

GBMC

FOR
THE **GREATER
GOOD**

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025-26



Happy 60th, GBMC!

60 years ago, Michael Yaggy (left) attended GBMC's groundbreaking with his mother, Elizabeth Duncan Yaggy, one of the founding leaders. With him here are his wife, Nora Yaggy; GBMC HealthCare, Inc. President and CEO Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA, and his wife, Ellen Gopalakrishnan

Celebrating GBMC's 60th Anniversary



Sixty years ago, Greater Baltimore Medical Center was founded with a simple but powerful mission—to provide expert, compassionate care to our community. In October, GBMC celebrated that legacy and all who have carried it forward. Among the celebrations was an evening with many who have contributed to the healthcare system's success, including three

new GBMC Titans of Care and many of the 60 Visionary Women being honored. In the words of Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA, GBMC's President and Chief Executive Officer, the three Titans, Dr. Timothy Doran, Dr. James S. Kelley, and Dr. John M. Wogan "embody what makes GBMC different. They prove that independent, community-focused

healthcare isn't just sustainable, it's where the most meaningful medicine happens." GBMC's 60 Visionary Women "led boldly, served compassionately, and, in many cases, worked quietly behind the scenes to lay the foundation for the GBMC we know," Dr. Gopalakrishnan told the evening's guests.





Facing page, top: (from left) Steve Berman with GBMC HealthCare, Inc. President and CEO Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA, Ellen Gopalakrishnan, and Visionary Woman, Philanthropist, and GBMC Board member Sandra Berman.

Bottom of page: Newly named Visionary Women of GBMC.

This page, top row, left: Newly named GBMC Titans of Care Dr. Timothy Doran and Dr. John M. Wogan; right: GBMC HealthCare, Inc. Board member John R. Saunders, Jr., MD, with Visionary Women Karen M. Ulmer, MS, RN, CORLN, and Barbara Pisano Messing, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S.

Middle row, left: Newly named Titan of Care Dr. James S. Kelley with Leigh Erlandson, daughter of Visionary Woman and former GBMC Board Chair Mary Gwynn Erlandson, and Linda Kelley; right: Visionary Woman Tanvi Shah, MD, with Visionary Women Committee Co-Chair Victor A. Khouzami, MD.

Bottom row, left: Visionary Woman and former GBMC Board Chair Sheila K. Riggs; right: Janet Johnson, Esq., and GBMC HealthCare, Inc. Board member Harry S. Johnson, Esq.

Transformative Care: Dr. Jennifer Heller Is Driven to Improve Our Patients' Experience



Jennifer Heller, MD, RPVI, FACS, began her career in vascular surgery more than 20 years ago, yet each day she reminds herself that “routine” things for her are deeply personal for her patients.

“I think that sometimes we forget, as health care providers, how coming to a hospital is a lot,” she points out. “It’s a lot emotionally; it’s a lot logistically. And if we can improve the quality of the visit for our patients – you can’t put a price on that.”

Since coming to GBMC to direct the Vein Center in 2017, Dr. Heller has continually looked for and developed new ways to make things better for her patients. She pursued certification in wound care, as it often becomes important to her patients, and Dr. Heller is now the Medical Director of GBMC’s Wound Care Center. She also participates in conferences that focus on lymphedema. All to ensure that, in her words, “we are able to provide state-of-the-art care for our patients.”

A new Wound Care Center

The next step for Dr. Heller and her team is an important improvement and a big change: GBMC has begun a fundraising effort to create a new home for Wound Care, one that is close to the hospital entrance and is designed to provide for the needs of their patients, many of whom have mobility issues.

This change will take time, but Dr. Heller is already anticipating the benefits. “If we can make it just a little bit easier for patients,” she says, “I think that would be fantastic.” In its new home, the Center will have larger treatment rooms to more easily accommodate the wheelchairs and walkers many patients rely on and bring supplies and instrumentation closer.

“Patients who are confined to a wheelchair need help getting onto the table to be treated,” Dr. Heller explains. “When there is room for them to move more easily, they will have more dignity. And that’s important to all of us. I see patient transport from the waiting room into the treatment room being smoother and easier on patients and easier on nursing staff,” she adds, “We will need less time for transportation and have more time for treatment.”

Reaching patients where they are

When she joined GBMC, Dr. Heller brought a free screening program to the Vein Center that continues to reach patients who might

otherwise go undiagnosed. She and her team stay after hours so that they reach those who cannot easily leave work and the program is offered a few times each year in easy-to-reach locations at GBMC.

