2023
ANNUAL AWARDS GALA
WEDNESDAY • APRIL 26
Thank you for joining us in-person to celebrate the achievements of incredible leaders who are advancing women’s health care and their representation in education and research. Tonight, we are thrilled to honor three champions of women’s health: Dr. Kaveeta P. Vasisht, Dr. Pauline M. Maki, and Horizon Therapeutics. These extraordinary leaders have each made significant contributions to their fields by advancing public health research, policy, and education; conducting seminal research on the role of sex steroid hormones on cognition in women, with a focus on changes that occur during the menopausal transition; and developing innovative medicines for and providing compassionate support to patients, respectively. We appreciate you joining us to celebrate these champions and their achievements.

As we reflect on the incredible medical innovations and efficiencies made possible during the pandemic in the past three years, we are hopeful for what improved funding, research, and awareness can do for women’s health in the next three — and next thirty — years. In an effort to track such improvements in women’s health, we have released our Women’s Health Dashboard, which explores the latest data on health conditions that have significant impacts on women’s health across the lifespan. The Dashboard focuses on five areas that are leading causes of death or disease burden for women: Alzheimer’s disease, breast cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, depressive disorders, and ischemic heart disease. For each disease, we’ve included public health data, research investment and progress data, and health insurance coverage rates. This project has been many years in the making, and we are excited to finally share it publicly. We hope the Dashboard, like the rest of our work at SWHR, will bring attention to the myriad health gaps women face, highlight opportunities to address these disparities in women’s health, and help us track progress across science, education, and health care policy outcomes. Learn more at swhr.org/womenshealthdashboard.

We extend our sincere appreciation for the generous support of our sponsors and partners. We cannot do this important work without you. Because of your support, SWHR can continue advocating for prioritized investments in women’s health research and supporting innovation and investment in therapies, diagnostics, and devices, with the ultimate goal of improving gender equality, ending health disparities, and improving and transforming women’s health across the lifespan.

Again, we would like to thank our sponsors, partners, and guests for your ongoing support and for your work to improve women’s health. Enjoy the evening!

Sincerely,

Kathryn G. Schubert, MPP, CAE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Cocktail Reception
6:00 P.M.

President’s Welcome and Opening Remarks
7:00 P.M.

Dinner
7:30 P.M.

Awards Presentation
8:00 P.M.

Closing Remarks
9:00 P.M.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

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

Mission

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.

 Turning Innovative Science into Value for Patients

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Vision

Make women’s health mainstream.
Meghan Feely, MD, FAAD

Meghan Feely, MD, FAAD is a board-certified dermatologist serving as an Executive Director at Eli Lilly & Company. Dr. Feely joined the company as a Senior Medical Advisor in Medical Affairs. She was subsequently named an Indication Lead in Medical Affairs. Dr. Feely is a recipient of the Lilly Innovator Award and Immunology Team Lilly Town Hall Recognition. In her tenure at Eli Lilly, Dr. Feely has served as a Medical Affairs Lead for innovative real-world evidence data generation and as a dedicated advocate for advancing the scientific understanding of dermatologic disorders in Skin of Color patients. She is a strong proponent of community outreach and served as a Team Captain for the Lilly Global Day of Service.

Dr. Feely is a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and an Assistant Professor in Dermatology at Mount Sinai. She graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College as a Rhodes scholarship finalist and conducted research at the Immune Disease Institute at Harvard. She was thereafter awarded a merit-based scholarship to attend the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, where she was recognized as Humanitarian of the Year. She completed her internship at a Tufts Medical Center affiliate and her dermatology residency at Mount Sinai, serving as a chief resident.

Dr. Feely was a former contributor for the ABC News Medical Unit in New York City. She has served on committees for the American Academy of Dermatology and the Women’s Dermatologic Society. Dr. Feely has been a recipient of funding from the National Institutes of Health, authored numerous dermatologic disclosures, and served as a session director and speaker at national dermatologic congresses. Dr. Feely utilizes her rich clinical and research experience to serve the needs of patients suffering from dermatologic disorders and to foster a steadfast commitment to scientific discovery and patient-centric innovation.

