

The Rhythm

WINTER 2008 ISSUE #5
www.theheartfoundation.org

NEWSMAGAZINE FOR THE HEART FOUNDATION

THE HEART FOUNDATION



PHOTO BY: THOMAS NEERKEN

Emcee Mary Hart, Award Presenter Sidney Poitier, 2008 Steven S. Cohen Humanitarian Award Recipient Berry Gordy & The Heart Foundation's Chairman Mark Litman

The Heart Foundation Honors Motown Founder & Music Icon Berry Gordy

Also in this issue

2008 Galpin Motors Golf Classic Sells Out Once Again

Update from Dr. Prediman K. Shah



The Heart Foundation Honors Motown Founder Berry Gordy

On the night of June 7, 2008, The Heart Foundation honored Berry Gordy, the man behind the magic of Motown, with the Steven S. Cohen Humanitarian Award. Five hundred guests gathered at The Beverly Hilton to enjoy an evening of musical performances by Thelma Houston, Louis Price, Michael Johns and Teena Marie. Vivian Nixon, daughter of Debbie Allen

and Norm Nixon, captivated the audience with her special dance tribute to Mr. Gordy. Mary Hart of *Entertainment Tonight* emceed the gala, and Honorary Dinner Chair Sidney Poitier presented the award. Other members of the Dinner Committee included Norman Brokaw, Quincy Jones, Doug Morris, Clarence Avant, Mary Hart and Burt Sugarman.



Mark Litman, Marshall Ezralow, Berry Gordy, Norman Brokaw



Honoring Motown
Founder Berry Gordy
June 7, 2008

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAHL PHOTOGRAPHERS & THOMAS NEERKEN



Burt Sugarman, Berry Gordy, Bill Withers



Tom Priselac, Irving Feintech, Sidney Poitier, Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis, Jr.

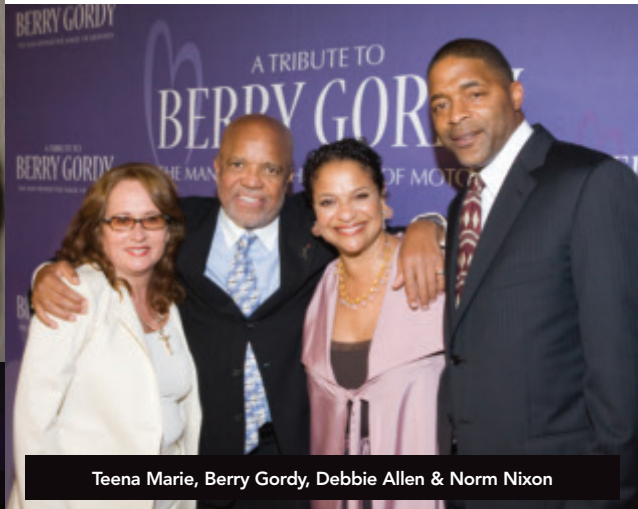


Barbara Davis, Dr. P.K. Shah & Kimberly Shah

Honoring Motown Founder Berry Gordy



Carolyn, David & Nicole Purkey, Howard Abrams, Suzi Kokenda



Teena Marie, Berry Gordy, Debbie Allen & Norm Nixon



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Suzanne de Passe, Mark & Tamara Litman, Tom Eisenstadt



Jimmy Jean-Louis



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Billy Dee Williams



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Dr. Susan Ashley & Dr. Stan Steinberg, Cheryl Fishman & Dr. Marty Fishman



A Son's Tribute: A 25-Hour Endurance Race for the Heart



(LEFT) Team Members Dan Mairani, Rob Poblano & son Connor, Ryan Gardin, Dean Hadley, Chad Layland, Dan Hansen, Nick Hansen, Jeff Page, Helmuth Jones & John Nelson. (TOP) Dr. Calvin C. Layland & son Chad Layland. (ABOVE) The Heart Foundation's logo on the car hood.

In April 2005, Chad Layland lost his father, Dr. Calvin C. Layland, to Sudden Cardiac Death. Similar to Steven Cohen, Dr. Layland had no warning signs or symptoms before his tragic, fatal heart attack struck.

From the time he was a child, Chad's father had instilled in him a love of motorsports. Chad says, "Growing up, my dad always had fun cars . . . my first memory of driving is sitting on my dad's lap driving a black 1978 Porsche turbo at 150 MPH down a back road by our house. I was hooked!" It seemed only natural then when Chad gravitated to motorsports as a means to pay tribute to his father and increase awareness of this silent killer.

