



Connections

FALL 2020

Bringing you closer to the lives you help change



Gillette Children's
Specialty Healthcare

You Lay the Foundation for Life-Changing Research

“Research is like building a house,” says Joyce Trost, manager of Research Administration at Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare. “You have to start with a strong foundation. It’s a long process, but it’s an investment in the future, and in the kids of the future.”

At Gillette, the labor of laying that foundation is spread across many hands. Almost every physician at Gillette is engaged in the clinical research headed by Trost and Jennifer Laine, MD. Research at Gillette often stems from questions that are coming out of the clinical environment.

“Those questions really focus on the patient,” says Trost. “Physicians, therapists, or other providers want to know if how they’re delivering care is the best—or they think, ‘there has to be a better way.’”

Gillette’s ongoing connection to patients and their families is a strength when it comes to research. “Any time you’re doing any sort of intervention in pediatrics, the followup that really matters is well into adulthood,” says Laine. “Our ability to stay connected with our patients is so

important and so meaningful.” Gillette’s long history and trusted relationships between providers and patient families makes Gillette uniquely suited to studies that span years or even decades.

Rebecca Pierce, whose daughter MaKiah is enrolled in research study on a new treatment for spasticity in patients with cerebral palsy, describes the importance of families in the research process: “For us, it’s not just about finding new treatments



115 ACTIVE RESEARCH STUDIES

	Specialty Care	7		Other	2
	Motion Analysis	16		Pain	12
	Neurosciences	23		PMR	11
	Nursing	5		Spine	11
	Orthopedics	28			

for MaKiah—it’s about working with the experts at Gillette to help shape care for the next generation of kids. We’re proud to be a part of that.”

Continued

Research, continued

At Gillette, patients, families, research coordinators, research scientists, and physicians all play vital roles in unlocking discoveries that will change care for generations to come—but donors are at the heart of moving research forward. “Pediatrics generally doesn’t have as much access to research funding,” says Trost. “And when you’re focused on rare and complex conditions, like we are at Gillette, that pool

becomes even smaller. That’s why donor support is so important.”

Contributions to research at Gillette help scientists and physicians dig into the questions that’ll improve outcomes and care for patients. Through your support, experts can pursue studies that lay the foundation for the future of care.

Your gift powers the future of research at Gillette and unlocks new discoveries to change the lives of our patients. *Donate today!*



Featuring Jennifer Laine, MD and Joyce Trost, PT, PhD(c)

In our **Three Questions** series, we ask a Gillette staff member a series of questions that give you an inside perspective on our mission and work.

1. What do you wish the public understood about research?

Research can take a lot of time. As people get to know more about the process, they may be surprised to learn that one study alone rarely results in immediate changes to care. It’s about building a line of inquiry, over years or sometimes decades, that can lead to those larger changes and discoveries. That investment of time and effort is worth it, though—it shapes the future of care for our patients.

2. What research areas at Gillette are you particularly excited about?

There’s so much! The pain research underway at Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare is one area

that’s particularly exciting. If we find a way to help quantify the pain experience of patients who are nonverbal, that will have an enormous impact. So many of our families struggle to identify signs if their child is experiencing pain. We’re exploring ways to help answer that question through the development of new testing and other methods of measurement. In research of cerebral palsy, a condition that is connected to many of our focus areas, there’s exciting work underway in building a database and structure from Gillette’s distinctive and longstanding outcomes data, which will help create a strong foundation for ongoing studies. We’ve also been making big strides to build infrastructure for collecting patient-reported outcomes, which will really help drive and compliment all research at Gillette.

3. How can the community support research at Gillette?

A contribution to research, no matter the amount, truly makes a difference in the future of our program at Gillette. As more people learn about and support our work, that generosity can create amazing momentum. Robust community support inspires others to give in transformative ways. We’re honored to have people support Gillette’s research program, whether it is through raising awareness, making a donation, or creating a legacy through a planned gift.

Recently, a donor was inspired to make a significant gift that will help launch an institute at Gillette focused on advancing knowledge and treatment of cerebral palsy. Learn how you can be a part of shaping the future of Gillette’s research through planned giving by contacting **Chris Cheney at **651-310-1888**.**

An Hour at Gillette Inspires a Decade of Generosity

Over a decade ago, Kamran Makki discovered Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare when his good friend's child was a patient. While at the hospital to pick them up from an appointment, Makki decided to sign up for a volunteer opportunity.