Kaveeta Vasisht, MD, PharmD

Kaveeta Vasisht, MD, PharmD, is the Associate Commissioner for Women’s Health at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She directs the FDA Office of Women’s Health (OWH), which serves to protect and advance the health of women through scientific programs, policy development, research, education, stakeholder collaboration, and outreach.

Dr. Vasisht leads efforts to advance regulatory science through understanding sex differences, promoting the inclusion of women and diversity in clinical trials, and establishing women’s health research priorities at FDA. Under her leadership OWH recently developed the Knowledge and News on Women’s Health Initiative, bringing broader awareness to conditions that not only impact women, but also highlighting how health conditions can affect women differently. In addition, she leads efforts to bridge important knowledge gaps on medication use in pregnancy and lactation.

Dr. Vasisht and OWH have received numerous FDA awards in recognition of their contributions.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Vasisht served as a Deputy Director in the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Office of Medical Policy and has extensive expertise in leading regulatory policy development. She has also provided clinical expertise on multidisciplinary teams in the review and evaluation of scientific data to make regulatory decisions on the safety and effectiveness of therapeutics during her tenure in CDER’s Office of New Drugs.

Dr. Vasisht is board-certified in both internal medicine and adult endocrinology. She completed her internal medicine and endocrinology fellowship training at the University of Chicago Hospitals, where she also served on the faculty. She also holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Rutgers College of Pharmacy where she graduated from the Honors Research Program.
Gretta Stone is a health policy communications consultant with deep knowledge of the biopharmaceutical sector and the health system more broadly. She currently serves as the Executive Vice President at Reservoir Communications Group.

At Reservoir, she works with a range of clients on advocacy, reputation, and organization brand. Before coming to Reservoir, she served as Deputy Vice President of Policy & Research at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), where she led a range of issues related to the value of medicines, the research and development process, FDA regulation, and personalized medicine. In her more than 15 years at PhRMA, she worked extensively on orphan drugs, cancer, the biopharmaceutical pipeline, the research ecosystem, the cost of medicines, and marketing and promotion. Prior to joining PhRMA, Stone worked in a lab researching language and the brain at Georgetown University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

Horizon is a global biotechnology company focused on the discovery, development, and commercialization of medicines that address critical needs for people impacted by rare, autoimmune, and severe inflammatory diseases. Their pipeline is purposeful: Apply scientific expertise and courage to bring clinically meaningful therapies to patients. Horizon believes science and compassion must work together to transform lives.

Keli Walbert joined Horizon in 2018 and has more than 25 years of pharmaceutical and health care industry experience primarily focused on building integrated marketing teams and leading medicine launches. She previously led the U.S. commercial organization, overseeing the infused medicines portfolio, including the Horizon launches of TEPEZZA and UPLIZNA, life-cycle management and consumer and digital marketing. She currently leads Horizon's strategic and corporate marketing.

Before joining Horizon, Walbert was with AbbVie where she led the consumer, advocacy and patient services functions as well as the overall launch of a drug-device combination product, DUOPA. Before AbbVie, she built and led the consumer organization at Abbott (now AbbVie) for the launch of HUMIRA. Walbert also held senior marketing and advertising leadership roles at the American Medical Association and Draft Worldwide (now FCB), a global advertising agency.

Walbert has a bachelor’s degree in communications from the University of Louisville and a master’s degree in marketing communications from Northwestern University.
Sudip Parikh is the CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and executive publisher of the Science family of journals, since January 2020.

Dr. Parikh has spent over two decades at the intersection of science, policy, and business as a Senate staffer, life science business leader, and in the policy community.

