Caring for individuals with diabetes throughout their lifespan—from infants to adults—is our mission at The University of Chicago Kovler Diabetes Center. We pursue our mission through the following:

**DIAGNOSIS**
Comprehensive, complete and accurate diagnosis, including genetic testing capabilities.

**TREATMENT**
Each treatment plan is highly individualized to meet each patient’s specific needs. We use the most effective and innovative medications and technologies to stabilize blood sugar and minimize long-term complications.

**COMPLICATIONS**
Our multidisciplinary approach addresses the many ways that diabetes can affect a person’s physical and emotional well-being.

**PREVENTION**
Preventing diabetes before it begins is the most effective intervention. Research programs at the Kovler Diabetes Center target people at high risk for diabetes, including African-Americans and Hispanics.

**EDUCATION**
Through one-on-one training and group classes recognized by the American Diabetes Association, we teach all our patients about everything from monitoring blood glucose, to healthy eating, to using insulin pumps and glucose meters.
On behalf of the Kovler Diabetes Center Leadership Board, we are honored to share the 2013 Annual Report. Kovler’s Leadership Board is comprised of diverse, passionate individuals who care about those with diabetes and who want to contribute to the impact that the University of Chicago can make in diagnosing, treating, and curing diabetes. The individual interests of our board members span the full range of Kovler’s work with Type 1, Type 2, monogenic diabetes, and obesity; the string that ties us together is our personal connection to the disease. As this year draws to a close, we are celebrating incredible achievements in research, the second Monogenic Diabetes Family Forum, and the opening of the Jim Tyree Diabetes Education Library, but we are also honored by the unfailing commitment and dedication of Kovler’s researchers, physicians, staff, and community supporters. As a Board, we are also celebrating the addition of two new members, Regina Taylor and David Miniat. I am very proud of those who serve with me, and would like to thank Khalid Alagel, Lisa Allegra, Graeme Bell, PhD, Dirk Degenaars, Amy Franze, Jay Franke, Laurie Jaffe, Donald Steiner, MD, and Eve Tyree for their generosity and tireless dedication to Kovler’s mission. Much of the work that Kovler has accomplished could not happen without the organizations and individuals who have contributed to Kovler through their time, talent and treasure.

Sally Kovler
Chairman
University of Chicago
Kovler Leadership Board
We are proud to present the Kovler Diabetes Center 2012 - 2013 Annual Report. We feel compelled to share the latest information regarding the global pandemic of diabetes and the rise in cases of Type 1, Type 2 and other genetic forms of diabetes on local, regional, and national levels. This report highlights the accomplishments, challenges and priorities of the Section of Adult and Pediatric Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Kovler Diabetes Center and the entire University of Chicago Medicine diabetes enterprise.

This past year, we continued to build upon more than 100 years of diabetes patient care and research at the University of Chicago. Kovler’s focus on clinical and translational research, care, education and community engagement sets a high standard of practice for diabetes care and discovery worldwide. To achieve this level of commitment, we continue to expand both our clinical services and research programs, recruit top talent, provide innovative diabetes education services, and deepen our local and national engagement as a leader in the field.

Kovler has been built upon the pillars of strength and support from the University of Chicago Medicine, with visionary leadership from Graeme Bell, PhD, Donald Steiner, MD, Everett Vokes, MD, Roy Weiss, MD, PhD and Dean Kenneth Polonsky, MD. So many others have partnered with us in amazing ways to improve the lives of those with diabetes, and we could not be more proud of our researchers and care providers who work tirelessly on a daily basis. Because of our dedicated staff, we are able to provide a network of care that extends from the South Side of Chicago to distant corners of the globe.

As the incidence of diabetes continues to increase at an alarming rate, the need for Kovler’s care and research only continues to grow. As you page through this report, you will realize that there is much to celebrate, but there is also much work to be done. The Kovler Diabetes Center would not be where we are today without friends like you. We are so grateful for your partnership and support.
On behalf of the Section of Adult and Pediatric Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the University of Chicago, we are proud of all Kovler has achieved. This past year we were able to continue our 3-fold mission: (1) to provide excellence in patient care; (2) to perform cutting-edge basic, clinical and translational research in diabetes and (3) to provide outstanding educational opportunities.

This year also saw major steps forward in our research and care with several new discoveries by our esteemed faculty. A special congratulations goes out to Graeme Ian Bell, PhD for winning the Banting Medal and the Manpei Suzuki International Prize. Both of these are prestigious awards not only in the diabetes community but, also in the medical and biological communities.

Kovler’s success has been due to the relentless focus and forward direction by our researchers, physicians, scientists, educators and entire teams in every department, building upon 100 years of diabetes care and research at the University of Chicago. Our Section has maintained a position of prominence by virtue of the quality of faculty and their ability to remain at the forefront of medicine.

