The remarkable and beloved cardiologist/internist
Jo Dalal, MD, FACC, FCCP

The Tallahassee Memorial Cardiopulmonary Intensive Care Unit
Dedicated to and Named for Jyotsna “Dr. Jo” Dalal, MD, FACC, FCCP

October 14, 1943 – September 15, 2015

The ceremony was opened by TMH Foundation President/CEO Paula Fortunas who noted, “We are here today to honor a legacy . . . a legacy of determination and dedication.” CICU Nurse Manager Kathy Patterson, ARNP, MSN, CCRN, delivered a tribute from the nursing staff, saying: “We were all inspired by the amazing Dr. Jo.” Frank Gredler, MD, FACC, one of Dr. Dalal’s closest friends and colleagues, made the dedicatory remarks. In every feature of his address, Dr. Gredler underscored Dr. Dalal’s passion, compassion, great faith and vision, “A doctor doing the work of God through science. Dr. Dalal was a driven physician, friend and colleague of many in Tallahassee and around the world. While small in stature, she was so large in her devotion to her patients and her profession.”

The Dalal Family’s Response

The response from the Dalal family was powerful and moving. Dr. Naresh Dalal, who is the Florida State University Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor in Chemistry and a lead researcher at the High Magnetic Field Laboratory, said of his wife of 50 years, “She never said anything other than exactly what was on her heart and mind. She left no room for doubt – a vital asset in healthcare and in family life.”

Dr. Dalal’s granddaughters Devi Madeleine Simons, six years of age, and Rani Patrice Simons, five years of age, spoke tenderly of their adored grandmother. This was not the first time the girls participated in a memorial to Dr. Dalal. Recently, in Philadelphia, they presented the Dr. Jo Dalal book collection to the Friends Free Library.

Daughter Geeta Dalal Simons’ poignant recounting of her mother’s powerful and beautiful life story left the assembled guests with hearts overflowing with gratitude to and admiration for the amazing Dr. Jo.

In Geeta Dalal Simons’ Own Words

“My mother knew that she wanted to help people, and she knew she should could do it through healthcare. Although she worked at the elite Atomic Energy Research facility in Mumbai, where she met my father, and graduated from pharmacy school with top honors, she was not satisfied – she wanted to cure people. So, after my parents moved to America and through the determination of her powerful mind and devoted compassion of her heart, she went to medical school. She was a paragon of self-discipline. My mother was brilliant, insightful, thorough, vehemently detail oriented – the walking definition of dedication. In medical school, she was always at the top of her class and won every award for which she was eligible – all of this while caring for two children with, of course, the help of my dad, the chemistry professor version of Mr. Mom.

“My mother was universally loved by her patients, some traveling from other states to see her. She quickly built a very lucrative practice. But then, Dad’s best and longtime friend Dr. Alan Marshall recruited him to the chemistry faculty at Florida State University and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Mom and Dad made the decision to accept the offer. She closed her practice and came to open another in Tallahassee where she was welcomed into the medical community as well as an office space with Dr. Comer Cherry, who also opened his home and family to ours, as true dear friends over the decades.

“Throughout my mother’s long and difficult illness, Dr. Whit Oliver, Dr. Comer Cherry, Dr. Frank Gredler, and the CICU and cardiac staff, who had worked with her as a physician and a patient, demonstrated their genuine compassion and caring and, very importantly, preserved her dignity. They comprise a team of heroic people working tirelessly to save lives, including that of one of their own. The lives of the patients and their families are irrevocably touched, transformed by their healing voices, hearts and hands. My mother had the privilege of experiencing both sides of this.

“My mother spent a lot of time caring for and endlessly sustaining others and forgetting herself. She taught me to be vigilant to the needs of others. Even as she was dying, in and out of the CICU, she was concerned for others. And so, it is a fitting tribute that the earnings from the Dr. Jo Dalal Endowment are designated for the CICU – for all those suffering through the night and those caring for them. There is no doubt that Mama’s legacy has been passed to me and to my children but now, with the Dr. Jo Endowment, it will be extended eternally through the CICU where her heart’s passion resided. No heart will stop on this staff’s watch, not if there’s a way in this world that they can help it."

