

#### **WINTER 2018**

SANSUM DIABETES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# **CELEBRATING 75 YEARS** THE PIONEERS OF SANSUM DIABETES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Sansum Diabetes Research Institute is approaching a significant milestone; our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

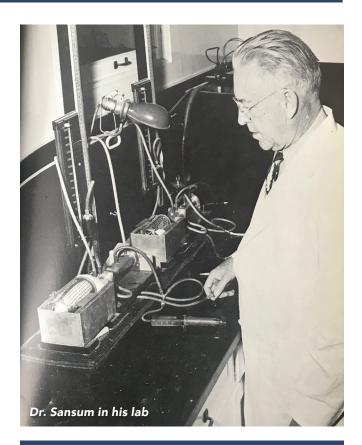


In the spring of 1944, Dr. William David Sansum established a nonprofit organization in Santa Barbara now known as Sansum Diabetes Research Institute.

Two decades earlier on May 31, 1922, Dr. Sansum made history becoming the first American physician to successfully manufacture insulin in the United States and administer it to a patient with diabetes. That terminally ill man, 51-year old Charles Cowan, regained his health under Dr. Sansum's care in Santa Barbara. With regular insulin injections, Mr. Cowan, a citrus grower from Anaheim, lived to the age of 90.

Newspapers around the world swiftly spread the news about the exciting miracle extract; William Randolph Hearst's newspapers labeled Dr. Sansum, "Santa Barbara's genius."

People with diabetes began converging on Santa Barbara hoping that Dr. Sansum could save them, too. But in the early 1920's, newlydiscovered insulin was in limited supply and extremely difficult and expensive to create. There was only enough insulin at the time



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for the most critically ill patients. Dr. Sansum worked tirelessly collecting fresh pancreas glands from cattle slaughterhouses in Goleta and Los Angeles to bring back to his laboratory in Santa Barbara to manufacture insulin for his patients.



Over the years, "Father Sansum," as many of his thousands of patients endearingly referred to him, created revolutionary diets for people living with diabetes and wrote many important articles and books, all the while, tirelessly continuing his quest in the laboratory, convinced that medical research was "the essence of pure science." Dr. Sansum's groundbreaking work established Santa Barbara as America's center for advances in diabetes research and treatment.

> The most noble of his accomplishments may well be that Dr. Sansum never turned away a patient for being unable to pay.

Four years after establishing his nonprofit foundation, now known as Sansum Diabetes

Research Institute (SDRI), Dr. Sansum collapsed in his laboratory from an aneurism. His close friend, colleague and personal physician, Dr. Hildahl Burtness, was by his side when Dr. Sansum passed away at the age of 67 in January 1948. Dr. Hildahl "Burt" Burtness knew by 8th grade that he wanted to be a doctor, with several family members suffering from diabetes. After graduating from medical school in Chicago, Dr. Burtness arrived in Santa Barbara



in 1929 for an internship at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. He then joined Dr. Sansum, as the two men shared a common goal: to better understand and ultimately defeat diabetes.

In 1942, Dr. Burtness, Dr. Sansum's assistant chief of staff, enlisted in the Navy and was stationed in New Guinea as a medical officer. After WWII, he returned to Santa Barbara to continue his work with Dr. Sansum.

"They were friends as well as colleagues," said Dr. Burtness's son, Bob Burtness. "Dad had the greatest respect for Dr. Sansum. He truly was Dad's mentor. Dad wanted to continue Dr. Sansum's legacy and had nothing but complete praise for Dr. Sansum and his pursuit of excellence."

Dr. Burtness, an internist and diabetes specialist, succeeded Dr. Sansum as President of Sansum Diabetes Research Institute. Dr. Burtness wrote, "It was my good fortune to be closely associated with Dr. Sansum for 19 years, during which time I was exposed to his philosophy of how to teach a person to lead a well-controlled and happy diabetic life. He taught patients to appreciate the importance of research for the benefit of mankind."

In 1966, Dr. Burtness oversaw the construction and opening of the new SDRI laboratory building at 2219 Bath St. in Santa Barbara.

"In terms of his legacy and the Foundation, [Dr. Burtness] was a fundraiser. Some of his patients were very generous donors," said son, Bill Burtness. "He was active in raising money for the Foundation in those early days and made possible the facilities that exist today."

