Appreciation can make a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it all into words is all that is necessary.

— Margaret Cousins
Dear colleagues and friends,

On the occasion of the upcoming Thanksgiving holidays, our November diversity newsletter shares notes of appreciation from members of our Radiology community. I would like to thank every author who has invested the time and effort to write a note for someone they appreciate. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

I, too, am grateful for the many people who are making a positive impact in my life:

Firstly, I am thankful for my husband Thomas, who walked with me through good and bad times over the past 27 years. It has been an exciting journey and I am beyond grateful for his loving company. I am grateful for my late father Guenter, who taught me integrity, my mother Elizabeth, who taught me creativity, my brother Hendrik, who taught me generosity and my step-father Berthold who showed us the beauty of a new beginning. I am grateful for my parents in law, Sieglinde and Bruno, who taught me many new points of view. Thank you for raising such a loving, smart, generous, responsible son!

At work, my best days are when I go home, knowing that I made a major difference in the care of a child. I am grateful for being able to serve our patients with the most advanced imaging technology available. There are so many colleagues, whose kindness stands out and I apologize in advance if I cannot mention everyone here. I specifically thank Dr. Ann Leung for being a role model of an inspiring clinical leader. I thank Dr. Michael Moseley for being a wonderful research collaborator. And I thank Dr. Mehdi Khalighi for being a generous and effective manager. I would like to thank Dr. Lisa Coussens for being a wonderful mentor over more than a decade. I am also incredibly grateful for being able to work with the amazing, smart and committed researchers and students of the Daldrup-Link lab! Hello team: Thank you for your enthusiasm, hard work and collaborative spirit! This year was not easy to say the least. I am proud how each of you made it through the perhaps first major crisis in your lifetime, and emerged as strong, healthy and committed individuals, with productive research outputs despite many constraints. You are awesome and we all know it!

I often think about great lessons learned from Dr. Sam Gambhir. Sam will continue to inspire all of us for many years to come. I would like to thank our current Radiology leadership for creating a framework for high quality clinical care, research and teaching. Together, we will continue Sam's legacy. I sincerely thank our admin teams for their help with day-to-day administrative tasks and submission of grant applications, especially Eileen Misquez, Addy Bareiss, Chonghui (Leo) Guo, Mekemeke Faooso, Susan Kopiwoda and Jessie Leung. Many thanks also to members of the pediatric radiology team, the pediatric oncology division, the Stanford Cancer Institute, members of the RSL and MIPS research teams and members of the Sci3 imaging facility. Thanks to Dr. Jayne Seekins, Dr. K Elizabeth Hawk and Dr. Laura Pisani for being wonderful friends! A big thanks to our clinical and research trainees for their dedication and hard work. I specifically thank Dr. Marta Flory, Dr. Lola Oladini, Dr. Brett Fite, Brenda Yu and Virginia Hinostroza for their great leadership on diversity initiatives for our trainees. Thanks to all members of the diversity committee for their great insights and contributions to diversity in the Radiology Department! Thanks to Dr. Bonnie Maldonado, Dr. Magali Fassioto, Dr. Peter Poullos, Kevin Moody and Rania Sanford for their great initiatives to advance diversity in the School of Medicine at Stanford. Thanks to our many collaborators for their partnership! Thanks to Amy Thomas for designing and editing our newsletters! We are truly humbled, thankful, and blessed!

We can choose who and what to focus on, what things mean and what to do. Please join me in creating a Thanksgiving chain reaction: Please express your appreciation to someone in your life today – at work or at home. If you receive a note of appreciation today, pay it forward. We are all very good at creating our own personal narratives. But it is the shared narrative that makes us a community.

Wishing you happy Thanksgiving holidays!