For the full text of Mrs. Simons’ account of her mother’s life, please contact Foundation@TMH.ORG.
The Ride for Hope (TRFH) – in its eleventh year – has become a landmark event in the Big Bend region for cycling enthusiasts, leisure riders and people of all ages coming together to ride, celebrate life and raise funds for cancer care in this region. TRFH memorializes its founder, Lou Farrah, and all proceeds benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center. Please visit TheRideForHope.com to learn how Lou, his wife Jenny, their two sons Jason and Jeffrey cast the vision for TRFH.

Heading into their sixth year as presenting sponsor, Dr. Michael Ford and his team at Southeastern Dermatology proudly continues its partnership with the TMH Foundation. “Through the dedicated and ongoing commitment of sponsors like Southeastern Dermatology, Fonvielle Lewis Foote & Messer, Gordos and Bandidos, and many more – this community event would not be possible,” said Aaron Kinnon, TMH Foundation Director of Development.

Andrei Antohi of Fonvielle Lewis Foote & Messer, Attorneys at Law, will serve as TRFH’s 2016 Honorary Chair. Andrei has actively participated in TRFH for many years and is a strong advocate for the event. “Whether through a relative, a friend or a co-worker, we all either already have or will encounter a form of this disease. I have personally witnessed friends and their children struggle against it, as well the loss of family members. This fight extends far beyond the individual, taxing entire families without compassion. At the same time, nothing I have seen has been more inspiring than the strength, courage and unrelenting determination of those battling this disease, or that of their affected family members,” said Mr. Antohi. He continued, “You may be aware of the remarkable advancement achieved to date in this fight, both on a worldwide scale, as well as locally in our own Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center. This progress would not be possible without the research of dedicated individuals and events such as the TMH Foundation’s The Ride for Hope. Funds raised by TRFH directly support the growth and development of cancer care available to us and our loved ones locally, keeping us as close to our homes as possible during the fight.”

While the cycling event offers six courses ranging from a quarter mile family fun walk/ride up to a 100-mile “Century” ride, the event has always been more than just a ride – it’s a family event promoting active living, health information, a family fun festival and an avenue for anyone to support cancer care in this region. “By registering to ride, sponsoring, hosting a booth at the expo and health fair, or just attending this community event to have fun, gather health information or cheer on the riders, each participant is supporting the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center and its mission of providing the most comprehensive and best cancer treatment in the region in order to keep patients and family members close to home as they navigate their way through one of the most difficult seasons in their life,” noted Mr. Kinnon.

Once again, the Florida Highway Patrol is the Course Safety sponsor and will provide invaluable service in escorting the Century and Metric Century lead race groups along with providing general safety and presence on the various courses. The HoneyBaked Ham Co. is the new Friday night Expo dinner sponsor, and, as always, a delicious lunch will be served Saturday by Gordos and Bandidos restaurants – both meals free for all registered riders and at a nominal fee for the general public. TRFH and associated events will be held at the North Florida Fairgrounds – all cycling courses will begin and end there.

Please visit TheRideForHope.com to register for TRFH, review sponsorship opportunities, complete a vendor booth application for the Friday night Expo and/or Saturday Health Fair, see TRFH schedule of events, photos and more.

This fun-filled weekend will kick off Friday evening, June 10, from 4-7 p.m. with TRFH Vendor Expo, Registration/Bag pick up and The Hero of Hope Award Ceremony. The Friday night festivities also include music, buffet dinner, vendor expositions and excitement as riders gear up for the next day.
The TMH Foundation is very pleased to recognize Yorkshore Flooring, Carpet Studio and Marlin Coatings, Inc. for their recent generous gifts, creating a “new look” for both the interior and the exterior of its building located at 1331 East Sixth Avenue. Yorkshore Flooring donated the new flooring with Carpet Studio contributing labor and installation and Marlin Coating providing paint for the entire building and the associated labor and services.

