As a successful entrepreneur, Diana Blair has a history of seizing new opportunities and overcoming challenges. When she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, she says a positive attitude, support from friends and family, and the compassionate care she received at Emory University Hospital helped her overcome one of the biggest challenges of her life.

Diana moved from Atlanta to Macon in 1975, where she met her husband, Navy Lt. Commander Bryan Blair. The couple worked together to grow a family retail business and became champions of the local community, investing in real estate and directly contributing to the growth and development of downtown Macon.

But in November 1997, Diana developed a series of symptoms she could not explain, including loss of appetite, bloating, and fatigue. Her symptoms became so bad on a visit to Florida that she went to an emergency room. “I wasn’t able to eat or sleep,” she says.

Back in Macon, she saw her gynecologist and received a CT scan and an ultrasound—along with some alarming results. “When I looked at the ultrasound, the image on the screen was all black,” Diana recalls.

After surviving ovarian cancer, Diana Blair paired with Dr. Ira Horowitz and Emory Gynecology to support scientific study and education that saves lives.

(Continued on page 7)
Atlanta continues to thrive as a vibrant hub of technological and research innovation.

Our collaborations with other local health organizations present us with unique opportunities to solve some of the biggest health care challenges facing our community today. As a global leader in health science, we are able to leverage these local and regional partnerships to expand the possibilities of health care.

What sets Emory Healthcare apart is our high-quality care that centers around patients and their families. Emory University School of Medicine is central to our work. The school’s talented faculty members, residents, fellows and alumni provide care in our hospitals and clinics, and they are driving research that improves the quality of people’s lives here at home and around the world.

These efforts further cement our reputation as a leading academic and community health institution, garnering us global recognition for discovery, education, and patient- and family-centered care. With your help, we can advance medical innovation and science to significantly improve patient outcomes locally and globally.

Your participation and support is always welcome.

Jonathan S. Lewin, MD, FACP
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Emory University
Executive Director, Woodruff Health Sciences Center
President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board, Emory Healthcare

Emory Ebola Experts at Ready

The original team of doctors and nurses who helped care for four patients with Ebola virus disease at Emory in 2014, including the first person with the disease treated in the United States, are at the ready with a renewed outbreak of Ebola underway in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

“We are constantly watching the outbreak in the DRC, vigilant about how we can help,” says infectious disease physician Colleen Kraft, the associate medical director of the Serious Communicable Disease Unit (SCDU) and a member of the original Ebola care team.

“We did learn that a lot of it is about the basics,” said critical care nurse Jill Morgan, who cared for the first Ebola patient admitted to Emory. “For patients, that means supportive care — keeping them alive and hydrated long enough for their immune system to clear the Ebola virus.”

Retired Atlanta Hawks player, Dikembe Mutombo, recently came by to meet the team. He is a benefactor of medical assistance in the DRC, his homeland. “We are about to launch a new pathology lab at our hospital (in the DRC) so I am also very interested in the attached clinical laboratory,” said Mutombo.

The current SCDU is being expanded to include more isolation rooms (from two to 11) and it contains a larger, permanent clinical laboratory. “The unit will continue to be used to care for patients with serious infectious diseases as well as volunteers undergoing certain clinical trials,” said Kraft.

Emory’s efforts to prepare for future outbreaks have been ongoing through research, improved patient-care protocols and training health care workers and first responders. Mutombo and his associates used headsets to view immersive simulation training videos created with a 360-degree camera by an Emory Center for Digital Scholarship team and experts from the SCDU. The immersive videos and facilitated debrief are designed to prepare healthcare workers for caring for patients with Ebola and other serious infectious diseases in biocontainment unit settings. One simulates helping an ill patient while wearing a full-body Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suit that limits field of vision and hearing. Another provides an extended care scene from the perspective of the patient in isolation.

“One of our goals is to take what we’ve learned about preventing transmission of disease in a biocontainment unit and bring that into every healthcare setting and interaction.”

Colleen Kraft, MD, Associate Medical Director, Serious Communicable Disease Unit
A pioneering collaboration between medicine and engineering marks its twentieth year as one of the largest biomedical engineering (BME) programs in the country, with 76 faculty at Georgia Tech and Emory and more than 1,400 undergraduate and graduate students.