Dr. Burtness's longtime patient, Harry Morrison of Boise, Idaho and his wife Velma, gave the \$100,000 leadership gift enabling SDRI to build its current building.

A beloved physician for 53 years, Dr. Burtness, practiced medicine until the age of 80. He passed away three months later, in 1983.



Dr. Burtness' three sons have served on SDRI's Board of Trustees; George was President; Bill served 10 years as Treasurer; Bob served 7 years on the Board.

Another distinguished physician who played a pivotal role at SDRI was Dr. Lois Jovanovic, revered worldwide as the "godmother of modern-day diabetes care."

Dr. Jovanovic joined Sansum Diabetes Research Institute in 1986. Her groundbreaking work developed the current global standards for care in diabetes and pregnancy.





She developed protocols for insulin delivery and monitoring a pregnant woman's blood glucose around the clock.

In 2005, the medical journal The Lancet wrote, "It's thanks to Jovanovic's pioneering work that a diabetic woman's chances of having a healthy baby are now on a par with a healthy, nondiabetic woman; before that, such women had less than a 20 percent chance of having a healthy baby."

Dr. Jovanovic served SDRI for 26 years and held the titles Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer from 1996 to 2013. Among her numerous accolades was the American Diabetes Association's prestigious "Outstanding Physician Award." Dr. Jovanovic passed away in September 2018.

All three; Dr. Sansum, Dr. Burtness and Dr. Jovanovic, leave behind a tremendous legacy. Their enormous contributions to diabetes research and care will have an everlasting impact and pave the way for current and future SDRI researchers to continue their significant, life-saving work.

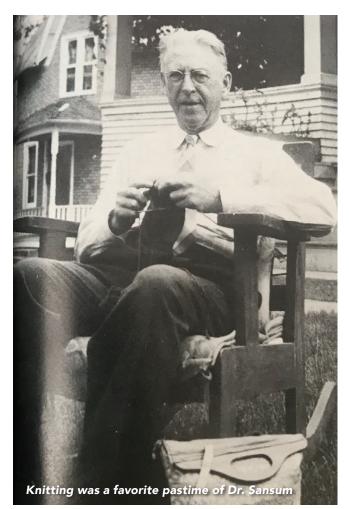
We are forever grateful.

# A GRANDSON REMEMBERS DR. SANSUM

The first grandchild of Dr. William Sansum has tremendous admiration for his pioneering grandfather. 84-year old Armand "Herbie" Sansum, a retired Yosemite National Park ranger who resides in Grass Valley, CA, grew up next door to his grandparents, Mabel and William, on Tallant Rd. in Santa Barbara.

"The world beat a path to the clinic to work with Grandpa," said Herbie Sansum. "The country was just overwhelmed with what he was able to contribute to civilization."

Dr. Sansum's groundbreaking work in diabetes included administering the first Americanmade insulin, saving countless lives from what was formerly a death sentence.





"Grandpa was a very sober, quiet, attentive individual," recalled Herbie. "He believed in hard, hard work. All the doctors at that clinic put in considerable time daily. They didn't take breaks. If they didn't have a patient scheduled they had lectures and selfeducation programs going on all the time."

Herbie's parents were Virginia and Donald Sansum; Donald was Dr. and Mrs. Sansum's only child.

Herbie shared with us a story about one of Dr. Sansum's favorite pastimes: "He never felt better than when he was up in his principle residence in the sunroom and sitting on his chaise lounge knitting. He used knitting as a form of mental relaxation, but at the same time he probably did some of his heaviest thinking at that time. His sweaters that he knitted for friends and for our family were well known and he always managed to get one or two to us boys when we needed them. During the holidays, it was his proud accomplishment."

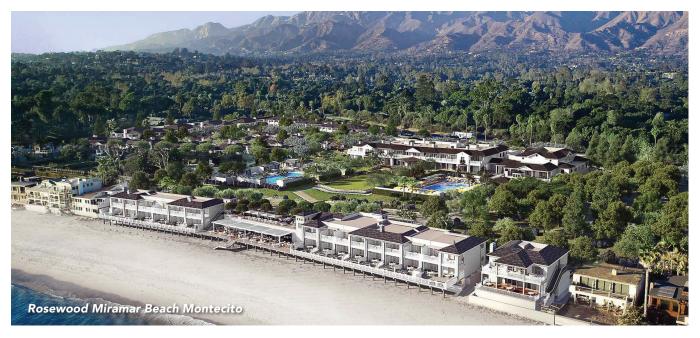
Dr. Sansum has two surviving grandsons; Herbie and Stephen; age 75. Grandson, William David Sansum II, passed away in 2000.