There is always at least one patient whose story reminds Dr. Heller and her team of the need for this service. For example, one was unable to get to GBMC during the day. “He had a lot of challenges,” she says. “We found he had an ulcer which we were able to heal with surgery.”

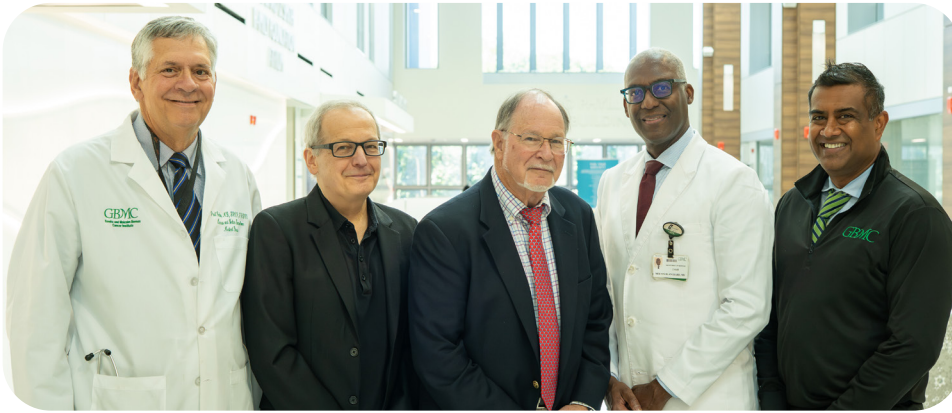
The program is clearly meeting a need in our community. It requires the kind of dedication patients find in Dr. Jennifer Heller and in every member of her team.

“I’ve been in a lot of wonderful departments and hospitals with people who are smart and dedicated and enthusiastic, but I have never been in a department like the Wound Care Center at GBMC, where people are so genuinely empathic and dedicated to the patients. It’s evident and it happens every single day,” Dr. Heller says.

To learn more about the Wound Center relocation and renovation project and how your generosity can help make it possible, please contact: GBMC Philanthropy: (443) 849-2773.

ONCOLOGY

A Legacy to Improve Health Care: The Charlene and Gary Cohen Lecture Series



How has early detection of cancer advanced in recent years? What is the best way to provide health care that is truly patient-centered? How can artificial intelligence (AI) help oncologists? What are the wider implications of the weight-loss effects of GLP-1 drugs?

Each of these questions is relevant to physicians at GBMC as they provide the care we would want for our own loved ones. GBMC physicians have had unique opportunities to pursue them, guided by nationally and internationally regarded experts, thanks to the Charlene M. and Gary I. Cohen Healthcare Delivery and Innovation Lectures, which began with a gift in 2022.

Dr. Gary Cohen, founding medical director of the Sandra & Malcolm Berman Cancer Institute at GBMC, endowed the lecture series with a gift in his late wife's memory one year after she died. His gift established the series and also a research fund to inspire and support GBMC clinicians. The Cohen Lecture is usually presented in October, near the

anniversary of Mrs. Cohen's death. Charlene was a member of the GBMC family, as well as a teacher, and an artist. The Lecture has become "a memorial event," Dr. Cohen says. "I know she would have appreciated this ongoing legacy."

The event brings the GBMC Medical Staff together each year to hear from a guest speaker invited by the Cohen Lecture Committee: Dr. Cohen, who in retirement remains involved in cancer research; Herman & Walter Samuelson Medical Director of the Berman Cancer Institute Paul Celano, MD, FACP, FASCO; and GBMC Chair of Medicine Melvin Blanchard, MD, MACP.

This year's speaker was invited by Dr. Blanchard to address GLP-1 medications, the use of which has expanded beyond diabetes to weight loss. Samuel Klein, MD, is the William H. Danforth Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Nutritional Science and Obesity Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

"It is like a university visiting professor," Dr. Celano says. "You have someone with deep understanding of subject matter currently affecting health care. That person not only speaks to the medical staff but also meets with attending physicians, trainees, and hospital leaders. We all benefit."

GBMC patients benefit as well. "Our physicians are so busy treating patients, they rarely have opportunities like this," Dr. Blanchard says. "And so, we have cross-disciplinary inspiration and it's very educational."

Dr. Cohen is delighted to see this result. This year, teams of GBMC clinicians applied for the grants and he, Dr. Celano, and Dr. Blanchard announced three research projects that will receive Cohen Research funds.