Roy E. Weiss
Roy E. Weiss, MD, PhD
Rabbi Esformes Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Chief, Section of Adult and Pediatric Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism
Deputy Provost for Research
Executive Vice Chair of Medicine
Dr. Bell studies the genetics of diabetes mellitus and the biology of the insulin-secreting pancreatic beta-cell. He cloned and characterized many of the genes that are key in the regulation of glucose metabolism including insulin, glucagon, and many others.

This past February, Dr. Bell received the Manpei Suzuki International Prize, which honors those who have enlightened researchers in the field of diabetes around the world with their original scientific achievements. According to the selection committee, Dr. Bell was honored for his “extensive and groundbreaking contributions over many years to many landmark discoveries in diabetes research utilizing the powerful technologies of molecular biology and genetics.”

“Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Graeme’s research in diabetes is its scope,” said Nancy Cox, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics and Section Chief of Genetic Medicine at the University of Chicago. “He has made fundamental discoveries, but he also wants to make sure that patients benefit quickly from those advances. He engages with scientists in health care economics to evaluate the costs and benefits of translating the research findings into routine patient care, and works with clinicians to develop protocols for that translation. Few have the ability and the drive to do basic, translational and clinical research so effectively. This is a well-deserved honor.”

This year, Graeme Ian Bell, PhD, the Louis Block Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics and a premier investigator at the University of Chicago Medicine Kovler Diabetes Center, was awarded two prestigious prizes for his pioneering work in understanding the role of genetics in the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes.

In June, Dr. Bell was awarded the 2013 Banting Medal for Scientific Achievement, which is the highest scientific honor given by the American Diabetes Association. This award is in honor of Sir Frederick Banting, a scientist who contributed to the discovery of insulin.

I was born and raised in Chicago, where I attended high school. After traveling to Washington, DC for undergraduate studies, I graduated from Howard University in 2011. After graduation, I sought out meaningful translational research experience that would allow me to gain technical lab skills as well as understand how research touches real people. Becoming a member of the Bell Lab has allowed me to touch hundreds of families by finding causal gene mutations that allow certain patients to leave insulin therapy behind and use simple pills to treat their diabetes. I hope to continue in my current position as research assistant and increase the awareness of genetic diabetes testing around the world.”

- Charles Bell
In recent years there has been a growing interest in the possibility of a direct effect of insulin on the pancreatic beta cell. There have been numerous articles and several reviews written on the subject, however, the concept is still controversial. Dr. Christopher Rhodes and renowned co-authors shared thoughts on the available experimental evidence in the May publication of Diabetes.

Dr. Rhodes, Research Director at the Kovler Diabetes Center, is also a member of the Brehm Coalition, a network of senior beta-cell researchers and immunologists across the US, collaborating to find novel ways of preventing Type 1 diabetes. He says, “The Brehm Coalition is an enterprise that I am flattered to be part of; a collective of dedicated diabetes researchers from throughout North America where bright ideas and synergistic interactions chart new research directions aimed at Type 1 diabetes,” said Dr. Rhodes. “Each member of the Brehm Coalition has colleagues, collaborators and unique resources from their home institutions, that then creates a wider network of cutting-edge scientists, allowing diabetes research to move forward faster.”

Dr. Rhodes’ diabetes research is at the cellular level, focusing on molecular mechanisms of insulin production and secretion, as well as signal transduction pathways that control pancreatic beta cell growth and death in Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. He has published over 150 manuscripts, chapters and reviews with funding from organizations such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Diabetes Association and the National Institutes of Health in nearly 30 years of diabetes research.

The cover of the August 2013 issue of Diabetes, published by the ADA, featured “The Islet of Hope”, by Patrick C. Moore and Christopher J. Rhodes of the Kovler Diabetes Center at The University of Chicago and Mark Atkinson of the Department of Pathology at the University of Florida. The image is of a human pancreatic islet from a person with long-standing Type 1 diabetes. The name Islet of Hope was chosen because after more than 20 years of Type 1 diabetes, an insulin-producing β-cell is still present.
This year, Kovler welcomed Tiffany Grant, RN, FNP, as Associate Director of Clinical Research. At Kovler, more than 150 scientists work toward novel treatments, prevention, and even potential cures for Type 1 and 2 diabetes, obesity, and diabetic complications, but the need for expansion in clinical research in endocrinology and diabetes in Chicago led to the new role for Tiffany. Tiffany has been in the health care profession since 2003. Over the past 10 years, she has worked in various clinical and research settings. Since joining the team in April, she has collaborated with various clinical investigations to create a more streamlined and uniform program for the initiation, management, and development of sponsored and investigator-initiated endocrine and diabetes clinical research trials. Building on her years of experience, Grant has enjoyed bringing her energy and vision to her new role. “It is exciting to build on the rich history of research at the University of Chicago and continue to translate research into new ways of treatment and management of diabetes with new tools.”