Currently, U.S. News & World Report ranks the joint Georgia Tech/Emory biomedical engineering graduate program #3 in the United States and the undergraduate program #3, as well. It is a visionary partnership between a leading public engineering school and a top-ranked private medical school. The department uses the latest engineering technologies, clinical insights and biological approaches to address unmet clinical challenges.

The Coulter Department capped its milestone year with two coveted research fellowships from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. In receiving their fellowships, Eva Dyer and Chethan Pandarinath, assistant professors in the Coulter Department, are ranked among “the best young scientists working today,” according to Adam F. Falk, president of the Sloan Foundation.

Pandarinath, who is also an assistant professor in Emory’s Department of Neurosurgery as well as the Emory Neuromodulation Technology Innovation Center, leads the Emory and Georgia Tech Systems Neural Engineering Lab. He’s part of an interdisciplinary team at Emory and Georgia Tech working to better understand how large networks of neurons in the brain encode information and control behavior. Pandarinath’s team hopes to design new brain-machine interface technologies to help restore movement to people who are paralyzed, including those affected by spinal cord injury and stroke, and by Parkinson’s disease and ALS.

Gifts to the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering impact research, education and breakthrough patient care in numerous specialty areas. To learn more, contact Nick Cole at 404.727.3046 or nick.cole@emory.edu.

If you would like to make a gift to support the SCDU and Infectious Diseases research, education and patient care, contact Jonathan Russell at 404.727.6416 or jonathan.russell@emory.edu.

Active drills continue for the SCDU staff, who must constantly be prepared to reactivate the unit at a moment’s notice.

Dikembe Mutombo met with Colleen Kraft MD, left, and critical care nurse Jill Morgan, right, while visiting the SCDU.
Her story is not for the faint of heart. Years earlier in Los Angeles, the high-energy, career-driven Ms. Fleeman could tell something was seriously wrong when she began to feel sharp pains in her side, along with shortness of breath and extreme fatigue. “I knew it was my heart,” she says. Unfortunately, her primary doctor and a series of specialists kept giving her a clean bill of health, despite her intensifying symptoms. “The tests all came back clear,” she recalls. “I was sitting there dying in front of the doctor and yet he told me there was nothing wrong with me. I kept asking, ‘why does my heart hurt?’ only to be told, ‘I don’t know.’”

Feeling as if she had exhausted all her options, yet refusing to be deterred, Ms. Fleeman tried one more heart center, where she found Dr. Puja Mehta, who could tell right away that something was very wrong with Ms. Fleeman. When Dr. Mehta told Ms. Fleeman she would need diagnostic tests, she was once again resistant. “I wanted nothing to do with it or with taking up any more time,” she admits. “But cardiac rehab was the best thing I did. It was as an important part of my recovery as daily medications.” She laughs now because it took so long to find a doctor who would take her symptoms seriously. But Dr. Mehta was empathetic, efficient, and effective from the beginning.

Barbara Fleeman attributes her recovery to Dr. Mehta’s understanding of women’s heart health. “She saved my life,” Ms. Fleeman says. “Although heart disease kills more women than men every year, the diagnosis and treatment of women’s heart disease was based—until recently—on medical research performed on men. It’s important to correct these gender inequalities and to educate women (and doctors) on how to

“An Oasis in the Desert”

When Barbara Fleeman decided to move from California to Georgia and live closer to family, she asked her previous cardiologist for a recommendation for a good women’s cardiologist in Atlanta. The answer was easy: Puja Mehta, MD. As a fellow, Dr. Mehta had been Ms. Fleeman’s cardiologist in Los Angeles but had recently moved to Atlanta to become the director of Women’s Translational Cardiovascular Research at Emory Women’s Heart Center. “It felt like fate. I really didn’t want to have to train another doctor on my heart disease,” Ms. Fleeman says, looking back. “And now Dr. Mehta is in charge of my heart here.” She would have it no other way.

Emory Women’s Heart Center had 1,406 clinic visits in 2018
recognize female-pattern heart disease symptoms. My heart disease, Coronary Microvascular Disease, exists in the microvascular system of the heart, not in the major coronary arteries. Those other doctors didn’t know what to look for. Dr. Mehta looked not just at the heart but behind the heart.” After all that, there’s no wonder why Ms. Fleeman thought it was fate that they should both end up in Atlanta.

