

MOMENTUM



The Power of Community

At this time of year, under normal circumstances, many of us would be gathering to celebrate Commencement and Reunion at Brown. As we all know, however, this year has been anything but normal. For many of us, the way we work and communicate with others has been different. Our family lives have been different. Thus, the way we mark milestones is different, too. But with all that has changed, at least one thing has remained ever true: our sense of community.



Brunonians have been unable to come together in our usual ways this year, but that has not stopped us from supporting one another. As you will read in this issue, Match Day happened virtually this year, and the MD Class of 2020 was still able to share their excitement about their residency placements (and a toast!). Virtual mentoring has been happening between current and newly admitted PLME students. Faculty, staff, and administrators have worked diligently

to communicate and help medical students navigate remote learning.

To aid Brown in its work related to COVID-19, there have also been generous gifts of time, treasure, and talent. Parents and alumni have come forward with support for medical student needs, research, and donations of PPE (personal protective equipment) for our faculty clinicians working on the front lines. Brown researchers have converted their laboratories from their original purposes to work on testing and vaccine development for the coronavirus. Medical students have volunteered for a range of responsibilities from staffing medical hotlines to triaging patients and even providing childcare and petsitting services for health care workers in Rhode Island.

It is clear that the power of the Brown collective remains strong. We are so grateful to everyone who continues to rally behind The Warren Alpert Medical School, and we are prouder than ever to be Brown medical alumni. Please take care of yourselves and your families, and thank you for your continued service to your patients. It has not been easy, but please know that the Brown medical community stands with you.

We will see you soon.

Preetha Basaviah '91 MD'95
BMAA president

Patricia A. Buss '78 MD'81 RES'87
BMAA president-elect

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS Lightening the Load

The Halvorsens know the importance of health care. Andrew C. Halvorsen '68, P'99, P'06 is a cancer survivor. He and his wife, Barbara A. Halvorsen P'99, P'06, have two children—both graduates of Brown—who have chronic medical conditions. As a family with a long history of dedication to the University, they have always tried to help in any way they could, and supporting the Medical School seemed like a natural fit.

“I owe a debt to the University,” Andrew Halvorsen says. “I was a classic scholarship student and wouldn’t have the life and success I have now without that financial help or my education from Brown.”

When Halvorsen was an undergraduate, there was only talk of establishing a medical school at Brown (see page 24). He admits to being skeptical about the idea at the time, but now sees that it was an excellent decision. “The Medical School is such an important part of Brown,” he says. “It is a strong program, holding its students to the highest rigor and standards. Barbara and I admire the tenacity of the students and are in such awe of their hard work, goals, and accomplishments.”

The other thing that fills the Halvorsens with awe is the potential amount of debt medical students face. “We all need to do our part to help relieve some of the debt students leave school with,” Halvorsen says. “So many choose valiant but low-earning specialties, so we want to assist in lifting that financial burden off their shoulders.”



To that end, with a gift of \$250,000 to the Brown Medical Annual Fund, the Halvorsens put forth the largest dollar-for-dollar match in the Medical School’s history in honor of Match Day 2020 (see page 12). Their Match Day match not only provides critical scholarship support, but also allows the Medical School to offer valuable educational resources and experiences that will serve as the foundation for the remarkable physicians the students will become.

“When we reviewed the proposal and considered how much our family has benefited from all Brown offers its students, we felt strongly others should be able to have the same opportunity,” Halvorsen says.

Thank you to all our generous BMAF donors who, alongside the Halvorsens, helped mark this special occasion in the educational journey of our fourth-year medical students.