



# 2013-2014 Meharry Medical College Donor Honor Roll





Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is my pleasure to present the 2013-2014 Honor Roll of Donors.

The Honor Roll of Donors affords us the opportunity to recognize and thank those of you whose generosity has had such a positive impact on our students, faculty, staff, alumni and the communities we serve. It showcases the invaluable support provided by you over the past year. I am profoundly grateful to the thousands of loyal alumni, friends and organizations whose gifts in fiscal year 2014 enabled us to advance research, train a new cadre of leaders in medicine, dentistry and science, upgrade and maintain facilities, and sustain a productive, caring faculty.

Meharry Medical College is blessed with a multitude of loyal donors that help enable us to put the promise of a health professions education within reach of deserving students. The involvement of alumni, friends, faculty, staff, corporate sponsors, organizations and private foundations has sustained our unique learning culture, and will help nurture the College's future achievements for years to come.

Thank you for continuing to honor Meharry Medical College with your annual contributions, especially scholarship support for our deserving students; this is a top priority in 2015 and beyond.

The pages that follow honor you, our generous contributors, who help sustain the people, programs, and learning environment that make the distinctive and meaningful contributions of Meharry faculty, students and alumni possible.

On behalf of the entire Meharry campus community . . . thank you!

Sincerely,

A. Cherrie Epps, Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**W**e are pleased to recognize alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, organizations, foundations and corporations who have made gifts to Meharry Medical College during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. All gifts received from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 are included in the Honor Roll, including corporate matching gifts and commemorative gifts. This Honor Roll of Donors is an opportunity for us to acknowledge every investor in Meharry Medical College during the past fiscal year. We are grateful to all who shared their financial resources to help preserve and advance Meharry's historic mission. We simply could not operate without your past and present generosity. Meharry uses the resources you generously provide to create new opportunities for students and to invest in faculty and programs that foster interdisciplinary programs and learning. You help us to continue our commitment to excellence in teaching, research and service that makes a difference here and around the world. Thank You! With these two words, we convey our heartfelt appreciation of your generosity and support.

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Great care was taken to ensure the accuracy of the Honor Roll listings, and we would appreciate you alerting us to any errors or omissions. Please direct your inquiries to Enola P. Walton, Executive Director, Office of Donor Relations, Institutional Advancement, Meharry Medical College – 1005 Dr. D.B. Todd Jr. Blvd., Nashville, TN 37208; telephone (800) 634-2779 or email: advancement@mmc.edu



Rabbi Mark Schifitan, Senior Rabbi at The Temple, Nashville, addresses the attendees at the 18th Annual Circle of Friends Gala in honor of one of Circle's founding members, the late Rabbi Randall Falk.

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## THE FACES OF GENEROSITY



### David Litowsky, M.D.

As a result of a direct mail fundraising appeal from Meharry Medical College, David Litowsky, M.D. and his late wife, Mary R. Litowsky, became patrons of the College in 1978. Because of Dr. Litowsky's love for his wife, a posthumous scholarship was established in her memory, in 2012, named The Mary R. Litowsky Endowed Scholarship Fund at Meharry.

Married to a "beautiful redhead and his best friend" for 59 years, Dr. Litowsky acknowledges that the determining factor to

give to Meharry was left up to his wife. "The choice was made because of Meharry's motto, 'Worship of God Through Service to Mankind' and its mission of serving the underserved," admits Litowsky.

Mary Litowsky was a woman devoted to education and scholarships. To her, these were the answers to a better world. "My wife was loved by all," said Litowsky. "She was very bright and when someone did well, she gained as much happiness as the person who was doing well. It didn't surprise me when she agreed to give to a college with such a powerful message."

The Mary R. Litowsky Endowed Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to a sophomore medical student who is in financial need, in good standing with the College and committed to advancing the health of people living in low socioeconomic and disadvantaged communities.

"It makes me feel good in my soul to help people," Litowsky said. "Much of our educational system is mediocre. If you have any compassion for people, you know the mission of Meharry is very important."

Now retired, Dr. Litowsky lives in Houston and has five grown daughters, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and another great-grandchild, a girl, on the way in February 2015.



Board of Trustee members and President A. Cherrie Epps, Ph.D. gather to enjoy the 18th Annual Circle of Friends Gala and engage with donors and friends of Meharry.

