

HEART TO HEART

www.gootter.org

WORKING TO CONQUER SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH

VOL. XI FALL 2018



The Steven M. Gootter Foundation is dedicated to saving lives by defeating Sudden Cardiac Death through increased awareness, education, scientific research and the distribution of AEDs.

The Steven M. Gootter Foundation works to increase awareness of Sudden Cardiac Death among those who may be at risk, fosters education among the public and health care professionals, and funds scientific research into the causes of and treatments for Sudden Cardiac Death.



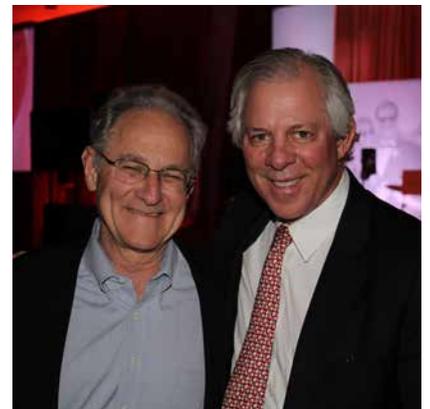
FOUNDATION HONORS MCCUSKER, REACHES AED MILESTONE

The 13th annual Steven M. Gootter Foundation Gala was held on March 3rd at the Westin La Paloma. More than 350 people attended. The event featured a silent auction, a live auction, wonderful food, music and dancing. The 2018 Philanthropic Honoree was Fletcher McCusker.

Andrew Messing, President of the Steven M. Gootter Foundation, announced that the Foundation has made great strides through funding scientific research, education, awareness and providing lifesaving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in our community. We dedicate ourselves to this mission in memory of Steve Gootter.

Today we have distributed over 300 AEDs to first responders (law-enforcement vehicles), local area schools, places of worship, and other Southern Arizona non-profit organizations that did not have these life saving devices. The long-range goal of the Foundation is to ensure that all public places where people work, worship and play have an AED on location in case it is ever needed.

In addition to funding AEDs which can save a life, we continue to fund research for the prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death. Each year we grant Investigator Awards to scientists working on the most promising studies that either prevent or improve survival from Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Many of these investigators have received additional funding from the NIH and AHA.



Top left: Czarina Lopez, Fletcher and Liz McCusker, and Humberto Lopez at the Gootter Grand Slam.

Top right: Tom Rogers and Ginny Clements.

Lower right: Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and UA President Dr. Robert Robbins.

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GOOTTER ENDOWED CHAIR JIL TARDIFF RECEIVES \$4 MILLION IN GRANTS FROM NIH

Jil C. Tardiff, M.D., Ph.D., The Steven M. Gootter Endowed Chair, received a \$2 million grant from the NIH to develop new techniques of designing small molecules to treat Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, (HCM) a leading cause of sudden cardiac death. Jil was pleased to share that all data in support of the grant was funded by the Gootter Endowment at the U of A. In addition, she received another \$2 million for a renewal of an existing grant which was also funded by the Gootter Endowment. Therefore, in the past year, our \$2 million investment in Jil and her research team has just yielded another \$4 million for sudden cardiac research at the U of A Sarver Heart Center. Dr. Tardiff has continued to build on this work with support from the Gootter endowment with 2 grants in preparation for submission next year, one focused on a better understanding of the increased risk of severe dilated cardiomyopathy (a sudden cardiac death contributor) in young people post chemotherapy. Finally, several publications have been accepted in the past year, including one in the prestigious journal, *Circulation*, with support from the Gootter Endowment.



Jil Tardiff, M.D., Ph.D. and JR "Keng" Pineda, M.D., Ph.D. in her research lab.

GOOTTER AED HELPS ORO VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT SAVE 45-YEAR-OLD DRIVER'S LIFE

A life was recently saved with one of the AEDs that the Gootter Foundation gave to the Oro Valley Police Department. Officers responded to a traffic accident at Lambert and La Cholla. The victim, a 45 year old armed forces member, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest, crashed his car, and was unconscious. Officers broke open the window, started CPR and used an AED (donated by the Gootter Foundation) on the victim until paramedics took over. By all accounts, their swift action and the use of our AED saved this man's life.

