

GBMC

FOR
THE

**GREATER
GOOD**

FALL NEWSLETTER 2025



**Introducing Dr. Paari Gopalakrishnan
GBMC's New President and CEO**

Dr. Paari Gopalakrishnan Is GBMC's New Leader



GBMC has found a proven physician leader in its new President and Chief Executive Officer, Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA. In his time as Chief Medical Officer and then President and Chief Operating Officer for Kent Hospital, in Warwick, Rhode Island, Dr. Gopalakrishnan has certainly been tested.

The past five years have been some of the most challenging in health care. The COVID-19 pandemic alone stretched resources in the moment, as teams struggled to treat the earliest COVID patients while remaining uninfected themselves. Hospitals lost revenue as inpatient procedures were postponed. In the months and years that followed, the cost

of delivering care soared. Dr. Gopalakrishnan not only led Kent Hospital through these storms, but he successfully navigated a course back to financial stability.

Finding True North

In looking back on that time, Dr. Gopalakrishnan is clear about the

keys to leading such a turnaround. “This is where your mission, vision, values – what the organization wants to do – has to be front and center. That has to be the true north. If you keep that in front of you, then the decisions you are making are aligned with that.”

GBMC's mission, vision, and values have guided the health care system well. In the time he has spent learning about the organization and its leaders, Dr. Gopalakrishnan has determined that GBMC is well positioned for continued success. “I think Dr. Chessare's legacy is very clear,” he says. “GBMC has invested in cancer care, in the older adult population, palliative care, and hospice. GBMC has a very loyal and aligned market.”

Two of Dr. Gopalakrishnan's key initiatives at Kent align with advancement here. Kent launched Rhode Island's first and only Hospital-at-Home program and





Dr. Gopalakrishnan and his wife, Ellen, with their 5 children

expanded access to geriatric and specialty care at about the same time GBMC developed its Advanced Primary Care program and Gilchrist expanded in-home eldercare services.

Leading Through Service

Dr. Gopalakrishnan was raised in College Station, Texas, and received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He

completed his internal medicine residency at Brown University, and earned his MBA with honors from Bryant University. His career spans both clinical and administrative leadership roles, including at Greenville Health System in South Carolina and earlier positions at Kent Hospital and The Miriam Hospital in Rhode Island.

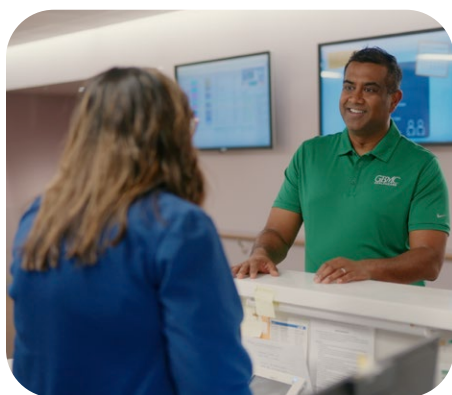
Dr. Gopalakrishnan and his wife, Ellen Slater Gopalakrishnan, have been married since 2003 and have five children. Ellen is a Nurse Practitioner in hematology and oncology. The family is continuing a tradition of helping others.

“My parents instilled in me the importance of education, hard work, kindness, and most importantly, making a positive mark on this world,” he says. “They would say, ‘It isn’t about the money

you make, but rather the impact you make in this world.’

“Making an impact resonated with me,” he continues. “It was my driving force in becoming a physician. As a practicing hospitalist, I had the privilege of directly supporting the well-being of my patients daily.

“However, it was through my involvement in a quality improvement project that I came to appreciate the broader and more lasting impact I could make for my patients and community by stepping into a leadership role. Something shifted for me. I pursued my MBA 20 years ago with the aspiration of driving meaningful change in patient care at a system level and one day becoming the CEO of a health system.”