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**Mr. Jack Martin, founder of the Hickory Hill Scholarship, talks with the 2013 scholarship recipient, third-year medical student, Priscilla Amoah.**

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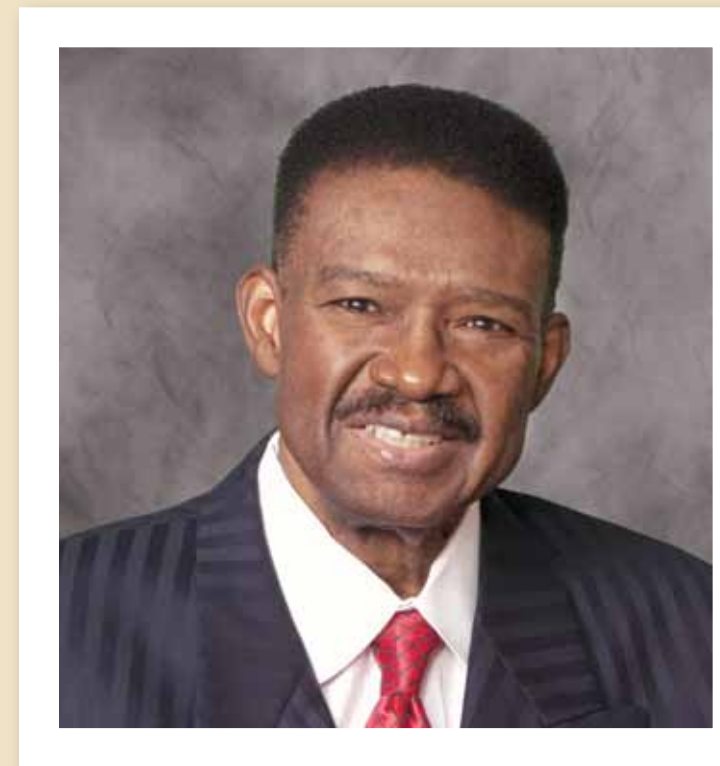
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Lorenzo Ferguson, M.D. '77

Though he didn't know what type of physician he would be, Lorenzo Ferguson, M.D. '77 did know he wanted to be a physician at 9-years-old.

Originally from Miami, Dr. Ferguson completed his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1977 and finished his general surgery residency at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan.

As a student, Ferguson did clinical rotations at the VA Medical Center in Tuskegee, Alabama. “The VA played an important role in my life as a physician and a surgeon,” said Ferguson. “That was where I really learned how to operate and what surgery is about. I operated on my first patient at the VA and did the entire procedure by myself.”

Dr. Ferguson is one of the initial *Guardians of Our Legacy*, a group of donors who have given \$100,000 or more to the College. He and his wife established The Lorenzo Ferguson, M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund to help defray tuition expenses for students in need.

“One thing that has really inspired me and made me want to give more is [Meharry's] staff, their faculty,” said Ferguson. “They're wonderful. They're great. They're dedicated to teaching and they pour their whole heart into it. Whatever time is needed to help a student, they'll give it to them.” He goes on to say that Meharry's professors were a big influence in “helping me become a good man, physician and father.”

Now retired, he lives with his wife, Diane, in West Bloomfield, Michigan. They have one son, Lorenzo Eugene, one daughter, Kinyel Yori Friday and one granddaughter, Leslie Gabrielle Ferguson.



**Representing the longstanding scholarship support of the Black College Fund and the United Methodist Church, Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson is joined by several scholarship recipients at the annual Scholarship Donor Recognition Breakfast prior to the 2013 Convocation Ceremony.**

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**Edward H. Chappelle Jr., D.D.S. '79 and Daphne C. Ferguson-Young, D.D.S. '79, M.S.P.H. '06 gather with William Carter Jr., D.D.S. '79 (sitting, left) and Alfonso M. Clark, D.D.S. '79 (sitting, right) to celebrate their 35th year class reunion during the Alumni Gala.**

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## THE FACES OF GENEROSITY



**Barbara Sias Chinn, D.D.S. '73**  
Retired Colonel, United States Army

After her second year of dental school, Barbara Sias Chinn, D.D.S. '73 secured a summer job in the Mississippi Delta town of Ruleville, Mississippi where she was privileged to work alongside American voting rights activist and civil rights leader, the late Dr. Fannie Lou Hamer.

