

Thank you for agreeing to be profiled for the Alumni Newsletter and our website. Please complete the following questions. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Patty Kehoe at pkehoe@sarnofffoundation.org.

1. What impact did the Sarnoff Fellowship year have on your career?

The Sarnoff Fellowship year was very important to me. It started me doing cardiovascular research, and almost thirty years later, I am still in the field. I am currently studying the effects of cancer therapy on the heart, and the genetics of congenital heart disease. I am also most proud that I am in touch with many of my Sarnoff friends and mentors from my fellowship and scholar years.

2. Why should medical students consider the Sarnoff Fellowship apart from other programs?

Although many fellowships have a good experience for medical students, few if any have the long-term connection to its medical students that is typical of the Sarnoff. The uniqueness of this organization, the people who run the Foundation, and the sense of connection and community that extends way beyond the Fellowship year really set the Sarnoff Fellowship apart from other programs.

3. What are your professional aspirations?

I try to challenge myself every day, to learn something new always, and to continue to innovate throughout my career.

4. What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

I am most proud of taking a single patient observation at the bedside and then spending the next 5 years trying to describe and understand that observation. This work led to the publication of my Lancet paper in 2006 which first described that small molecule targeted cancer therapy with the tyrosine kinase inhibitor sunitinib has direct effects on the heart, inducing a surprisingly reversible heart failure in previously healthy individuals with hypertension. A collaboration with a basic laboratory then created a mouse model to explain its effects. It was also an affirmation that “reverse translation,” taking bedside observations to the bench, can be a powerful means of research.

This work helped push the emerging field of onco-cardiology or cardiac-oncology mainstream, to study the cardiac effects of cancer treatment.

5. What is your most memorable Sarnoff moment?

I will never forget the evenings through the years at Lolo's house with the other fellows and the board, when we all listened to Dan Friedman singing about Stanley Sarnoff.

6. What are your hobbies?

Watching squash, reading, traveling with family