He was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship while earning his PhD in macromolecular structure and chemistry from the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California and earned his bachelor’s degree in applied science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Parikh leads a National Institutes of Health funded research program on women, cognition, mood, and dementia, with a particular focus on menopause. In her work, Dr. Maki utilizes multiple research methods, including clinical trials of hormonal and non-hormonal treatments for menopausal symptoms, cohort studies of the natural history of cognition and brain function across the menopausal transition, and neuroimaging studies.

She also serves as Senior Director of Research at the University of Illinois Chicago Center for Research on Women and Gender.

Dr. Maki is Past President of the North American Menopause Society, current Trustee of the International Menopause Society, Past Chair of the SWHR Interdisciplinary Network on Alzheimer’s Disease, and Immediate Past Head of the Neurocognitive Working Group of the Women’s Interagency HIV Study.
We congratulate the 2023 Society for Women's Health Research Honorees and applaud the organization for their decades-long commitment to improving women’s health through science, policy, and education.

At Myovant, we believe a transformative effort is needed to make significant progress for women. That’s why we are working across sectors to elevate women’s health and bring much-needed attention to uterine health conditions because when she moves forward, we all move forward.
Dr. Gerberding is the CEO of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), a non-profit organization that builds public-private research partnerships to support the mission of the NIH.

She co-chairs the Center for Strategic and International Studies Commission on Strengthening America’s Health Security and is a member of the Commonwealth Fund Commission on a National Public Health System.

Previously, she served as President of the vaccines business and as Executive Vice President and the Chief Patient Officer at Merck & Co., Inc. From 2003-2009, Dr. Gerberding led the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and was the first woman to serve in this role. She serves on the boards of HilleVax, Mayo Clinic, National Health Council, and Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Gerberding is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and an adjunct faculty member of the University of California, San Francisco, and Case Western Reserve University.
SHWR Policy Advisory Council

The Policy Advisory Council is a forum for thought leaders in industry, nonprofit, association, and other health care stakeholder organizations to support and engage on emerging research and public policy efforts 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.

SWHR’s policy efforts span research and innovation, regulation, and access and value.

Women’s Health Policy Agenda

Despite the progress in women’s health since SWHR was founded in 1990, we still have much to accomplish in order to ensure the optimal health of all women nationwide. Now is the time to propel women’s health forward through policy action. SWHR’s annual Women’s Health Policy Agenda outlines the key policy priority areas for SWHR this year.

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- LabCorp
- Merck & Co.
- Myovant Sciences
- National Pharmaceutical Council
- Organon
- Pfizer
- PhRMA
- Roche
- UCB
ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

Two-thirds of Alzheimer’s patients are women, and Alzheimer’s disease is the fifth leading cause of death in women. SWHR’s initiative, The Impact of Alzheimer’s Disease on Women as Patients and Caregivers: A Call to Action, builds on the foundational scientific, policy, and educational work that SWHR has conducted over the last decade. With recent innovation in diagnostics and therapeutics in Alzheimer’s disease, we need to address growing disparities and barriers to diagnosis, treatments, and care for people with Alzheimer’s through science and policy. For women in particular, these conversations must recognize their needs both as possible patients and as caregivers.

AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE POLICY

An estimated 4.5% of the world’s population and 8% of the U.S. population have at least one autoimmune disease, and 80% of these individuals are women. There are no established cures for most autoimmune diseases, and these chronic illnesses are among the leading causes of death for young and middle-aged women. This program is designed to advance policy to benefit autoimmune patients, caregivers, researchers, and providers — ultimately increasing health care equity and creating more positive outcomes for patients.

COALITION TO ADVANCE MATERNAL THERAPEUTICS

SWHR oversees the administration of the Coalition to Advance Maternal Therapeutics (CAMT). The CAMT was launched in 2014 with the goal of better understanding the safety and efficacy of prescription drugs, therapeutics, and vaccines used during pregnancy and breastfeeding. The CAMT and its member organizations are committed to raising awareness among policymakers and industry about the need to include pregnant and lactating women in clinical trials, where appropriate, to close the gaps in knowledge, and ultimately improve the health of women and their families. The CAMT Steering Committee includes the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, the March of Dimes, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine and SWHR. Its membership is comprised of nonprofits, medical societies, and researchers and includes a new Corporate Advisory Committee of maternal health industry leaders.