ENERGY AND VISION Tiffany Grant

THE FINE PRINT A Selection of Outstanding Diabetes Research Publications


Savic D, Park SY, Bailey KA, Bell GI, Nobrega MA. In vitro scan for enhancers at the TCF7L2 locus. Diabetologia. 2013 56(1):121-5.


Kovler continues to enhance the clinical experience for adults, children and families who receive care. This year, Medical Center and Endocrine leadership partnered with other outpatient specialty clinics to enhance the way care is delivered, and to expand opportunities to improve. Building on more than ten years of experience at the University of Chicago, Scott hopes to bring innovation to her new position as Clinic Manager. Scott’s goal is to improve current practice and leverage strengths while implementing new workflow processes that will directly impact the patients’ experience. “From first observations of the Endocrine Clinic and Kovler Diabetes Center, I was amazed and impressed with the care that our providers and staff demonstrate as each patient is escorted through their visit,” says Scott. “It’s magical when I hear one of our clinical team members greet a patient by name. That personal engagement goes a long way.”

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

“We came to Kovler when Nicholas was starting 7th grade because he had been going to an adult endocrinologist and I had heard about Kovler’s InTransit program. Being a teenager is hard – even when you DON’T have a chronic illness – but when you have diabetes, it is especially difficult. Dr. Philipson gave Nicholas the opportunity to see a psychologist, which made a tremendous difference in allowing Nicholas to release his pent-up frustration, disappointment, and anger towards his diabetes. Kovler made him feel like he wasn’t the only one struggling, and turned him in the right direction of re-thinking his attitude toward diabetes.”

- Cindy King

Nicholas King
The care that our Julia received while in the hospital was exemplary, but the follow up and attention she has received since then has been beyond our wildest expectations. Julia’s physician, Dr. Littlejohn, and her diabetes educator, Julia Socke, are two of the most amazing individuals we have ever come into contact with. They are an e-mail or a phone call away, and answer all of our questions and concerns. We have not for one second felt alone, without help, or afraid since Julia was diagnosed.

Julia said a while ago that when she grows up, she wants to be a diabetes educator because they are such great people and help kids and families so much. Julia Socke has had such a profound effect on us that our Julia wants to be just like her. I think that’s wonderful!”

- Sarah Arnold

This past year, Dianne Deplewski, MD, one of Kovler’s premier pediatric endocrinologists, made a commitment to spend more time in Hyde Park, allowing her to see more patients and provide more flexibility for the families trying to schedule appointments. In addition, Dr. Deplewski will partner with the entire Kovler team of specialists including nurses, psychologists, social workers and dieticians.

Dr. Deplewski serves as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Pediatric Endocrinology Training Program at the University of Chicago. In addition to serving as a pediatric endocrinology clinician in the Chicago area for the past 15 years, Dr. Deplewski is an active researcher of diabetes, insulin resistance, growth and puberty.

As one of just a few structured pediatric diabetes programs in the U.S., Kovler for Kids offers support for both parents and young people during this critical period in life. Kovler for Kids continued to expand services this past year and see more children with diabetes than ever before at the Merrillville, Indiana satellite office, where Dr. Littlejohn sees patients with Dr. Dorit Koren and diabetes educator Julia Socke. As Associate Director of Kovler, heading the pediatric diabetes team with Dr. Deplewski and others, Dr. Littlejohn shared her thoughts about Kovler for Kids, which “helps kids and families understand what diabetes is, the nutritional needs they’ll have, the tests and procedures they may face, and how they can explain their condition to friends. We use age-appropriate games, toys and quizzes to help illustrate concepts, and we help siblings understand what’s happening so that they don’t feel ‘left out.’”
We didn’t choose Kovler; Kovler was chosen for us by my daughter’s pediatrician, who wanted to make sure that she had the best pediatric care. From the instant we arrived at the hospital, the nurses, doctors, and entire staff made it clear that they would bend over backwards to help our daughter. When we met Evey’s pediatric endocrinologist, we were able to have a great conversation with him as if he was one of our friends.

Evey’s diabetes educator is world-class, yet down to earth; if there is a problem, she will respond instantly. If we are nervous or have issues with a product, she will fix it. It truly is amazing to see that there are other people out there that love your child and want to help your child as much as a parent would. We drive over an hour to come to Kovler for exceptional treatment, and we can’t ask for anything more.”

