The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center
for Trauma Innovation

MESSAGE FROM AUDREY EPSTEIN RENY

Stepping Strong began as a thank you. A thank you to the amazing caregivers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital who gave us the greatest gift imaginable following the Boston Marathon bombings—saving our precious daughter, Gillian, putting her back together again, and returning her to us, whole. At the time, we struggled to find a way to adequately thank Gillian’s medical team. As she progressed in her recovery, we began our research and learned that trauma care was a tremendously under-funded and under-recognized medical discipline. This set us on the path of establishing Stepping Strong in Gillian’s name, in hopes that it would enable the Brigham to improve outcomes for other trauma patients like her.

Looking back, we had no idea if anyone would share our passion or join us in our mission. But you did! And so did nearly 13,000 other supporters from around the globe. In less than three years, this incredible outpouring of generosity has led to the opening of the new Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation—a milestone moment that Steven, Danielle, Gillian, and I could never have imagined. We have said this before, but it still rings true: Despite the fact that an absolutely awful thing happened to our family, we have had the great fortune of experiencing, firsthand, the absolute best in human kindness. Stepping Strong has proved that great things are possible when individuals come together with purpose and compassion. We cannot wait to discover all the opportunities that lie ahead in transforming trauma care for other patients like Gillian. Thank you all so very much.

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April 10, 2017

Dear friends,

As we approach the third anniversary of Stepping Strong, I am so proud to share this report detailing how far we’ve come and how far we still plan to go. The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Fund at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) was founded by the Reny and Epstein families as a way to honor the physicians and caregivers who responded so heroically in the aftermath of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. The tremendous Stepping Strong community continues to grow, thanks to the dedication of our trauma research and care specialists, and of course, to the generous support of dear friends like you.

This past year, our efforts saw exceptional progress. Stepping Strong has now committed more than $11 million to advancing trauma research and care. We announced two new Innovator Award winners and one new Plastic Surgery Trauma Fellow, and made great progress on the Stepping Strong Research Scholars front. In January 2017, we dedicated The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation at BWH—a true highlight of our efforts thus far and a tangible mark of our commitment to these endeavors. The center allows BWH to build on our momentum and mobilize the full potential of multidisciplinary collaboration.

I am proud of the work being done by our dedicated Stepping Strong physician-scientists and their teams. Your generosity and unwavering support make so many advancements in trauma care possible, and I look forward to keeping you updated as we continue this critical partnership.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth G. Nabel, MD
THE GILLIAN RENY STEPPING STRONG CENTER FOR TRAUMA INNOVATION AT BRIGHAM AND WOMEN’S HOSPITAL

The number of people who suffer traumatic injuries each year is shocking, and these devastating injuries can happen anywhere, at any time—impacting military personnel wounded in the line of duty, athletes injured on playing fields, individuals hurt in car accidents, and patients living with disease-related trauma.

Trauma research and care have been historically under-recognized and under-funded. In 1966, the National Academy of Sciences published an influential report stating that both the public and government were insensitive to the magnitude of the problem of trauma-related deaths and injuries.¹ The report ultimately led to higher quality on-scene care by trained paramedics and EMTs. But, according to a 2016 article in JAMA Surgery, much remains to be done to adequately address this deadly epidemic.² Unlike other serious public health problems such as Ebola and the Zika virus, which rightfully benefitted from significant funding and attention, it is alarming that traumatic injuries, which account for nearly 150,000 deaths every year, do not warrant a similar response. Also alarming is the rising number of civilians who sustain serious traumatic injuries due to senseless acts of violence.

Much more needs to be done. The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) is committed to filling this critical gap.

The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation seeks to mobilize the full potential of interdisciplinary innovation to fuel trauma research and care for the benefit of civilians and military personnel worldwide who have suffered from the devastation of traumatic injuries and events.

TRAUMA: THE NEGLECTED GLOBAL EPIDEMIC OF MODERN SOCIETY

12.6 percent of the U.S. population will experience a traumatic injury at some point in their lives.