A New Era for Women's Health at GBMC



Women have always been at the center of GBMC's story. From our earliest days, when the Hospital for the Women of Maryland, of Baltimore City cared for patients who too often had nowhere else to turn, to the present, our mission has been the same: to listen, to care, and to provide exceptional support for every woman who walks through our doors.

That commitment is why we are creating the new Women's Center in the Founders Pavilion (formerly Physicians Pavilion West). For too many women, the path to care has been frustrating and fragmented—long waits, conflicting opinions,

and the painful feeling of not being heard. Too many have been told to simply “live with” symptoms that disrupt their lives. This new Center says: no more.

Under the leadership of Dr. Joan Blomquist, Chair of the Department of Gynecology, the Women's Center brings together experts in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery, urogynecology, menopause care, and pelvic floor physical therapy. Here, women will find coordinated care in one place, delivered by clinicians who combine extraordinary skill with deep compassion.

The timing is urgent: In Baltimore County, women over 65 are the fastest-growing part of the population. Nearly three out of four postmenopausal women experience symptoms that impact their quality of life. Gynecologic cancer rates are climbing. And nationally, women continue to be

diagnosed later than men across hundreds of diseases and remain underrepresented in clinical research.

Inside The Women's Center, care will be personalized and empowering. Minimally invasive surgery will allow faster recovery. Menopause specialists will offer real, evidence-based solutions rooted in science—not quick fixes or gimmicks. Pelvic floor therapies will help women regain dignity and confidence. Preventive strategies, like removing fallopian tubes during other surgeries, will reduce lifetime cancer risk.

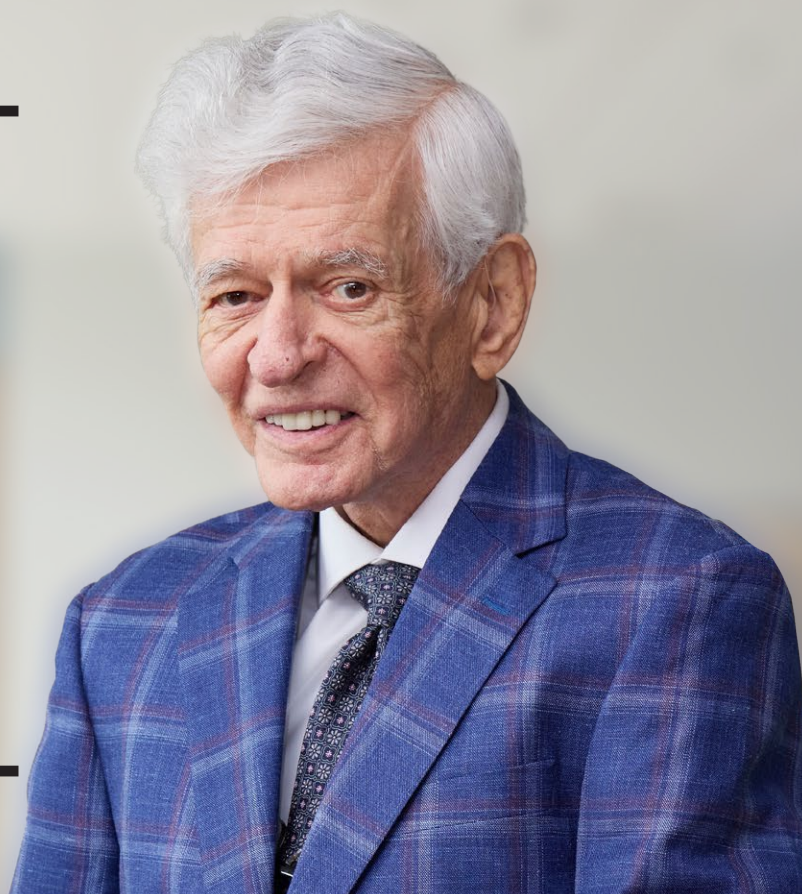
Dr. Blomquist has spent nearly three decades at GBMC helping women navigate some of life's most personal health challenges. Her leadership has been instrumental in building a Center that is not only clinically excellent but also emotionally supportive—a place where women feel truly seen, heard, and cared for.

