



YOUR IMPACT

PHILANTHROPY MOVES HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY FORWARD

Thank You From Our Leadership



“With the partnership of donors and friends, HSS continues to help people return to doing what they need and love to do, better than any other place in the world.”

—HSS President and CEO Lou Shapiro and Surgeon-in-Chief Dr. Bryan Kelly

In this new year, we are filled with hope, as we roll out our COVID-19 vaccine program, and gratitude for the extraordinary generosity HSS has received from so many. After all the challenges we faced in 2020, including fighting COVID-19, HSS continued to deliver the highest-caliber musculoskeletal care in the safest environment—because of our incredible donors.

During the peak of the crisis in New York last year, caring supporters helped HSS team members facing hardships through the Employee Assistance Fund, protected staff with donations of PPE, and nourished the team with meals.

Throughout the year, our donor community also provided essential support for our mission, fueling patient care, research, and innovation. Donors expanded our virtual care offerings so that our patients had access to HSS expertise anywhere. Donors empowered our scientists to drive discoveries in rheumatology research and pursue new investigations to contribute to the understanding of the COVID-19 virus. Donors helped us to set new standards of musculoskeletal imaging. As you will read about in this issue, these are just a few ways generous friends made our life-changing work possible.

Together we continue to improve lives and shape the future of musculoskeletal medicine. **Thank you for moving HSS forward.**

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Philanthropy Changes Lives Through Patient Care and Research



Restoring Mobility and Hope

With the support of our donors, HSS has been able to continue doing what we do best—helping people, like Leslie, return to what they need and love to do. Two years ago, Leslie fell and broke her neck, requiring emergency surgery at a local hospital in North Carolina. Afterward, two screws dislodged from her bones, requiring another surgery at the same hospital. When the screws dislodged a second time, Leslie knew she had to turn to the top experts in the field. In February 2020, she traveled to HSS and learned she needed a very delicate and somewhat dangerous repair that our spine specialists could perform. With the arrival of COVID-19, Leslie had to postpone her surgery. Meanwhile, she connected with the HSS team through telehealth, which ensured a seamless patient experience for when she returned to New York in August. The surgery was successful, and after four weeks of rehab and physical therapy, Leslie was able to resume the life she loved.

“I suffered unbearable pain from December 2018 until August 2020. I lead a very active life, run my own mini-farm, and can now do it pain-free. I am so grateful to the incredible HSS team, who gave me my life back!”



Researcher in lab

Contributing to the Race to Understanding COVID-19

HSS launched the COVID-19 Research Initiative to leverage our expertise in immunology and rheumatic illnesses (which bear striking similarities to COVID-19) to contribute to the understanding of this disease and safeguard musculoskeletal patients. Generous donors have supported core resources and technologies and enabled HSS to award nine grants for COVID-related projects in basic, translational, and clinical research. Investigations range from examining whether exposure to COVID-19 leads to higher risk for poor outcomes following knee replacement surgery, to identifying biologic predictors of a favorable outcome in people with severe cases of the disease.



Scott Rodeo, MD, Attending Orthopedic Surgeon, provides virtual care to a patient

Making HSS Expertise Available to Patients Anywhere

HSS rapidly scaled up virtual health capabilities to enable thousands of patients to receive care in the safety of their homes from more than 200 physicians and 130 physical therapists during the pandemic. During the peak of the crisis in NYC between March and June, HSS provided care through more than 40,000 telehealth visits, and this number has surpassed 120,000 to date. Philanthropy strengthens the digital platform being developed that will ensure a seamless and positive patient experience, from diagnosis and treatment to recovery and rehabilitation.

Donor Spotlight: A Commitment to New Technology and Innovation When It Has Never Been More Needed

HSS Trustee Chase Coleman and his wife, Stephanie, recently made an extraordinary commitment of \$10 million to advance innovation in musculoskeletal imaging services and research. Their exceptional gift will establish the Coleman Imaging Center, in a new 12-story medical tower that will extend over the FDR Drive and serve as the cornerstone of the HSS main campus transformation. The Colemans' gift will also provide vital funding for junior scientists focused on driving discoveries in musculoskeletal imaging.