Chad registered for the 25 Hours of Thunderhill, the longest endurance road race in the United States, on December 1-2, 2007, at Thunderhill Raceway Park in Willows, CA. He assembled a

team and embarked on months of hard work, preparation and fundraising. When race day arrived, all of his efforts paid off. Chad and four other drivers (Helmuth Jones, Dean Hadley, Jeff Page and Dan Mairani) took turns alternating throughout the 25-hour, non-stop race. The team overcame several obstacles including hazardous weather and mechanical set-backs to finish 36th out of 71 cars overall and 8th out of 20 cars in their class.

Chad raised \$10,000 for The Heart Foundation in his father's name, and he hopes to grow this effort for years to come. Chad says, "You just never know when or how you may be affected."

The Heart Foundation is honored to have the support of individuals like Chad Layland who are spreading the word about the dangers of heart disease and raising funds to eradicate it in unique and exciting ways.



Young at Heart The Helpful Holiday Gift

What if your holiday shopping could be not only a gift to your loved ones but also a gift towards valuable heart disease research? Well, now it can through the line of jewelry created by Michelle Zimmerman for Young at Heart and The Heart Foundation.



Casey Rea, Nisha Shah & Shelby Rea

PHOTO BY: THOMAS NEERKEN

Young at Heart, an affiliate of The Heart Foundation, was established by three inspirational young women: Shelby Rea, Casey Rea and Nisha Shah. The three friends have grown up together, constantly reminded of the importance of a healthy heart. Through Nisha's father, Dr. P.K. Shah, the young women know all too well that heart disease affects both the young and the old and that it is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States.

To help increase awareness of heart disease and support The Heart Foundation, Shelby, Casey and Nisha col-

laborated with famed jewelry designer Michelle Zimmerman to create a line of necklaces and earrings based on a heart theme. The pieces, which appeal not only to the young but also to the young at heart, can be purchased through Michelle's website at www.delicateraymond.com or The Heart Foundation's website at www.theheartfoundation.org. A portion of each item sold will benefit The Heart Foundation.

As Nisha's father, Dr. P.K. Shah, states, "Genes may load the gun, but lifestyle pulls the trigger." Shelby, Casey and Nisha hope that when people support The Heart Foundation by purchasing one of these beautiful pieces of jewelry, they will be reminded that maintaining a healthy heart is a lifelong project.

The three young women say, "Because of our interest in fashion and design, we feel the best way to express our concern for heart health is through our efforts to raise funds for The Heart Foundation. We hope that through the line of jewelry, we can reach out to all ages and offer a stylish reminder to never let your heart skip a beat."



One of many available pieces

To purchase the jewelry go to:
<http://www.delicateraymond.com> or
<http://www.theheartfoundation.org>

JEWELRY PHOTO BY: DAHL PHOTOGRAPHERS



2008 Galpin Motors Golf Classic Sells Out Once Again

The 2008 Galpin Motors Golf Classic marked a return to The Heart Foundation's "home course" at the beautiful Sherwood Country Club. Despite the difficult economic climate, the tournament sold out again this year. Participants enjoyed an amazing and memorable day filled with fun and camaraderie. The close of the awards dinner was electric as two lucky attendees won the Jaguar XF Supercharged and the "Galpinized" Lincoln Navigator.

We are incredibly thankful to our sponsors,

donors, golfers and volunteers who made the day so successful.

We are also profoundly grateful to Bert and Jane Boeckmann and Galpin Motors for their continuing generosity and outstanding support. Their unfailing dedication has been a significant force in The Heart Foundation's efforts to eradicate heart disease.



**Galpin Motors Golf Classic
September 22, 2008**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS NEERKEN & DAHL PHOTOGRAPHERS



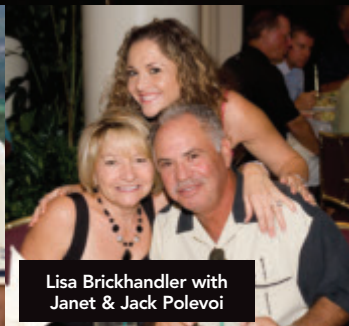
Gary Hartunian, Bert Boeckmann, Steve Hartunian



Jiva Mody, Dr. P.K. Shah, Rob Mandell, John Maroney



Glenn Cobarr, Jackie Rosenberg,
Gregg Cobarr



Lisa Brickhandler with
Janet & Jack Polevoi



Beau Boeckmann, Michael & Nancy Lynch, Teena & Brad Boeckmann

Galpin Motors Golf Classic



Former Mayor Richard Riordan & Dr. Stan Steinberg



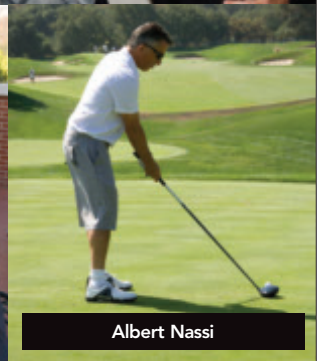
Dr. Bruce Beard, Rick Goldman, Steve Weber



