

the gift of KNOWLEDGE

Dwight and Martha Schar's donation to transform cancer care

Dwight and Martha Schar recently donated an unprecedented \$50 million to Inova, the largest single gift ever for a health organization in the mid-Atlantic states.

The endowment will significantly accelerate cancer research, diagnoses, treatment and prevention approaches across the whole Inova system. In honor of the Schar's gift, Inova Comprehensive Cancer and Research Institute has been renamed Inova Dwight and Martha Schar Cancer Institute (ISCI).

Dwight and Martha Schar chose Inova for their generous endowment after identifying where there is a great need, which organization is doing the best work and where their support would help those making a difference achieve even more. "I am passionate about supporting causes in healthcare and education," Dwight says. "Inova has one of the world's largest sequenced human genome databases and a formidable combination of researchers and physicians who are exploring new therapies and treatment procedures using genomics to develop personalized cancer care. All of this will come together on one transformative campus, the Inova Center for Personalized Health, that will emerge on Exxon-Mobil's former property."

"It's hard to overstate the importance of the Schar endowment," adds Donald Trump, MD, FACP, CEO and Executive Director of ISCI. "Inova has committed substantial

resources for the bricks-and-mortar portion of a destination cancer center, and with this gift in place, we will have the ability to recruit nationally renowned

What a Pair

Thanks to Dwight and Martha Schar, Inova will have the ability to build a destination cancer program.



Big Announcement

The audience for the disclosure of the Schar's \$50 million gift included (from left) Jennifer Lee, MD, deputy secretary of Health and Human Resources; U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine; Alan Dabbieri, Chairman, Inova Health Foundation Board of Trustees; Knox Singleton, Inova CEO; Governor Terry McAuliffe; Martha Schar; and Dwight Schar.

experts in clinical and translational cancer research and care to establish a destination cancer program.”

NEW CAMPUS OF CARE

The Inova Center for Personalized Health, home of the new ISCI, will be located on a beautifully landscaped, 117-acre parcel of land across the street from Inova Fairfax Hospital. A new facility adjacent to the proposed location of ISCI will house imaging and radiation oncology technologies, while existing high-quality office space will be converted to a friendly and embracing patient care center.

ISCI encompasses the entire Inova system. “Use of the Fairfax location will be for initial treatment planning, complicated diagnoses, provision of highly specialized treatments and access to highly specialized clinical trials that need to be done in one location,” says Dr. Trump. “Where possible, ambulatory care will be delivered at Inova hospitals close to patients’ homes, so it’s convenient for family and patients.”

EXPANDED EXPERTISE

Dr. Trump’s vision focuses on the whole spectrum of cancer care, from treatment and diagnosis to risk assessment and prevention, to ensure Inova can meet the growing number of cancer patients, estimated to grow by about 25 percent over the next 20 years.

“We often think of a cancer center as a place for cancer treatment, and while that is true, the direction we are pursuing includes appropriate diagnosis and new approaches to understanding risk factors for developing cancer so we can intervene before cancer happens. We need to be prepared to care for local patients, as well as those coming from outside our area, with leading-edge approaches and new treatments available first at Inova,” says Dr. Trump.

One of his top priorities is to recruit 12 to 15 clinical investigators and scientists. “We have



nationally visible expertise in skin cancer and melanoma, genitourinary cancer, head and neck cancer, radiation oncology, gynecologic oncology, and genomics. We will add to those areas by recruiting specialists with complementary and new expertise that will allow us to care for every kind of patient with any kind of cancer or its complications,” says Dr. Trump.

ACCELERATING DISCOVERIES

Collaboration across a team of cancer specialists will mean accelerated timelines for developing new cancer treatments and approaches to prevention. The drug discovery program includes targeted chemotherapy drugs, exciting new approaches to immunotherapies that will help patients’ own immune systems identify and destroy cancer cells, drugs that can make radiation treatment more powerful while protecting normal tissue, and therapies that may be able to prevent cancer altogether.

The drug discovery initiative will intersect with Inova’s existing genomics program led by John Niederhuber, MD, CEO of Inova Translational Medicine Institute (ITMI) and former director of the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, and Benjamin Solomon, MD, Chief of the Division of Medical Genomics, ITMI.

“The pieces are in place to make a game-changing difference in the way cancer is treated. My philanthropic investment in Inova will provide the momentum to propel the application of cancer research and care to new heights while improving and saving countless lives,” says Dwight Schar. ■

KEY WORDS

Below is an excerpt from a blog post written in July by Donald Trump, MD:

Dwight and Martha Schar donated \$50 million toward building a destination cancer center at Inova. How can you not be exhilarated by the commitment of the Schar's? Their gift, combined with the previous \$10 million donation from Milt and Carolyn Peterson, provides a transformative foundation of philanthropy on which to build a destination center.

These gifts enable us to recruit outstanding clinical leaders and translational scientists (scientists who specialize in extending scientific research into clinical applications).

EXPERT OPINION

Read the full post at inovanewsroom.org/the-inova-dwight-and-martha-schar-cancer-institute-a-destination-cancer-center.



ASSISTANCE WELCOMED

To learn more about philanthropic opportunities for Inova Schar Cancer Institute, please contact Jennie McGihon, Institutional Giving Director, at [703.776.3422](tel:703.776.3422) or at jennifer.mcgihon@inova.org.