

**FREE**

Fall 2017

Pittsburgh

# FiftyFive **PLUS**

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



GRAND CHAMPION  
Arthur S. Levine, MD



COMMUNITY CHAMPION  
Jewish Healthcare Foundation  
Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD



CAREGIVER CHAMPION  
Eric G. Rodriguez, MD

## SENIOR *Celebrating* CHAMPIONS

UPMC | SENIOR SERVICES

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# SENIOR Celebrating CHAMPIONS

## Creating a Better Life for Seniors



**RICK SEBAK**, creator of memorable television programs that celebrate quirky aspects of modern American life, will serve as master of ceremonies when UPMC Senior Services honors extraordinary individuals and organizations who contribute significant time and energy to improving the lives of seniors throughout Western Pennsylvania.

To celebrate and support the UPMC Senior Communities Benevolent Care Fund, more than 400 business leaders, physicians and supporters of senior causes will gather on Thursday, October 19 for the Ninth Annual Celebrating Senior Champions Dinner and Auction at the Omni William Penn Hotel.

“We are proud to shine a light on three distinguished awardees whose extraordinary and diligent work benefits countless seniors and caregivers in our region. We are a stronger, healthier community for their contributions to the cause of aging well,” says Deborah Brodine, President of UPMC Community Provider Services.

**ARTHUR S. LEVINE, MD** will be honored as the Grand Champion. Dr. Levine became Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh in 1998. He was named the John and Gertrude Petersen Dean of Medicine in 2013. He is also Professor of Medicine and Molecular Genetics in the School of Medicine.

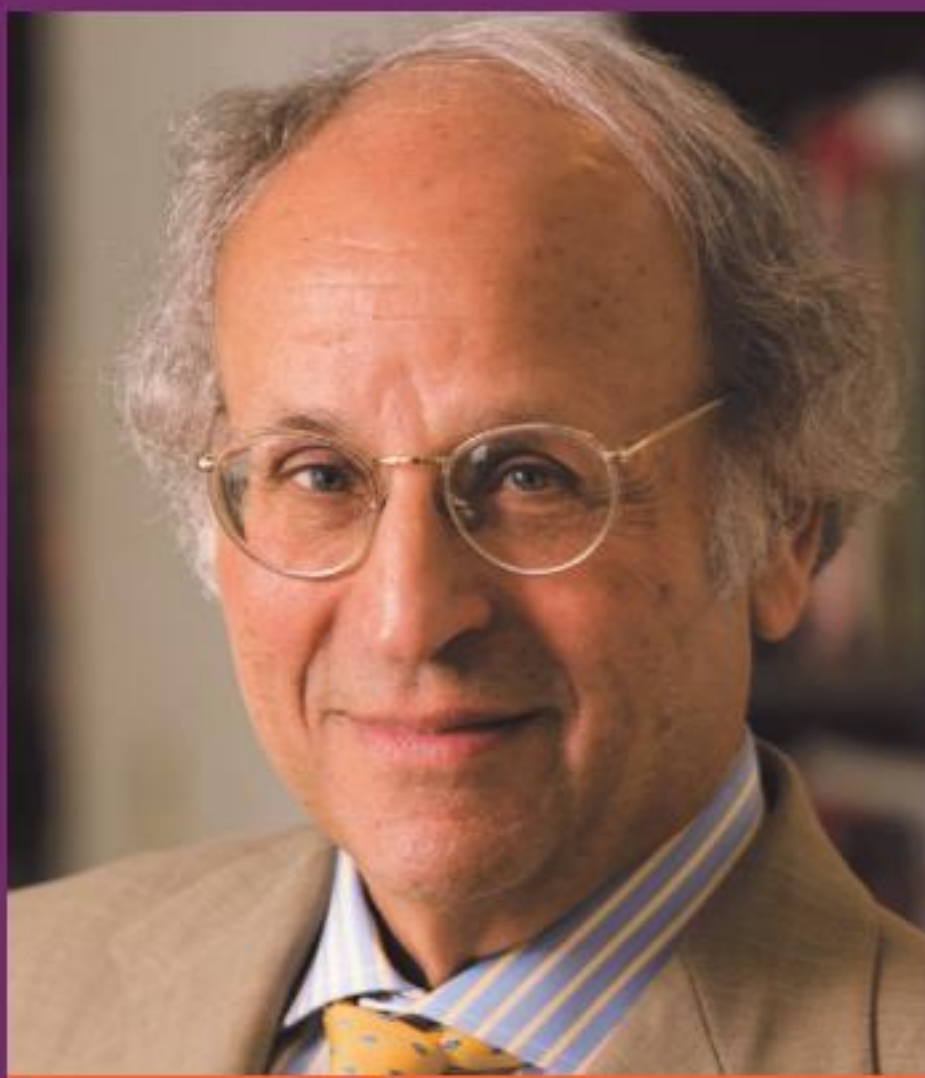
The faculty of the University of Pittsburgh ranks fifth nationally in National Institute of Health (NIH) research funding, and Dr. Levine has been instrumental in fostering the University’s remarkable research trajectory. He is a driving force of fundamental research into aging processes at the cellular and subcellular levels. His own molecular biology-based laboratory is focused, in part, on the role of DNA damage in promoting premature aging. With respect to educa-

tion, Dr. Levine has initiated new mechanisms designed to enhance the recruitment and retention of talented students and trainees with the goal of helping to reverse the precipitous decline across the nation in the numbers of young physicians and other health science students embarking upon substantive careers in research and education. He continues to have a marked influence upon growing the next generations of scientists and clinicians in geriatrics and gerontology.