The Women's Center is more than a new facility. It is a reflection of GBMC's past and a promise for the future. By creating this space within our new Founders Pavilion, we honor our history while ensuring the next generation of women has access to the care they deserve.

Together, with the support of our community, we are shaping a future where every woman is cared for with respect and compassion.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Malcolm
Berman
1936-2025*



GBMC HealthCare honors the life and legacy of **Malcolm Berman**—a visionary philanthropist, devoted husband, and builder of health, healing, and hope.

Together, Malcolm and Sandy, his wife of 68 years, changed patient care at GBMC and for Greater Baltimore. Their spirit of giving to make the world better inspired the creation of the Sandra & Malcolm Berman Cancer Institute, the Sandra & Malcolm Comprehensive Breast Care Center, and the Sandra & Malcolm Berman Medical Office Building. In a lasting tribute to his wife, Malcolm named the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion in her honor, a reflection of his deep love for Sandy and their shared commitment to caring for the community.

We extend our deepest condolences to Sandy and the entire Berman family.

Malcolm's legacy is one of love, compassion, and enduring impact.

With gratitude,

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GBMC Marks 60 Years of Beginnings and a Future Built on Care



President Dwight D. Eisenhower helped to dedicate the Greater Baltimore Medical Center on October 2, 1965.

On October 2, 1965, Greater Baltimore Medical Center opened its doors with a promise that remains unchanged six decades later: to always put the patient first. This foundational commitment was born from the merger of two visionary institutions – the Hospital for the Women of Maryland, of Baltimore City and Presbyterian Eye, Ear and Throat Charity Hospital. From the beginning, GBMC was shaped by a mission centered around health, healing, and hope.

The vision for GBMC began in the 1950s, when Mrs. H. Norman Baetjer and Mrs. Edward Yaggy, leaders from the two legacy

institutions, recognized the need for a new kind of hospital to serve the growing Towson community. Mrs. Yaggy led the acquisition of land from Sheppard Pratt, paving the way for the merger and the official naming of “Greater Baltimore Medical Center” in 1959. Just six years later, the hospital opened its doors, with President Dwight D. Eisenhower addressing nearly 2,500 community members at the dedication ceremony.

Since that historic day, GBMC has grown into a comprehensive health system, caring for patients across every stage of life. Witness to countless new beginnings – from

a baby’s first breath to a cancer patient’s final treatment, and all the moments in between – GBMC has stood as a trusted partner in health, providing care during life’s most meaningful milestones.

As GBMC celebrates its 60th anniversary, it does so with a forward-looking vision that honors its legacy. A committee of volunteers, led by Chair of the GBMC Board of Directors, Jerry Focas, has been thoughtfully planning efforts to honor the milestone. In tribute to its founding institutions, Physicians Pavilion West will be renamed the **Founders Pavilion**, a gesture that commemorates the innovators who made GBMC possible and the generations of caregivers and patients who followed. The space will include updated clinical environments and historical tributes to honor GBMC’s roots.

The milestone also comes at a time of continued growth. In 2023, the **Louis and Phyllis Friedman Building** opened, enhancing the clinical, educational, and family experience on campus. In 2024, the **Sandra R. Berman Pavilion** redefined the cancer treatment journey, offering a more integrated and human-centered approach. Next, GBMC will expand and modernize its **Ophthalmology** and **Women’s Services**, two areas that reflect both its origins and its ongoing responsiveness to community needs.

None of this progress would have been possible without philanthropy.

As Milton Eisenhower said during GBMC's dedication, "Greater Baltimore Medical Center is a symbol in our own community of philanthropy and human welfare."