TMH Foundation President and CEO Paula Fortunas offered high praise, “The TMH Foundation is indeed grateful to Yorkshore Flooring, Carpet Studio and Marlin Coating, Inc. for stepping up and providing this exceedingly generous support. These improvements definitely serve the best interests of the many donors, and other guests, including TMH colleagues, who visit the Foundation each day, and are, of course, enormously popular with the Foundation staff.”

According to Scott Mountford, owner of Yorkshore Flooring, “It was a pleasure for Yorkshore Flooring to help TMH and the local community by providing a gift of new flooring for the TMH Foundation building.” Carpet Studio owner Kirk Davis added, “Carpet Studio was happy to help and looks forward to continuing its partnership with the TMH Foundation in the future to support TMH and its patients served throughout the Big Bend Region.”

The Spirit of Children creates additional funding to hospitals throughout the country during the month of October and all year long. The program’s mission is to support children and their families during hospitalization and help to make the child’s treatment less scary and more fun. The Spirit of Children started in 2006 with eleven hospitals and, since inception of the program, raising over $22 million for the benefit of over 130 hospitals in the United States and Canada.

The Children’s Center Nurse Manager, Kim Outlaw, RN, BSN, explained, “The partnership between Spirit of Children and the Tallahassee Memorial Children’s Center is extremely valuable, helping to purchase educational and entertainment items for the benefit of children and their families who are served by TMH.”

The Spirit of Children matched each coupon dollar-for-dollar. The result was $12,150 for the Tallahassee Memorial Children’s Center Child Life Program.

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The TMH Foundation Director of Annual Giving, Judi Wills added, “The TMH Foundation is very excited and grateful for the Spirit of Children’s continued support for hospitalized children and their families by providing additional positive distractions during their treatment.”

Residents of Allegro Senior Living joined together to promote breast cancer awareness, and to raise funds for the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center. “This fundraiser is particularly relevant because many of the Allegro residents and staff, who have suffered from cancer, received their treatments at TMH,” said former patient, Gail McDonald, Allegro Lead Senior Living Advisor.

There was an array of fund-raising activities at Allegro, including a table in the lobby selling baked goods personally prepared by staff and family members, pink hearts to pay tribute to loved ones and a 50/50 raffle offering the opportunity to give and receive. Last year, this event gave residents the opportunity to personalize a pink paver. The pavers are still prominently displayed at Tallahassee Memorial in the Cancer Center’s Healing Garden.
Ray Munroe, Jr. passed away on March 11, 2012 of complications from cardiovascular disease. Ray left this world too soon, survived by his wife, Lisa Suber Munroe and daughter Laura Michelle Munroe, parents Ray, Sr. and Peggy, brothers Mark and Mike, sister Meghan, extended family and many in the community who loved and respected him. “We wanted to turn this tragedy and loss into an opportunity to help others in our community,” said Peggy Munroe, and that is exactly what they have done.

The Munroe family and the Mays-Munroe “team” have hosted the Mays-Munroe “Have a Heart” celebration for three years. Proceeds from the combined events surpassed $85,000 and are designated for the Ray B. Munroe, Jr., PhD Endowment to benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Heart & Vascular Center. Previously held in May, the third annual “Have a Heart” celebration was moved to “Heart Month” and held on February 4, 2016. The Mays-Munroe showroom was once again transformed to create a festive setting for this celebration in memory of Ray, Jr. and in support of those who suffer from heart disease and their families.

The “Have a Heart” celebration included a welcoming array of delicious food and beverages, live and silent auctions, a raffle and music -- all to raise funds for the TMH Foundation’s Ray Munroe, Jr. Endowment. It was a relaxed and enjoyable evening with old friends catching up and new acquaintances being made. Friendly bid-battles occurred in the silent auction and exciting bid-exchanges took place during the live auction thanks to Malcolm and Marni Mason of Manor Auctions and the wonderful guests who bid for the cause and walked away with some great items.

