



I WOULD LIKE EACH
OF YOU TO JOIN ME AND
MY FAMILY IN HONORING
MY MOTHER'S LEGACY OF
MEDICAL RESEARCH BY
SUPPORTING VAN ANDEL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

My mother was born in the small Western Michigan town of Grand Haven on February 12, 1947. After attending Michigan State University, Kathleen moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan where she started her life-long career in medical research working for The Upjohn Company. Over the next 40 years she raised a rebellious son while accomplishing more than I am able share in this narrative, but I'll try to provide some highlights.

After leaving Kalamazoo for Chicago in the mid-1980's where she knew absolutely no one, Kathleen met Dr. Michael Davidson and together they established the Chicago Center for Clinical Research. My mom's vision, expertise and forward-thinking in clinical trial strategy has been long recognized in the industry and is documented in numerous presentations and publications. Her passion became clinical research for those that had traditionally been left behind; women, children and minorities. She was a pioneer in women's health research and



Kathleen Drennan

pediatric clinical trials. In the 10 years preceding her death, my mother oversaw numerous high-profile national studies for women involving heart disease, osteoporosis, obesity and estrogen replacement, including the HERS and Pepi trials. She was also one of the founding members of the Society for Women's Health Research in Washington, D.C., where she was on the board of directors. My mother was the Editor-in-Chief for Elsevier's prestigious journal *Contemporary Clinical Trials*. She was inducted into the University of Illinois Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame in 1995.

My mother had a myriad of professional accomplishments, but what I know she is most proud of is the opportunity she had to work with and mentor the many people who she crossed paths with throughout her career. She had a special place for women in healthcare and she touched the lives of many who continue to carry on her work today.

My mother did all of this while battling a multitude of health-related challenges of her own. She had cancer 5 times ... yes, 5 times: Hodgkin's disease — not once, but two times; gastric cancer, where 2/3 of her stomach was resected; renal cancer, where one of her kidneys was removed; and finally, inoperable renal cancer. She beat this disease time and time again due to great doctors and aggressive approaches to treatment. Her endurance was remarkable, and she is in heaven today knowing that she never lost her battle with cancer. Unfortunately, due to radiation treatments from her previous cancer, she developed heart disease. She experienced her first heart attack in Chicago in her 50s, another one in Colorado and finally, her last one on Sunday, September 29, 2013. What most people don't know is that she biked 13 miles on the lakeshore the day before her heart attack. She looked great and she was feeling even better until the very end of her life.

I would like each of you to join me and my family in honoring my mother's legacy of medical research by supporting Van Andel Research Institute. We will celebrate her on the Chicago Lakeshore while we bike the 13 mile loop that she was so fond of. My passion is her passion — together we can continue Kathleen's work of eradicating the devastating diseases that affect us all.



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 life-changing therapies from the lab to the clinic.

CANCER

The VARI—SU2C Epigenetics Dream Team is a paradigm-shifting, 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, passionate donor and sponsor community. Thank you for your interest in Van Andel Institute's mission and supporting this signature special event.





CELEBRATING A LEGACY
OF RESEARCH



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DIAMOND SPONSOR \$2,000

- Two complimentary entries to the bike ride on October 13
- Two complimentary tickets to the dinner reception
- Name or company logo featured on event t-shirt
- Name or company logo on all e-invites and marketing
- Name or company logo featured on social media
- Name or company logo featured on event website

GOLD SPONSOR \$1,000

- Two complimentary tickets to the dinner reception
- Name or company logo featured on event t-shirt
- Name or company logo on all e-invites and marketing
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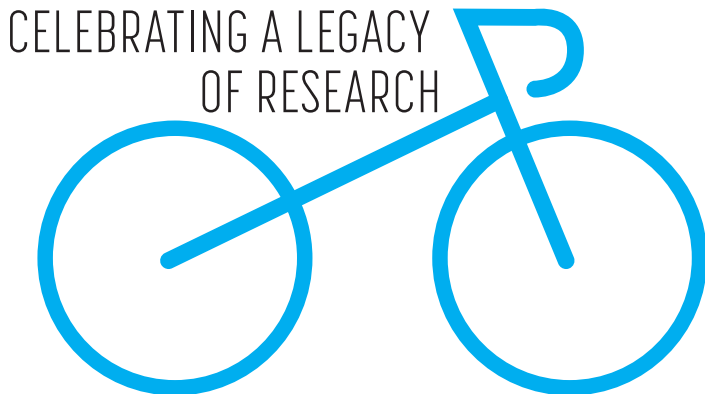
BRONZE SPONSOR \$500

- Two complimentary entries to the bike ride on October 13
- Name or company logo featured on event t-shirt
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CELEBRATING A LEGACY
OF RESEARCH

SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

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_____ **GOLD SPONSOR** \$1,000

_____ **BRONZE SPONSOR** \$500

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_____ Our check is enclosed and made payable to Van Andel Institute.

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(Please provide .eps and .jpg file formats in color and B/W if possible.)
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