



Keith Moore, shown here with his daughters, is an advocate for children with PANS and PANDAS.

### Helping Physicians Connect and Find Answers to Rare Condition in Children

**WE THANK KEITH MOORE** and the PANDAS Physicians Network for raising awareness and educating physicians across the country about pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS). This disease is characterized by the sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive symptoms or eating restrictions, accompanied by other sudden changes in the child's behavior.

Keith serves as director of research at the PANDAS Physicians Network (PPN), an organization dedicated to improving the diagnosis and treatment of children with pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and PANS. Keith highlights that "our goal at PANDAS Physicians Network is to reduce the suffering of a generation of children by supporting the accurate diagnosis of pediatric mental health issues caused by infection."

"Keith is passionate about furthering PANS research and has been a vital link between Stanford researchers and the PANDAS Physicians Network," says Jennifer Frankovich, MD, MS, director of the PANS Research Program and co-director of the Immune Behavioral Health Clinic at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Over the years, PPN has generously supported the work of Frankovich, who co-founded the Immune Behavioral Health Clinic in 2012, the first clinic of its kind in the country. She and her collaborators have created a large biorepository of patient and control biospecimens, which can be used by researchers to gain a better understanding of PANS.

This past year, PPN awarded Frankovich with the PANDAS Physicians Network 2021 research grant for \$150,000 for her work to collect healthy control samples to build out the biorepository.

We are grateful for this grant and the many contributions Keith and PPN have made to the Stanford Immune Behavioral Health team. Their support has helped Frankovich and researchers across the country find better diagnostic and treatment options for children with PANS.

### Supporting Families Following an Autism Diagnosis

**FOR MANY YEARS**, the John and Marcia Goldman Foundation has made gifts to fund the Early Support Program for Autism (ESPA).

Led by Stanford pediatric psychiatrist Antonio Hardan, MD, ESPA provides free bilingual support and guidance to families whose child has been newly diagnosed with autism. The program's two-pronged approach helps parents navigate a complicated web of community services and educates parents and caregivers on the best ways to interact with their child. Since it launched in 2014, ESPA has served almost 4,000 families.

"I spent 25 years as an autism educator, so I have seen firsthand the challenges it places on children and their parents, especially immediately after they receive a diagnosis," says Marcia. "John and I wanted to support these families by funding ESPA."

Research has shown that early intervention makes a profound difference for children with autism. Building on the success of ESPA, the Preschool Autism Lab (PAL) program was created in 2019, thanks again to funding from the John and Marcia Goldman Foundation. The program creates an early intervention classroom environment that integrates autism research and clinical activities to develop and evaluate therapies.

Thank you, John and Marcia, for helping families find and access quality services and advancing research that will lead to more effective therapies for children with autism.

### Teen Raises Funds for Music Therapy Instead of Receiving Gifts

**FROM PLAYING PIANO AND DRUMS** to composing songs, music has been a big part of Anton Popowitz's life. It was only natural that the 13-year-old would raise money to support the music therapy program at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for his bar mitzvah project.

"When I play music, I feel free from all of the difficult things that are happening in the world," Anton says. "I believe that music can help people get through hard times as it has for me many times in the past."

At Packard Children's Hospital, trained music therapists use music



to help patients and families cope with hospitalization. Anton became aware of our hospital's music therapy program when a family friend was diagnosed with cancer and treated

at our hospital. "He would dance and sing with his mom as he went through chemotherapy and other treatments," Anton says.

Anton's passion for music and his connection to Packard Children's Hospital led him to support the Special Instrument Fund for his bar mitzvah project. Anton raised nearly \$23,000—enough to maintain, repair, and replace shared instruments for an entire year, as well as provide longer-stay patients with instruments that they can keep.

Thank you, Anton, for bringing the healing benefits of music to our patients.

### Increasing Access to Spiritual Care for Spanish-Speaking Families

**THANKS TO GENEROUS SUPPORT** from Linda and Patrick Gelsinger, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford recently expanded its chaplaincy program and palliative care services to better serve Spanish-speaking families. Nearly 45 percent of the families who receive care at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital speak Spanish.

The Gelsingers' \$400,000 gift provided funds for Edgar Burgara, MDiv, a Spanish-speaking chaplain, to join our hospital's team. Burgara works alongside chaplains Hugo Gonzalez, MDiv, MA, BCC, who has provided spiritual care to our Spanish-speaking families for 10 years, and Valeria Faraci Sindra, MA, who is fluent in not only English and Spanish, but Portuguese as well.

Hospital chaplains are an important spiritual- and emotional-care resource for our families and care team members. They come from a variety of spiritual backgrounds, but they support people of all faiths. Our Spanish-speaking chaplains play an invaluable role in ensuring families receive holistic care that supports their values and spiritual preferences.

"At Packard Children's Hospital, chaplains see families in their most hopeful, joyful, grief-filled, and complicated moments," says Linda. "We are pleased to help chaplains connect with many of these families in their primary language."

Thank you, Linda and Patrick, for your commitment to providing spiritual care to children and their families.