Now, Ms. Fleeman is an Emory patient and donor who devotes her free time as a volunteer community educator, advocating for women’s heart health, as well as educating women and providers in understanding cardiovascular diseases in women. She is thankful for Dr. Mehta’s ongoing care and for the expertise of the specialists at EWHC.

“If you’re a woman in need of cardiovascular care,” she says with no hesitation, “Emory Women’s Heart Center is a lifesaving oasis in the desert.”

If you would like to make a gift to support Emory Women’s Heart Center, contact Jason Zwang, 404.727.2512 or jason.zwang@emory.edu.

Why Emory Women’s Heart Center is Uniquely Positioned

Emory Women’s Heart Center (EWHC) is the first women’s heart center in the southeast with a multidisciplinary team dedicated to excellence in cardiovascular care for women, and the only women’s heart center in the same region with a medical education component. With expertise from Emory University School of Medicine and Emory Clinical Cardiovascular Research Institute, EWHC also is a leader in women’s cardiovascular research and education. EWHC provides risk assessment and prevention for cardiovascular disease, as well as treatment and care for women of all ages and at every stage of life. In addition, our specialists educate other health care providers on the latest guidelines, diagnostic tests, treatments, and research concerning cardiovascular disease.

RESEARCH
- Adequate Inclusion of women in trials
- Sex-specific reporting of outcomes
- Continue to improve outcomes

PATIENT EDUCATION
- To improve policy
- To improve funding for care and future research

PATIENT CARE
- Prevention and treatment of sex-specific heart disease
- Multidisciplinary clinics: gynecology and obstetrics, oncology, rheumatology, neurology, and others

AWARENESS
- Patient and health care provider awareness of sex-and gender-specific risks, testing, and treatment

ACADEMIC EDUCATION
- Sex-and gender-specific curriculum for medical students, residents, fellows, RN, NP, and PA students
- CVD in women fellowships

Convenient Locations

Our excellent faculty and staff provide cardiovascular care to women across Atlanta in the following Emory Heart and Vascular Center locations:

- Emory at East Cobb
- Emory University Hospital Midtown
- Emory University Hospital
- Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital
- Emory Decatur Hospital
- Grady Memorial Hospital
- Emory Hillandale Hospital
- Emory Heart and Vascular Center at Hiawasse (Chatuge Regional Hospital)
Advancing the Future of Women's Health

For more than 75 years, Emory Gynecology and Obstetrics has provided excellence in women's health care. Today, the department is providing patients with the highest quality and most advanced medical care for all stages of their lives, from adolescence through menopause and beyond. By expanding its clinical spaces and services, Emory Gynecology and Obstetrics is enabling more patients to receive high quality care under one roof — and closer to home.

The Journal of Women's Health reported in 2013 that the national demand for women's health care is expected to grow by six percent by 2020. In Georgia, the demand for women's health care services is expected to increase by nine percent. With access to state-of-the-art resources and tools, the department stands ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow. "Women's health has become scientifically much more complex," noted interim department chair Penny Castellano, MD, "but we are able to offer care that was not thought of just a few years ago. From infertility treatment to cancer therapy to advanced prenatal care and healthy aging, the need for more focused subspecialists is clear."

To meet the growing medical needs of the metro Atlanta community, Saint Joseph's Emory Women's Center and two locations in Johns Creek join the already existing Emory Women's Center locations in Midtown Atlanta and on Clifton Road near Emory University. Providers at each location offer patients a wide range of specialty and subspecialty expertise as well as a shared commitment to women's health.

At Saint Joseph's, patients receive comprehensive treatment — from well-woman care to subspecialties such as Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery; General Gynecology and Menopause Care; General Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Gynecologic Oncology.

The Emory Women's Center at Johns Creek Hospital extends this model of a multi-disciplinary practice by providing a range of subspecialty gynecologic services. A second Johns Creek location, Emory Women's Center at Findley, offers well-woman care, general gynecology and obstetrics services. As the need for and complexity of women's health care grows, Emory Gynecology and Obstetrics is expanding its locations and services to ensure that patients continue to receive the best possible care, well into the future. The May 2019 opening of a new Perinatal Center within Emory Women's Center at Emory University Hospital Midtown is an example of the strong commitment to the needs of Atlanta mothers and babies. The expansion of a second Emory Reproductive Clinic location within Emory University Hospital Clifton Campus will support the growing number of patients seeking unparalleled fertility treatment.