William Walsh, George Chiu, Shawn Kao, Bernard Brock



Irving Feintech, Dr. P.K. Shah, John Farina



Albert Nassi



Dr. P.K. Shah, Jane & Bert Boeckmann



Nanette Geller, Steve Belinfante, Andy Geller



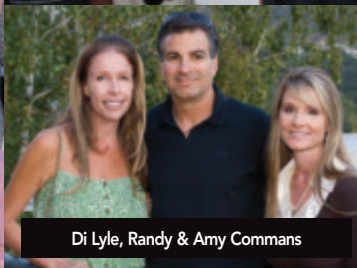
Jerry & Florence Cohen, Illayne & Mark Kiel, Jack & Caroline Weingarten, Audrey Silverberg & Dr. Joe Silverberg



Tony Litman, Gary Diamond, Jeff Levy



Tony Albany, Former Mayor Richard Riordan, Jeffrey Glassman, Larry Meyerson



Di Lyle, Randy & Amy Commans



UPDATE FROM

Dr. Prediman K. Shah



Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in much of the Western world and is becoming a global problem with the increasing prevalence of obesity, metabolic syndrome and diabetes. Several novel and promising approaches for the management of atherosclerosis – including gene therapy and immunization – are currently being studied at the Atherosclerosis Research Center (ARC).

A Mutant Gene Which Protects Arteries

Since 1992, Cedars-Sinai researchers have been studying a mutant gene that produces a form of the good cholesterol HDL which protects arteries from the effects of atherosclerosis (plaque build-up). The mutant gene was identified in a small group of inhabitants of the lakeside town of Limone sul Garda in Northern Italy in the late 1970s. A middle-aged man living in the town was discovered to have very low HDL cholesterol and high levels of triglycerides but no evidence of cardiovascular disease and a history of parental longevity. When blood tests were performed on nearly 1,000 inhabitants of the town, approximately 40 individuals were shown to carry this mutant gene.

By 1994, my colleagues and I were able to demonstrate that an intravenous injection of a genetically-engineered form of this gene, called Apo A-I Milano, greatly reduced by up to 70% arterial plaque build-up in rabbits fed a high cholesterol diet. We have provided further evidence based on studies done in

genetically-altered mice with high cholesterol levels that repeated intravenous injections of Apo A-I Milano can halt the progression of plaque build-up and reverse pre-existing plaque build-up within five weeks.

Based on these findings, Esperion Therapeutics, later acquired by Pfizer, initiated human trials of recombinant Apo A-I Milano in 2001. A small Phase 2 clinical trial demonstrated that weekly intravenous injections of recombinant Apo A-I Milano for five weeks led to a significant and measurable shrinkage of human coronary artery plaques. More definitive large scale human trials over the next two to three years will be needed to validate the effectiveness of this treatment.

The Atherosclerosis Research Center is collaborating with a small plant biotechnology company which has succeeded in producing Apo A-I Milano in safflower plant seeds using genetic engineering. The advantage of this approach is that large amounts of the Milano protein can be produced (potentially tons of it) at a very low cost and without

the concern of bacterial protein contamination which plagued the Milano produced in bacteria through genetic engineering. We are currently testing plant-derived Apo A-I Milano in experimental animals and preliminary results are expected in the early part of 2009. If results are positive, there is a good chance that plant-derived Apo A-I Milano would move into human trials within a year or two. This is a very exciting development.

Apo A-I Milano Gene Therapy

Another approach currently being investigated with Apo A-I Milano is gene transfer, in which the actual DNA that codes for Apo A-I Milano protein is transferred into the body and stimulates the production of Apo A-I Milano by the body without the need for continuous injections. The Cedars-Sinai research team is using a harmless virus to ferry the Apo A-I Milano gene into the body of genetically-altered mice. Results have shown that such gene transfer is feasible and can reduce plaque build-up in the arteries by up to 50% after a single intramuscular injection of the gene carried by the viral vector. Testing this approach in humans in the very near future is anticipated.

