30TH ANNIVERSARY
VIRTUAL AWARDS DINNER
THURSDAY • OCTOBER 22 • 2020
Dear Friends and Guests,

Thank you for joining us virtually to celebrate SWHR’s 30th anniversary! We appreciate you taking the time to commemorate this milestone and to honor this year’s awardees during these uncertain times.

The coronavirus pandemic has challenged us in ways we never thought possible. I am proud that many of our sponsors and guests are leaders in diagnostic testing, clinical trials, and vaccine research to address COVID-19 across the globe.

SWHR’s mission is to promote research on biological sex differences and improve women’s health through science, policy, and education. Our vision is to make women’s health mainstream. I have challenged our Board and staff to consider what this means in 2020, and the results have been inspiring. SWHR is committed to addressing health disparities, advancing health equity, and improving patient outcomes for women.

We cannot do this important work without you. We urge you to include women of all ages, races, ethnicities, geographic areas, and socioeconomic backgrounds, including pregnant and lactating women, in clinical trials. We ask you to help eliminate barriers and disparities that impede better health for women. We encourage you to invest in technologies and therapeutics that will transform women’s health.

Tonight, we celebrate 30 years of achievements, advancements, and innovation in women’s health. I am honored to recognize three trailblazing women for their contributions to the field: Dr. Jill Becker, Dr. Diana Bianchi, and Dr. Charlotte Owens. Please join me in congratulating them.

We sincerely thank our sponsors and partners for your ongoing support and for your efforts to address health disparities for women.

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MISSION
SWHR is a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting research on biological sex differences in disease and improving women’s health through science, policy, and education.

VISION
Make women’s health mainstream.

VIRTUAL EVENING ACTIVITIES
VIRTUAL COCKTAIL RECEPTION
5:30 P.M.

PRESIDENT’S WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
6:00 P.M.

PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS
6:15 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS
7:25 P.M.
In her work at AARP, Ms. Blyth oversees the largest circulation magazine in the world, AARP The Magazine, as well as the AARP Bulletin, website, book department, and AARP Studios. Previously, she served as the editor-in-chief and publishing director of Ladies’ Home Journal for more than twenty years, and was also the founding editor-in-chief and publishing director of More Magazine.

Throughout her career, Ms. Blyth has earned many accolades, including being named Advertising Age magazine’s Publishing Executive of the Year. She also received the Women of Achievement Award from the New York City Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Blyth was the official American delegate for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and was chairman of the President’s Commission on White House Fellows. She has also served as a delegate from New York State to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging and was on the Leadership Council of the National Council on Aging. Her career, which spans more than 40 years, is a testament to her commitment to journalism, magazine media, and service to women.

Dr. Becker is the Patricia Y. Gurin Collegiate Professor of Psychology and Senior Research Professor in the Michigan Neuroscience Institute at the University of Michigan. For more than 30 years she has researched how sex and gender differences and ovarian hormones influence the brain and behavior, with a specific focus on drug addiction and motivation.

Dr. Becker is a longtime supporter of SWHR. She served as a member of the SWHR Board of Directors and chaired SWHR’s Interdisciplinary Network on Sex, Gender, Drugs, and the Brain, which promoted research and education in the area of sex and gender differences in brain health and disease. She was also senior editor for the Network's groundbreaking book, “Sex Differences in the Brain: From Genes to Behavior.”

A leader in the field of sex differences research, Dr. Becker was a founding member of the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences, the only scientific membership society in the U.S. dedicated to promoting research on biological sex differences, and she has served on the Editorial Board of the Biology of Sex Differences journal since its inception. Dr. Becker has dedicated significant time to the promotion, mentorship, and professional advancement of women in neuroscience and has been honored by the Society for Neuroscience and the University of Michigan for these efforts. She received her BA and MA in human development from the University of Kansas and her PhD in neuroscience from the University of Illinois, Urbana.
Dr. Mallbris is a passionate executive leader who brings a unique perspective to the industry as she began her career as a trained physician and has diverse experience across the spectrums of patient care, academic research, pharmaceutical drug development, and global medical affairs. Dr. Mallbris joined Lilly in 2015 and leads the company’s multifunctional Global Clinical Development, and Global Medical Affairs teams across the dermatology, rheumatology, and gastroenterology fields. Before joining Lilly, she spent several years at Pfizer and held leadership positions within the dermatology business. Prior to joining the corporate world, Dr. Mallbris was a practicing physician for more than 10 years, starting her career as a surgeon before transitioning to the field of dermatology. Her decision to shift from academia and practicing as a dermatologist to joining a biopharmaceutical company was rooted in her desire to help more patients and bring them the treatments they need. Dr. Mallbris has always been devoted to patients and found caring for them incredibly rewarding, but recognized an opportunity to take that devotion to the next level by joining the companies working to create the innovative solutions needed to help patients around the world. Born in Iran, Dr. Mallbris received her MD and PhD from Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. She continues to be an active member of multiple external immunology research advisory boards that focus on public health and epidemiology, bridging the external state-of-the-art research with Lilly.

