



For Immediate Release

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\$2 Million Gift Funds Endowed Chair of Neuroscience

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation is excited to announce that long-time donors Julie Bowdich and her husband John Carey have pledged \$2 million to create the Julia Bowdich and John Carey Chair of Neuroscience, Presbyterian's first endowed chair.

The Bowdich Carey Chair will provide recognition and resources to help recruit and retain a gifted Physician and accelerate the growth of the Presbyterian neuroscience program. An endowed chair provides annual income to support innovation and excellence in the chair holder's care area. In addition to supporting the neuroscience program, the donors' goal was to help build the framework for endowed chairs throughout Presbyterian. They hope to inspire future donors to establish endowed chairs for other care areas.

"Philanthropy in the form of this major gift from Julie and John is helping Presbyterian to explore new frontiers and we are extremely grateful for their support," says Rick Scott, CFRE, President of Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation.

Gregory T. Sherr, MD, MPH, an accomplished neurosurgeon, has been named the inaugural holder of the Bowdich Carey Chair and has already begun developing the program, which will serve patients at Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Sherr brings a wealth of experience to the position, including the formation of neuroscience centers of excellence in St. Cloud, Minn., and at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville, Fla.

Both Julie and John have devoted much of their adult lives to serving the community. Daughter of the late Jack Rust, a 30-year member of the Presbyterian Healthcare Services board of directors, Julie has been an active and invaluable member of the Foundation board for 27 years. She met her husband, John Carey, while both were serving on the Foundation board. John has been active in philanthropic endeavors in Albuquerque for more than 20 years.

"This is a newer area of focus for Presbyterian, which makes it exciting," Julie says. "There's an enormous statewide need for neurological care, and this goes straight to Presbyterian's mission, which hits home for us."

New Mexicans face a growing need for comprehensive neurological care. High blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and cardiovascular disease – all of which elevate the risk of stroke and other neurological conditions – are increasingly common and demand for neurological treatment will only continue to grow as our population ages. New therapies for diseases like multiple sclerosis and headaches, as well as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, seizure disorders such as epilepsy, tumors, spine surgery, deep brain stem strokes and chronic pain also broaden the need for comprehensive neurological care.

"Having an endowed chair in place illustrates Presbyterian's commitment to do whatever is needed to enhance this program," John says. "If our gift can be a springboard to other gifts that will benefit neuroscience or help in other care areas, that would be great. Helping one helps all."

Fundraising continues

Fundraising efforts for the emerging Presbyterian neuroscience program are ongoing. Additional funds will support priority needs identified in a strategic planning process underway by administrative and physician



leadership. The fundraising task force has a working goal of \$4-5 million, which may increase as priority needs are more fully defined.

“When it comes to treating neurological disorders and especially strokes, time is always of the essence,” says Darren Shafer, DO, President of Presbyterian Medical Group. “Our goal is to establish Presbyterian as a premier neurological center in New Mexico, ensuring that New Mexicans can receive all the neurological care they need within their home state.”

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About Presbyterian Healthcare Services

Presbyterian Healthcare Services exists to improve the health of patients, members and the communities we serve. Presbyterian is a locally owned, not-for-profit healthcare system of nine hospitals, a statewide health plan and a growing multi-specialty medical group. Founded in New Mexico in 1908, it is the state’s largest private employer with more than 13,000 employees.



From left: John Carey, Julie Bowdich, Dr. Gregory Sherr