In 2015, the following statistics were due to traumatic injury:

- 43M emergency department visits
- 80M outpatient visits
- 2.3M hospitalizations

#1 cause of death for people 46 or younger, and third most common cause of death overall in the U.S.

$671B spent in 2015 on decreased productivity, work loss, and medical costs due to traumatic injury.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federation of American Scientists
FUELING TRAUMA RESEARCH AND CARE: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

In response to these staggering statistics, BWH established The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation with a mission of mobilizing the full potential of interdisciplinary innovation to fuel trauma research and care for the benefit of civilians and military personnel worldwide who have suffered from devastating traumatic injuries and events.

Under the leadership of Mitchel B. Harris, MD, the center brings together experts from diverse specialties—such as trauma, plastic surgery, orthopaedics, bioengineering, and many others—to brainstorm, devise studies and trials, build on each other’s work and findings, and develop treatments in areas spanning soft tissue, muscle regeneration, and bone, skin, and wound healing. Additional research programs are also focusing on emergency preparedness, resilience, and best demonstrated practices in responding to trauma-related incidents.

MITCHEL B. HARRIS, MD, is the director of The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation, the chief of orthopaedic trauma at BWH, and the inaugural incumbent of the Stepping Strong Distinguished Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery. A Stepping Strong Research Scholar, Harris is professor of orthopaedic surgery at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and the recipient of the BWH 2015 Hippocrates Society Humanitarian Award. Harris was part of a collaborative, multidisciplinary effort that treated the 39 injured, including Gillian, who came through BWH’s doors the day of the Boston Marathon tragedy. Since that day, he has served as Gillian’s orthopaedic surgeon and monitored her progress.

“Thinking out of the box to improve outcomes for my patients is my life’s passion. The spirit of innovation is at the core of the center’s mission and vision.”

MITCHEL B. HARRIS, MD, STEPPING STRONG DISTINGUISHED CHAIR OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Harris believes the center presents a great opportunity for BWH to expand on research and explore innovative areas of trauma care. His vision is for the center to function as a think tank, encouraging enhanced collaborations that reach across medical disciplines and departments. Harris aims to foster an environment in which physician-scientists freely cross traditional boundaries to work together in new ways, with the goal of transforming clinical care through basic and translational science.
YOUR SUPPORT IS TURNING TRAGEDY INTO HOPE

In just three years, your support has already made a world of difference. In addition to the outpouring of financial support, 12,750 passionate supporters and friends worldwide have joined the Stepping Strong movement, more than 5,000 people follow the Stepping Strong Facebook page, 14 physician-scientist research teams have received Stepping Strong funding, and researchers have published 20 related articles in scientific journals.

The Stepping Strong Center takes a multidisciplinary approach to advancing research and clinical programs that allow BWH to accelerate innovations in trauma care. Our Stepping Strong Innovator Awards inspire out-of-the-box thinking in trauma treatment and recovery and provide funding to launch groundbreaking projects; our Stepping Strong Plastic Surgery Trauma Fellowship trains up-and-coming plastic surgeons in advanced techniques for treating acute and complex traumatic injury; and our Stepping Strong Research Scholars explore topics such as how stem cells can advance bone regeneration, and how to promote skin regeneration and wound healing.

The following snapshots contain further detail on these program areas and the visionary physician-scientists who are leading the way in trauma innovation.
STEPPING STRONG INNOVATOR AWARDS

The Stepping Strong Innovator Awards program supports groundbreaking projects that address well-defined clinical problems in areas such as limb transplant and reconstruction, bone regeneration, advanced stem cell technology, orthopaedic and plastic surgery, bioengineering, rehabilitation, and emergency preparedness. Since its inception in 2014, Stepping Strong has presented nine innovator awards of $100,000 each to help launch groundbreaking projects.