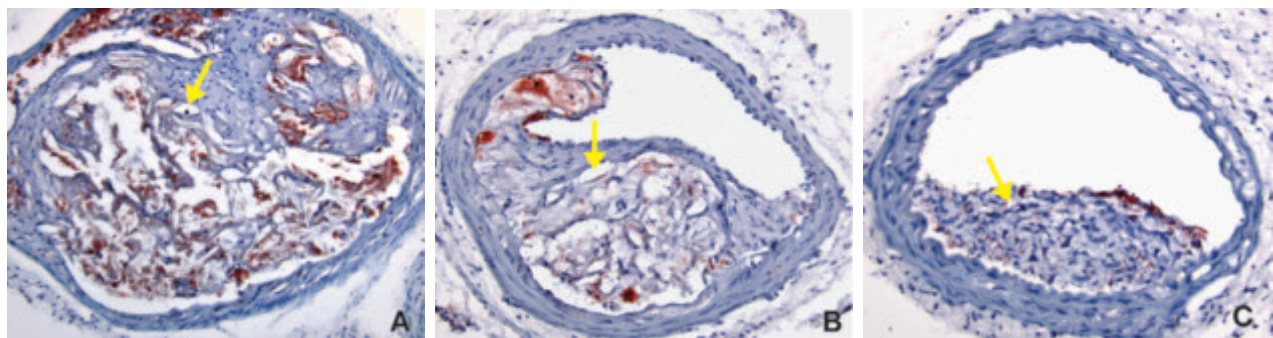
Immunization Against Atherosclerosis

Vaccines have successfully reduced deaths from infectious diseases and have resulted in the global eradication of diseases such as smallpox and poliomyelitis. Vaccines are effective, specific, relatively inexpensive and gener-



ally well-tolerated. In recent years, the concept of vaccination has been extended to treat or prevent non-infectious chronic inflammatory or autoimmune diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and cancer with variable results.

The immune system plays a complex role in atherosclerosis. Depending on which element of the immune system is activated, it can either protect arteries from plaque build-up or make it worse. My colleagues and I have been studying the structure of the Apo B-100 component of LDL (bad cholesterol) to identify which element might be used to initiate a protective immune response. In collaboration with Dr. Jan Nilsson of Lund University in Sweden, our team has generated a library of 302 peptide sequences spanning the entire structure of the human Apo B-100 molecule. Among these peptides, we identified 102 associated with an antibody response in pooled human serum. Some of the peptide sequences, but not others, when incorporated into a vaccine formulation, provoke an atheroprotective response in mice with high cholesterol – resulting in a 40% to 70% reduction in aortic atherosclerosis along with a reduction in plaque inflammation. We are in discussions with the FDA to obtain permission to launch human testing of this vaccine in the last quarter of 2009, so stay tuned for further updates.



Marked reduction in arterial plaque with Apo A-I Milano gene transfer in mice with high cholesterol compared to control and normal Apo A-I gene transfer. Arrows indicate plaque. A: Control. B: Normal Apo A-I gene transfer. C: Apo A-I Milano gene transfer.



Charitable Hearts

Thank you to our donors for your generous support! (Gifts listed received between 10/1/07 & 10/31/08.)

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In Honor of Chad Layland
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In Honor of Chad Layland
In Honor of Steve Weber
In Honor of Jack Weingarten on the Occasion of His Birthday
In Honor of Al Israel
In Honor of Sharon Weingarten
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In Memory of Muriel Eiduson's Brother Bernie

In Memory of Bob Balfour
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Allen & Dale Fishman
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In Memory of Dr. Calvin C. Layland

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In Honor of Erica Weingarten's 90th Birthday

Wilbur May Foundation/Anita May Rosenstein

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Yossie Ziff
In Honor of Reuven Morrow on his 70th birthday



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OUR INSPIRATION On December 7, 1995, Steven Cohen came home from work, changed his clothes, kissed his wife and daughters, and walked out the door to play his weekly basketball game with friends. During the game, this athletic and healthy-looking 35-year-old man suffered a massive heart attack that took his life. Too often, the first sign of coronary artery disease is sudden death. In an effort to prevent other families from suffering the tragic loss of a loved one to heart disease, Steve's friends, family and community created The Heart Foundation in 1996.

OUR MISSION The Heart Foundation is dedicated to increasing awareness of heart disease, supporting the groundbreaking cardiac research of Dr. P.K. Shah at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and honoring the memory of an incredible husband, father, son, brother and friend. Our goal is to prevent, cure and eradicate this silent killer.



SAVE THE DATE

THE HEART FOUNDATION GALA HONORING WOLFGANG PUCK

Recipient of the 2009
Steven S. Cohen Humanitarian Award

Saturday, May 30, 2009
Beverly Wilshire
Formal invitations to follow.

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THE HEART FOUNDATION

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