

Women's Board of Barrow Neurological Foundation



Shawn Stevens, MD, FACS, is leading the Department of ENT and Skull Base Surgery's Hearing Health Science Program.

For nearly 60 years, the Women's Board of Barrow Neurological Foundation has raised funds through the Barrow Grand Ball to advance life-saving research and treatment at Barrow Neurological Institute. Championed by Chairman Jan Lewis and Co-Chaired by Carrie Hulburt and Kathy Munson, the 2024 Ball raised \$10.1 million to help Barrow physicians, researchers, and clinicians provide hope and improve the quality of life for patients with debilitating neurological conditions.

A tradition since 2006, the Women's Board annually selects a specific Barrow research department as its Special Project. For the 2024 Ball, the Women's Board selected the Department of ENT and Skull Base Surgery: Hearing Health Science Program, led by Shawn Stevens, MD, FACS, as its Special Project, with membership contributing a tremendous \$790,112. Dr. Stevens is overseeing the construction of a state-of-the-art anechoic research chamber, which will be used to lead groundbreaking investigations into the link between hearing loss and neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia.

YOUR IMPACT



\$10.1 MILLION
raised overall



\$790,112
raised for the Women's
Board Special Project



33
areas of support



208
individual donors

Women's Board Support Through the 2024 Barrow Grand Ball Made a Difference in Neurological Research and Treatment

ALZHEIMER'S AND MEMORY DISORDERS PROGRAM *Donors contributed \$1,375,000*

This includes Carole and Arte Moreno's gift to establish the Moreno Family Chair for Alzheimer's Research and the Steele Foundation's endowment of the Dan Cracchiolo and Pam Grant Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry Fellowship.

BARROW ANEURYSM AND AVM RESEARCH CENTER *Donors contributed \$125,000*

Barrow scientist Dr. Tomoki Hashimoto received a five-year NIH R01 grant to further his research into the association between cell senescence (when cells stop dividing due to aging) and aneurysm rupture.

BARROW GLOBAL *Donors contributed \$200,000*

Barrow Global has made tremendous progress at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Tanzania, East Africa. Over the past year, 352 neurosurgical operations and 2,585 non-operative consultations were performed there.

BARROW RESEARCH HUB *Donors contributed \$50,000*

The Barrow Research Hub will bring together scientists, neurosurgeons, and engineers to advance our understanding of how the brain functions as the mind for the betterment of health care and humanity.

BRAIN INJURY & SPORTS NEUROLOGY CENTER *Donors contributed \$20,000*

The Center established a monthly TBI clinic at St. Vincent de Paul in downtown Phoenix to serve uninsured patients, including the homeless population and domestic violence survivors.

CENTER FOR NEUROMODULATION *Donors contributed \$100,000*

Dr. Francisco Ponce performed Arizona's first essential tremor procedure utilizing focused ultrasound, a noninvasive technology that uses MRI to deliver ultrasound energy deep in the brain.

DIABETES RESEARCH *Donors contributed \$1,080,000*

Nancy Hanley Eriksson generously endowed the Nancy Hanley Eriksson Chair for Neuromodulation, which supports Dr. Zaman Mirzadeh's research into brain-based solutions for treating diabetes.

EDUCATION AT BARROW *Donors contributed \$214,000*

Last summer, Barrow had 38 undergraduate interns from 20 colleges and 13 high school interns from 10 schools. It also had 27 high school students attend the inaugural spring Neuroscience Boot Camp.

EPILEPSY PROGRAM *Donors contributed \$175,000*

Barrow epilepsy surgeon-scientist Dr. Andrew Yang has been focusing on designing next-generation deep brain stimulation (DBS) therapies for patients with drug-resistant epilepsy.

GREGORY W. FULTON ALS AND NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE CENTER Donors contributed \$670,000

Dr. Shafeeq Ladha played a critical role in clinical trials that led to FDA approval of the drug tofersen, which is the first-ever treatment that targets a familial cause of ALS.

IVY BRAIN TUMOR CENTER Donors contributed \$1,502,378

The Ivy Center announced promising findings from a Phase 0/2 study of the investigational drug niraparib for glioblastoma. Patients achieved a median overall survival of 20.3 months, 7.6 months longer than reported with standard chemotherapy.

LEWIS HEADACHE CENTER Donors contributed \$840,768

Thanks to the generosity of Jan and Tom Lewis, the Center saw more than 16,500 new patients. They welcomed a new headache neurologist, a clinical psychologist, two nurse practitioners, and two physical therapists.

MUHAMMAD ALI PARKINSON CENTER Donors contributed \$60,000

Chair of Neurology Dr. Brad Racette and his team used state-of-the-art geospatial techniques to confirm, for the first time, the relationship between air pollution and Parkinson's disease risk.

NEUROIMAGING INNOVATION CENTER Donors contributed \$125,000

Dr. Richard Dortch received a grant from the Department of Defense to further his study evaluating whether diffusion MRI can identify failed nerve repairs earlier than existing methods.

PITUITARY CENTER Donors contributed \$95,866

As part of a collaborative study, Barrow pituitary scientists helped develop an organoid model replicating the cellular complexity of a Cushing's disease-causing pituitary tumor.

PETZNICK STROKE CENTER Donors contributed \$1,100,000

A study reviewing real-world experiences from the Mobile Stroke Unit revealed that Tenecteplase may offer a safer, more effective way to treat ischemic stroke compared to the standard medication, Alteplase.

SONNTAG SPINE CENTER Donors contributed \$112,000

The Virtual Reality Spine Lab team is working with Barrow Global to bring virtual reality technology for surgical training to developing countries worldwide.

THURSTON INNOVATION CENTER Donors contributed \$25,000

The Center supported 22 resident-led projects, transforming 14 from concept to prototype.

ADDITIONAL AREAS SUPPORTED BY DESIGNATED FUNDS Donors contributed \$622,500

Funds went to the Barrow Neuroplex, Francis and Dionne Najafi Chair for Neurosurgical Oncology, Health Equity Outreach, Multiple Sclerosis Program, Neuro-Rehabilitation Center, Neurology Research, and Neuroscience Nursing.

UNDESIGNATED FUNDS Donors contributed \$ 826,467

Undesignated funds are supporting the Barrow Research Hub.



2024–25 WOMEN'S BOARD

The current Chairman of the Women's Board is Dionne Najafi,
with Cathy Kleeman and Susan Westra serving as the 2025 Barrow Grand Ball Co-Chairs.

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Catherine Bentley
Shaun Bracken
Prue Brito
Christy Burton
Jan Cacheris
Martha "Muffie" Churchill
Amy Cohn
Robyn DeBell
Ann Denk
Jacquie Dorrance
Judy Shannon Edens
Jane Edmunds
Stevie Eller
Nancy Hanley Eriksson
Ardie Evans
Amy Flood
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