Two Innovator Awards were granted to Michael J. Weaver, MD, and Reza Abdi, MD, in 2016—one through a public-facing competition that garnered more than 2,600 votes from all 50 states and 56 countries, and one in a closed-door session judged by the Stepping Strong Innovator Awards Council and Stepping Strong medical leaders.

**REZA ABDI, MD, 2016 RECIPIENT**

**New Hope for Trauma Patients with Severe Burn Injuries**

Abdi, a transplant nephrologist at BWH and an associate professor at HMS, aims to address the management of early wound closure—a critically important procedure that can prevent burn patients from dehydration, infection, and death. Using skin grafts from a patient’s own body is the best approach, but that is often not possible with severe burn patients, and patients universally reject cadaveric skin. To solve for this, Abdi and his team have developed an innovative approach to creating skin allografts—tissue grafts from a donor—for burn patients. Using an implantable bioactive gel embedded with mesenchymal stem cells that suppress rejection, the team plans to microengineer skin. This advanced technology will allow for rapid closure of wounds, which in turn will help shorten hospital stays and, ultimately, save lives.
MICHAEL J. WEAVER, MD, 2016 RECIPIENT
21st Century Tools to Measure Bone Healing

Weaver is program director of the Harvard Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship and an assistant professor at HMS. His project aims to help the millions of people who break bones every year as a result of traumatic injuries. While there are numerous drugs to treat medical problems like high blood pressure or asthma, there are no medications to help promote the healing of broken bones. It is impossible to accurately measure bone healing with current technology, making drug treatments difficult to assess and drug trials hard to perform. To improve these circumstances, Weaver’s team is developing a device that precisely measures bone healing with the goal of spurring drug development, reducing pain, and improving the speed of recovery.

The following are highlights of research progress from our past Stepping Strong Award winners.

MATTHEW J. CARTY, MD, 2014 RECIPIENT
A New Surgical Approach for the 21st Century

Carty, director of the Lower Extremity Transplant Program and an assistant professor at HMS, has continued his work to reinvent how lower extremity amputations are performed in order to provide amputees with greater control of prosthetics and restore their limb responsiveness. In collaboration with Hugh Herr, PhD, from the Center for Extreme Bionics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Carty’s team has completed multiple studies in animal models and human simulations. Last year, Carty and colleagues filed for a patent for a series of designs developed to enable the construction of muscle pairings in limb amputations. These designs form the basis for ongoing work to reinvent the surgical approach used for lower limb amputation at BWH and are informing efforts to develop the next generation of lower extremity prostheses at MIT. And most recently, Carty and his team performed their first modified amputation on a patient, Jim Ewing, whose lower left leg was injured in 2014 after a rock climbing fall. This milestone procedure represented the first clinical translation of this work.

Led by Matthew J. Carty, MD, a team of plastic, orthopaedic, and vascular surgeons performed the first-ever dynamic-model amputation on patient Jim Ewing.

An avid rock climber, Jim Ewing was able to resume his passion after his revolutionary surgery.
GEORGE S. DYER, MD, 2014 RECIPIENT
Using Silk-Based Orthopaedic Implants to Promote Healing
Dyer, program director of the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program, seeks to develop fully degradable surgical repair rods using silk protein and bioactive molecules to promote bone healing for large traumatic defects. Dyer and his team believe that orthopaedic hardware with the appropriate mechanical properties—that is, fully degradable hardware that promotes new bone formation—will revolutionize orthopaedic repairs by accelerating healing, reducing second surgeries, and improving long-term outcomes for patients who suffer from segmental defects. They are focusing specifically on silk-based orthopaedic implants because silk is stronger than most materials, and their research shows that silk-based implants can be tuned to fully degrade over a 6- to 12-month period while promoting bone healing in trauma patients.