The highlight of the evening was the program which began with Aaron Kinnon, TMH Foundation Director of Development, welcoming everyone and thanking all who made the evening possible – primarily, those who came out to support the Munroe family and the cause at hand. Mark Munroe then spoke about his brother, Ray, Jr., on behalf of the family. He gave a moving tribute to Ray, Jr., highlighting how he was loved by family, friends and others and of how his life touched so many.

The evening’s keynote speaker was Frank Gredler, MD, Board Certified Cardiologist with Southern Medical Group, PA. Dr. Gredler discussed some of the advanced technological procedures that are available at the Tallahassee Memorial Heart & Vascular Center. Dr. Gredler said, “At the Tallahassee Memorial Heart & Vascular Center, we are not only implementing new and innovative procedures that are saving lives, but we are also participating in research to know how to better serve patients in the future. For example, one of my colleagues, Dr. Wayne Batchelor, just presented findings in Washington, DC on the disparity and underrepresentation of heart health research on women and minorities. Reducing this disparity will give us a better understanding of how to treat these populations and will save more lives.”

According to Mr. Kinnon, “As Peggy and the Munroe family intended from the beginning, this event and endowment have diverted some of their pain and loss into good, as the outpouring of love and contributions are bringing hope to others with heart disease.” Peggy ended the evening saying, “Ray, Jr. would have really liked this.”

Ray Munroe, Jr.’s widow and daughter Lisa Suber Munroe and Laura Michelle Munroe
After 12 years of distinguished service as both the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation President/Chief Executive Officer and TMH Vice President/Chief Advancement Officer, and 28 years as the Florida State University Foundation Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Planned Giving, Paula Fortunas is retiring.

Mark O’Bryant, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare President and Chief Executive Officer, noted, “I would like to thank Paula for her efforts to advance our institution and recognize her work in positioning us to better serve our region. Paula has been instrumental in advancing the strategic vision of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. For instance, Paula forged stronger relationships with our academic partners, which is a major focus of our strategic plan and, further, she was the TMH leader who developed the comprehensive research agreement between Florida State University and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

“Under her leadership, she revitalized the Spiritual Care Department and its Clinical Pastoral Education Program. Paula also worked with community partners to develop the TMH/Big Bend Region’s Animal Therapy Program and has significantly advanced the joint TMH-FSU Medical Music Therapy & Arts and Medicine Program, along with the TMH Volunteer Services Department.

“Finally, Paula worked tirelessly to attract benefactors to support our many clinical programs. Since she came to TMH in 2004 from Florida State University, the TMH Foundation’s gifts and grants have increased 800%. It has been a true pleasure working with Paula and I wish her the best in her retirement.”

Paula was among the first Florida State University alumni to be inducted into the University’s prestigious Circle of Gold and she is also the recipient of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education’s Lifetime Achievement Award. On National Philanthropy Day, she was named Outstanding Fund-Raising Professional of the Year by the Big Bend Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and was a Tallahassee Community College Women’s History Month Honoree. Paula has been honored by the Tallahassee Democrat as one of the “Twenty-Five Women You Need to Know,” and the TMH Foundation was named the Outstanding Professional Philanthropic Organization by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Further, Paula was recognized by the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle as its Woman of Distinction in Health, and the more-than 900 professional nurses at Tallahassee Memorial selected her as their Nursing Champion.

According to Roger Champion, Chair of the TMH Foundation Board of Trustees, “Paula is engaged in a variety of local, state and national activities that have enhanced her role as our President and CEO. Her activities include service on the American Red Cross, Capital Area Chapter Board of Directors, the University Center Club Board of Governors, the FSU College of Medicine Dean’s Advisory Council, the FSU College of Nursing Community Advisory Board, the FSU DeVoe Moore Center Oversight Board for the Study of Critical Issues in Economic Policy and Government, the Ronald McDonald House Charities Board of Directors, and the Artist Series Board of Directors. She is also a member of the Tallahassee Kiwanis Club, Zonta International, the Economic Club of Tallahassee, and the Tallahassee Regional Estate Planning Council. We salute Paula and her outstanding record of accomplishment on behalf of Tallahassee Memorial.”

