

MODERN LUXURY

MEDICINE DOCTORS

TEXAS

CATALYSTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Cary Council Is
Trailblazing Toward
a Brighter Future



Castle Connolly's
2022 Top Doctors



CATALYSTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Leading the charge in innovative research and ground-breaking technology, members of The Cary Council prove that the greatest strength is in the numbers.

BY JANE HUMPHREY

From left: The Cary Council's current chair, Amanda George, with chair elect Josie Sewell and founding chair Michael Kahn

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Brittney Allred
Lewis Chang
Lana Constantine
Grace Cook
Pete Dale
Jonathan Dietz
Grafton Ifill
Amanda George
Jacob Jones
Josie Sewell
Amanda Shufeldt
Mills Weinmann

FOUNDER'S CIRCLE:

Annika Cail
Nancy Collins
Anders Fisher
Michael Gregory
Michael Kahn
Kate Morris

"The Cary Council plays an essential role in its mission to keep sustainability at the forefront and to encourage community engagement in innovation," shares Kathleen M. Gibson, president and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation. "Supporting our next generation of leaders as they continue to build a distinctive body of work has created an exciting assurance that medical progress begun by the builders of the past will continue to flourish in the future." Dedicated to advancing early-stage research at UT Southwestern, The Cary Council (swmedical.org/the-cary-council) is made up of deeply devoted young leaders in the greater Dallas area who passionately strive to educate, support and strengthen the critical role that the community's understanding of innovation plays in creating a better future.

The idea to create a forum dedicated to raising awareness and funds for research first sparked from Dallas native Michael Kahn in 2015 following his mother Beth's brave fight with an aggressive brain cancer, glioblastoma. Throughout the time

spent during this harrowing process, Kahn and his family experienced compassionate care firsthand at UT Southwestern from the medical professionals and their care teams, including Cary Council chair elect Josie Sewell. Kahn knew he wanted to one day honor his mother and help further the fight toward the ever-evolving research and care for those going through similar life-altering experiences. He founded The Cary Council, enlisting fellow leaders dedicated to advancing medical progress and committed to this heartfelt cause. After learning more about UT Southwestern's vision and strength as an academic medical center, the group decided to dedicate their time to supporting early-stage research and, in 2017, they began their fundraising efforts.

"We want young leaders who care about Dallas to understand that a strong healthcare system is an

absolute pillar of a city's growth," notes Amanda George, a founding member who currently serves as chair for The Cary Council. "They do not need to be personally impacted by a disease to feel passionate about helping to eradicate it." Through resilience, generosity and forward thinking, these community catalysts are leading the charge and rallying support to help uncover medical mysteries and help save and improve lives.

Through community engagement, innovative programming and fundraising, the council has been hard at work since day one. Its signature fundraiser—An Evening with DocStars—awards grants to early-career UT Southwestern investigators to help catapult the trajectory of their medical research. These grants have supported research in the fields of breast cancer, genomic technologies,

infectious disease and other important areas. "The Cary Council Early-Stage Research Grants have resulted in an additional \$6.8 million in federal grant funding," shares Kahn. Since the council's inception, it has awarded 12 competitively selected "DocStars" with grants totaling \$600,000 to date, furthering medical research and support.

There is no doubt that the strength is in the numbers at The Cary Council. Standing tall together, more than 100 members lend their time, resources and enthusiasm toward achieving a common goal. It is through young, inspiring leaders like these that we are reassured that we are all in this together.

"My challenge for my peers is to become educated and carefully examine what matters to you," says chair elect Sewell. "Now is the time to find the causes that stir your heart." ○



A grouping of Cary Council Early-Stage Research Grant recipients at the UT Southwestern Medical Center campus. Top row, from left: Olutoyosi "Toy" Ogunkua, MD, Jacques Lux, PhD. Bottom row, from left: Richard Wang, MD, PhD, Prasanna Alluri, MD, PhD.