Beyond his University responsibilities, Dr. Levine works closely with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, one of the largest academic medical centers in the U.S., to ensure that health care delivery, biomedical research, and education—the three legs of the “classic academic stool” – remain equally strong and well positioned for future growth. Dr. Charles F. Reynolds, Immediate Past Director of the Aging Institute, notes that his “leadership has proven to be wise and nimble in helping the Schools of the Health Sciences adapt to a rapidly changing environment. There are few, if any, institutions stronger than the University of Pittsburgh and the Medical Center in geriatrics and gerontology.”

**THE JEWISH HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (JHF)** will be recognized as the Community Champion. Under the leadership of **KAREN WOLK FEINSTEIN, PHD**, President and CEO, JHF and its two operating arms, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) and Health Careers Futures (HCF), perform a unique mix of grant making, research, teaching, coaching, and project management. Together, these entities have become a leading voice in patient safety, healthcare quality, and related workforce issues. “Having an organization that is laser focused on ensuring patient interests are addressed with dignity and the right to make decisions is a profound gift to a senior population that often reaches advanced years in a position of vulnerability,” says Darryl Ford Williams, Vice President of Content for WQED Multimedia.

As JHF’s founding leader, Dr. Feinstein takes pride in



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the integrated continuum of services and first-rate facilities that JHF funded and helped create through a \$35 million commitment to the Jewish Association on Aging (JAA). She helped bring lean quality improvement techniques to health care, extending JHF's capacity in training and coaching in these methods to skilled nursing facilities throughout Pennsylvania. JHF staff has also supported these facilities in successful efforts to reduce avoidable hospitalizations among nursing home residents.

Dr. Feinstein's personal mission to improve end-of-life care has resulted in national programming, recognition, and consultation (under an umbrella named Closure), as well as important local conversations and a unique fellowship. Under her leadership, JHF has funded research proposals to combat hospital-induced delirium among seniors, balance and coordination issues, depression in nursing homes, isolation, and caregiving. JHF's own research efforts have explored recurring hospital admissions, and addiction and behavioral health problems among seniors. In 2016, JHF launched Senior Connections, an initiative to strengthen senior services related to transportation and housing, exercise and recreation, geriatric friendly primary care, and nutrition.

**ERIC G. RODRIGUEZ, MD** is our 2017 Caregiver Champion. Dr. Rodriguez is an Associate Professor of Medicine within the University of Pittsburgh's Division of Geriatrics and serves as a geriatrics medical consultant at the UPMC Senior Care-Benedum Geriatric Center at UPMC Montefiore Hospital. Additionally, he is the Medical Director for UPMC's Living at Home and Staying At Home programs which support seniors in their desire to age in place.

Named a Pittsburgh Magazine "Top Doctor" and among the "Best Doctors in America" by Best Doctors, Inc., Dr. Rodriguez has been an internal medicine physician specializing in geriatrics for more than 30 years. His primary expertise is in the care of patients with complex, interact-

ing comorbidity and polypharmacy, especially those suffering from dementia. Says Missy Sovak, Director of UPMC's Geriatric Care Coordination Program, and a long-time colleague, "His devotion to all of his patients is evident in his daily practice, as we have heard repeatedly from our clients throughout the years. His extensive knowledge of geriatric syndromes and medications is invaluable to our program."

Dr. Rodriguez participates in research in Alzheimer's Disease with the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. He has published many articles and abstracts on cognitive decline, evaluation and treatment of chronic low back pain in older adults, assessing fall risk when the patient's cognition is impaired, and discrepancies in information provided to the primary care providers by patients with dementia. Additionally, Dr. Rodriguez mentors staff and students from all disciplines to enhance their expertise and to support the development of future geriatric practitioners. He is much sought after as a lecturer throughout the University of Pittsburgh Schools of Health Sciences.

All proceeds from the Celebrating Senior Champions Dinner and Auction will benefit UPMC Senior Communities Benevolent Care Fund, which provides financial assistance and support services to eligible seniors. For more information about the event, contact Debra Panei, Director of Development for UPMC Senior Services, at 412-864-3524 or PaneiD@upmc.edu. ■

5:30 P.M. <b>GLITZ IN A GLASS</b> Hors d'oeuvres and Auction	<b>MASTER OF CEREMONIES</b> Rick Sebak WOED Producer/Host	<b>PARKING</b> Available at Mellon Square Garage across from Omni William Penn Hotel
7 P.M. Dinner and Program	<b>LEAD SPONSORS</b> Lamar Advertising UPMC for Life	<b>AUCTION</b> <b>\$5,000 DIAMOND GIVE-AWAY</b> CASH BAR BUSINESS ATTIRE
<b>OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL</b> 530 William Penn Place Pittsburgh, PA 15219	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> Mark Strickland - Jazz Guitarist The Mary Ann Mangini Trio featuring Johnny Angel & Rick Porceli	Proceeds support seniors in need throughout UPMC Senior Services

UPMC for Life **Creating a Better Life for Seniors** UPMC SENIOR SERVICES