“She was definitely one of my earliest heroes,” said Dr. Chinn. She pointed out that Hamer always had great admiration for Meharry Medical College and its students. “She would always

tell me, ‘It’s up to you to help the people, the schools and the community as well as doing dentistry,’” said Chinn. “For that reason, I still have to be about the mission of Meharry.”

Raised in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, Chinn earned her B.S. degree in biology from Tougaloo College and received her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1973. She joined the army after graduating from Meharry and completed a one-year general dentistry residency at Fort Benning, outside of Columbus, Georgia. In 1987, Chinn completed an additional residency program in extensive general dentistry at Fort Ord in Monterey Bay, California.

In 1995, Chinn retired from the army and opened up a private practice in Harker Heights, Texas, recruiting her fellow Meharrarian, oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Lavelle Ford, D.D.S. '76, to work in the building with her.

Dr. Chinn is a member of the West Society and has established The Barbara Sias Chinn, D.D.S. Endowed Scholarship for students in financial need. Earlier this year, she became a member of the *Guardians of our Legacy*, a group of alumni who have donated \$100,000 or more to the College. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a board member of the Heart of Texas Credit Union, a Diplomat of the Federal Services Board of General Dentistry, past president of the Central Texas Dental Society and a member of the Greater Vision Community Church.

Dr. Chinn is currently a resident of Harker Heights, Texas and is the mother of two adult sons.

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### Piedmont Natural Gas

As the Piedmont Natural Gas community relations manager for Tennessee, Stephen Francescon's duties revolve around managing Piedmont's great relationships with Nashville's communities and nonprofit organizations. Discovering Meharry's many offerings for patients, students and community made it a natural match to Piedmont Natural Gas' commitment to support noticeable, positive change through philanthropic funding and/or volunteering in communities.

"Piedmont Natural Gas became a Meharry supporter as a result of several excellent meetings discussing the history of Meharry and touring the campus with Karen Berson, Meharry's associate vice president for corporate and foundation relations," said Francescon. "After learning so much about Meharry and the surrounding community from Karen and Piedmont Natural Gas employee Pam Thomas, it became obvious there was potential for a relationship." Since the company's association with the College, Meharry successfully applied for a competitive Environmental and Sustainability Grant through the Piedmont Natural Gas Foundation. "The Piedmont Courtyard at



The Piedmont Courtyard of The Cal Turner Family Center for Student Education

The Cal Turner Family Center for Student Education at Meharry now stands in testament to Piedmont Natural Gas and Meharry's continuing partnership," Francescon said.

The relationship with Meharry continues to expand. Piedmont Natural Gas is instrumental in funding Meharry 12 South Community Clinic, a student-run free clinic. Francescon notes, "Being involved and invited into the Meharry community, we are witnessing so much good being done. We want to continue having the opportunity of being a part of Meharry's many great projects and actions."

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**Lavelle Ford, D.D.S. '76**  
Retired Colonel, United States Army

Lavelle Ford, D.D.S. '76 was born in Jones, Louisiana and graduated, with honors, from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in January 1969. He was soon commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps.

After serving a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1970-71, Dr. Ford enrolled in Meharry's School of Dentistry where he received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. He said he was drawn to Meharry because of its rich

legacy and its history of providing health care to those less fortunate. Upon completion of an internship at Hubbard Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, Ford re-entered the army and, in 1986, completed his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

In 1995, Ford retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army and was recruited by fellow Meharrian, Barbara Sias Chinn, D.D.S. '73, to work in her dental building in Harker Heights, Texas. Ford currently owns and operates Central Texas Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the building he shares with Chinn. "Dr. Chinn and I have been friends and colleagues for many years," said Ford. "Even though we have independent practices in the same building, our proximity has provided for an excellent symbiotic relationship allowing us to expeditiously share professional advice regarding our patients, as well as timely, direct referrals, as necessary."

Dr. Ford believes alumni should make it a point to give back to their alma mater. "Meharry is really a gem and we, as alumni, should do all we can to make sure it is around for future generations," he said.

In 2013, Dr. Ford and his wife established The Roberta and Lavelle Ford D.D.S. Scholarship Fund to assist dental students in their pursuit of a career in dentistry.

Among Ford's numerous military honors, he holds memberships in Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society, the American Dental Association and the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and was named Alumnus of the Year in 2011.

Dr. Ford and his wife, Roberta, have three adult children and eight grandchildren.