# 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN

We invite you to join us in Celebrating 75 Years of Progress at SDRI's 75th Anniversary Gala on March 16, 2019 at Rosewood Miramar Beach Montecito.

During this very special evening we will celebrate our founder, Dr. William Sansum, and SDRI's accomplishments over the last 75 years as we look to the future.





The beautiful new Rosewood Miramar beachfront resort in Montecito will be the site of our anniversary celebration, which includes a cocktail reception, dinner, a live auction, live music by the Los Angeles band Gold Standard and dancing.

The Gala's live auction will feature several excellent packages including a catered yacht cruise off the coast of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Lakers tickets.

Thank you to the following sponsors for their incredible generosity in supporting our 75th Anniversary Gala: Bruce and Judy Anticouni, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, George, Bill, and Bob Burtness, CenCal / Sansum Clinic, Dexcom, Elena Engel and Andrew Konigsberg, Goodstein and Leach Family, Chris & Pamela Haskell, The Haskell Family Foundation, Hutton Parker Foundation, Joy Full Events, Mike and Carolyn Karmelich, Norman Kurland & Deborah David, Medtronic, Montecito Bank & Trust, Mosher Foundation, Nancy Newman, Ontario International Airport, Pacific Western Bank, Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree, Audrey & Michael Tognotti / Raindance Partners, Shirley & Ken Waxman.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact SDRI's Event & Stewardship Manager Kara Hornbuckle at khornbuckle@sansum.org or 805-682-7640 ext. 246.

Invitations to the Gala will be mailed in January 2019.

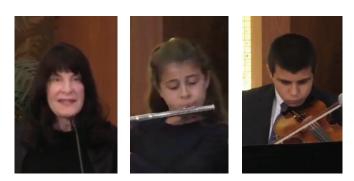
# LOIS JOVANOVIC, M.D., M.A.C.E.

Family, friends, former colleagues and patients gathered in Santa Barbara last month to pay final respects to Dr. Lois Jovanovic, the world-renowned medical pioneer and SDRI's former Chief Executive Officer who passed away in September, at the congregation B'nai Brith.

"Lois' life was filled with grace and joy, with focus and compassion, with faith and hope, and with the desire to make a difference," said Medtronic's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Francine Kaufman, who delivered the eulogy at Dr. Jovanovic's November 17th Celebration of Life. "Lois left us all the greatest gift-a legacy of discovery that changed our world for the better."



Miss America 1999, Nicole Johnson, JDRF's Director of Mission, also paid tribute to Dr. Jovanovic for helping her deliver a healthy baby while living with type 1 diabetes.



Pictured (left to right): Francine Kaufman, M.D., Grandchildren Dylan Jovanovic and Luke Jovanovic

Johnson shared: "Dr. Jovanovic was the first person to know of my pregnancy. She was the only person to know of my most intimate fears and concerns. She took that knowledge and beautifully empowered me. My diabetes was never better. My body didn't fail me. A beautiful baby was the result, but it all started with Lois' beauty. Her strength. Her character. Her grace. As I look at my almost teenage child, I see Dr. Lois. I remember the moments where she pushed me toward better and I am forever grateful."

Another high-profile patient, actress Jean Smart, wrote this tribute to her physician, Dr. Jovanovic: "Through several visits and daily phone calls (and I mean every single day) the brilliant, adorable, dark eyed, ever smiling, always energetic and upbeat Lois took me by the hand and led me through my life's biggest challenge and I felt fantastic. She has taught countless physicians in every corner of the planet her experience and genius in the field of diabetes and pregnancy. She quite literally has changed the world. She changed our world when on Oct. 25, 1989 I gave birth to a perfect, beautiful baby boy. Lois, I miss you, I love you and I thank you with all my heart."

For more information on the extraordinary life of Dr. Jovanovic, visit www.sansum.org.

## NEW GESTATIONAL DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Healthy moms make healthy babies. Sansum Diabetes Research Institute is working to spread the word that it takes more than 9 months to make a healthy baby.

