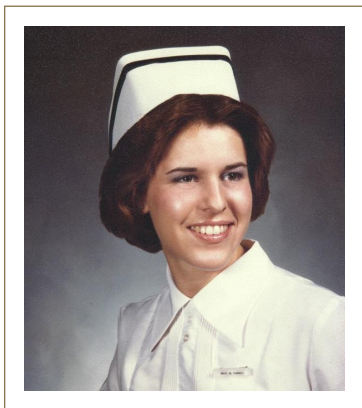


## The Mary M. Parkes Center for Asthma, Allergy and Pulmonary Care

The Mary M. Parkes Center was established in 1995 by Walter and Carmina Parkes, and their family, in honor of their daughter, Mary, after her death from acute asthma in 1991 at the age of 32. It is now one of the region's leading centers dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment, and research of acute asthma, allergies, and other pulmonary (lung) diseases.



Mary M. Parkes was diagnosed with asthma when she was just nine years old. Her illness was acute, requiring her to be hospitalized more than 50 times in 10 years. Despite her difficult battle with asthma, Mary led a full and active life, eventually becoming an intensive care nurse. The Center, which grew from a family-run support group, stands today as a testament to her courage, compassion, and beautiful smile.

## A Leader in Lung Care and Research

There is an asthma epidemic under way affecting more than 15 million children and adults in the U.S., thousands of whom live right here in Rochester. Although the cause of this epidemic is unknown, in genetically-susceptible individuals, exposure to air pollution and respiratory infections may play a major role.

At the University of Rochester Medical Center, our basic and clinical researchers are known for highly collaborative work dedicated to identifying the causes of and new therapies for a host of pulmonary diseases—from asthma to viral infections, and from air pollution, to pulmonary fibrosis, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, lung cancer, pulmonary hypertension and allergic diseases. We are also recognized locally and nationally as a top program in respiratory diseases, helping people who have complex lung diseases and associated critical illnesses.

The Mary M. Parkes Center was the region's first asthma center. It remains one of the area's most comprehensive centers dedicated to people suffering from asthma and other lung diseases. Our care focuses on general pulmonary medicine, obstructive lung disease, and houses the only program in upstate New York devoted to pulmonary hypertension, a serious illness in which high blood pressure affects the arteries in the lungs and the right side of the heart. We are also involved in numerous clinical trials focusing on new therapies to help lessen symptoms and improve quality of life for patients in the region, across the country, and around the world.

With your support, our clinical and research teams will expand our programs to prevent, cure, and treat debilitating lung diseases such as childhood and adult asthma, and fund the innovative ideas of our collaborative investigators and clinicians, leaving a legacy for the future of lung research and care.

# Your gift helps us *treat and prevent lung disease*

Our goal is to improve the health of patients with asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, lung cancer, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension and other lung diseases through our research, and give patients hope for a healthier future through our care. But our success can be achieved only by continued investment in people and programs. Below is a sampling of how you can help. Every gift we receive makes a difference.

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## **ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS AND DIRECTORSHIP—\$1,500,000 to \$2,500,000**

Funding a permanent, named professorship at the Mary M. Parkes Center will have a lasting impact on lung health by supporting today's and tomorrow's leaders in research, education, and patient care. Endowed professorships (\$1.5 - \$2 million) are among the most prestigious honors a faculty member can receive. The endowed directorship (\$2.5 million) permanently names the position and enables the director to continue his or her own scientific research, recruit the most brilliant and promising clinicians and scientists, and ensure the Mary M. Parkes Center remains a leader in lung research and care.

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## **TEAM SCIENCE FUNDS—\$500,000 to \$1,000,000 (multi-year)**

Most scientific discoveries are not made by one lone scientist. Generally, they are the result of years of intensive work by teams of researchers that include graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and laboratory technicians. You can support the contributions of our entrepreneurial, innovative research teams who have a legacy of working collaboratively across disciplines and with scientists from other institutions. You can also support the technology that speeds the path to new lung therapies and cures, yet adds heavily to research costs.

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## **RISING STAR FUNDS—\$250,000 to \$500,000 (multi-year)**

Support at this level can help the best and brightest early-career researchers fund promising science that may be too undeveloped to attract external funding from traditional avenues of support like the National Institutes of Health (NIH); work that is vital to scientific discoveries and advances.

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## **PATIENT CARE AND RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY—\$50,000 to \$500,000**

Today's research and health care requires a combination of modern diagnostic strategies, clinical and research laboratories, and new technologies that help health care providers determine better therapies and treatments for lung patients, and prevent lung disease. You can help save the lives of our lung patients today, and provide them with a healthier tomorrow.

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## **PILOT PROJECTS/SEED FUNDS—\$50,000 to \$100,000 (annually)**

Gifts for seed funding are "risk capital." They allow scientists to shift the direction of their research to follow promising leads or new ideas, propelling scientific discoveries in new ways. You can help give researchers the time they need to push the boundaries of science and allow innovative ideas to reach their full potential.



MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

For more information about the Mary M. Parkes Center for Asthma, Allergy and Pulmonary Care, contact Jodi Revill at (585) 276-4978 or [jrevill@UR.rochester.edu](mailto:jrevill@UR.rochester.edu)

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Visit us online at [urmc.rochester.edu/mary-parkes/](http://urmc.rochester.edu/mary-parkes/)