- Rebecca and Jon Evans

Dr. Greeley specializes in the treatment of infants, children, and teens with all types of diabetes. Through basic and clinical research, Dr. Greeley hopes to shed light on the full spectrum of childhood diabetes. His research is particularly focused on monogenic diabetes, which is caused by single gene mutations and is often unrecognized. Recently, Dr. Greeley designed and implemented the first national Web-based registry of patients with neonatal diabetes, who are more likely to have an underlying monogenic cause. In addition to presenting his work at symposia worldwide, Dr. Greeley has published his research in numerous medical journals including Nature Medicine, the Journal of Immunology, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Pediatric Diabetes, the Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology, and Diabetes Care. Dr. Greeley continues to collaborate with new faculty, like Dr. Naylor, and partner in clinical research efforts.

Dr. Naylor specializes in the care of infants and children with various forms of diabetes. In addition to seeing patients, Dr. Naylor co-manages Kovler Diabetes Center’s MODY Registry (maturity onset diabetes of the young), a nationwide database of individuals affected by MODY, a rare form of diabetes. The registry is designed to track and study MODY in individuals on a long-term basis, noting symptoms, genetic patterns in families, and optimal therapies for each patient. Dr. Naylor has published research articles in journals ranging from Clinical Endocrinology to the Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology, and has also presented her studies at symposia nationwide. Dr. Naylor was mentored by Dr. Philipson, Dr. Bell and Dr. Greeley. As an instructor and junior faculty member, Rochelle can now give back to her colleagues, like fellow Dr. Jessica Huang.”

Dr. Huang is second year endocrinology fellow who originally grew up in Boston, MA. She graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, received her medical degree at Rush Medical College, and completed an internal medicine residency at The University of Chicago. Her clinical practice focuses on general endocrinology—which includes disorders of the thyroid and adrenal glands, diabetes and obesity. Dr. Huang’s research interests are in the genetics of diabetes, especially the contributions of mutations in monogenic diabetes genes to the overall prevalence of diabetes in the United States. She is an in-training member of the American Diabetes Association, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologist and The Endocrine Society.
In its seventh year, The Kovler Diabetes Center’s InTransit program continues to provide customized clinical care and educational programming for teens and young adults with diabetes. The goal is to empower teens and young adults to manage their diabetes and create a healthy future. It includes pediatric and adult endocrinologists working side-by-side at the Kovler clinic to help patients (like Zach, left) ‘transition’ their diabetes care and responsibilities from their parents and family to themselves.

**HEART & SOUL Tammy Polonsky, MD**

"Having diabetes puts patients at a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease, such as a heart attack or stroke. Kovler specialists and their colleagues can substantially lower that risk by working with patients to control their cardiovascular risk factors. For example, we counsel all of our patients about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle with diet and exercise. Sometimes patients also need medication to control their blood pressure or cholesterol. I communicate regularly with the endocrinologists to make sure that our patients are meeting all of their targets."

-Tammy Polonsky, MD

**ON OUR MINDS Treating the Whole Person**

"The psychosocial impact of a diabetes diagnosis is present at every stage of life, but when the diagnosis is made in childhood, parents face an enormous amount of anxiety, worry, guilt, shock, and grief. At Kovler, we offer a family-based approach that is focused on meeting the needs not just of the patient, but of everyone impacted by the diagnosis. By offering support and specific strategies, we have found that we can help to improve the quality of life for everyone involved."

-Tina Drossos, PhD

When our son, Jake, was diagnosed at age 9 with Type 1, we didn’t know anything about diabetes. Needless to say, we were completely overwhelmed! We researched doctors and diabetes centers that could give Jake the best medical care, and our research led us to Kovler and Dr. Philipson. We stayed at Kovler because of the ongoing quality of care and expertise that their team provides for our son. Amy Hess-Fischl, our Diabetes Educator, is a huge part of that care! She provided Jake and our family so much support and information as we transitioned our new life of glucose testing, bolusing, and site changes. We feel part of a “Kovler family” that shares the common goal of caring for Jake’s diabetes and, one day, finding a cure.

-Pamela Alagel
Amy Hess-Fischl, MS, RD, LDN, BC-ADM, CDE, is an advanced practice dietitian and coordinator of Kovler’s InTransit Teen Transition program, a unique diabetes education program for adolescents with diabetes. In addition to speaking internationally on all diabetes topics, was named “Diabetes Educator of the Year” by the Diabetes Care and Education practice group of the American Dietetic Association. Currently, Hess-Fischl is chair of the ADA’s Diabetes Care and Education practice group, comprised of more than 6,500 registered dietitians across the country. She also serves as an expert reviewer for the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, has been published in both professional and lay publications, and has served on numerous task forces and advisory boards nationwide.