At NICHD, Dr. Bianchi oversees an annual budget of about $1.5 billion in support of the institute’s mission to lead research and training to understand human development, improve reproductive health, enhance the lives of children and adolescents, and optimize abilities for all.

She received her MD from Stanford University School of Medicine and her postgraduate training in pediatrics, medical genetics, and neonatal-perinatal medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Her research focuses on prenatal genomics, with the goal of advancing noninvasive prenatal DNA screening and diagnosis to develop new therapies for genetic disorders that can be administered prenatally.

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Dr. Bianchi is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a past president of the Perinatal Research Society and the International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis. She has served on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Human Genetics and on the Councils of the American Pediatric Society and Society for Pediatric Research. She has received multiple awards, including the 2015 Neonatal Landmark Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the 2016 Maureen Andrew Award for Mentorship from the Society for Pediatric Research, and the 2017 Colonel Harland Sanders Award for lifetime achievement in Medical Genetics from the March of Dimes. She received an honorary doctorate from the University of Amsterdam in 2020.
Dr. Dodson joined SWHR’s Board of Directors in 2015 and became Board Chair earlier this year. She has extensive clinical and research experience in the health care and pharmaceutical industries.

Dr. Dodson joined Astellas in 2012 in Medical Affairs, where she was responsible for the strategic direction of the Astellas Medical Affairs Americas organization. In her current role she leads health systems and oversees payer and channel account management, contracts and pricing, reimbursement and market access strategy, health systems marketing, key account management, and operations.

Dr. Dodson started her career in direct patient care at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and she has also worked at Pfizer Inc. and GTx Inc. in various medical affairs leadership roles. She has received multiple awards for leadership and innovation during her career, including the National Healthcare Business Women’s Association Rising Star. She is also on the Board of Directors of the National Pharmaceutical Council. Dodson holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Mercer University School of Pharmacy and completed a postdoctoral residency at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

In her role at AbbVie, Dr. Owens is involved in the direction, planning, execution, and interpretation of clinical trials dedicated to delivering high-quality clinical data supporting overall product scientific and business strategy.

Dr. Owens is dedicated to ensuring all women have access to care and recently led late-stage clinical research on a new treatment option for symptomatic uterine fibroids that successfully recruited and retained nearly 800 women, including a significant number of African American women, a group typically underrepresented in research.

Dr. Owens’ parents passed down a belief that has guided her throughout her life — that we all have the responsibility to be of service to others. She has applied this principle in every aspect of her career.

For more than 20 years she has been involved in global efforts focused on improving health care and education for women in six of the seven continents. Prior to joining AbbVie, Dr. Owens was an assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, director of the Division of Industry Collaborative Research, and chief medical officer for the Office of Translational Technologies at Morehouse School of Medicine. She is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist and remains an adjunct clinical assistant professor at Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Owens received her bachelor’s in physiology from the University of California, Davis, and her MD from the University of Michigan Medical School.
List of Sponsors as of October 14, 2020

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Dr. Montgomery Rice provides a valuable combination of experience at the highest levels of patient care and medical research, as well as organizational management and public health policy. She is the sixth president of Morehouse School of Medicine and the first woman to lead the freestanding medical institution. A renowned infertility specialist and researcher, she most recently served as dean and executive vice president of Morehouse School of Medicine, where she has served since 2011.

Prior to joining Morehouse, Montgomery Rice held faculty positions and leadership roles at various health centers. Most notably, she was the founding director of the Center for Women’s Health Research at Meharry Medical College, one of the nation’s first research centers devoted to studying diseases that disproportionately impact women of color. Through membership and Board service, Montgomery Rice lends her experience to organizations that enhance pipeline opportunities for academically diverse learners, diversifies the physician and scientific workforce, and fosters equity in health care access and health outcomes. She is a former SWHR Board member and has received numerous accolades and honors.

A Georgia native, she holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology, a medical degree from Harvard Medical School, an honorary degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree from Rush University. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Emory University School of Medicine and her fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Hutzel Hospital.

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LILLY SALUTES

the Society for Women’s Health Research in their efforts to improve healthcare for women.
Two-thirds of Alzheimer’s patients are women, and it is the fifth leading cause of death in women. A growing body of research confirms that sex and gender play a role in disease risk, as well as presentation and progression of dementia. SWHR’s Alzheimer’s Disease Network is raising awareness about these sex and gender differences and pushing for their consideration in future research and policies related to Alzheimer’s disease.

Chronic pain disproportionately affects women, and substantial research demonstrates that differences exist between women and men in pain perception, management, and treatment. SWHR convened an expert roundtable to identify unmet needs and knowledge gaps in understanding the relationship between pain and function in women with osteoarthritis, and to explore the best means to use scientific evidence to improve comprehensive, function-based pain management for those with osteoarthritis.

Chronic pain & osteoarthritis

In this blog series, SWHR is bringing attention to the need for advances in diagnostic and screening tests across a variety of diseases and conditions to improve the health of women.

