



an INSPIRED PARTNERSHIP

Donors Gary and Tina Mather are committed to Inova's pursuits

**PHOTO BY
JASON HORNICK**

During two tours of the Inova Genomics Laboratory,

in April and December 2015, Gary Mather was fascinated to learn how Inova researchers are using state-of-the-art genomic testing to develop personalized treatments and improve outcomes for more cancer patients. "I realized



**Education
in Action**
Tina and Gary Mather,
and their doctor,
Craig Cheifetz, MD,
FACP, in the lab of
Inova Translational
Medicine Institute.

the tremendous potential to incorporate genomic testing and conventional cancer treatment together,” Gary says.

This realization, together with the recommendation of their doctor, Craig Cheifetz, MD, FACP, Medical Director of Inova VIP 360° Program, inspired

Gary and his wife, Tina, to have their genomes sequenced. “We wanted to find out if there was anything we needed to prepare for or do differently to ward off the inevitable,” Tina says. Their results were comforting: “We found out that we do not have any genetic markers associated with Alzheimer’s disease or certain cancers,” Gary says.

WELCOMED PARTICIPATION

Gary and Tina, who live in McLean, VA, initially got involved with the Inova Health Foundation in February 2012, when a friend invited them to a dinner benefitting the Inova Children’s Hospital. They attended various functions, including the Washington Kastles tennis event and a luncheon held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

As they got to know more of the Foundation family, their participation — and generosity — has grown. They decided to sponsor a table at the 2013 Inova Summit, the premier thought leadership event of the year for the Inova community. Following that Summit, they made two generous charitable donations to help fund research advances at the Inova Neuroscience and Spine Institute. Gary joined the Foundation board last year, and this November, the Mathers will volunteer for a second time as cochairs of the Inova Summit.

In recognition of their growing interest in genomics and expanding roles with the Inova Health Foundation, the Mathers recently gave \$1 million to Inova Schar Cancer Institute, their largest financial contribution to date. Schar Cancer Institute is a destination cancer center where genomic and translational research is helping to better understand, predict, prevent and eliminate cancer for a growing number of patients in

the Northern Virginia area.

“The biggest thing that tipped our decision to contribute both professionally and financially to Inova was their attitude,” says Gary, a senior partner emeritus at Booz Allen Hamilton. Over the course of his 43-year career there, he served as President of the Worldwide Technology sector; participated as a member of the board; and led the firm’s business with the Army, Internal Revenue Service, NASA and Air Force. He retired last year. “The leaders at Inova welcomed my expertise and invited me to get involved in strategy discussions about integrating personalized medicine approaches, drawing on my experience working on the board for 15 years at Booz Allen.”

GIVING BACK

Beyond being involved in exciting developments at Inova, Gary and Tina are excited to be giving back to their local community. Gary’s sons were born at Inova Fairfax Hospital, and it has served their family well over the years. “It’s good to know that people in the Washington area will benefit from the continuum of care we are building right here, rather than needing to fly to another center,” Gary says.

Gary and Tina also are especially thrilled about the relationships they have cultivated through the Foundation. “As a result of getting involved with Inova, we’ve developed a whole series of friendships that we value,” Gary says. “They overlap with our philanthropy work, and that’s very important to us. When you become involved with people that you care about and who care about you, it’s a different feeling than if you are just doing work or providing money.” ■



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