The Colemans have long been dedicated supporters of HSS, as a result of the lifesaving care Mr. Coleman received when he broke his neck in 2009. Having initially been incorrectly diagnosed at another hospital, Mr. Coleman credits Hollis G. Potter, MD, Chairman of the Department of Radiology and Imaging, for providing a correct diagnosis and guiding him through the surgery and recovery processes that allowed him to resume skiing, surfing, and doing the things he loved.

Dr. Potter is internationally recognized for her expertise in developing MRI applications for orthopedic conditions. She has developed leading protocols for using MRI to safely and effectively examine metal joint replacements. The Colemans' leadership support has been vital to sustaining her work, as they previously established the HSS Coleman Magnetic Resonance Imaging Center at the Main Hospital, the Coleman Chair in Magnetic Resonance Imaging Research, which is held by Dr. Potter, and the Coleman Chair in Magnetic Resonance Imaging Physics.



Chase Coleman (center) and his wife, Stephanie, (left) with Hollis G. Potter, MD (sitting)

“Chase and Stephanie’s steadfast generosity and dedication have been instrumental to our efforts to define imaging for the field of musculoskeletal medicine. We are immensely grateful for their partnership.”

—Hollis G. Potter, MD, Chairman of the Department of Radiology and Imaging, Coleman Chair in MRI Research



Meet Physician-in-Chief S. Louis Bridges Jr., MD, PhD

S. Louis (“Lou”) Bridges Jr., MD, PhD, joined HSS in September 2020 as Physician-in-Chief, Chair of the Department of Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Rheumatology. Dr. Bridges is an internationally recognized clinician-scientist in arthritis, rheumatology, and immunology. Previously at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Dr. Bridges brings his expertise to New York; his move during a global pandemic underscores his commitment to improving lives and shaping the future of rheumatology. Thrilled to be part of the HSS family, Dr. Bridges shares more below about his goals for HSS and the importance of philanthropy in advancing our mission.

Q | What are some of your priorities in your first year at HSS?

One of my top priorities is to build upon the already distinguished legacy of clinical research in rheumatology at HSS and expand infrastructure to support its growth. The goal is to translate more quickly discoveries made in the lab into new treatment options for patients.

A second goal involves developing our faculty. We plan to enhance mentoring opportunities between junior investigators and established faculty members, as well as recruit accomplished clinical and translational researchers to expand our research portfolio.

Q | What research do you find most promising in the field of rheumatology right now?

I am excited by big data analyses. We can analyze huge datasets like those provided by the Medicare claims databases that are integrated with clinical, demographic, and other information from electronic health records to address previously unanswerable questions in patient care. In a recent study, researchers created a model on electronic health record data to predict future flares of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) in patients.

The use of machine learning in image analysis is another promising area of research. For example,

my colleagues and I are hosting a global challenge to generate computer algorithms that can automatically quantify the degree of joint damage in radiographic images from RA patients.

Q | Why is donor support critical to furthering our mission?

Donors help HSS to speed discoveries that will lead to better treatments. For example, generous donors have provided pilot grants to talented researchers to pursue innovative investigations that may not yet be ready for applications to funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health. One such project, led by Dr. Bella Mehta, is using a large amount of clinical, genetic, and imaging data to define different subsets of osteoarthritis (OA) patients undergoing knee replacement surgery. The goal is to identify the characteristics of patients who have the most (or least) improvement in quality of life after knee replacement. This will help to advance personalized care for more than 30 million people in the U.S. affected by OA. This project demonstrates that when HSS investigators apply technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to very large, complex datasets, we move closer to unlocking new ways to improve outcomes.

Philanthropy is critical to future breakthroughs in patient care by providing funding to pursue exciting new directions of research.