

# touchpoints

Connecting you to the Heritage Provider Network

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## Breakthroughs in Medicine

Heritage Medical Research Institute Partners with the California Institute of Technology to Advance Translational Medicine Research

### »» LATEST NEWS

Heritage Provider Network continues to support translational research for the advancement of medicine and science. Turn to page 2 to learn more about our new partnership with the California Institute of Technology.

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Medicine has evolved rapidly in recent decades. Heritage Provider Network continues to help drive this evolution.

As part of this drive, we established the Heritage Medical Research Institute (HMRI) to support the endeavors of young researchers who are devoted to making a difference in the field of medicine.

Our feature article highlights HMRI's partnership with the scientists and engineers at The California Institute of Technology (Caltech). This collaboration supports translational sciences and health technology at Caltech through a three-year endowment.

Caltech drives innovation at an exponential rate, particularly in the areas of implantable sensors and precision medicine. With HMRI's support, researchers at Caltech are expanding their work in ways that will provide the opportunity for discovery, and drive innovation in novel new areas of highly relevant research.

Together with Caltech, HMRI will take what is learned from the laboratory to the bedside to enhance the well-being of patients and improve the nation's healthcare system. This joint venture will open the door to promising discoveries and faster cures that will reinforce the value of affordable, accessible healthcare.

**Richard Merkin, M.D.**  
President and CEO of HPN

# Breakthroughs in Medicine

## Heritage Medical Research Institute Partners with the California Institute of Technology to Advance Translational Medicine Research

**The Heritage Medical Research Institute is devoted to fostering the studies of young scientists and engineers on the verge of shifting the paradigm in translational medicine.** By providing appointments to the most highly qualified individuals from various institutions, HMRI gives medical researchers the unique opportunity to advance their studies as they collaborate with each other, and with practicing physicians in their communities.

HMRI has partnered with the faculty and students of Caltech to advance translational medicine and discover the treatments and cures of tomorrow. Caltech scientist and engineers are pursuing their most promising studies through the support of HMRI's three-year translational research endowment.

Caltech is uniquely suited to accelerating progress due to its highly collaborative environment of students and faculty that specialize in the convergence of multidisciplinary science and technology to fight diseases such as diabetes, autism, and cancer.



*From left to right: Andre Hoelz, Ph.D., Mikhail Shipiro, Ph.D., Mitchell Guttman, Ph.D., Viviana Gradinaru, Ph.D., Richard Merkin M.D., President and CEO of Heritage Provider Network, Thomas F. Rosenbaum, President of Caltech, Sarah Reisman, Ph.D., Azita Emami, Ph.D., Sarkis Mazmanian, Ph.D. and, Hyuck Choo, Ph.D.*



As a Caltech trustee and benefactor, Dr. Merkin has been energized by the potential impact of their investigations. He states, “The discoveries of the students and faculty of Caltech have already deepened our understanding of how the human body works. Our support is an investment in a better future - not just for the local community, but for the world.”

**Thomas Rosenbaum, Presidential Chair and professor of physics at Caltech states...**

*“The generous support of HMRI, through Dr. Merkin’s vision, will provide the freedom and resources for faculty from across the divisions to tackle difficult science and engineering problems for the betterment of the human condition.”*

## HMRI + Caltech

The contributions of Caltech’s faculty and alumni have laid the groundwork for modern biology. Their advancements in biotechnology, neurobiology, and genetics have earned national and international honors, including 35 Nobel Prizes.

**The Caltech scientists; some of whom are in the early stages of their careers – will pursue their most promising ideas and, in turn, will quicken the pace of discovery in the biosciences.**



### About the Heritage Medical Research Institute

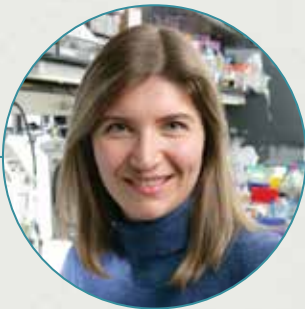
Heritage Medical Research Institute (HMRI) was founded by Dr. Richard Merkin in 2006. This initiative was developed to support and advance translational research in the areas of basic and clinical science under the highest ethical and medical standards.

HMRI is dedicated to supporting research, education initiatives, and other charitable causes with a specific focus on identifying areas of research where voids or gaps exist that impede progress. HMRI will endeavor to seek collaborations with other institutions, agencies, and individuals throughout the country to foster discovery and facilitate transfer of new methodologies. Through these partnerships, HMRI will continue to find new ways to fortify the overall patient care experience.

## Looking forward into a new era of medicine

Having some of the most imaginative scientists on the globe at Caltech, we can anticipate exciting discoveries in the future of translational science. The Heritage Medical Research Institute takes pride in the opportunity to support Caltech and other distinguished institutions around the country that are dedicated to changing the landscape of medicine.