"My idea was to invite people at the hospital, from all departments, to ask questions and get funding to pursue the answers," Dr. Cohen says. "I want to focus on health care delivery, creative thinking, and promote research."

Photo (from left): Dr. Celano, Dr. Klein, Dr. Cohen, Dr. Blanchard and GBMC HealthCare, Inc. President and CEO Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA



GBMC is honored to be featured in The Kahlert Foundation annual report this year. On behalf of the thousands of patients who benefit, we are grateful for the generous support of The Kahlert Foundation.

Supporting Gold-Medal MEDICAL RESEARCH

Exceptional doctors are those who go the extra mile for their patients—not only treating their medical concerns but doing whatever it takes to deliver the highest level of care and respect. One powerful way doctors can deepen patient relationships and enhance quality of life is through research, which leads to new treatments and innovative therapies long before they become widely available.

Ronald Tutrone, Jr., M.D., FACS, CPI, chair of the William E. Kahlert Endowment for Urological Research at Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC), and medical director of Chesapeake Urology Research Associates, has seen the transformative influence of academic medicine and the lasting impact of being an all-in doctor for patients.

"I've been in practice at GBMC since 1993," shares Dr. Tutrone. "In the late 90s, William Kahlert came to me for urological treatment, and we got to know each other very well before he passed away in 2011."

After multiple surgeries performed by Dr. Tutrone, Kahlert became familiar with the cystoscopy suite where he received endoscopic treatment for his bladder cancer. Grateful and impressed by the care he had received by Dr. Tutrone at GBMC, he made a gift to update the entire space. It was named the William E. Kahlert Cystoscopy Suite in his honor. But he didn't stop there.

"He knew I had a love for medical research, and I was running my own trials in my regular community practice when I could," explains Dr. Tutrone. "So, he established the first endowed chair at GBMC

in support of urological research. This was not only the greatest gift he could have given me but also an inspiration for others to honor physicians and the outstanding care they provide. It has also improved so many people's lives."

The funding took Dr. Tutrone's medical trials from about 5 to 10 active trials up to 30 to 40 active trials when the program got off the ground.

"With this gift, we grew from two or three people doing research to now having 15 full-time employees dedicated to conducting research across four sites in Maryland," shares Dr. Tutrone. "As of 2025, we now have 40 active clinical trials. Since the program began, there have been major breakthroughs in the treatment of prostate and bladder cancers, along with numerous other urological conditions."

As the cornerstone of medical advancements, this clinical research has allowed Dr. Tutrone and his team the ability to pick and choose what trials will best benefit the community. These efforts have led to the development of new drugs and devices that have saved countless lives.

"It helps our practice gain national recognition, which attracts pharmaceutical companies and new talent—both are important to turn our research into reality," says Dr. Tutrone. "As this is a perpetual endowment, we're able to keep the research running when I pass the baton to the next chair of the Kahlert endowment. Everything they've done has a real, direct impact on patients because we can offer care that can't be found elsewhere."

As a result of his passion for urological research, Dr. Tutrone has authored over 75 publications in peer reviewed journals such as *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Journal of Urology*, and *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. He has further presented his research at national and international scientific meetings.



Pictured above: Greg Kahlert with Dr. Tutrone; Thanks to The Kahlert Foundation's perpetual endowment, important urological research can continue on for generations to come.



Help Clear Health Care Hurdles in Your Community

Visit gbmc.org/services/philanthropy to learn more about GBMC's giving opportunities.

From 1993 to today, Dr. Tutrone has been in practice at GBMC, caring for patients and conducting life-changing medical research.



"He (Bill Kahlert) knew I had a love for medical research, and I was running my own trials in my regular community practice when I could. So, he established the first endowed chair at GBMC in support of urological research."

Ronald Tutrone, Jr., M.D., FACS, CPI

Chair of the William E. Kahlert Endowment for Urological Research at GBMC, Medical Director of Chesapeake Urology Research Associates



Pictured above:
Bill Kahlert and Dr. Tutrone
at GBMC in the 90s.



Superstar Stats

Most recently, The Kahlert Foundation committed \$6,250,000 to GBMC:

- \$4,000,000 to the Urological Research Fund
- \$2,250,000 to help purchase a new da Vinci Surgical System

With the Foundation's support, the research program has seen anywhere from 1,400 to 2,200 research patient visits per year since 2020.