OMID FAROKHZAD, MD, 2015 RECIPIENT
Healing Bones with Nanodrones: The Next Frontier in Orthopaedic Surgery
Farokhzad, director of the Laboratory of Nanomedicine and Biomaterials and an assistant professor at HMS, has successfully developed nanoparticles—small, biodegradable robots—that could be useful for delivering antibiotics and other drugs to promote bone growth and wound healing in trauma patients in a more efficient way. Farokhzad and his team learned that these particles have unique fingerprints that give each particle its own unique biological behavior. This is important because the fingerprint has a profound effect on how nanoparticles can be optimized for bone healing. With this improved understanding of the nano-bio interface, Farokhzad expects that safer and more effective technologies will emerge for bone regeneration in trauma settings.

BOHDAN POMAHAC, MD, 2015 RECIPIENT
From Battlefield to Bedside: A Portable Device for Rescuing Limbs
Pomahac, director of the Burn Center and Plastic Surgery Transplantation at BWH and an associate professor at HMS, and his team have built a second-generation prototype of a portable device for preservation of amputated limbs. This new device has been used successfully in a series of experiments in which amputated limbs from animal models were preserved on the device for 24 hours and then reattached. The subjects were observed for seven days post-replantation with no significant injuries or complications. Pomahac and his team have gathered an extensive amount of data from these experiments suggesting that their technology is able to preserve amputated limbs for up to 24 hours and enable safe replantation—a revolutionary improvement over the previous preservation time of only four to six hours.
SU-RYON SHIN, PHD, 2015 RECIPIENT
Using 3D Bioprinting to Heal Muscle Trauma

Shin, a research scientist in the Department of Medicine and an instructor at HMS, is working to address the challenges that exist in creating fully functional tissue that imitates the properties of natural tissue as closely as possible. Shin and her team are using bioprinting—the process of creating viable cells with 3D printing—to develop tissue for trauma patients in order to promote the transport of oxygen, nutrients, and waste products. The team has developed a method to create tissue using a bioink—cell-containing ink that allows for the 3D printing of living cells. This advanced bioprinting technology and bioink formulation will be useful in engineering tissue constructs for organ transplantation and repair in trauma patients.

“To see patients benefit from these solutions today, and not 20 to 30 years from now, is very exciting.” ERIC WOLF, A TRUSTEE OF THE JACK SATTER FOUNDATION

INDRANIL SINHA, MD, 2014 RECIPIENT
Using Stem Cells to Regenerate Injured Muscle

Sinha, associate director of the Burn Center and an assistant professor at HMS, is using animal models to study the healing patterns of skeletal muscles following volumetric muscle loss (VML), which often occurs after traumatic injury. These injuries present as decreased strength and functional impairments for patients, and often heal with fibrosis—the thickening and scarring of connective tissue. Sinha and his team are providing insight into the functional changes that accompany VML injury, and evaluating the differences in genetic profiles when muscle tissue thickens and scars as opposed to regenerating.
IMPROVING EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS

Mass casualty incidents, in which large numbers of bystanders suffer trauma-related injuries in civilian settings, are becoming more common. In response to this unfortunate reality, two Stepping Strong principal investigators—Edward J. Caterson, MD, PhD, a plastic surgeon and instructor of surgery at HMS, and Eric Goralnick, MD, MS, medical director of BWH Emergency Preparedness, assistant professor of emergency medicine at HMS, and author of a recent influential JAMA Surgery article 3—are collaborating with clinicians from multiple institutions to better equip first responders, support personnel, and the general public to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. And, beyond that, they are working to capture information in the aftermath that can inform public health practices and response in the future.

Thus far, the team’s focus areas include large public venues that can be vulnerable to mass casualty incidents, such as sports arenas. Since controlling life-threatening bleeding is critical in an emergency, the team has formed a “stop the bleed” consortium to study and improve hemorrhage control protocol. Their efforts include training first responders—including firefighters, law enforcement, EMTs, security, and support personnel—to quickly assess and execute hemorrhage control when needed, as well as providing opportunities for laypeople to practice applying tourniquets on mannequins so they are prepared to assist should the need arise in a trauma setting. Looking ahead, the team plans to add pilot studies and initiatives in transportation hubs, such as train stations and airports, as well as schools to provide increasing numbers of people with hemorrhage control training that is comparable to commonly available CPR training initiatives.

