

MOMENTUM

The Power of Mentorship



Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,



There are many things I admire about the Brown medical community, but a commitment to celebrating its mentors always stands out. Faculty members play a significant role in shaping our resident and medical school alumni. In the early years of training, they educate, provide academic guidance, and model behavior

that can't be learned from any textbook. They teach students how to listen, how to empathize, and how to treat the patient as a whole person.

As students move through their medical education, faculty can also provide an early look into the world of research. These opportunities can develop an existing interest or ignite a new one, and often have a lasting impact on a physician's trajectory. A good mentor provides the space to succeed and fail, and teaches you the value of both of those experiences.

In many cases, mentors and students strike a kinship that spans entire careers. During the BrownTogether campaign, philanthropy has been a meaningful way for our community to recognize the power of mentorship. We have had gifts that allow us to recognize stellar faculty with new endowed professorships, and others that enable us to bring new faculty, like Dr. Wafik El-Deiry, into our community to inspire the next generation of health care leaders. We have also seen gifts that honor past leaders like Dr. Mary B. Arnold and Dr. Michael G. Ehrlich. Both are revered for their tireless love of teaching and the amazing legacy they have left at Brown.

Thank you for celebrating the many contributions of faculty mentors at the Medical School. They are pioneers, teachers, and friends who remind us what a privilege it is to practice medicine and to be a part of the Brown family.

Thank you all,
Bethany Solomon
Associate Dean for Biomedical Advancement

Progress to Goal

\$175M

Goal: \$300M

INVESTING IN FACULTY

Action Figure

With 25 years of experience under his belt, oncologist Wafik El-Deiry, MD, PhD, FACP, knows a lot about translating basic research into patient care. He just wants to do it faster. Thanks in part to last year's \$50 million gift from Brown University Chancellor Samuel M. Mencoff '78, P'11, P'15, and Ann S. Mencoff P'11, P'15, he's able to do just that.

The gift, which supports medical research and scholars, helped bring El-Deiry to Brown from Philadelphia's Fox Chase Cancer Center, where he was deputy director for translational research and co-leader of the Molecular Therapeutics Program. In the Ocean State, he'll blaze trails as the inaugural director of the Brown-Lifespan Joint Program in Cancer Biology and as the inaugural Associate Dean for Oncologic Sciences at Brown University. El-Deiry is creating a transdisciplinary, translational cancer research program focused on diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

Meaningful progress in cancer care can't happen without generating new ideas, El-Deiry says; the kind that comes from bringing together a variety of specialists—basic scientists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgical oncologists, pathologists, biostatisticians, population researchers—to focus on certain types of cancers in what he calls “translational research disease groups.” Since arriving in January, the specialist in gastrointestinal oncology and his colleagues have already established 10 of these groups, which meet regularly.

But ideas are nothing without follow-through, he says. “If you have a grant from the NIH, you're working to accomplish goals you thought about two, three, four years ago. If you want to go with your latest, most exciting results and open up new areas, it's this type of gift that allows that to happen.”

El-Deiry is no stranger to “exciting results.” During his two decades at leading National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers (prior to Fox Chase, he was chief of hematology/oncology and associate director of the Cancer Institute at Penn State and a tenured professor and program leader at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine), he made numerous important discoveries about how to target cancer cells. Just last year, he co-authored a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showing that the drug larotrectinib helps shrink tumors or prevents their growth in an array of cancers. Nine months later, the FDA granted an accelerated approval for the drug to be used in treating patients.

Cancer cells beware: El-Deiry and his team are coming for you.



Peter Goldberg



Warren Alpert Medical School Archives

INVESTING IN STUDENTS

Imparting Wisdom

Dr. Mary B. Arnold (1924-2018) was a force to be reckoned with throughout her career as a caregiver, teacher, and leader. Known for her extraordinary sense of compassion and a wonderful ability to support and comfort her patients, she was utterly devoted to her trainees (see page 43 for her obituary).

As a founding faculty member of Brown's medical school, Dr. Arnold played a key role in the health care landscape in Rhode Island. Dr. Arnold's long list of mentees includes stellar clinicians and academic leaders, many of whom have gone on to have a meaningful impact on the Medical School and its students.

One of those mentees is Philip A. Gruppuso, MD RES'81, F'83, professor of pediatrics, of medical

science, and of molecular biology, cell biology, and biochemistry at the Warren Alpert Medical School. Dr. Gruppuso, who served as Brown's associate dean for medical education from 2005 to 2013, remembers Dr. Arnold fondly. “Mary's love for the science and clinical art of endocrinology was one of the things that led me to pursue a career in that field,” he says. “As a teacher and mentor, she was always inspiring, nurturing, encouraging, and demanding. She was also more fun to work with than just about anybody.”

To honor Dr. Arnold's legacy, her family, with additional support from the Brown community, has established the Mary B. Arnold, MD, Medical Education Mentoring Fund to support faculty development for medical student mentors. Gifts to the fund can be made at brown.edu/go/maryarnold.



Peter Goldberg

Remembering a Titan

Dr. Michael G. Ehrlich (1939-2018) was renowned in the Brown medical community for his role as a physician, researcher, and educa-

tor. Dr. Ehrlich served as the Vincent Zecchino, MD, Professor of Orthopaedics at Brown and chair of orthopaedics at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. In addition to providing excellent patient care and conducting pioneering research, he touched the lives of countless medical students, residents, and fellows. But more than anything, Dr. Ehrlich's trademark was his kindness.

Always sporting his signature bowtie and with a wry sense of humor, Dr. Ehrlich approached patient care and mentorship with equal aplomb. “He introduced me to the world of orthopedics

like no one else could,” says Robert Shin '96 MD'00, an orthopedic hand surgeon in the Hawaii Permanente Medical Group. “Dr. Ehrlich helped me find my purpose, and I have been hooked on orthopedics ever since. His impact on my career choice has been immeasurable, and for that, I am forever grateful.”

With three decades of influence in the Rhode Island medical community, Dr. Ehrlich's leadership made Brown a nationally recognized institution for its innovative medical education and orthopedic residency program. To honor Dr. Ehrlich's legacy of educating generations of medical leaders, the Brown community has come together to establish the Michael G. Ehrlich, MD, Memorial Term Scholarship to support a current student at the Warren Alpert Medical School. Gifts to the fund can be made at brown.edu/go/michael-ehrllich.