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 Sandra R. G. Diggs, M.D.  
 Willie M. Hubbard, M.D.  
 Robert L. Jackson, M.D.  
 Melissa D. Moseberry, M.D.  
 Ruthven N. Sampath, M.D.  
 Jimmie L. B. Shuler, M.D.  
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 Monica Thornhill-Joynes, M.D.  
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Vernon H. Ross, M.D.  
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Michael N. Williams, D.D.S.

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Barbara Duncan-Cody, M.D.

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Arno H. Fried, M.D.  
Pamela Huffman-DeVaughn, M.D.  
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Gerald P. Pierre, M.D.  
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John F. D. Stroy, M.D.

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Robert L. Williams Jr., M.D. \*

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Melville Q. Wyche III, M.D.

### Class of 1990

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Alvernica Whitfield-Lucas, D.D.S.  
Shelley L. Williams-Griffin, M.D.

### Class of 1991

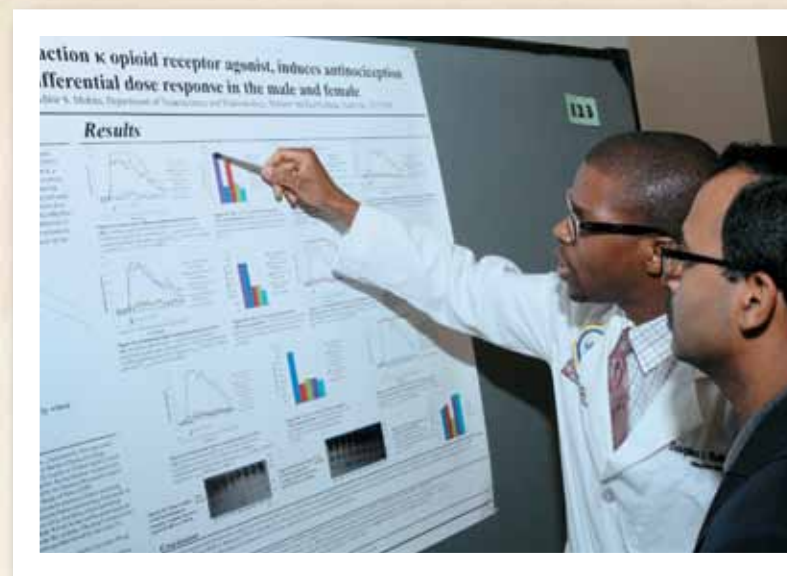
Winifred D. Bragg, M.D.  
Marie G. Debnam, M.D.  
Marjorie L. Debnam, M.D.  
Lisa H. Lowe, M.D.  
William R. Mays, M.D.  
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Dr. and Mrs. Paul R. Tanner

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Lanetta A. Coleman, M.D.  
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D. Carl Jackson, D.D.S.  
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Yvette M. Stokes, D.D.S.

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John H. Hart, M.D.  
June D. Williams-Colman, M.D.  
Anant Yadav, M.D.  
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A student gains valuable feedback and experience while presenting his research presentation during the 2014 Student Research Day at Meharry.

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Melanie E. Mayberry, D.D.S.  
Patricia M. Mullings, M.D.  
Vuyisile S. Nkomo, M.D.  
Zandra R. Petway, M.D.  
Raymond A. Pla Jr., M.D.  
Marie C. Smith, M.D.  
Joy L. Taylor Daniels, M.D.



Fred C. Fielder, D.D.S. '60, representing the Fred C. Fielder, D.D.S. Endowed Scholarship greets scholarship recipients at the 2013 Convocation Scholarship Donor Recognition Breakfast.

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Margaret A. Tandoh, M.D.

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Napoleon Higgins  
Ali M. Osman, M.D.  
LaTanya L. Pearson, Ph.D.  
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Michael E. Menefee, M.D.  
Anil Nanda, M.D.  
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Mialika K. Watkins, D.D.S.  
Thomas C. Williams, D.D.S.  
Anonymous Alumni Donor  
Dr. Richard P. Garvin

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Walter A. Milton, MPH  
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Annie M. Riley-Bussey, M.D.  
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Jennifer B. McCants, D.D.S.  
Samantha E. McLerran, M.D.  
Bishawn W. Morris, M.D.  
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Sherri M. Simpson, M.D.  
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Machelle F. Thompson, MPH  
David A. Travillion, M.D.  
Asher A. Turney, M.D.

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Vikas Singh, M.D.  
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Siddharth Pratap, Ph.D.  
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Kendra D. Sheppard, M.D.  
Terry L. Spurlin, D.D.S.