PEER SUPPORT Charlie Rotering

“....

The group was a great way for parents to network and exchange tried-and-true diabetic knowledge, and an even better way for kids to get to know others who were dealing with many of the same things they were dealing with. While Chicago Kids for a Cure existed as a direct face-to-face connection between families, The University of Chicago Kovler Diabetes Center provided the expertise and medical knowledge many parents were looking for, as well as a larger support group from across the area. Going through middle school and high school with diabetes can be difficult, but Kovler had many resources available to make it easier. Some of these resources included opportunities to meet other teens with diabetes and learn more about managing the disease independently, as well as other ways to become more involved and empowered. Despite the fact that Kovler wasn’t the facility from which I received most of my diabetic care, the Kovler team provided excellent support and great care when I did visit, and always stayed in touch with me and my family.

An excellent support network is an essential resource for any family dealing with diabetes. Being invited to Kovler events, participating in various Kovler-sponsored activities (open to anyone with diabetes) and being able to talk with researchers and others deeply involved at Kovler all helped support me and many others with Type 1 diabetes.”

- Charlie Rotering
THE EDUCATION CONNECTION
On April 27th, the Kovler Team came together to help raise diabetes awareness at Kovler’s 7th Annual Living Well With Diabetes Event. Speakers included Dr. Rochelle Naylor, Registered Dietician and Certified Diabetes Educator Amy Hess Fischl, Chef Jennifer Bucko Lamplough, and award-winning actress Sherri Shepherd.

Sherri Shepherd, co-host of The View, took the stage in front of over 200 patients, community members and friends to share her personal experience with diabetes.

As one attendee described, “Sherri said that when she was diagnosed with diabetes, she did not take it seriously until she realized that she needed to improve her health to stay around to watch her son grow up.” The crowd laughed as Sherri shared anecdotes about her own struggles to get healthy. “Sometimes I ask myself, do you want that cheesecake, or do you want your foot?”

Speakers returned to the stage for a panel in the style of The View (complete with Kovler Diabetes Center mugs) and answered questions from the audience.
This July, the University of Chicago Kovler Diabetes Center hosted the second conference in North America for individuals and families with monogenic diabetes. The conference was attended by over fifty families with various forms of monogenic diabetes from numerous states and countries, including Alabama, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, California, Mississippi, Florida, Canada, Australia, England, and Argentina. This gathering of individuals and their families with so many unusual causes of monogenic diabetes was unprecedented.

The conference offered a rich opportunity for growth and learning, as well as meaningful social interaction between families impacted by rare genetic forms of diabetes.

It is believed that 90% of individuals with monogenic diabetes are undiagnosed, which is between 100,000 to 300,000 individuals in the United States alone. For most individuals, a genetic diagnosis is transformative; it often leads to improved treatment (the ability to take oral medication instead of insulin injections) or eliminates the need for treatment altogether.

The University of Chicago has a proud history of producing the leading research of genetic diabetes. Most of the key genes were discovered and evaluated by Dr. Graeme Bell, PhD, and Dr. Kenneth Polonsky, MD and Dean of the Pritzker School of Medicine.

Dr. Andrew Hattersley, MD, and Dr. Frances Ashcroft, PhD, two distinguished guests from the UK that presented at the conference, have also contributed pivotal work to this area of study. Andrew Hattersley, MD, highlighted the impact that patients have had on his research over the years. “Patients have been central to all advances in monogenic diabetes. We would have found no genes without the help of patients,” he said.

One of the highlights of the conference was an exclusive preview of a documentary on the discovery of monogenic diabetes and the impact it has had on Lilly Jaffe, who is now 1. Lilly and her family sponsored the conference and are working tirelessly to complete the documentary.

The conference concluded with an after-hours visit and dinner at Lincoln Park Zoo, where Dean Polonsky greeted attendees and the entire group came together for one last photo and a carousel ride. Peggy Hasenauer, MS, RN and Executive Director of Kovler said, "We were so humbled by the opportunity to host an event that educates and inspires others, and we were honored by the attendance of so many families and medical professionals."
Kovler celebrated a huge milestone: the completion of the Jim Tyree Diabetes Education Library in the Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine Endocrine Clinic and Kovler Diabetes Center. The completion of the library marks a massive step toward the launch of the James C. Tyree Diabetes Care and Innovation Program, a huge undertaking made possible by a generous gift by the James C. Tyree Foundation. Friends and family of Jim Tyree, James C. Tyree Foundation Board Members, Kovler Board Members, and Kovler faculty gathered in the space to celebrate Jim’s life and the huge impact his legacy will have on diabetes care and education at the University of Chicago Kovler Diabetes Center.