An equally important part of emergency response is what we can learn from dealing with mass casualty incidents and attacks by collaborating with other experts around the globe to evaluate lessons learned and determine best practices. Our teams have studied terror incidents in London, Mumbai, Istanbul, and Pakistan, and conducted analyses of the Boston, Paris, and Brussels attacks, all aimed at promoting the systemic capture and dissemination of lessons learned.

The Stepping Strong fellowship, directed by Christian Sampson, MD, trains the next generation of trauma surgeons in advanced techniques for treating acute and complex traumatic injury. In this unique, yearlong program, fellows gain proficiency in surgical management, rehabilitation, limb reconstruction, and scar management.

GIORGIO GIATSIDIS, MD, CURRENT FELLOW (2016–2017)

The current Stepping Strong Plastic Surgery Trauma fellow, Giatsidis is intimately connected with the Stepping Strong mission, as he was a finalist in the Stepping Strong Innovator Awards public voting competition and is a member of the BWH Stepping Strong Marathon Team. He graduated from the University of Padova in Italy with honors, where he completed training in plastic surgery and developed a strong interest in trauma care and reconstructive microsurgery. He joined the Plastic Surgery Division at BWH in 2013 as a research fellow and, since 2016, has served as an instructor in surgery at HMS, focusing his research on the development of novel therapeutic approaches to soft tissue repair.

“The goal of the Stepping Strong Plastic Surgery fellowship is to mentor the best and brightest plastic surgeons to advance the field of trauma reconstruction throughout their academic careers, wherever they practice after their time at the Brigham. Our inaugural Stepping Strong fellow, Eugene Y. Fukudome, MD, learned to perform complex procedures such as limb salvage, reconstruction, and craniofacial restoration. Upon completing his training at BWH, Fukudome joined the faculty at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, where he is applying what he learned in our fellowship program to improve outcomes for his current patients.”

CHRISTIAN SAMPSON, MD, DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCY, DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY
Since 2014, two multidisciplinary teams of research scholars have worked to improve outcomes and deliver the best possible treatments for trauma patients.

**JULIE GLOWACKI, PHD,** and center director **MITCHEL B. HARRIS, MD,** continue to collaborate on exploring the use of stem cells to advance bone regeneration, with the goal of gaining a deeper understanding of the effects of age, hormone deficiency, and vitamin D deficiency on bone-forming cells. In particular, Glowacki has made great strides in her studies of vitamin D metabolism and regulation, having published three papers and given nine presentations on her findings.

Glowacki and her team are currently working to accelerate the time it takes for bone fractures to heal by studying osteoblast progenitor cells, called mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs). By learning how age, fracture, and hormone status influence bone formation, the team hopes to establish ways to optimize patients’ healing potential. This information will also define ways to improve stem cell differentiation for better tissue engineering and stem cell therapy applications. Increased understanding of the impact of age, vitamin D status, poor kidney function, and obesity on MSCs will lead to new ways to stimulate MSCs and enhance fracture healing for trauma patients.

“We are thrilled to support such a wonderful endeavor that improves the lives of trauma patients. As members of the Stepping Strong Founders Circle and Innovator Awards Council, we are so excited to see the program expand into a vibrant, multidisciplinary center that is leading the way in trauma innovation.”  
DAVID AND NINA FIALKOW
DENNIS P. ORGILL, MD, PHD, and LAURIE BAYER, PA-C, are working to develop better methods to regenerate skin and heal wounds in trauma patients. This past year, Orgill and his team published five papers related to developing better technologies to treat wounds, prevent amputations, and regenerate tissues. Their studies included remarkable discoveries on a wide array of topics, including skin preservation during mastectomies and promoting facial-nerve regeneration. There were key findings in one study in particular concerning the process by which undeveloped cells found in connective tissue become cells that specialize in storing energy as fat through a non-invasive tissue expansion system that is gaining popularity in the plastic surgery field. By applying a vacuum with rigid plastic domes to a patient’s skin, tissue compartments are expanded and vascularity is increased. Orgill and his team found that animal subjects that underwent this fat grafting procedure exhibited an increased number of fat cells after a 48-hour recovery period following a single two-hour stimulation session with the vacuum. Because fat grafting has proved to help reduce scarring and restore normal skin quality, as well as increase the chances of success for the attachment of prostheses, Orgill’s findings will help to improve outcomes for trauma patients.
2016 HIGHLIGHTS: A YEAR OF MILESTONES AND MOMENTUM