2025: A Strategic Year for Charitable Giving, Before 2026 Tax Changes

Now is an important time to plan your charitable giving. Year-end donations allow you to support a cause close to your heart, while maximizing your tax benefits. But this year carries added significance: new federal tax laws taking effect in 2026 will change how charitable deductions work, particularly for higher-income taxpayers. Acting in 2025 could help you preserve valuable tax advantages.

Why Year-End Giving Matters

Making charitable contributions to GBMC before December 31 allows you to claim the deduction on your 2025 return—under the current, more favorable rules. Year-end giving is a way to:

- **Maximize deductions** while the full charitable deduction is still available.
- **Support your favorite program, department or center of excellence at GBMC** at a critical time.
- **“Bunch” donations** to exceed the standard deduction, allowing you to itemize this year.

Even without the tax implications, your support helps GBMC continue vital programs that strengthen the Greater Baltimore community.

What’s Changing in 2026—and Why Does It Matter Now?

- **New 0.5% AGI floor:** For itemizers, charitable contributions will only be deductible to the extent they exceed 0.5% of adjusted gross

income (AGI). Smaller gifts may no longer provide a full tax benefit.

- **Reduced deduction benefit:** High-income taxpayers will see a reduced deduction rate—those in the top tax brackets may receive only 35 cents of deduction benefit per dollar donated, instead of their full marginal rate.
- **Phase-out of itemized deductions for high earners:** Starting in 2026, taxpayers with AGIs of **\$500,000 or more** will face a **phase-out of itemized deductions**, including charitable contributions. So, as your income increases beyond that threshold, the total amount of allowable deductions—including charitable gifts—will be gradually reduced or even eliminated.

How to Approach Your 2025 Giving Strategy

To make the most of your giving consider the following steps:

1. **Assess your charitable goals.** Identify which programs, departments or centers of excellence at GBMC you want to prioritize this year.
2. **Evaluate your tax position.** If your AGI approaches or exceeds \$500,000, giving before year-end 2025 could help you secure a deduction that might be partially phased out in 2026.
3. **Document your gifts carefully.** Ensure all contributions are postmarked or completed by **December 31, 2025**.

4. **Consult your financial or tax advisor.**

The Bottom Line

Year-end giving has always been a meaningful act of generosity. But with new tax laws in 2026, **2025 represents a rare window of opportunity.**

For more information, contact Senior Director of Principal Gifts John C. Jeppi at 443-849-3303 or jjeppi@gbmc.org or visit www.gbmcplannedgiving.org.



Photo: An Elizabeth Duncan Yaggy Society member since 2009, Nancy Smith and her family have been loyal GBMC supporters since before GBMC was built in 1965. There has never been a better time to join Nancy and her family in their tradition of gifting to GBMC.

PHILANTHROPY

Art for Healing: *Journey* Sculpture Dedicated



The members of the oncology team who helped design their new home, the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion, embraced a guiding principle from the start: Patients first. Among the patient-centered elements of the design is the way the best views of GBMC's hilly, lush campus are from patient care areas.

Today, patients receiving infusion look out over a hill of trees at a tall ribbon of steel. *Journey* was created by sculptor David Hess for GBMC and donated by Wendy Jachman. In October, they were honored guests as *Journey* was dedicated to the memory of Wendy's late husband, Howard Jachman.

Mr. Hess and Mrs. Jachman are friends and fellow artists. David shared his design with Wendy, and the scaled-down model, or maquette, made an immediate impression.

"When David showed me the maquette, the sculpture took my breath away, just as Howard did the first time I saw him," Wendy told those gathered for the dedication. "I recognized the grace, elegance

and largeness, just as I had seen in Howard.

"Howard always had a big smile, open arms and sparkle when embracing those around him. I hope this sculpture has the Howard effect on all that view this and heal in its magic."

Thanking Wendy for her generous gift, Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer of GBMC HealthCare, Inc., said that community support for the hospital system and its programs was key in attracting him here. "I have been told that the community fully supports GBMC. It has been a privilege to see that proven true," he said.

"This stunning, deeply symbolic sculpture Mrs. Jachman contributed is an inspiration to our patients and to everyone caring for them."

The gathering was held in a second floor conference room of the Berman Pavilion. Paul Celano, MD, FACP, FASCO, the Herman & Walter Samuelson Medical Director of the Berman Cancer Institute, pointed out that the room is

primarily used for meetings of the Tumor Board.