Diabetes is a complication for 7-14% of pregnant women. Diabetes during pregnancy is dangerous for both mother and child and is considered the most common complication in pregnancy today. When diabetes is controlled, complications can be reduced and can even be avoided.



SDRI's Diabetes Innovation and Education teams are partnering to pilot a novel gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) educational series. Participants learn how to navigate gestational diabetes during their pregnancy and how to make better lifestyle choices. The group education classes are specially designed with a scripted curriculum so that almost anyone can teach the class with some training; a unique feature so that the program is both reproducible and economically sustainable. The next step will be to bridge these classes with SDRI's postpartum education class series, "Seeds of Change."

Women with socioeconomic disparities are at particularly high risk in part due

# DIABETES NNOVATION SANSUM DIABETES

to lack of healthcare access, and as such see significantly higher rates of diabetes during pregnancy compared to the general population. They also experience a lack of consistent postpartum and inter-pregnancy follow-up resulting in worsening glycemic control and an exponentially increasing risk of uncontrolled diabetes and complications in subsequent pregnancies.

**RESEARCH INSTITUTE** 

Dr. Kristin Castorino is the lead on this SDRI project. "Education is the foundation to the management of GDM and healthy moms make healthy babies," said Dr. Castorino.

SDRI maintains ongoing collaborations with UC Santa Barbara, Harvard, Cal Poly, Stanford, and the Mayo Clinic, as well as community organizations such as Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Department, WIC, and Santa Barbara County Public Health Department among other notable institutions. 10 to 15 studies and program pilots take place at SDRI on a continual basis, in partnership with academic institutions, public health organizations, primary care and specialist colleagues, pharmaceutical companies and food access organizations.

# **SDRI SPECIAL EVENTS**



## National Diabetes Awareness Month

SDRI celebrated National Diabetes Awareness Month, on November 1st with a cocktail reception at Float Luxury Spa in Santa Barbara, raising awareness of type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes. Thank you to our sponsors: Medtronic and Float Luxury Spa.



## OneTalk

Our November OneTalk program had two special presentations on Exercise and T1D in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. A panel of three local athletes living with T1D; Travis Christensen, Brittany Tomasko and Dr. Christopher Drake shared their stories at our November SLO OneTalk at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center. At our Santa Barbara November OneTalk at CenCal Health, Amy McKinnon, a marathon runner and nutritionist, shared her experiences with long distance running that included over 40 halfmarathons and several full marathons while successfully managing her T1D.

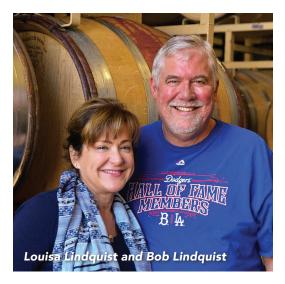




presenting at SB OneTalk

## Dinner with the Winemaker

SDRI hosted four Dinner with the Winemaker fundraising events in 2018. All proceeds from the winemaker dinners benefit SDRI. The year's final Dinner was held on October 25th at Presqu'ile Winery in Santa Maria featuring Presqu'ile's winemaker, Dieter Cronje, and a multi-course dinner by Field to Table. Dr. Jordan Pinsker shared the latest on his artificial pancreas technology research at SDRI.







Mark your calendar for Dinner with the Winemakers on February 4, 2019 at award-winning Ember restaurant in Arroyo Grande, featuring legendary Santa Barbara County wine pioneer, Bob Lindquist of Qupé Wines, and Louisa Lindquist of Verdad Wines and a multi-course, wine-paired dinner by Chef Brian Collins.

For tickets visit www.sdrispecialevents.com.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

SDRI's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala "Celebrating 75 Years of Progress," is set for March 16, 2019 at Rosewood Miramar Beach Montecito. Individual tickets will be available in January.

For sponsorship opportunities for the Gala, please contact Kara Hornbuckle at khornbuckle@sansum.org or 805-682-7640 ext. 246.



# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEW APPOINTMENTS**

Sansum Diabetes Research Institute welcomed new members to its Board of Trustees in 2018.

Several respected and accomplished members of the Santa Barbara community were appointed to the Board this year; producer and director Elena Engel, former film and television agent Norman Kurland, financial advisor Matthew Rowe, and biotechnology entrepreneur Brad Webb, PhD.