April 8: Gillian was honored by the Boston Celtics at the TD Garden as a Hero Among Us.

April 15: Stepping Strong hosted a blood drive on the third anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings.

April 16: 140 members of the Stepping Strong B.A.A. 5K team raised an incredible $65,000.

May 5: Stepping Strong partnered with BWH iHub to discuss entrepreneurial and technology-based innovations in trauma care.

June 13: Mitchel B. Harris, MD, honored as the inaugural Stepping Strong Distinguished Chair, with James D. Kang, MD.

November 2: Timothy Diggins funded the project of Innovator Award winner Reza Abdi, MD.

November 10: Matthew J. Carty, MD, and trauma patient Carl Bouchaert at the Stepping Strong trauma session at Discover Brigham.


$11M+ has been committed to the Stepping Strong Center.
April 18: On Marathon Monday, 48 Stepping Strong Marathon Team runners raised more than $565,000.

April 19: Audrey Epstein Reny received the Jack Connors Jr. Volunteer Award for Excellence in Philanthropy.

June 26: Stepping Strong runners raised more than $10,000 in the B.A.A. 10K race.

August 21: Michael and Scott Stedman, pictured with Gillian, helped raise funds for the Stepping Strong Falmouth Road Race team.

October 17: Innovator Award winner Michael J. Weaver, MD, with benefactors Jennifer Epstein and William Keravuori, and Audrey Epstein Reny.

January 25: John Mackie received the inaugural Stepping Strong Hero Award at the opening of the Stepping Strong Center.

February 5: Carol Sharp and Tricia Winton hosted a SoulCycle fundraiser.

800+
Stepping Strong runners have raised $2M to advance trauma innovation

12,750+
supporters and friends have joined the global Stepping Strong movement
More than 180 people celebrated the official dedication of The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation at the Building for Transformative Medicine (BTM). Located on the fifth floor, the center includes conference rooms, faculty offices, research bays, and a research suite.

An especially moving part of the program was Gillian’s presentation of the inaugural Stepping Strong Hero Award to John Mackie. A former soldier in the U.S. Army infantry and spectator at the 2013 Boston Marathon, John was honored for his selfless courage in treating Gillian’s wounds at the scene.

The BTM, a state-of-the-art facility, brings together physicians and scientists from multiple fields under one roof. Together, they pioneer medical breakthroughs and translate those discoveries into preventions, treatments, and cures. In addition, patients benefit from having easier access to physicians from numerous specialties in one location, where their treatment is coordinated by highly skilled, collaborative teams.
STEPPING STRONG IN THE MEDIA: INCREASING VISIBILITY

In 2016, Stepping Strong continued to spread awareness about advancing trauma research and care through local, national, and international media. Here are but a few examples.

1. Former Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo posted a message of love and support via social media to the Stepping Strong Marathon Team, getting more than 32,700 “likes.”

2. WCVB-TV featured a story about Michael J. Weaver, MD, who won a Stepping Strong Innovator Award for his project, 21st Century Tools to Measure Bone Healing.

3. The Boston Globe and CBS Boston covered the opening of the Stepping Strong Center. The new Essence of Stepping Strong video, shown for the first time at the event, subsequently reached nearly 35,000 people on social media.

