MOMENTUM

INVESTING IN FACULTY Celebrating Faculty

The BrownTogether campaign has been instrumental in recruiting new faculty and recognizing the extraordinary researchers already at Brown. Thus far, 10 professorships have been newly established through philanthropy. Earlier this academic year, Provost Richard Locke hosted a celebration of faculty who were recently appointed to named chairs. Out of the 23 faculty honorees, 11 were from the Division of Biology and Medicine. Congratulations to all!

Wael Asaad, MD, PhD

Sidney A. Fox and Dorothea Doctors Fox Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Visual Sciences, and Neuroscience

Jeffrey Bailey, MD, PhD Mencoff Family Associate Professor of Translational Research*

Theresa Desrochers, PhD Rosenberg Family Assistant Professor of Brain Science and Neuroscience*

Wafik El-Deiry, MD, PhD Mencoff Family University Professor of Medical Science*

Yu-Wen Alvin Huang, MD, PhD GLF Translational Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry*

Mark Johnson, PhD Royce Family Associate Professor of Teaching Excellence and Associate Professor of Biology

Judy Liu, MD, PhD

Sidney A. Fox and Dorothea Doctors Fox Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, Visual Sciences, and Neuroscience

Rishi R. Lulla, MD, MS Alan G. Hassenfeld Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Eric Morrow, MD, PhD Mencoff Family Associate Professor of Biology*

Jeremiah D. Schuur, MD RES'05 Frances Weeden Gibson-Edward A. lannuccilli, MD Professor of Emergency Medicine

Shipra Vaishnava, PhD

Manning Assistant Professor of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology

*Indicates a new professorship as a result of the BrownTogether campaign.



INVESTING IN STUDENTS Rising to the BMAF Challenge

The Brown Medical Annual Fund (BMAF) provides students of the Warren Alpert Medical School the resources they need to have a dynamic and fulfilling medical education. It ensures the Medical School can provide robust experiences in research, classroom, and clinical settings. To accomplish this goal, last fall we asked members of the Brown medical community to make gifts in honor of a longstanding tradition, the White Coat Ceremony.

Alumni, parents, and friends had the opportunity to participate in a month-long BMAF challenge to celebrate the MD Class of 2023 receiving their first white coats. We are excited to announce that they met that challenge raising more than \$127,000, which earned us an additional \$100,000 match.

Photo credit: Adam Mastoon



Progress to Goal



Goal: \$300M

The generosity of these donors is only surpassed by the significance of the day, one filled with many special moments, including a thoughtprovoking speech by Liz Taliaferro MD'20. "You have the power and opportunity to shape what the field of medicine values," she said as students were about to receive their coats. "Medical education and health care will reflect your priorities, starting now."

Thanks to your support, the MD Class of 2023 will be inspired to set those priorities and pay it forward—whether because of a financial scholarship they received, a research opportunity they were afforded, or a scholarly concentration that was offered to enhance their education. Thanks to all who helped mark this occasion by participating in the White Coat Challenge.

INVESTING IN STUDENTS Rallying Around Women's Health

Ensuring access to reproductive health care is an issue that has inspired many in the Brown community to take note of the Medical School's leadership in women's health education, advocacy, and training. With philanthropic support from the Women's Reproductive Health Fund, the Medical School prepares students to address issues surrounding abortion, contraception, adolescent pregnancy and parenting, and infertility.

More than 70 members of the Brown University Club in New York and the Brown Women's Network gathered in November for a dynamic discussion on "Moving Women's Reproductive Health Care Forward." Moderated by Abigail Davies MD'19, the panel included Nancy J. Northup '81 LHD'18 hon. JD, P'16; Tara Shirazian '99 MD'03; and Benjamin P. Brown '08 MD'12, MS.

"Brown is poised to educate and empower the next generation of physicians to lead the way on reproductive rights."

Northup is president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, an organization that works to ensure reproductive health and freedom as a fundamental human right. Representatives of the center will argue the case against Louisiana's 2014 abortion law before the Supreme Court in the spring. Shirazian is president and medical director of Saving Mothers, which is working to eradicate preventable maternal deaths and birthrelated complications in the developing world.

Brown is an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, clinician educator, at the Warren Alpert Medical School.

Panelists emphasized the importance of making progress in this arena-in general, within their own work, and at Brown University.

"Women's reproductive rights and the innate right for women to make decisions over their own bodies is under siege right now in the US and around the world," Shirazian said. "Brown, always at the forefront of important initiatives, is particularly poised to educate and empower the next generation of physicians to lead the way on women's reproductive rights."

Reproductive health is integrated throughout the education curriculum at the Medical School, which is one of about 30 in the US offering an elective in family planning ethics and advocacy.

Ben Brown helped develop and is teaching the Medical School's new elective on family planning, which is supported by the Women's Reproductive Health Fund. "The elective is just one example of how Brown is working to improve reproductive and sexual health," he said. "By equipping senior medical students to be effective researchers, clinicians, and policy advocates, we are working to train the next generation of leaders in this arena."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WOMEN'S **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FUND AT BROWN**,

contact Cailie Burns. Assistant Dean for Biomedical Advancement, at +1 (401) 368-8155, Cailie_Burns@brown.edu, or give online at brown.edu/go/giving/womens-health.

INVESTING IN RESEARCH Biomedical Entrepreneurship



Lab-grown human tissue and extracellular matrix proteins for repair. Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Morgan, PhD.

Brown Biomedical Innovations to Impact (BBII) is a partnership between Brown's Division of Biology and Medicine and the Office of Industry Engagement and Commercial Venturing. The goal of the program is to help translate promising discoveries in biomedical research into product opportunities that may benefit patients and be commercially viable. BBII is part of a strategic initiative to invest in Brown's biomedical research enterprise, and thus far, more than \$8 million of its \$10 million goal has been raised through the BrownTogether campaign to support the effort.

BBII announced five awards for fiscal year 2020. According to Karen Bulock, PhD, managing director of BBII, projects were reviewed by an external advisory committee based on criteria such as potential impact of the product, market needs, and the patentability of the technology. "BBII also offers coaching and project management resources to guide technologies through proof-ofconcept into well-defined product opportunities that will attract the attention of industry collaborators and potential investors," Bulock says.

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Awards of \$100,000 were given to the following **Brown faculty members:**

+ Brian Alverson, MD, and Ravi D'Cruz, MD, to develop and test a positioning device to stabilize feverish infants who must undergo a lumbar puncture to test for meningitis.

+ Stephen Helfand, MD, to discover new drugs to treat metabolic disorders such as obesity, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes.

+ Chun Geun Lee, MD, PhD, to focus on making chemical derivatives of the drug kasugamycin that are more effective at preventing and treating lung scarring, which may lead to the development of a new drug for pulmonary

+ Jeffrey Morgan, PhD, and Blanche Ip, PhD, to advance their method of producing labgrown, human-derived tissue to repair the heart after a heart attack.

+ Carl Saab, PhD, to apply his objective EEGbased test for measuring pain to aid in the diagnosis of acute and chronic low back pain, which may lead to reducing the overprescription of opioids.

"BBII helps to bridge the gap between academic biomedical discoveries and new products by providing muchneeded funding for this type of research. We look forward to collaborating with the awardees to further develop their technologies toward real products that can help patients."

> — Karen Bulock Managing Director of BBII