ENDOMETRIOSIS

Endometriosis affects an estimated 1 in 10 women in the United States. It can develop in any girl or woman after the onset of menstruation, but it is most commonly diagnosed in women in their 30s and 40s. Endometriosis is most prevalent among Asian women, who are more than 50% more likely to be diagnosed with endometriosis than white women. The pain of endometriosis can be devastating, and an endometriosis diagnosis can take an average of 6.7 years, often with significant physical, emotional, and financial burdens. Endometriosis is also considered to be the biggest cause of infertility in women. This program addresses persistent gaps in diagnosing and treating endometriosis, with special emphasis on improving patient-provider communication to improve health outcomes for women across the lifespan.
UTERINE HEALTH

SWHR has worked to increase public awareness, education, and additional research funding for uterine health conditions, including uterine fibroids. About 26 million women have uterine fibroids and an estimated 10% of reproductive-age women are living with endometriosis. This program is designed to ensure a sustained pipeline of critical resources and engagement for women impacted by these conditions.

WOMEN'S HEALTH DIAGNOSTICS

There are more than 100 diagnostic tests and procedures available for detecting diseases and monitoring their progression. These tools can help guide treatments, inform patient decision-making, and promote positive health outcomes throughout one’s life. This program highlights the importance and value of innovative diagnostics to improve health outcomes across life stages, conditions, and disease states that exclusively, differently, or disproportionately affect women. Designed as a series of educational public forums, this year’s Value of Diagnostics within Women’s Health webinars focus on diagnostics concerning cancer and healthy aging.

VACCINES

An estimated 42.5 million Americans are infected with human papillomavirus (HPV). While most HPV infections will naturally clear from the body, persistent infections by certain high-risk types of HPV can cause cancers. The HPV vaccine has reduced viral infections, genital warts, and cervical precancers by 88% among teenage girls and 81% among young adult women. This program aims to provide education about the HPV vaccine as an important cancer prevention tool, not just for cervical cancer, but also for vaginal and vulvar cancers in women, penile cancer in men, and anal and oropharyngeal (throat) cancers in both men and women. Educational materials created through this program empower parents, guardians, and clinicians to engage in productive conversations about the safety and efficacy of HPV vaccination to prevent HPV-related cancers.
SWHR CURRENT PROGRAMS

WOMEN’S HEALTH DASHBOARD

In 2022, SWHR launched the Women’s Health Dashboard – a platform to highlight public health data, research investment and progress, health insurance coverage, and relevant policy implications and actions for diseases and conditions that have the highest burden of disease and mortality rates for women across the lifespan. The five key areas that featured on the Dashboard are Alzheimer’s disease, breast cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, depressive disorders, and ischemic heart disease. Through the Dashboard, SWHR aims to track progress regarding science, education, and health care policy outcomes for these high impact women’s health issues. To learn more and support the Women’s Health Dashboard, visit www.swhr.org/womenshealthdashboard.

WOMEN’S HEALTH EQUITY INITIATIVE

Women in the United States experience health disparities throughout their lifespans as a result of their sex, gender, historic health inequities in the health care system, and socioeconomic conditions. Launched in 2022, the SWHR Women’s Health Equity Initiative highlights statistics on women’s health in the United States and aims to engage communities on solutions to improve health equity across various disease states, conditions, and life stages. Through the creation of a unique roadmap and video testimonials featuring patients and caregivers across the United States, SWHR is working to end women’s health disparities that are based on age, race, ethnicity, geography, and among caregivers. To learn more and support the Women’s Health Equity Initiative, visit www.swhr.org/healthequity.
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Learn more about Alzheimer’s disease, bone health, lupus, maternal health, menopause, and uterine health.
Check out some of SWHR's latest guides and toolkits!

See all of SWHR's resources at swhr.org

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