Jim’s wife Eve spoke, sharing how this new library, coupled with the top-quality care provided by our physicians and educators, will give patients the best chance of success in the management of their diabetes. According to Eve, Jim “treated everyone as family; he had his Mesirow Financial family, his Kovler Diabetes Center family, and our family. It seems fitting that we celebrate and honor his life by creating a space for people to feel not like patients, but like family. When someone is family, you don’t hesitate to help them out, to give them what they need to succeed.”

The personalized resources available at the library will enhance and expand diabetes education for members of the University of Chicago Kovler Diabetes Center family and beyond, giving them the best chance for successful management of their diabetes.
Diabetes rates are increasing at an astonishing rate. Unfortunately the South side of Chicago - the communities served by the University of Chicago - has higher rates of diabetes than the national average. As part of Improving Diabetes Care and Outcomes on the South Side of Chicago, the Kovler’s Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program seeks to improve glucose control among our patients through a formalized program of peer support and encouragement.

Linda Myles is a nurse at the University of Chicago Medical Center and living with Type 2 Diabetes. As part of Kovler’s Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program, Linda volunteered her time to serve as a partner and mentor for other patients who were struggling with their diabetes control.

This form of peer-based intervention offers many unique opportunities to prevent the development of the disease among other members of the community, hopefully reducing diabetes rates throughout the South Side.

Kovler was proud to partner with By the Hand this year. By The Hand is a Chicago-based, after-school program that emphasizes academic excellence while nurturing the whole child—mind, body and soul.

Laurie Jaffe, a Kovler Leadership Board member, introduce Kovler’s Executive Director Peggy Hasenauer to By the Hand’s Founder Donnita Travis. The two became fast friends, and developed a unique opportunity to have Dr. Rochelle Naylor present. Dr. Naylor met with families to discuss diabetes risks, risks in risks, healthy living, and the importance of getting involved to battle diabetes as a community.

“New partnerships like By The Hand are critical for Kovler to reach communities in Chicago in a meaningful way.” Said Peggy Hasenauer. “By The Hand has been a strategic and fruitful partner in reaching communities on the South side of Chicago and providing quality education.”
Because of our son Cooper’s rare form of diabetes (monogenic), the doctors at the hospital where he was delivered did not know how to diagnose him. We were connected to Dr. Greeley, who was reassuring, calm and talked to us about genetics and monogenic diabetes in a way we could understand. He helped us with a plan to transition Cooper from an insulin IV drip to an oral medication.

We are lucky enough to live within 30 miles of the Kovler Diabetes Center and to have the best doctors for Cooper at our fingertips. The doctors at Kovler have made us feel like family. They are supportive, knowledgeable and gave our son great care during one of the most difficult times for us!“

-Molly & Mike Bryant
Aided by the combination of unseasonably warm weather and crunchy leaves underfoot, *Pumpkins for a Cure* was the perfect fall festival with a mission.

Founded by Paul and Mary Agnes Zellmer, the Zellmer Childhood Disease Foundation welcomes thousands to Geneva, IL for its annual *Pumpkins for a Cure* to raise funds for diabetes care and research. Kovler was honored to receive a grant from the Zellmer Childhood Disease Foundation to support important work at Kovler.

Under bright sunny skies families filled red wagons full of pumpkins, mums, and festive dried corn stalks. Children with intricately painted faces enjoyed entertainment from a number of acts, including two singing fairy godmothers.

The *Harvest Taste* portion of the festival allowed attendees to sample fall-themed treats from local bakeries and innovative cuisine from ambitious area cooks.

*Pumpkins for a Cure* and the Zellmer Family continue to support diabetes care and research in Chicago, specifically partnering with Kovler to foster its mission.
For the second year in a row the Kovler Diabetes Center invited families to learn and play at the Kohl Children’s Museum in Glenview. Kovler’s kids had the museum all to themselves on a Sunday morning in early November. With a great crew of Kovler staff, physicians, and volunteers, children learned new skills and enjoyed the museum. Dr. Siri Greeley, pediatric endocrinologist at Kovler, took children through the new science exhibit.

While more than 40 children enjoyed the museum, parents and caregivers learned about diabetes care and research from Kovler’s leading experts. According to clinical psychologist Tina Drossos, PhD, “Taking care of a chronically ill child is one of the most draining and difficult tasks a parent can face.” Dr. Drossos shared that “even though having a child with diabetes in the family can be very challenging, it can have some positive effects too: families live healthier lifestyles, children learn to be more confident and independent at an early age, and bonds between family members strengthen as a result of a diabetes diagnosis.”