Every advancement over the past 60 years, and every ambition for the years to come, has been fueled by the generosity of donors and supporters who share GBMC's belief that healthcare is not just about treating illness, but about being present at every moment of life's journey.

As GBMC celebrates six decades of beginnings, it does so with deep gratitude for its past and determination for the future,

knowing that this milestone reflects a powerful, enduring partnership between a health system and the community it serves.



(Top photo) In November, 2023, Louis and Phyllis Friedman helped dedicate the new inpatient facility named in honor of their generous contribution, the Louis and Phyllis Friedman Building.

(Bottom photo) Lead donors Malcolm and Sandra Berman and GBMC leaders joined Maryland Governor Wes Moore in cutting the ribbon on GBMC's new home for cancer care, the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion. From left: GBMC Philanthropy Chair Heidi Kenny-Berman, Esq.; film producer Jason Michael Berman; philanthropist Malcolm Berman; GBMC HealthCare Board member Sandra Berman; Governor Moore; GBMC President and CEO John B. Chessare, MD, MPH; Berman Cancer Institute Medical Director Paul Celano, MD, FACP, FASCO; Board Chair Faith E. Thomas, Esq.; Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Stacey McGreevy, CPA; Radiation Oncology Chair Geoffrey Neuner, MD; and Senior Vice President of Clinical and Support Operations Michael W. Stein, MHSA, FACMPE

Titans of Care

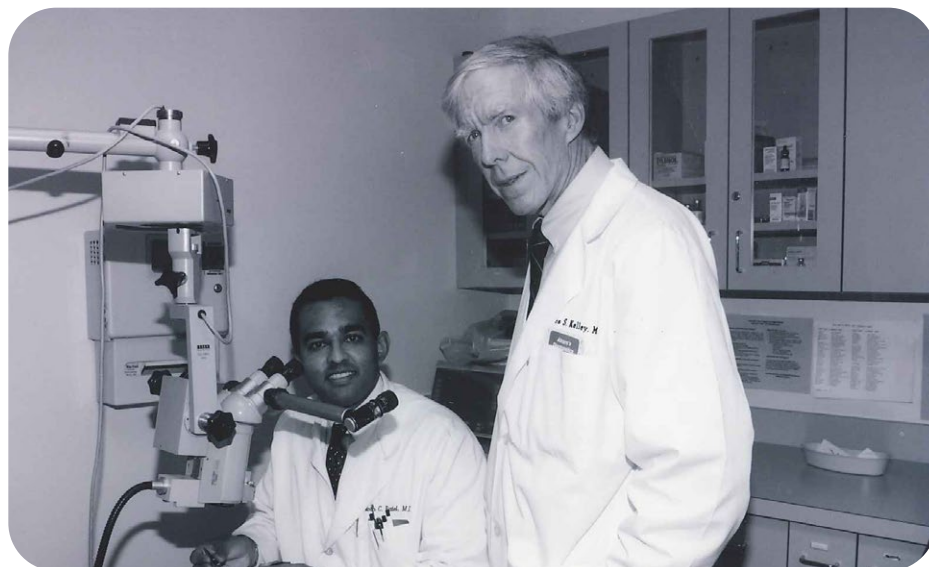
GBMC's 50th anniversary was the genesis of GBMC's Physician Titans of Care. They represent the many physicians who have played an integral role in GBMC HealthCare.

James S. Kelley, MD

James S. Kelley, MD, spent 40 years of his career as an active member of the GBMC Department of Ophthalmology, contributing to innovations in retinal disease evaluation and surgical management. Dr. Kelley graduated in 1965 from the Johns Hopkins University Medical School. He was one of the first residents in Ophthalmology at GBMC, serving from 1969-72. He pursued fellowship training at Wilmer Eye Institute and joined GBMC's Chairman of Ophthalmology, Richard Hoover, MD, in private practice.