PROTOCOLS FOR PHILANTHROPY will return in the July-August issue of Tallahassee Magazine along with a scrapbook of highlights and photographs from the April 6 dedication ceremony naming the TMH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for the Florida State University College of Medicine and saluting the work of the FSU Dance Marathon and the Children’s Miracle Network along with a scrapbook of highlights and photographs from the April 21 Golden Gala and the April 25-30 USTA Tallahassee Tennis Challenger to benefit the D. Mark Vogter, MD Endowment for the Tallahassee Memorial Neuro Intensive Care Unit.
INTRODUCING AND WELCOMING MICKEY S. MOORE

Mickey S. Moore, President and CEO of the Southern Scholarship Foundation, where he has led an effective and aggressive advancement program, has been named President and Chief Advancement Officer of the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation. Mickey is originally from New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and is a 1991 graduate of Florida State University.

In making the announcement, Mark O’Bryant, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare President and Chief Executive Officer, said, “Tallahassee Memorial is fortunate to have found a proven leader to succeed the highly-regarded and respected Paula Fortunas. Mickey has impressive philanthropic experience and a track record of helping an organization fund programs through community financial support. TMH has partnered with our region for over 60 years to offer life saving and health enhancement services. The TMH Foundation plays an essential role in that community partnership.” Roger Champion, TMH Foundation Chair and member of the selection committee, added, “The focus of the selection committee was to find someone with an understanding of local philanthropic efforts with a proven record of success.”

Mickey spent over 18 years in the financial industry managing and leading in various capacities of consumer finance companies, credit unions, and banks. Prior to joining Southern Scholarship in 2009, he owned and operated his own consulting firm specializing in business development and financial operations for small businesses and nonprofits. His experience and expertise lies in business development, sales processes and sales management, financial operations, leadership and personnel development, cultural and organizational transitions and turn-key opportunities.

Mickey devotes many hours to nonprofits as a board member, mentor, and fundraiser. His board volunteer experiences include the Big Bend Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Big Bend Chapter of the American Red Cross, Rotary Youth Camp, Tallahassee Sunset Rotary and Capital City Kiwanis Foundation. He is a member of Leadership Tallahassee Class 24 and maintains an active membership in Leadership Tallahassee and the Greater Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mickey is married to Audrey Hendrick Moore and they have one son -- Shane. He spends time with Audrey and Shane, attends many FSU sporting events, and is a nationally competitive runner. As a member of Gulf Winds Track Club, he recently finished in the top 1% at the 2015 TCS NYC Marathon. He also enjoys traveling, eating, writing, blogging, and reading about topics such as leadership, sales, team building, biographies and communication.

THE TMH FOUNDATION BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO BONNIE CANNON AND WELCOMES JESSICA ZEIGLER

Bonnie Cannon, Assistant to the TMH Foundation President/CEO, Special Events Coordinator and Office Manager, retired in February 2016. Bonnie’s career in healthcare began at Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center in Crystal River, Florida, where she served as Business Office Manager for more than a decade. When Bonnie relocated to the Tallahassee area to be closer to her daughter Millie Ann Creel and family, she joined the staff of the Florida State University Foundation and remained there until becoming a TMH colleague in January 2004. During her 12 years at TMH, Bonnie won numerous accolades and awards and was recognized for her “passion and purpose” at the 2011 Administrative Professionals Day ceremony.

Jessica Zeigler succeeded Bonnie Cannon as Assistant to the TMH Foundation President/CEO, Special Events Coordinator and Office Manager. Jessica is a veteran of the TMH Public Relations/Marketing Department, having spent eight years as the Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Chief Communications Officer. Jessica is extraordinarily talented and versatile with considerable experience in special events production. Further, she has been instrumental in the work and activities of the TMH Retired Employees Association and is key to the publication of that organization’s newsletter. Jessica is married to Paul Zeigler. They have one daughter Mattie, two sons Jake and Will and are the proud new grandparents of Hugh Martin Zeigler who was born in March 2016.