- Advances in Pregnancy Care: What Parents Need to Know About Genetic Screening
- Your Counselor Will See You Now: How Genetic Counselors Are Leading the Way on Telehealth
- New Screening and Diagnostic Technologies Could Pave the Way for Improvements in Women’s Health

Diagnostics

The coronavirus pandemic is negatively affecting women’s physical, mental, emotional, and social health. In these challenging times, SWHR is committed to creating and sharing reliable, evidence-based content about COVID-19 and women’s health.

- COVID-19 Women’s Health Hub

Coronavirus

The normalization of women’s pain and the stigmatization of menstrual issues have resulted in a lack of scientific innovation and public awareness for endometriosis, uterine fibroids, and related conditions. SWHR’s Endometriosis and Fibroids Network aims to raise awareness of the gaps in research, diagnosis, treatment, and care for these diseases as well as related conditions and symptoms.

- Focus on Fibroids: What Do Women Need for Better Care?, September 22, 2020

Endometriosis and Fibroids
HPV AND RELATED DISEASES

Of the more than 100 strains of human papillomavirus (HPV), at least 14 have been identified as having the potential to cause cancer, including cervical, oropharyngeal, vaginal, vulvar, and anal cancers. SWHR convened an expert roundtable to discuss HPV-related disease in women and the gaps in research, clinical practice, and patient education that need to be filled to improve health outcomes for women.

- Roundtable: Assessing Gaps and Unmet Needs in HPV-Related Disease, June 1–2, 2020
- Public Forum: Opportunities for Innovation in HPV-Related Disease, November 12, 2020

SWHR recently kicked off a new blog series to raise awareness about liver health issues that impact women. For example, primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) is a chronic and progressive autoimmune liver disease that overwhelmingly affects women, but researchers don’t yet know why. Watch for more blogs!

- 9 in 10 People With This Rare Liver Disease Are Women

LIVER HEALTH

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MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH DISPARITIES

Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. are higher than anywhere else in the developed world, with Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women much more likely to die than white women. These stark racial disparities also hold true for infant mortality. SWHR is launching an outreach campaign to explore these disparities and related issues affecting underserved populations, including Black, Native American, and Hispanic mothers and babies.

- Roundtable and Public Forum — January 2021

MENOPAUSE

An estimated 6,000 American women reach menopause each day. Most will experience multiple symptoms of menopause, including hot flashes, night sweats, bone loss, mood swings, and genitourinary syndrome. An estimated 40% will not seek help to treat symptoms, significantly impacting their health and quality of life. SWHR’s upcoming roundtable and public forum will examine evidence-based, integrated, multimodal approaches to treat symptoms and health issues associated with menopause.

- Roundtable and Public Forum — January 2021
Migraine

Migraine is three times more common in women than men, and women tend to experience longer, more intense migraine attacks and have greater levels of migraine-related disability. SWHR’s Migraine Network engages and educates patients, health care professionals, and health care decision-makers about the burden of migraine on women.

- Migraine Patient Toolkit: A Guide to Your Care
- Migraine Patient Toolkit: Living Well With Migraine

Vision Health

The majority of ocular diseases affect women disproportionately compared to men. More women are at risk for eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. Thyroid eye disease, an autoimmune condition, is almost five times more common in women than in men. More than 3 million women have dry eye, which is more common after menopause. SWHR’s recent roundtable convened experts to discuss the unmet needs and knowledge gaps in ocular disease research, treatment, and awareness for women.

- Roundtable: Understanding Women’s Vision Health Across the Lifespan, October 7-8, 2020

General Support

General support sponsorships and grants provide SWHR with the flexibility to plan, innovate, and pivot quickly in response to changing policies, trends, and innovation in the health care space. This type of support provides us with the tools to achieve our mission to improve health care for women through science, policy, and education.

PhRMA

The Pfizer Foundation

Roche Diagnostics Corp.

Swhr Policy Advisory Council

The Policy Advisory Council is a forum for thought leaders in senior-level policy, advocacy, government and regulatory affairs, and commercial roles at industry, nonprofit, and other healthcare stakeholder organizations to support emerging research and public policy that will improve health care for women. Members have an opportunity to work collaboratively to develop positions, promote research, and create materials that benefit women’s health.

Members

- Eli Lilly and Co.
- Horizon Therapeutics
- Labcorp
- Lundbeck
- Merck & Co.
- National Pharmaceutical Council

Swhr Debuts Toolkit With Wellness Strategies for Migraine Patients

View the Toolkit →
Turning Innovative Science into Value for Patients

Astellas is committed to turning innovative science into medical solutions that bring value and hope to patients worldwide. Every day, we work together to address unmet medical needs and help people living with cancer, overactive bladder, heart disease and transplants, among other conditions. We remain dedicated to meeting patients’ needs, and our support for them will never waver.

At Astellas, we’re focused on making changing tomorrow a reality.

Science is resilient.
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Amgen is proud to support the Society for Women’s Health Research.