Dr. Kelley developed a reputation as a fine surgeon and an innovator for surgical techniques in both cataract and vitreoretinal surgery. He was the first GBMC ophthalmic surgeons to adopt phacoemulsification – a novel cataract surgery technique that was difficult to learn and even more complex to teach. Dr. Kelley took many residents through their “first phaco” and continued generously to give his time teaching generations of residents and members of the resident clinic staff.

With retinal photographer Mark Metzler, Dr. Kelley established GBMC Ophthalmology as



Santosh Patel, MD (seated) and James S. Kelley, MD

a referral center for fundus photography. He worked to develop the technique of fluorescein angiography and, published the first American Academy of Ophthalmology paper on fluorescein angiography in 1971. This technique allowed scientists to better elucidate the causes of retinal vascular diseases and gain a better understanding of diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and sickle cell.

Timothy F. Doran, MD

Timothy F. Doran, MD, has been a transformational GBMC physician leader for the past 25 years, extending into his retirement. Recruited as the Chair of Pediatrics in 1999, Dr. Doran also chaired the Continuing Medical

Education and Library Committee for the duration of his chairmanship and led the hospital leadership committee from 2006-2015.

Dr. Doran combined GBMC's pediatric emergency department (ED) and inpatient unit, a novel approach for a community hospital. The unit was immediately successful and tripled the pediatric ED volume in its first four years. He created and staffed the combined unit while maintaining a thriving half-time pediatric practice and establishing the GBMC Pediatric Group. Dr. Doran was named to Baltimore Magazine's Top Docs for 19 of the 20 years he was Chair.

The GBMC Pediatric Group taught outpatient pediatrics to



Timothy F. Doran, MD

the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHUSOM) medical students. Dr. Doran was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at JHUSOM and was honored with the Alpha Omega Alpha Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award in 2016 for his outstanding clinical teaching of medical students. He was active in the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as Chapter President and Chair of the Nominating Committee of the national AAP and was honored as the Pediatrician of the Year by the Maryland Chapter of the AAP in 1998.

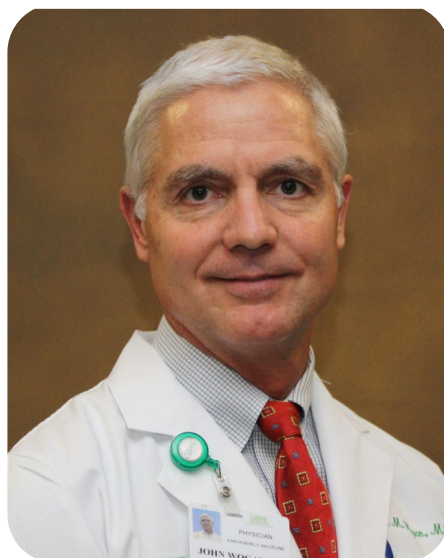
Dr. Doran recruited Dr. Susan Aucott, the former Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) at the Johns Hopkins Hospital to lead the Division of Neonatology at GBMC and convert the GBMC NICU to 24 /7 full time neonatologist coverage.

In 2009, Dr. Doran chaired the Advisory Committee to the

Board of Directors of Gilchrist on the care of infants, children, and adolescents in hospice. The committee evolved to coordinate the participation of GBMC, Johns Hopkins Hospital, the University of Maryland, and Sinai Hospital in the care of pediatric patients of 11 regional hospice programs.

John M. Wogan, M.D., FACEP

With a tenure spanning nearly three decades in the Emergency Department (ED), John M. Wogan, MD, FACEP, stands among the most influential clinical leaders in GBMC's history. As Chair of Emergency Medicine from 1999 to 2008, and a core attending from 1994 until his retirement in 2022, Dr. Wogan was known for his uncompromising clinical standards, strategic vision, and unshakable dedication. He was instrumental in one of the most significant infrastructure advancements at GBMC: the design and construction of the hospital's current ED.



John M. Wogan, M.D., FACEP

This space – modern, efficient, and built for high-volume, high-acuity care – continues to serve as a model of thoughtful design aligned with operational excellence.