INVESTIGATOR AWARDS SUPPORT GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

The Steven M. Gootter Foundation has granted an Investigator Award to Jared Churko, Ph.D., University of Arizona Assistant Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Genetics-GIDP, Physiological Sciences GIDP, and Director, iPS Cell Core. Arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy (ACM) is a heart disease involving arrhythmias and results in higher rates of sudden cardiac death. ACM mice models support the role that exercise exacerbates ACM pathology. However, a human model is required to determine if exercise is pathological to ACM patients. With funding support from the Steven M. Gootter Foundation, the Churko lab is generating stems cells from ACM patients and studying how human ACM cells lead to pathophysiology and sudden cardiac death. Specifically, his lab is converting ACM stem cells into cardiomyocytes (the contractile beating heart cells) and studying how the patient's own heart cells respond to stress and exercise conditions. Furthermore, the Churko lab is developing molecular tools to identify undiagnosed patients and developing therapies to mitigate ACM pathology.



Jared Churko, Ph.D.

FOUNDATION REACHES MILESTONE OF 300 DONATED AEDS



Assistance League, left; Lemn Academy Marana, right; Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, lower right.

The Steven M. Gootter Foundation has recently achieved a milestone by placing over 300 Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) with non-profit organizations in Southern Arizona.



AEDs have the capacity to rapidly resuscitate those suffering ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest and can be deployed by lay public rescuers as well as professional emergency responders. Minutes count and an AED can be the difference not only between life and death, but importantly for a victim resuming a high quality life with normal brain function.

MAKING ARRHYTHMIAS IN A DISH

The Steven M. Gootter Foundation has supported a study at the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute to engineer human heart cells from human pluripotent stem cells and determine how and why arrhythmias occur. A common case of arrhythmia is ventricular fibrillation, or irregular heartbeats in the ventricles of the heart. One known trigger is fibrosis, or scar tissue. Dr. Oscar Abilez and his team are generating the tissue in his lab and stimulating various patterns of fibrosis to see how the distribution of fibrosis may affect heart rhythms. One of the main goals of this research is to identify the parameters of fibrosis in the dish that make it more or less likely to cause an arrhythmia. With this new information in hand, they will then examine existing patterns of fibrosis from magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the hearts in patients that have had known arrhythmias.



Oscar Abilez, M.D., Ph.D.

Their goal is to uncover the patterns of fibrosis that correlate with the onset and severity of the patients' known arrhythmic events. When that is accomplished, their hope is that a clinician will be able to prospectively look at a patient's MRI and say with confidence that the pattern or size of fibrosis would suggest that the patient is at a higher risk of developing a fatal arrhythmia. They can then assess appropriate treatment options that are more precise, and perhaps even preventive.

FOUNDATION TO HONOR JANA AND FRANK WESTERBEKE AT 2019 GRAND SLAM GALA

We are pleased to present the 2019 Steven M. Gootter Foundation Philanthropic Award to Jana and Frank Westerbeke, longtime supporters of the Foundation. Jana and Frank believe in living a life of gratitude and serving the Tucson community they have both grown to love.



Gadabout expanded with the creation of a second brand, VerVe Salons, in partnership with Aveda, to create a more organic salon option while still featuring Gadabout's unparalleled education and training program. Gadabout founder Pam McNair entrusted her vision to Frank and Jana who have not only grown, but exponentially enhanced the culture that Gadabout and VerVe have become. Frank and Jana strive to encourage, coach, and lead this organization based on three core causes: education, professionalism and community.

Beyond the accolades, one of Frank and Jana's most proud accomplishments as business owners has been creating a culture in which the team gives back to the community and industry that supports them. Under Jana's leadership the company supports many special causes including her seat as Senior Board member and six figure fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson, Ben's Bells, including being a Ben's Bells bellee, Habitat for Humanity, Tu Nidito, The Women's Foundation of Southern AZ, Girl Scouts and Angel Charities for Children.

Much more than simply giving money, each year the Gadabout team selects organizations they would like to give their time and service to, including building homes with Habitat for Humanity, creating murals for Ben's Bells, fashion shows with Pima Community College and so much more.

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WORKING TO CONQUER SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH

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SAVE THE DATE!

14TH ANNUAL
GOOTTER GRAND SLAM
GALA DINNER AT THE
WESTIN LA PALOMA
March 2, 2019

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13TH ANNUAL GOOTTER GRAND SLAM



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