***Here's a glance at the young HMRI sponsored innovators leading the charge toward the next era of modern medicine.***



**Viviana Gradinaru, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Biology and  
Biological Engineering*

Dr. Gradinaru completed her B.S. at Caltech and her Ph.D. at Stanford University. Her research focuses on developing tools and methods for neuroscience (optogenetic actuators and sensors; tissue clearing and imaging; gene delivery vehicles) as well as investigating the mechanisms underlying deep brain stimulation (DBS).

During her postdoctoral work, Dr. Gradinaru pioneered research towards a novel method for intact tissue mapping and phenotyping (known as CLARITY). She received the NIH Director's New Innovator Award and has been honored as a World Economic Forum Young Scientist.



**Mitchell Guttman, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Biology and  
Biological Engineering*

Dr. Guttman received his Ph.D. from the Department of Biology at MIT. He established his lab as an Independent Fellow at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard prior to joining the faculty at Caltech in June 2013.

Dr. Guttman's previous work explored unknown regions of the human genome. His research has defined a new class of players in the human genome and sheds light on how they work. As a graduate student, Dr. Guttman developed one of the first methods to reconstruct a mammalian transcriptome from RNA-Seq data. Dr. Guttman is a recipient of the 2012 NIH Director's Early Independence Award and was named one of Forbes magazine's "30 under 30" in science.



**Azita Emami, Ph.D.**  
*Professor of Electrical Engineering;  
EAS Division Deputy Chair*

Dr. Emami received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University.

She studies high-speed and low-power interconnects clocking and synchronization techniques.

During her Ph.D. studies, Dr. Emami worked in close collaboration with Stanford Photonics Lab to design and implement low – power transceivers for optical interconnects, with novel techniques for clock and data recovery.

Dr. Emami's has research projects at IBM that include DFE receivers for electrical links, clock and data recovery techniques, and novel digital solutions for circuits in highly-scaled CMOS technologies.

## Heritage Provider Network Partners with Crain's New York Business, Custom Division, to Honor Innovative New York Metropolitan Area Healthcare Leaders

By Janet Janjigian



From left to right: Louise Cohen, CEO Primary Care Development Corp, Michael Dowling, President & CEO, Northwell Health, Dr. Richard Merkin, President & CEO Heritage Provider Network, Jill Kaplan, VP & Publisher of Crain's NY Business and Mark Wagar, President of Heritage Medical Systems.

### 2nd Annual Heritage Healthcare Innovation Awards

Heritage Provider Network (HPN), one of the nation's leading physician led managed care organizations, is pleased to announce it is partnering with Crain's Custom Studio, a division of Crain's New York Business, to honor innovative New York metropolitan area healthcare leaders with the 2nd annual Heritage Healthcare Innovation Awards. The awards will showcase those innovators who have most improved the access to and quality of affordable healthcare in the communities they serve in the greater New York area.

"Healthcare in the third decade of the twenty first century will be radically different than the first two decades," said Dr. Richard Merkin, President and CEO of HPN. "We will need to rely on a convergence of new technologies and science that will change and improve outcomes for all New York residents. The Heritage Healthcare Innovation Award provides opportunities for innovators to demonstrate how they can serve New Yorkers and their families with cutting edge healthcare improvements that can also save them millions of dollars in costs," he continued. "I'm proud to share this award with Crain's New York Business again this year."

"It's an honor to be the exclusive media partner of Heritage Provider Network again this year and celebrate the Heritage Healthcare Innovation Awards," said Jill Kaplan, Vice President and Publisher of Crain's New York Business.

"It's an exciting moment in time for healthcare innovation with New York taking the lead and supporting the rapid acceleration of discovery and breakthroughs that will benefit millions of New Yorkers and communities beyond."

**Winners will be awarded in the following five categories:**

**1. Heritage Innovation in Healthcare Delivery Award:** Recognizing an innovator in the development of new modes of diagnosis, treatment, and care who actively improves access to services, and improves the quality of healthcare overall.

**2. Heritage Research Investigator in Translational Medicine Award:** Awarded to an individual or team based on the most significant quantitative results achieved by accelerating the transition of novel and innovative diagnostic tools and treatments to patients.

**3. Heritage Healthcare Leadership Award:** Recognizing a leader in the New York area that has demonstrated significant impact in their healthcare field by changing the way care systems work through new models, processes, and pathways.

**4. Heritage Healthcare Organizational Leadership Award:** Honoring an organization that has fundamentally changed how healthcare is delivered. This organization has created or championed new ways of thinking and doing, uniting diverse constituencies to work together.

**5. Heritage Innovator in Healthcare Award:** Highlighting cutting edge applications of technology and innovative up & comers that are making significant contributions in the areas of technology, research, or new approaches to healthcare systems.

Nominations will be accepted at [crainsnewyork.com](http://crainsnewyork.com) until midnight, March 31, 2017. They will be announced via [crainsnewyork.com](http://crainsnewyork.com). The online entry point (essay) is at [crainsnewyork.com/heritage](http://crainsnewyork.com/heritage).