In the late 1990s, Dr. Wogan's led a comprehensive modernization of the ED clinical staffing model, transitioning to a team of board-certified, residency-trained emergency physicians and transforming both the quality of care and the culture of the department. He was also the first to introduce physician assistants into the emergency care team and launched GBMC's first scribe program. The innovative partnership he developed with Towson University was featured in *The Baltimore Sun* as a model of academic collaboration and operational innovation.

Beyond his clinical expertise, vision, and personal warmth, Dr. Wogan was widely admired as a steady, principled, collaborative leader. He designed and implemented GBMC's current medical staff peer review system – still in use today – a major institutional milestone that required trust, transparency, and political skill. His service on the Medical Board, the Board of Directors Quality Committee, and as Vice Chief of Staff further extended his legacy, in the systems he built, and in the culture of respect and excellence he helped cultivate.



Father's Day 5K

The 37th Annual Father's Day 5K & 1-Mile fun walk brought record attendance despite the rainy weather. We are grateful to our community of sponsors runners and walkers, and fundraisers, who collectively raised more than \$150,000 for the GBMC Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



Families head out with strollers and rain jackets in tow for the 1-mile walk.



Dr. John Chessare runs his last Father's Day 5K as President & CEO of GBMC HealthCare.



Rain or shine, big sis leads the way! Walking to support GBMC's tiniest patients.



Dad mode activated! Strolling to support his NICU baby.

Using Art to Heal: Local Student Brightens GBMC's Pediatric Spaces with Color and Compassion



Dr. Laura B. Scott, Director of Pediatric Inpatient and Emergency Medicine, and artist Clancy Hosford review the colorful artwork displayed in GBMC's Pediatric Emergency & Inpatient Department.

When 13-year-old Clancy Hosford of Baltimore County was given the opportunity to complete a community service project as part of his eighth-grade graduation requirement, he began with a simple idea: to create colorful, uplifting artwork for children facing illness or injury. Clancy designed a series of vibrant, imaginative pieces specifically intended to brighten hospital environments and lift the spirits of young patients and their families – artwork that brings comfort and joy to young patients at GBMC.

Working with oil pastels on paper, Clancy drew inspiration from the colors and natural beauty of Florida, where his mother is from and where he has had the opportunity to visit. These bright, playful scenes are designed to evoke a sense of warmth, energy, and joy—qualities Clancy hopes will bring comfort to children receiving care.

In May, Clancy visited GBMC's Pediatric Emergency and Inpatient Department, where his work is now temporarily exhibited in each of the department's seven inpatient rooms. During his visit, Clancy had the opportunity to meet with Laura B. Scott, MD, FAAP, Director of Pediatric Inpatient and Emergency Medicine. Together, they toured the unit, reviewed the artwork, and discussed the powerful role that creative expression can play in patient care.



Clancy shares the inspiration behind his art with Dr. Scott during his visit to GBMC.

"We are so grateful for Clancy's thoughtful contribution," said Dr. Scott. "His artwork not only enhances the healing environment for our patients but also reminds us of all of the kindness and generosity that exists in our community."

Clancy's pieces—each carefully framed and displayed alongside his artist statement—feature bold colors, whimsical shapes, and playful designs that bring warmth and personality to the clinical setting. His artistic statement hangs in every room alongside his artwork and shares the heart behind the project.

This is not Clancy's first time sharing his work in health care spaces. His art has also been exhibited at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where it similarly provided hope and encouragement to patients in need. Through these experiences, Clancy recognized the meaningful impact that even small acts of service—like sharing his artwork—can have on the lives of others.

Clancy is now a student in the Ignatian Honors Program at Loyola Blakefield and plans to continue as an artist. He hopes his project at GBMC will encourage other young people to use their own talents to make a difference, showing that anyone can bring joy to others by starting with something they love.



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and protect kids
this October.**

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