4. News outlets across the globe covered the Jim Ewing news conference, reaching more than 165.8 million viewers worldwide.

5. Today.com published an exclusive article by Audrey Epstein Reny about the agonizing months that followed the Boston Marathon bombings and the founding of Stepping Strong, garnering more than 10.7 million impressions.
STEPPING STRONG RUNNING PROGRAM

Stepping Strong’s message of turning tragedy into hope resonates with supporters around the globe. Extraordinary individuals are inspired to run, cycle, dance, and fundraise for Stepping Strong while carrying forth the Boston Strong spirit of strength, perseverance, and generosity.

The Stepping Strong running program, which began in 2014 as a small group of family and friends running the Boston Marathon, quickly grew into an extended community of runners committed to helping improve the quality of life for survivors of trauma.

“As members of the Stepping Strong Marathon Team, we have been inspired by the Reny family’s vision to create a world-class trauma care research facility at BWH. By joining the Stepping Strong Founders Circle, our hope is to help improve the prognosis and decrease the suffering of trauma patients worldwide.” JEANNE AND JOHN BLASBERG

Since the team’s establishment, more than 800 dedicated individuals have participated in the Chilmark Road Race, Boston Athletic Association’s 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon races, the Falmouth Road Race, the Chicago Marathon, and the beloved Boston Marathon. They run in solidarity with the survivors of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, they run to honor and help our military heroes and others who are living with devastating traumatic injuries, and they run in support of continually improving research and care for all.

MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE AND HOPE FROM GILLIAN RENY

There are no words to fully express how grateful I am for the love and support I have received over the past four years. It is difficult to explain the shock, fear, and chaos my family experienced during the Boston Marathon bombings, but through it all, I have been reminded of the kindness that exists in the world. So many examples of this spirit have touched my heart since launching Stepping Strong, but I’d like to highlight the actions of one person in particular, who we finally got a chance to thank publicly during the Stepping Strong dedication event on January 25.

After the explosion, a confident figure who had been watching the race from down the road rushed toward the mayhem and assisted my family in putting tourniquets on my damaged legs. We had no idea at the time that this was exactly what needed to be done, but it quickly became clear that this person’s efforts are what helped save me. There are no words to fully express how grateful I am to our first responder and my hero, John Mackie, for putting himself in potential danger to help rescue me. John is the first recipient of the Stepping Strong Hero Award.

The Stepping Strong community is full of heroes—our medical caregivers, researchers, volunteers, and of course, our beloved donors. Your generosity means the world to me, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Top: Members of the Stepping Strong Founders Circle  
Bottom left: Gillian congratulates John Mackie on receiving the inaugural Stepping Strong Hero Award  
Bottom right: Jim Ewing and Gillian Reny at the Stepping Strong Center opening
HONOR ROLL (as of February 28, 2017)

TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE GILLIAN RENY STEPPING STRONG CENTER FOR TRAUMA INNOVATION, WE OFFER OUR SINCERE THANKS. WITH YOUR GENEROSITY, WE HAVE RAISED $11 MILLION AND COUNTING.

FOUNDERS CIRCLE

$1,000,000+
Brigham and Women’s Physicians Organization, Department of Orthopaedics
Esta Gordon Epstein and Robert Epstein
Audrey Epstein Reny and Steven Reny
Jack Satter Foundation

$250,000+
Betsy Banks Epstein and David R. Epstein
Elizabeth and L. Guy Reny

$100,000+
Stephanie F. and John P. Connaughton
Deborah C. and Timothy W. Diggins
Paul and Sandy Edgerley

$10,000+
Anonymous (2)
Susie and Scott Allen
Atlantic Trust
Sarah P. and Jeffrey R. Beir
Lisa and Thomas W. Blumenthal
Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation Inc.
Ann W. and Donald A. Brown
Stephanie L. Brown Foundation
Bruner/Cott & Associates Inc.
Lee Pendergast Claro
Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Corinna Cortes, MD
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Mary and John P. Fowler
Erica Gervais and William Edward Pappendick IV