"At first, I'd just spend an hour or so with the kids," says Makki. "They would be excited and look forward to it. That made me feel good, so I started looking forward to it more and more."

As Makki continued to volunteer in a variety of roles



at the hospital—everything from group arts and crafts activities to going for walks and playing video games with individual patients—he was moved by the remarkable community at Gillette. Later, he decided to begin supporting Gillette as a donor in addition to giving his time.

"It was seeing and knowing the trust people had for Gillette, and the trust I had in Gillette. As a volunteer, I could see where the money went. I saw the staff and the nurses and the doctors putting their time and energy and emotion in. Whether I was giving my time or financially, I knew it was a good cause. That trust made me want to contribute."

Despite a move from Minnesota to the San Francisco Bay Area, Makki continues to support Gillette as a donor, and encourages others to join him. "If you just spend an hour there, just one hour at Gillette, and see the patients and staff, you'll feel it. You'll want to do what you can to support it."

Join Kamran Makki in making a difference in the lives of patients and families. ***Make your contribution today!***

Walk & Roll Family Fun Day Raises Over \$122,000

On Saturday, Sept, 12, participants hopped online and then headed out into their own neighborhoods for the virtual Walk and Roll Family Fun Day, presented by E.A. Sween Company. The event, which featured an energizing online kickoff and family-friendly fun kits, drew hundreds of participants and raised over \$122,000 in support of Gillette's mission. We're grateful to all of the generous sponsors, event ambassadors Joe and Maddie Mauer, donors and participants who helped make this year's virtual event a success.



[View a list of all honor and tribute gifts at \[gillettechildrens.org/tribute\]\(https://gillettechildrens.org/tribute\)](https://gillettechildrens.org/tribute)

Honor or remember a loved one.

This gift is:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Please send a letter informing the honoree of my gift:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



You help Gillette patients like Makiah through your support!

Yes, I want to help Gillette change lives!

Enclosed is my gift of: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other _____

I'd like to sign up for monthly giving. Please bill my/our credit card monthly in the amount of \$ _____.

Please make checks payable to Gillette Children's Foundation.

My employer matches charitable gifts. Employer Name: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Please charge my gift to:

VISA

MasterCard

Discover

American Express

Name _____

(as it appears on card)

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ / _____

Card Security Code (CSC) _____

Signature _____

Give online at gillettechildrens.org/fallconnections



Community Connections

Noteworthy Gillette news and events

Generosity Brings Cutting-Edge Technology to Gillette

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare recently expanded its imaging capabilities by becoming the first hospital in the U.S., and first pediatric hospital in the world, to install an EOSedge™ imaging system. EOSedge™ delivers high-quality images while focusing on minimizing radiation dose, and provides 3D capabilities for a more complete understanding of complex issues. Donor support helped fund the purchase of this technology, which will help our providers diagnose and treat medical conditions that affect the bones in the back, hip, and leg.



Tune in for KS95 for Kids Radiothon on Dec. 11

The KS95 for Kids Radiothon is an annual on-air fundraiser to benefit Gillette and our partner charity, Children's Cancer Research Fund. Mark your calendars to tune in to 94.5 FM on Dec. 11, 2020, for moving testimonials from Gillette families and special incentives to show your support.

Gillette Recognized for Expertise in the Care of Acute Flaccid Myelitis

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is warning parents and medical professionals that 2020 will be another peak year for cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a rare, polio-like neurological condition that mostly affects children. Gillette is widely recognized for its expertise in AFM care, treatment, and rehabilitation. In fact, most Minnesota children diagnosed with AFM during the last outbreak in 2018 received care from Gillette. Gillette's experts have recently appeared in several media stories to raise awareness about the condition.



Game for Good with Extra Life Game Day on Nov. 7

Extra Life unites gamers across the world to help kids treated at 170 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in the U.S. and Canada, including Gillette! When you join Extra Life to help fundraise, you'll support Gillette's mission and have fun at the same time. Extra Life participants can show their support year 'round, but the Nov. 7 Game Day is a special 24-hour gaming marathon with extra incentives to play. Learn more and register at extra-life.org.

Connections is a publication of Gillette Children's Foundation. Contact us with comments or questions at 651-229-1726 or foundation@gillettechildrens.com.

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