



SIGNATURE SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS KATHLEEN & VARI DIRECTLY BENEFIT VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE'S CANCER AND PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH, AS WELL AS THE INSTITUTE'S CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE EDUCATION INITIATIVES. YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES THE INSTITUTE WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER LEADING RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS, ESTABLISH CRITICAL CLINICAL TRIALS AND MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF HUMAN HEALTH

## ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

# IMPACT OF YOUR SPONSORSHIP

### COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborative partnerships with national and international organizations continue to have a profound impact on the Institute's biomedical research initiatives. The Van Andel Research Institute—Stand Up To Cancer (VARI—SU2C) Epigenetics Dream Team and the Institute's partnership with UK-based research charity The Cure Parkinson's Trust help move potential lifechanging therapies from the lab to the clinic.

### CANCER

The VARI—SU2C Epigenetics Dream Team is a paradigmshifting, collaborative effort that brings together leading scientists, physicians and pharmaceutical companies to compete against cancer rather than each other. Since 2014, the team has launched six clinical trials to investigate potentially life-changing therapies for metastatic colorectal cancer, myelodysplastic syndrome, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia and acute myeloid leukemia.

### PARKINSON'S DISEASE

VARI scientists are searching for ways to slow or stop Parkinson's disease progression, something no current treatment can do. Chief among these efforts is drug repurposing, which investigates medications developed or approved for one condition as possible treatments for another. Through the Linked Clinical Trials initiative, an effort spearheaded by The Cure Parkinson's Trust in collaboration with VARI, scientists in the U.S. and abroad are evaluating existing medications as possible disease-modifying treatments for Parkinson's. These efforts include clinical trials with the diabetes drugs liraglutide and exenatide, the cholesterol drug simvastatin and the respiratory drug ambroxol.

### SCIENCE EDUCATION

In 2017, Van Andel Education Institute worked directly with 925 students and more than 1,300 teachers. Since its launch in April 2015, over 4,000 teachers have signed up to use NexGen Inquiry®, the Institute's online, inquiry-based science education platform. The innovative, interactive resource serves as a digital science journal where teachers and students can conduct experiments, record and analyze data, and share hypotheses. Since the product's launch more than 114,000 student assignments have been issued through this groundbreaking platform.

These recent initiatives and accomplishments are possible because of the efforts of a dedicated, Thank you for your interest in Van Andel Institute's mission and supporting this signature special event.

