



**ROTARY CLUB
OF MIAMI**

*Thomas Brown
McClelland Trust*

ALUMNI NEWS

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December 2022

A Letter from the Editor

Over \$7.7 million has been awarded to Miami-Dade County High School graduates who went on to attend medical school, including you, and I just wanted to take this opportunity to share some of my thoughts on our Thomas Brown McClelland Alumni reconnect project. The internet and persistence helped create today's TBM Alumni family, now 825 strong, and I continue to enjoy tracking down those of you who have changed jobs, retired or are missing in action! Somewhere in my genetic makeup must have been the DNA of a detective – it has served the Trust well.



Rotary is an amazing world-wide organization that affects the lives of countless individuals. The Rotary Club of Miami participates in community activities in the Miami area and works hard to make a difference in many ways. Club member, Thomas Brown McClelland, set up the Trust in his will to help local students pursue their medical career and the Club considers the Trust a major focus of its community service and oversees the fund's scholarship distribution since 1983.

I wanted to contribute to Rotary in a lasting way and the reconnect efforts, beginning with just a list of recipients, awards made, schools attended and very out-of-date mailing addresses, was my way to do that. Since the initial awards in 1983, no follow up was ever initiated to reach out to our TBM recipients until my detective genes kicked into high gear. Bit-by-bit, the list of current addresses and database was created.

In May of 2012, the first newsletter was created and sent. We now, twice a year, mail the newsletter to over 525 recipients and email to those more recent awardees. It is so rewarding to discover the impact so many of you make in the lives of your patients and community. Mr. McClelland would certainly be proud of all of you, as are the Rotary Club of Miami members. Even though the scholarships were awarded with no expectation of repayment, since the reconnect project started, we have received almost \$179,000 in donations back to the Trust from our TBM Alumni family alone. THANK YOU!

My own wellbeing is in part due to two TBM physicians.....Hematologist Stephen Fein and Urologist Carlos Santa Cruz. The Trust's scholarships have benefited me through their medical knowledge and experience. Thank you both! Countless others I'm sure can say the same – we are all grateful for the professionalism and caring you display every day.

I have been so lucky to be an integral part of this reconnect project and wanted to make my own "legacy" contribution. To achieve that goal, I made an initial contribution this year to establish a fund within the Rotary Club Foundation of Miami to help fund stethoscopes, with the TBM logo, that are now given to first time Thomas Brown McClelland Scholarship recipients. I plan to continue contributions to the fund with a portion of my retirement account's required minimum distribution (RMD) yearly. (A good way for any of you old enough to withdraw your RMD and make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to the "Thomas Brown McClelland Trust" from your financial institution, avoiding the paying of taxes on that withdrawal).

Please reach out to me if you have any suggestions on ways to enhance our efforts to highlight the work you are doing. We are so proud of you all. I am so thankful for all the work you do and what has been contributed back to the Trust since the reconnect program began. The pandemic highlighted how great a need there is for physicians and many from Miami-Dade are heeding the call. Let's all be there to support them and continue the legacy created by the Trust's benefactor, Thomas Brown McClelland, so many years ago. Thank you again for your dedication and support, it makes such a difference for us all.

Sincerely,

Marcia Brad

50/50 Match Challenge Update – Opportunity ends 12/31/22

On March 1, 2022, the Rotary Club of Miami Foundation announced a 50/50 match of all contributions to the Thomas Brown McClelland Trust up to \$100,000 by year end. Well, we have raised \$27,165 from our alumni as of this date. Additional funds received from other sources make the grand total to be matched so far is \$32,850. Thank you to those who have already contributed and taken advantage of doubling of your donation.

December 31, 2022 is fast approaching! If you have not made your donation, now is a great time to get out your checkbook and get in on this great opportunity. All donations, up to \$100,000 by year's end, will be doubled. A great way to make your dollars count twice!!! Every dollar counts toward helping those following in your footsteps. Thank you all for your support of the Trust and the important work you do every day.

Here's the latest on our Thomas Brown McClelland family!

Vania Fernandez ('03) is the current president of the Broward County Medical Association (BCMA) under which the Broward Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is housed. Recently she was featured on CBS4 highlighting her work assisting with the efforts of the Red Cross on the West Coast of Florida by providing volunteer physicians to care for those devastated by Hurricane Ian. The hurricane has passed but the aftermath and need lingers. The Trust's Founder, Thomas Brown McClelland, hoped that recipients would repay their scholarship in service to the community and this is a perfect example of his goals being fulfilled.



Dr. Fernandez is Board Certified Anesthesiologist and Board Certified, Fellowship Trained Interventional Pain Specialist, with a private practice is at The Broward Spine Institute: A Comprehensive Pain Management Center in Broward. →

Mitchell Freed ('83) opened and developed a state-of-the-art rehabilitation hospital with AdventHealth in Winter Park, FL. It provides outstanding advanced technology and whole-person care – restoring mind, body and spirit.

Philip Garza ('11) specializes in the marriage of modern glaucoma surgery with advanced technology cataract surgery at Georgia Eye Partners in Atlanta. He offers complete medical and surgical care for glaucoma and performs the full range of glaucoma surgery techniques, from glaucoma laser procedures and state-of-the-art minimally-invasive glaucoma surgery techniques to traditional procedures like tube-shunt surgery and trabeculectomy. →



←**Bradley Jacobs** ('96) joined Lyndhurst Gynecologic Associates, Winston Salem, NC, in 2001. His special interests include urogynecology, pelvic surgery and menopausal care. Dr. Jacobs serves as the President of Lyndhurst Gyn and is the Medical Director of the Lyndhurst Urogynecology Center and In-Office Surgery. He also finds time to volunteer at the Community Care Clinic in Winston-Salem



Laura E. Irastorza ('14) is a board-certified Pediatric Gastroenterologist at Palm Beach Digestive Associates. Her interests include nutrition, medical education, and pediatric advocacy. She has expertise in treating patients with eosinophilic esophagitis, constipation, reflux, and functional GI disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome. →

Gaston Lacayo, III ('22) is President of the Center for Excellence in Eye Care in Miami. Currently he is also the Medical Director at Baptist Health Surgery Center and Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim School of Medicine.

Felice Levine ('88) has been practicing Internal Medicine in South Florida for 28 years. She states that "Practicing in a personalized health care model allows me to tailor patient care to each individual's needs. Having the time to know my patients on a more in-depth level also allows me to advocate for them while they navigate the often confusing, frustrating and sometimes frightening moments that may arise in their health care."



←**David Meinbach** ('00) is a physician at University Urologists in Lake Worth, FL. He has specialized training in robotic, minimally invasive, and laparoscopic urologic surgery. *The Miami Herald* recently mentioned him in an article about his collaboration with his mother, Anita Meyer Meinbach, on a children's book entitled "What Luck!" The book was written as a result their reminiscing about his youth.



Tonya Williams ('98) is beginning her 20th year of working as a solo practice pediatrician in the Orlando area. She received her medical degree from Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. →



Please use the enclosed envelope and consider making a *tax deductible* contribution today:

"Thomas Brown McClelland Trust"
P.O. Box 43-1466, Miami, FL 33243



Name: _____ Email: _____

Mailing address: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

In a few words – let us know what you've been doing:

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or thoughts on the newsletter, please contact TBM Alumni Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, Marcia Brod at: miamirotarytbmalum@yahoo.com. **We would love to hear from you!**