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Andria J. Humphrey-Johnson, M.D.  
Andre Williams, D.D.S.

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Elder Granger, M.D., FACP  
Mark Heidel, M.D.  
Emmanuel Okoro, M.D.  
Ogbeyalu Onumah, Ph.D.  
Maureen Seitz, M.D.  
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Lavonne S. Hairston, M.D.  
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Dominic H. Tang, M.D.

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Heather D. Horton, M.D.  
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Terrence L. Walker, D.D.S.  
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Erica L. Judge, M.D.  
Idoreyin P. Montague, M.D.  
Horace A. Russell Jr., M.D.  
Karmen S. Williams, MSPH

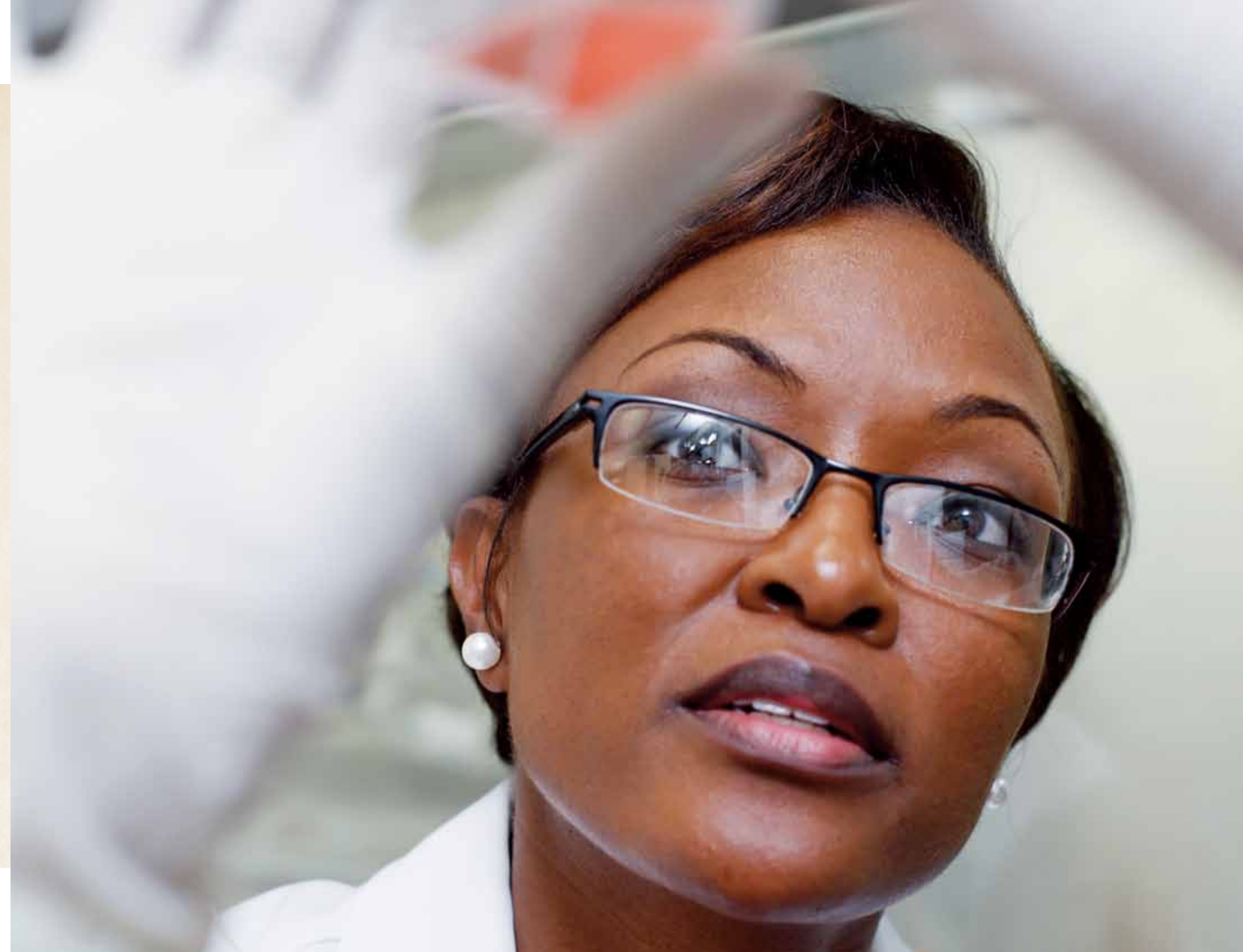
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Kaur N. Bhatt, M.D.  
Shannon T. Bogan, M.D.  
Grant A. Bond, M.D.  
Shandeidra N. Bonds, M.D.  
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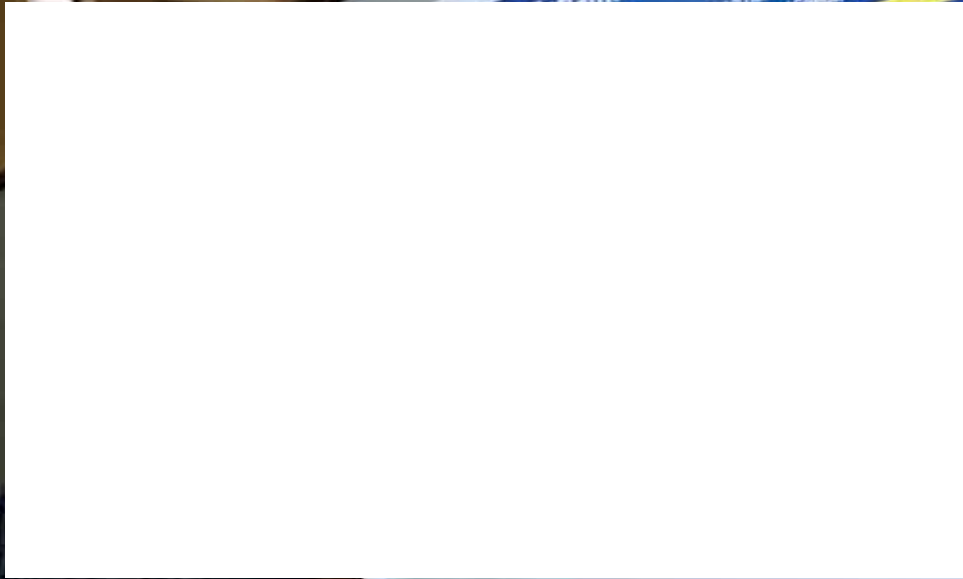
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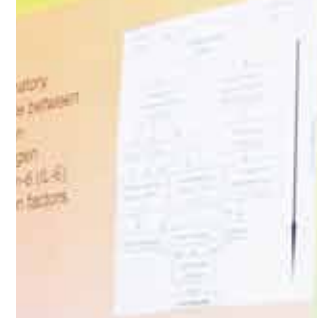
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# Inflammation and it's Role in Age-Related