Dr. Lou Philipson shared with attendees information regarding the newest technologies in diabetes care and research, explaining Kovler’s use of clinical trials to develop more personalized treatments and work toward finding a cure. According to parent Robin Smith, “Dr. Philipson’s explanation of the clinical trials was so succinct and to the point. I really appreciate the effort it took to take something so complicated and break it down into parts and then to put the parts in context of funding, effectiveness and future hope. He is truly a tremendous force!”

Children with diabetes and their siblings play at the event.
Back Row: Dirk Degenaars, Eve Tyree, Dave Minlat, Donald Steiner, MD, Peggy Hasenauer, Christopher Rhodes, PhD, Laila Rashid, Sean Campbell
Front Row: Sally Kovler, Amy Franze, Regina Taylor
Inset: Lou Phillipson, MD, PhD, Jay Franke, Graeme Ian Bell, PhD, Laurie Jaffe, Lisa Allegra
During the press conference at July’s Monogenic Family Forum, Governor Pat Quinn signed two new laws in Illinois that will support diabetes research. “More than 800,000 people in Illinois suffer from diabetes, more than double the number from 20 years ago." Governor Quinn said. "It’s critically important that we continue to do everything in our power to raise awareness and support research by leading institutions like the University of Chicago Medicine.”

This past year, Leader Cross led the charge for improved diabetes care and advocacy in the state, declaring November 14 IL Diabetes Awareness Day alongside Gov. Pat Quinn and Dr. Lou Philipson. In addition, Rep. Cross joined his colleagues at Kovler’s Celebrating Miracles and Milestones international conference in July to speak in front of guests, Kovler leadership, and the media about the state’s new commission on diabetes care and diabetes data management in the state. As he has done for so many years, Cross advocated for those with diabetes and also spearheaded the Illinois diabetes license place movement.

LEADERS WORKING TOGETHER Governor Pat Quinn & State Representative Tom Cross Support Diabetes Bill

Illinois State Representative Tom Cross (R-Oswego) has been a tireless advocate for diabetes care, education and research throughout the state of Illinois - and he has been a long-time friend of Kovler. As the father of a teen with Type 1 diabetes, Cross founded the Illinois Diabetes Legislative Caucus in 2011.

During the press conference at July’s Monogenic Family Forum, Governor Pat Quinn signed two new laws in Illinois that will support diabetes research. “More than 800,000 people in Illinois suffer from diabetes, more than double the number from 20 years ago." Governor Quinn said. "It’s critically important that we continue to do everything in our power to raise awareness and support research by leading institutions like the University of Chicago Medicine.”

This past year, Leader Cross led the charge for improved diabetes care and advocacy in the state, declaring November 14 IL Diabetes Awareness Day alongside Gov. Pat Quinn and Dr. Lou Philipson. In addition, Rep. Cross joined his colleagues at Kovler’s Celebrating Miracles and Milestones international conference in July to speak in front of guests, Kovler leadership, and the media about the state’s new commission on diabetes care and diabetes data management in the state. As he has done for so many years, Cross advocated for those with diabetes and also spearheaded the Illinois diabetes license place movement.

WELCOMING NEW & ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES Award-Winning Actress & Business Leader Strengthen Kovler Board

With an impressive body of work that encompasses film, television, theater and writing, Regina Taylor’s career continues to evolve with exciting and challenging projects. Taylor is best known to television audiences for her role as Lilly Harper in the series “I’ll Fly Away.” She received many accolades for her performance in the show including winning a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series and two Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. In addition to her film and television work, Taylor holds the honor as being the first Black woman to play William Shakespeare’s Juliet in Broadway’s “Romeo and Juliet.”

An established business leader in the food manufacturing industry, David Miniat has served as president of Ed Miniat, Inc. since 1995. Run by the same family for over 100 years, the company delivers cooked meats to meal manufacturers and restaurants. He currently focuses on executing policies developed by the board of directors while developing strategic initiatives for the company’s day-to-day operations. He also oversees the department heads who coordinate each of the company’s separate divisions. Beyond his leadership role with Ed Miniat, Inc., he holds a seat on the board of directors of the American Meat Institute.

With an impressive body of work that encompasses film, television, theater and writing, Regina Taylor’s career continues to evolve with exciting and challenging projects. Taylor is best known to television audiences for her role as Lilly Harper in the series “I’ll Fly Away.” She received many accolades for her performance in the show including winning a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a TV Series, an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series and two Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. In addition to her film and television work, Taylor holds the honor as being the first Black woman to play William Shakespeare’s Juliet in Broadway’s “Romeo and Juliet.”