**Finalists will be announced in April and winners will be revealed at a luncheon event in New York City on May 22, 2017. Here is the video link for last year's event: <https://youtu.be/hF5HAO-VhCM>.**



## High Desert Medical Group Launches Senior Expo During Open Enrollment Period Attracting More Than 6,000 Attendees

*High Desert Medical Group*



To kick-start open enrollment, High Desert Medical Group sponsored a Senior Expo held on Thursday, October 15, 2016. More than 6,000 seniors attended the Expo to receive their free flu shots and health screenings – including cholesterol, glucose and bone density tests.

“Every year, we encourage our members to participate in receiving their flu shot vaccine. High Desert Medical Group consistently promotes community health,” said Dr. Don Parazo, High Desert Medical Group Associate Medical Director, “We credit Dr. Merkin for being the cornerstone of our Senior Expo.”

Antelope Valley Congressman Steve Knight, Assemblyman Tom Lackey, and L.A. County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich’s representative, Pat Russell were also in attendance to join the Expo. “This is one of the events of the year that many of us look forward to,” added Knight.

The 2016 Senior of the Year Award was given to Fran Sereseres. Fran volunteers and speaks at numerous community events helping to educate our older adult population to live healthy and fulfilling lives. The Senior Expo not only serves as an important reminder to older adults to maintain one’s health, but for all of us to participate in healthy living.

## Regal, Lakeside, and ADOC Implemented the Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP™) Pilot

*Regal Medical Group, Lakeside Community Healthcare and ADOC Medical Group*



In October 2016, we launched a pilot program – Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP™) at nine locations throughout Southern California. The Medicare approved, evidence-based, self-management education program was designed for persons with diabetes and prediabetes to access knowledge and tools necessary to reduce complications resulting from the disease. The program consisted of attending a two-hour class once per week for six consecutive weeks. Upon completion of the six-week program, those members on Medicare or 65+ were rewarded with a \$100 gift card; non-member guests on Medicare or 65+ received a \$40 gift card.

A grand total of 105 participants enrolled in the pilot program; 97% (102) completed all six classes to receive a gift card. Those who completed the program lost a combined total of more than 120 pounds over the course of 6 weeks (individual results were gathered from volunteered data) and participant satisfaction was extremely high. In collaboration with Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), analysis will be conducted to determine clinical outcomes of the program.

The success of the program can be attributed to the value of information provided and the highly interactive, supportive environment designed to accompany the supporting information and tools for applying practical skills that can be used daily.

*Continued...*

We offer the program in multiple languages and adapt curricula to provide culturally relevant information which encourages participation by members who historically do not engage in these types of programs. As the pilot has been completed and with a waiting list already in place with interested members, Q1 will see an additional twelve programs conducted throughout our service area.

## Desert Oasis Healthcare Successfully Hosts its 5th Annual Holiday Concert

*Desert Oasis Healthcare*



In early November, Desert Oasis Healthcare held its 5th Annual Holiday concert as a gift to the Palm Desert community. In partnership with Palm Springs High School's World Renowned Jazz Band and other local musical talents, Desert Oasis Healthcare presented a two-hour, fun filled holiday extravaganza with food and games available for families to enjoy as they learned valuable healthcare information.

Along with the entertainment, Desert Oasis Healthcare provided flu shots to community members at no charge. Attendees also received health related materials highlighting available services and educational opportunities in the Palm Desert community.

Medicare Advantage Health Plan representatives were also present to answer any open enrollment questions. The highlight was the arrival of Santa Claus capping off an afternoon filled with valuable healthcare information and musical entertainment.

## Heritage Provider Network Affiliated Medical Groups

- **ADOC Medical Group**  
www.adoc.us | Phone: 800.747.2362
- **AZPCP-ACO**  
**Arizona Priority Care Plus ACO**  
www.azprioritycare.com | Phone: 480.499.8750
- **Bakersfield Family Medical Center**  
www.bfmc.com | Phone: 661.327.4411
- **Coastal Communities Physician Network**  
www.ccpnhpn.com | Phone: 800.604.8752
- **Desert Oasis Healthcare**  
www.mydohc.com | Phone: 760.320.5134
- **Healthcare Partners, IPA**  
www.hcpiipa.com | Phone: 516.746.2200
- **Heritage New York Medical, P.C.**  
Phone: 516.746.2200
- **Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group**  
www.hvvmg.com | Phone: 760.245.4747
- **High Desert Medical Group**  
www.hdmg.net | Phone: 661.945.5984
- **Lakeside Community Healthcare**  
www.lakesidemed.com | Phone: 818.637.2000
- **Regal Medical Group**  
www.regalmed.com | Phone: 866.654.3471
- **Sierra Medical Group**  
www.sierramedicalgroup.com | Phone: 661.945.9411