliver exceptional care to our patients and conduct focused research to improve patient outcomes. We're pleased to share some updates from the last year.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- MetroHealth is among the nation's top performing hospitals for treatment of heart attack patients, receiving the American College of Cardiology (ACC)'s NCDR Chest Pain - MI Registry™ Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2023. This award is presented annually to hospitals that demonstrate sustained excellence in the treatment of patients with chest pain and acute myocardial infarction (MI). As one of only 240 hospitals nationwide to receive this honor, MetroHealth has received the award for 11 consecutive years.
- The MetroHealth Heart and Vascular Center also received the American Heart Association's (AHA) Get With The Guidelines® - AFIB Gold Quality Achievement Award and the Get With The Guidelines® - Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.
- Meera Kondapaneni, MD, Division Chief, Division of Cardiology, has been appointed to the Louis Rakita, MD, David Rosenbaum, MD, Maurice Moss, MD, Professorship in Cardiology. Established in 2010 and most recently held by William Lewis, MD, this professorship is one of the Department of Medicine's most esteemed honors.
- MetroHealth hosted the AHA's Annual Jo Ann Hablitzel Legacy Research Reception in November 2023 at The Glick Center with a focus on community and equity in heart health. In addition to conversations with experts, AHA-funded researchers in Cleveland presented their latest innovative research on heart health and brain function.

## OUR RESEARCH

Research from Kenneth Laurita, PhD, focuses on atrial fibrillation and sudden cardiac arrest due to the deadliest abnormal heart rhythms. Dr. Laurita, in collaboration with Drs. Ohad Ziv and Soufian Almahameed, leverages state-of-the-art experimental tools in our animal electrophysiologic laboratory to further understanding of the origin of abnormal heart rhythms.

### Endowment funds supported research for two outstanding cardiology faculty members:

- Elizabeth Kaufman, MD, is a leading international expert on Long QT syndrome, a conduction disorder involving malfunction of the electrical system that controls the heartbeat, which leads to sudden cardiac death. Dr. Kaufman's work led to early diagnosis of this disease in genetically predisposed patients.
- Kathleen Quealy, MD, is establishing the Cardiovascular Multicultural Health Equity Center. Her work aims to reduce healthcare disparities in the community with a focus on equitable preventative care for women with pregnancy-induced high blood pressure (e.g., eclampsia, pre-eclampsia and pregnancy-induced hypertension).

## LECTURES

- **Robert C. Bahler, MD Endowment:** Allen Jaffe, MD, presented the prestigious Bahler Lectureship at MetroHealth in April 2024. Dr. Jaffe is Professor of Medicine in the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine and Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, and the Wayne and Kathryn Preisel Professorship for Cardiovascular Disease Research at Mayo Clinic.
- **Louis Rakita, MD and Maurice Moss, MD Professorship in Cardiology:** Patrick O’Gara, MD, presented the esteemed Rakita Lectureship at MetroHealth in May 2024. Dr. O’Gara is Professor of Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Watkins Family Distinguished Chair in Cardiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Deputy Editor of *JAMA Cardiology* and Senior Investigator for the NHLBI Cardiothoracic Surgery Trial Network.

## PUBLISHING AND EDUCATION

### *Philanthropic support helped:*

- **Cover journal publishing costs.** During the last two years, Heart and Vascular Center faculty and fellows published 43 peer-reviewed articles in various journals and numerous abstracts, and presented at national, international and regional meetings and scientific sessions.
- **Provide tomorrow’s talented cardiologists with opportunities to learn and grow.** The Heart and Vascular Center takes pride in shaping the next generation of cardiologists who deliver excellent patient care and go on to join leading academic institutions as clinician scientists, teachers and mentors. Funds are utilized to provide them with various enrichment opportunities including ACC’s online educational resources, as well as financial grants to present at national and international cardiology meetings hosted by the ACC and AHA.

## NEW STAFF AND CLINICAL PROGRAMS

- MetroHealth welcomed cardiologists Haytham Mously, MD, and Phoo Nandar, MD, the latter of whom started a cardiac amyloidosis program.
- Kathleen Quealy, MD, instituted a cardiology risk factor modification clinic for high-risk patients at MetroHealth’s Main Campus and Parma Medical Center.
- Aisha Siraj, MD, and Caitlin Zickes, APRN-CNP, established a chest pain clinic.
- Certified Nurse Practitioner Caitlin Zickes was the department’s first staff member to participate in MetroHealth’s new Advanced Practice Provider pilot program. In partnership with ThriveAP, this initiative aims to provide participants with support in onboarding, mentoring and clinical curriculum competencies that facilitate smoother transitions into their new roles and aid in achieving accreditation.
- A new Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehabilitation Unit opened at Parma Medical Center. This state-of-the-art space triples the size of the former unit at Main Campus and includes a walking track, new equipment, enhanced telemonitoring technology, changing rooms and meeting space.



Thank you again for your support, which is pivotal to advancing our patient care, gaining knowledge through our research and educating our future caregivers.

With gratitude,

**Meera Kondapaneni, MD**  
*Division Chief, Division of Cardiology*