Emory University's Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics offers a full range of medical care for women provided by physicians specializing in general obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, maternal-fetal medicine, infertility, urogynecology, gynecologic oncology, and women's wellness. For more information, visit gynob.emory.edu.

"The vision set forth for the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics is an extension of the Emory vision. It combines research, education, and patient care by creating an environment that allows for exemplary care, all while developing the doctors and nurses of tomorrow."

Ira R. Horowitz, MD, SM, Emory Healthcare Physician Group President and Co-Chief, Clinical Operations

"As the population in Georgia and the Atlanta area continues to grow, Emory’s role remains one of commitment to providing the most advanced and comprehensive care to the women of our region."

Penny Castellano, MD, Interim Chair, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Emory Gynecology and Obstetrics —
Women’s healthcare in five locations. To make an appointment, please call 404-778-3401.

EMORY UNIVERSITY CLIFTON CAMPUS
1365 CLIFTON RD NE
ATLANTA, GA 30322

EMORY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL MIDTOWN
550 PEACHTREE ST NE
ATLANTA, GA 30308

EMORY SAINT JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL
5665 PEACHTREE DUNWOODY RD
ATLANTA, GA 30342

EMORY JOHNS CREEK HOSPITAL
6325 HOSPITAL PKWY
JOHNS CREEK, GA 30097

EMORY WOMEN’S CENTER AT FINDLEY
12000 FINDLEY RD
JOHNS CREEK, GA 30097
In March 2019, Diana celebrated 21 years as a cancer survivor. Since her treatment, she says she has become a stronger and more motivated person. She continues to manage her retail and real estate investments, but hopes to travel again to some of her favorite places—Italy and Hong Kong.

She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and referred to two possible locations for treatment. Because she had friends and family living in Atlanta, Diana chose Emory University Hospital, where she met Department of Gynecology Chair, Ira Horowitz, MD, as soon as she arrived. He scheduled her surgery for the very next morning.

In his vision set forth for the department, Dr. Horowitz promoted a collaborative model of personalized care in which patients receive treatment quickly and comprehensively. Recognizing that Diana came from out of town and had family eager to be at her side, Dr. Horowitz suggested the newly opened Rollins Pavilion hospital suites for her stay.

Completed in 1996, the Rollins Pavilion offers private suite accommodations for patients, including an adjacent sitting room with pullout sofa bed, a business center, and a more welcoming atmosphere for family members and guests. Diana recalls the consideration and compassionate care provided by Dr. Horowitz and his team: “Even though it was a difficult time for me, having the support of my husband and family in such a positive environment made the experience better.”

Innovation in women’s health has always been a priority for Emory Gynecology. As part of a university-based health care system, the department offers patients access to clinical trials and novel treatments that are unavailable anywhere else. After recovering from her surgery, Diana began a series of treatments as part of a clinical trial for advanced chemotherapy protocols. Taxol, one of the treatments Diana received, is still in use today.

“Emory saved my life. When I was diagnosed with Stage IIIIC ovarian cancer in 1997, the odds of me surviving were only 39 percent. I am so grateful to Dr. Horowitz and my entire Emory care team for the treatment I received. Based on my experiences throughout Emory Healthcare, I truly believe they only recruit the best of the best!”

Today, Diana remains in touch with Dr. Horowitz and was recently inspired to endow a professorship at Emory to advance cancer research. Through her personal commitment and generous investment, Diana Blair has become a true partner in Emory’s mission to provide the latest and best cancer care to women in Georgia.

Gifts to Emory Gynecology and Obstetrics impact patient care, research, and education. To learn more, contact Jeff Verver at 404.727.7386 or jeff.verver@emory.edu.
The EMORY BRAIN HEALTH CENTER combines neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, rehabilitation medicine, and sleep medicine in a unique, integrated approach.

Join us online and at Georgia Public Broadcasting to discover “Your Fantastic Mind”, an original TV series exploring the vast frontiers of the brain, harnessing imagination and discovery to address 21st-century challenges.

News.emory.edu/features/brain or GPB.org/television/shows/your-fantastic-mind