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atherosclerotic plaques. Aging of the  
 endothelium. Clinically, these changes  
 atherosclerosis, hypertension and  
 endothelial nitric oxide synthetase (eNOS)  
 inducing endothelial cell senescent

**Background**  
 Insulin resistance (IR) is a common feature of obesity and is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. IR is characterized by a decreased ability of insulin to stimulate glucose uptake in skeletal muscle and adipose tissue. IR is a key component of the metabolic syndrome, a cluster of conditions that increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes.

**Senescent Obesity**  
 Senescent obesity appears to be linked with the upregulation of TNF-alpha, IL-6, leptin and myostatin and with the down-regulation of adiponectin and IGF-1. Myostatin is a protein that inhibits muscle differentiation and growth in myogenesis. Leptin and adiponectin are adipocyte factors released from adipocytes. While adiponectin, an insulin-sensitizing effector, is anti-inflammatory, limiting NF-kB, decreasing the production of TNF-alpha and IFN-gamma, and increasing anti-inflammatory cytokines, IL-10 and IL-1RA. Leptin is the opposite. Leptin is pro-inflammatory and functions by increasing TNF-alpha, IL-6 and IGF-1 secretion from hepatocytes.

**Cancer**  
 The most significant risk factor for developing cancer is advancing age. In humans, cancer incidence increases exponentially after age 50. Furthermore, aging and cancer share many of the same underlying processes of cellular senescence. Although cellular senescence is a protective mechanism to prevent cellular growth, it can be detrimental as well. Senescent cells secrete a pro-inflammatory phenotype (SASP), which includes an increase in the secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines and growth factors. Through various mechanisms, SASP promotes the development of cancer by allowing of emerging cancer cells to evade the immune response.