Norman Kurland's successful career in the arts and entertainment industry spanned nearly 50 years. His Norman Kurland Agency expanded to The Broder, Kurland, Webb, Uffner Agency, where Kurland was President. Mr. Kurland

is a graduate of Princeton, Harvard Business School and the University of London.

Dr. Brad Webb, the founder, chairman and CEO of Vision Biosciences, Inc., is developing revolutionary technology in the eye care field. Previously, he was a manager of research and development for 3M Vision Care. He earned his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UC Santa Barbara.

Elena Engel's career in the entertainment industry has spanned more than 20 years as an award-winning writer, producer and director of film, video, radio and audio recordings for The Walt Disney Company, Warner Brothers, Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment and NPR. Ms. Engel holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from The Evergreen State College. Matthew Rowe is a Certified Investment Management Analyst with The Santa Barbara Group at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. Mr. Rowe earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Law degree from Monash University in his native Australia. He is a board chair at Santa Barbara Family YMCA and serves on SDRI's 75th Anniversary Gala Celebration Organizing Committee.

Steven Jung was elected Vice President of the SDRI Board of Trustees. Mr. Jung is Senior Counsel and head of the Trusts and Estates Group at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in Santa Barbara. He has served on SDRI's Board of Trustees since March 2017.



Joan Doell Arnold was elected Secretary of the SDRI Board of Trustees. Ms. Arnold is an interior designer at her company, Arnold Designs. She has served as a Trustee since February 2017. Ms. Arnold is also chairing the 75th Anniversary Gala Celebration Organizing Committee.

Thank you to all of SDRI's Trustees for their leadership and guidance.

# THANK YOU, CHARLIE & MARILYN RADAZ

Charlie and Marilyn Radaz's son, Jay, was 14 in 1976 when he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

Jay was an active teen, lettering on his high school's championship golf team in Lompoc. After college he worked in hotel management, insurance and sales in Santa Barbara and



Los Angeles. But type 1 diabetes took a toll.

"It was just so hard," shared Marilyn. "That disease creeps up on you at different rates at different times. It was hard to see him struggle."

Jay lost sight in one eye from diabetic retinopathy, undergoing a vitrectomy to restore his vision. His kidneys failed, requiring dialysis.

The day after Christmas 2009, at age 47, Jay collapsed with his mom by his side.

"His heart had given out," his dad said.

"He's in such a better place than he was for such a long time," said Marilyn. "I miss him."

The Radazes lost their only child. But in their time of grief, Charlie and Marilyn wanted to help others. At Jay's memorial service, they asked that contributions be made to Sansum Diabetes Research Institute and they continue pledging to SDRI.

"We have always been proud to support SDRI," said Charlie. "It's a unique team that's doing this work, not just the research, but it's important to us to know they are sharing that development work with other people to speed the progress toward overcoming this disease. It's a fine place to support for trying to better for the world."

"When we pass on, we will remember SDRI," said 84-year old Charlie, a retired program manager at Lockheed Martin. He and Marilyn, an 82-year old former teacher, realtor and Lompoc clothing boutique owner, will celebrate 59 years of marriage on Valentine's Day 2019.

Our hearts are full of gratitude, Charlie and Marilyn. Thank you!

To learn more about creating a legacy for your family or other ways to support SDRI, please contact Tamara Skov at (805) 682-7640 x215 or tskov@sansum.org.





2219 Bath Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

#### A Global Leader in Diabetes Research, Education, and Care.

Written content by Wendy Thies Sell & design by Experia Creative

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we prepare to mark 75 years of Dr. Sansum's legacy, we are remembering his incredible contributions to medical science. And, at the same time, we are remembering Dr. Sansum the person. In this edition, one of his grandsons remembers both his grandfather's incredible work ethic and his love of knitting. We also talk to the sons of Dr. Hildahl Burtness, who took over the helm from Dr. Sansum and not only

continued Dr. Sansum's quest but left his own stamp on SDRI. And, of course, no history of SDRI is complete without listing the renowned contributions to diabetes and pregnancy made by Dr. Lois Jovanovic. For the past 75 years, SDRI has earned a global reputation in diabetes research, education and care. Generous philanthropic support from individuals and foundations helped make this rich legacy possible and that support is just as important today. With your investment, SDRI will build on its 75 year legacy of significantly improving the lives of those impacted by diabetes. Together, we can continue the work begun by Dr. Sansum.

Ellen M. Goodstein

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