He explained, "This morning, for example, we had our head and neck tumor conference during which patient cases were presented and discussed by our head and neck surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, geneticists, clinical trials team, social workers, palliative care team, and other specialists. We meet here to review cases, painstakingly reviewing patient's stories, images and test results and consult with each other to determine the best possible treatment, not just to attack cancer but to meet the patient's goals."

A sign at the base of the ribbon sums up its meaning to Wendy and her sons: "This sculpture was donated in memory of Howard R. Jachman by his loving family. You will always be in our hearts and our light."

Photos (top left): Donor Wendy Jachman with Journey, by sculptor David Hess; (bottom right): Dr. Celano with sculptor David Hess, donor Wendy Jachman, and Wendy's husband, Jeffrey Scherr.



Ophthalmology

A Future in Focus

Vision is more than sight. It is independence, confidence, connection. For 60 years, GBMC has stood beside our community during life's most profound moments. Ophthalmology has been integral to GBMC's foundation.

With \$7 million in philanthropic support, GBMC will create a state-of-the-art ophthalmology suite featuring:

- Expanded, modern exam and treatment space
- Dedicated pediatric zones and improved flow for low-vision patients
- Leading-edge diagnostic and surgical equipment
- A welcoming optical shop

Our nationally recognized team delivers advanced care across the lifespan – from premature infants in the NICU to seniors seeking the independence afforded by cataract surgery. GBMC is also a training ground for the next generation of ophthalmologists, orthoptists, and technicians, through partnerships with the University of Maryland residency program and GBMC's unique orthoptic fellowship.



Pediatric Emergency & Inpatient Department

Ready for Every Moment

GBMC provides Baltimore County's only fully dedicated pediatric emergency department, designed just for children and staffed by pediatric-trained clinicians. We are building:

- Expanded treatment capacity to reduce wait times and eliminate hallway care
- Child-friendly waiting and clinical areas that calm anxiety and promote healing
- Dedicated pediatric behavioral health space to stabilize and support recovery
- Updated technology and equipment to advance clinical efficiency and safety

For two decades, GBMC's hybrid Pediatric Emergency & Inpatient Department has been a model of excellence – integrating emergency, inpatient, and child protection services in one seamless unit.

With your partnership, we will ensure that no child faces a crisis alone and that GBMC remains a trusted destination for expert, compassionate care for generations to come.



The Women's Center

Gynecologic Care for Every Season

GBMC is creating a multidisciplinary destination for expert, compassionate, and coordinated care through every season of a woman's life. Lead by a nationally recognized expert in urogynecology, the Center builds on GBMC's legacy of advancing women's health with innovation, empathy, and excellence.

The Women's Center at GBMC will bring together leading experts in:

- Minimally invasive gynecologic surgery
- Urogynecology
- Menopause and midlife wellness
- Pelvic floor physical therapy
- Preventive gynecologic care and counseling all in a welcoming, modern space designed for healing, discretion, and collaboration.

The Center will partner closely with the Sandra & Malcolm Berman Cancer Institute to ensure seamless referrals and survivorship support for women facing cancer diagnoses, as well as preventive strategies. Here, women will not only heal, but also thrive, with confidence in their long-term health.



The Wound Center

*Healing with Dignity,
Compassion, and Expertise*

GBMC's Wound Care Center is a lifeline for patients with complex, non-healing wounds—providing expert care, comfort, and hope. Our multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, and therapists treats the whole person, caring for patients with surgical and radiation-related wounds, injuries, infections, and chronic conditions such as diabetic ulcers and lymphedema.

Now, GBMC is launching a transformative renovation and relocation of the Center to a modern, ground-level facility designed for accessibility, efficiency, and healing. The new Center will include:

- 17 expanded, fully accessible treatment rooms
- Dedicated parking and a covered drop-off area at the main entrance
- Bariatric-friendly beds and wider doorways
- Improved ventilation for comfort and infection control

This project directly responds to the growing need for wound care as rates of diabetes, obesity, and chronic conditions rise across our aging population. The new facility will expand access, improve outcomes, and give our caregivers a space worthy of their extraordinary care.





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GBMC Is Celebrating 60 Years of Caring for the Community

Since 1965, Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) has delivered compassionate, expert care right here at home. Now, as we honor our history and plan for our future, we invite you to make a tax-deductible year-end gift.



Your support sustains vital operations and patient services, fuels innovative care models and community health programs, and keeps GBMC proudly independent — guided by our mission. Please make a gift using the enclosed envelope or the secure QR code at left.

With your help, we'll shape the future of care one patient, one family, one community at a time.