An established business leader in the food manufacturing industry, David Miniat has served as president of Ed Miniat, Inc. since 1995. Run by the same family for over 100 years, the company delivers cooked meats to meal manufacturers and restaurants. He currently focuses on executing policies developed by the board of directors while developing strategic initiatives for the company’s day-to-day operations. He also oversees the department heads who coordinate each of the company’s separate divisions. Beyond his leadership role with Ed Miniat, Inc., he holds a seat on the board of directors of the American Meat Institute.

“The University of Chicago Kovler Diabetes Center Leadership Board was proud to welcome two new members this year, Regina Taylor and David Miniat. We are so honored to have such a diverse and committed group of philanthropists supporting us and guiding our organization with their generosity and leadership.”

- Sally Kovler, Chairman, Kovler Leadership Board
The honor roll reflects gifts made between July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Another year has passed at the University of Chicago Kovler Diabetes Center - and what an exciting year it has been.

We continue our march forward toward new discoveries, even better care and accessibility for families and individuals.

Thank you for supporting our mission at Kovler. We are dedicated to making next year even more exciting and groundbreaking.

Louis H. Philipson, MD, PhD, FACP
Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Director, University of Chicago Medicine
Kovler Diabetes Center

*If you do not wish to appear in future print or online donor listings, please contact Peggy Hasenauer at Peggy.Hasenauer@uchospitals.edu to request that your name be excluded.*
SPONSOR $1,000 - $4,999

Amgen Inc.
ContextMedia
Adrienne and Gary Eizenga
Peter & Paula Fasseas Foundation
Gantz Family Foundation
Deborah and Timothy Gardner
Linda and David Gill
Nancy and Dennis Good
Susan and Gordon Hagberg
Joan and Charles Moore
Lynn and Louis Philipson, MD, PhD
Gail and Larry Plunkett
Melinda and Richard Poulton
Karen and James Reid II
Ady and Harry Rosenberg
Gracia and Robert Schmidt
Jill and Tom Shannon
Walgreens Health Initiatives
Zellmer Childhood Disease Foundation

FRIEND UNDER $1,000

Abt Family Foundation
Mary Ann and Thomas Ahern
Frankie and Howard Alper
Myra Breakstone
Sean Campbell
Darcie Cox
Kathleen Deveny
Elizabeth Dyer-Mesires
Martha Goldrich-Forsyth and William Forsyth III
Brian Golinvaux
Gabrielle Jonas and Howard Bloom, DDS
Justin Knisely
Medtronic, Inc.
Samantha Miller
Megan Minit
Elaine and Dennis Pietrini
Ingrida and William Read III
Pagoda Red
Pam and Norm Richter
Karen and Christopher Segal
Carolyn and Brian Swett
Beth Wartnaby
Carol Yingst
How you can help

- Build communities around healthy living.
- Support a rising star in research.
- Prevent diabetes in the next generation.
- Refer a friend in need.
- Give back.
- Enroll in a new clinical trial for diabetes treatment, or a possible cure.
- Tell others about Kovler’s mission.
- Interact with teens and children who face diabetes every day.
- Volunteer your time as a Kovler Krew member.
- Host an event or meal that celebrates Kovler’s mission.
- Introduce a new idea to expand Kovler’s reach.
- Sponsor events that live and breathe Kovler’s mission.
- Get excited about the future of diabetes research.
- Understand our personal connections to diabetes.

- Write a blog about how diabetes has affected you, or a loved one.
- Honor those we love and have lost who struggled with diabetes.
- Feel proud of what we have accomplished together.
- Educate yourself about Kovler’s programs and services.
- Feel you are making a difference in Chicago, and in the world.
- Lead Kovler in the years ahead as a Board member.
- Ask friends to give generously.
- Explore businesses and corporations that may have an interest in diabetes.
- Stay connected.
- Reignite your sense of urgency to make a difference.
- Be the voice of Kovler.
- Share your stories.

MAKE THE CONNECTION.
CONNECT WITH KOVLER.
This is an exciting time for the University of Chicago Medicine as we expand the horizons of health care and our own facilities. We are inspired by the efforts of our colleagues, staff, friends and donors who help those facing the challenges of diabetes every day.

As technology advances, the Kovler Diabetes Center mission exemplifies all that we do at the University of Chicago Medicine. Kovler’s vision for the future is intertwined with the way we care for people living with diabetes and our communities we serve.

We thank you for your continued and vital support as we pursue our work to find a cure for diabetes and provide leading-edge care, education and community engagement.

Sharon O’Keefe
President, University of Chicago Medical Center

Kenneth S. Polonsky
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Chicago
Dean, Biological Sciences Division and Pritzker School of Medicine
WE ARE ALL CONNECTED