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Shannon Shay Hayden and Andrew Hayden
Jones Lang LaSalle
Jill and Jeffrey Karp
Barbara N. Kravitz
M&T Charitable Foundation
Catherine and John Mandile
Jeryl and Stephen M. Oristaglio
Evren Ozargun
Lynn McKenna Reny and Douglas Reny
Pixley and Kenneth T. Schiciano

Standard Duplicating Machines Corporation
Sean Sullivan
Mark Teden
Jane Veron and Andrew Feldstein
Watermark Donut Company
Patricia and Nicholas D. Winton
Eve F. Youngerman and W. David Lee

$5,000+
Anonymous
Kimberly Aeschliman
American Endowment Foundation
Yuriko and Philip Anton
Ashby’s Window Coverings Inc.
Jessica and Shane A. Baron
The Beehive
Romilda Bishop
Merle and Bryan G. Bower
Maribeth and Mark A. Brostowski
HONOR ROLL (as of February 28, 2017)

John W. Buymaster
Amy L. and Ethan d’Ablemont Burnes
Debra and Richard Dellacanonica
Barbara G. and David M. Denton
Joyce F. Donnellan
Alex Dreissen
Blake E. Dursteler
Jacakyn and William P. Egan
Kathryn A. Elbert
Gudrun Eriksson and Elof Eriksson, MD
JP Faiella
Sheila and Howard Galligan III
Beth and Marc Goldberg
Andrew I. Gordon
The Hall Family
Sherry L. Iuliano, NP, and Douglas R. Iuliano
Carol Ann and Edwin M. Kania Jr.
Mark S. Klemumper, MD
Judith A. and Douglas S. Krupp
Anna and Richard Levitan
Deborah Lunder and Alan Ezekowitz
Stephen McCoy
Greta Meszoely and Hamid Benbrahim
Shelly and Ofer Nemirovsky
New England Rehabilitation Hospital
Volunteer Association
Annette and Daniel Nova
Tracy A. and Michael W. Roberge
Kyle Rogers
Carolyn and Curtis Schenker
Bonnie and Thomas Steinbrunner

Lisa and Joshua Bernstein
Sandra Chrupcala
Eleanor C. and Brian H. Chu
Maura I. Connolly and John J. Egan
Karen and Brian Conway
Kathryn M. and Timothy J. Conway
Terry and Leslie Cutler
Pamela Davies and Ron Frank
Margot and Jonathan Davis
Laura and Mark L. DiNapoli
Sara and Frederick C. Ewald, MD
Susan and David Fox
Roberta and Lloyd Gainsboro
Joan F. and David E. Genser
Nancy Q. and Craig B. Gibson
Rachel Gladstone
Carol R. and Avram J. Goldberg
Jonathan J. Goodman
Merrill F. and Charles A. Gottesman
Glynis, Graham, Ellie Gozigian and Kirkham Wood, MD
Leslee and Randy Greene
Erin M. Hightower
Kalpesh Jain
Kerri Joyce
Marcy and Geoffrey Kaiser
Joel D. Kaplan
Kimberly and Joshua Keravuori
Donald and Karen Kiepert
Elizabeth Kilgallon
Barbara and Alvin Arlen Krakow, DDS
Lizbeth H. and George Krupp
Jane Larrow
Amy and Andrew Larson
Dana and Christopher Mackey
Elizabeth and Christopher B. Madison
Patience Martin and Kenneth P. Epstein
James J. McSweeney
MFS Investment Management
Morrison Mahoney LLP

Tracey and Gregory S. Morzano
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Stepping Strong is grateful to all the runners who ran on our behalf in 2016, including members of the B.A.A. 5K team, the Boston Marathon team, the B.A.A. 10K team, and the New Balance Falmouth Road Race team. In addition, we thank the organizations and individuals who donated spaces and other services in support of these runners’ individual fundraising efforts.
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