Heike E. Daldrup-Link, MD, PhD
Professor of Radiology
Associate Chair for Diversity, Radiology
Professor, by courtesy, Pediatrics
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
A TRIBUTE TO CHADWICK BOSEMAN
. . . and everyone who paved the path for us
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymQKBTtLOSs

THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAIT OF A LEADER
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFufr1PCTVg

IT IS THE SHARED NARRATIVE THAT MAKES US A COMMUNITY
In this funny and poignant 3-minute talk, social strategist Renny Gleeson breaks down our always-on social world -- where the experience we're having right now is less interesting than what we'll tweet about it later.
https://www.ted.com/talks/renny_gleeson_our_antisocial_phone_tricks
Someone I appreciate is my late postdoctoral mentor Dr. Sanjiv Sam Gambhir. I had the wonderful opportunity to be trained by him when I joined Stanford, along with personal and career growth within his laboratory throughout the years. He was a mentor who never stopped training and challenging me till the very end. He taught me the importance of honesty, hardworking and striving a balance between work and family life, especially with his love and devotion to his wife and late son Milan. I appreciate the better times when he shared his intensity, passion, precision and salesmanship with grant writing and manuscripts submission.

Carmel T. Chan, PhD
Senior Scientific Manager
Molecular Imaging Program at Stanford (MIPS)
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
I consider myself a lucky person and over the course of my career, I've had the great fortune to encounter many individuals to whom I owe gratitude and appreciation. However, during this particularly tumultuous time, it seems fitting that I give this shout-out of appreciation to Dr. Heike Daldrup-Link who has dedicated her considerable talents and time to leading Radiology’s diversity and inclusion efforts to all of our benefit. Channeling her courage, passion, and creativity, Heike has successfully forged new paths of communication and understanding within our community and opened our minds more widely as to what “should be” and how each of us can contribute to a more just, equitable, and diverse future. Thank you, Heike for your outstanding and inspirational leadership!

Ann Leung, MD
Professor of Radiology
Associate Chair for Clinical Affairs
Division Chief, Thoracic Imaging
Stanford Medicine | Radiology

This month I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank someone I am very grateful for. Dr. Heike Daldrup-Link has made a tremendous impact on me as a young female physician.

Dr. Daldrup-Link has worked tirelessly to make Stanford, and the larger radiology community around her a more inclusive and supportive environment for all people to innovate, teach and practice the art of medicine. Her work leading the Stanford Radiology Diversity efforts has inspired and motivated even more members of our community than perhaps any of us will ever fully realize.

On a more personal note, from the moment I first had the privilege of stepping foot on the Stanford campus, she has been a constant source of mentorship, sponsorship and inspiration. Her drive towards academic excellence paired with her emotionally intelligent leadership style truly encourages young physicians such as myself to work harder and dream bigger towards collective and synergistic excellence in medicine and science. I have watched her work to elevate so many trainees and students, nurturing and encouraging each along their own professional development, bringing each up the ladder.

I am sure this newsletter will be filled with many beautiful expressions of gratitude and appreciation. I am so grateful that her leadership continues to create and grow spaces such as this letter for each of us to explore the meaning of diversity and how being a diverse community allows us to best support one another and the patients we are so fortunate to care for.

K. Elizabeth Hawk, MS, MD, PhD
Clinical Instructor
Nuclear Medicine
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
We Knew Her as Sindhu

We knew her as Sindhu. She was serious of eye; resolve showed in set of mouth and brow. She had depth in her commitment and in her empathy. Yet a well-timed joke or a witty turn of phrase could elicit a tweetish giggle. Her judgement on when to work and when to laugh was impeccable. She was a great colleague.

I initially encountered Sindhu some years ago when she was hired at the Canary as a Research Assistant. She proved herself capable of handling both experimental and practical laboratory issues and she quickly became Lab Manager for the Cell and Molecular Biology Support Facility. As you might know, a Lab Manager is just that; someone who handles day-to-day, quotidian operations such that a lab runs and hums. The Lab Manager orders supplies and reagents. They compare prices from competitors such that expenditures are reasonable. She makes the lab compliant with regulations from university, from municipality and state, from federal and international agencies. Desks and benches are discovered for incoming personnel. Freezers and centrifuges must fit into uncompromising spaces. Animal and IRB protocols are written and mice taken care of. One assists in grants and, of course, experiments must be done and papers written. The only thing not done is to bark out orders in the lab.

Sindhu from one day to the next encountered all of this; sometimes all at once, occasionally one at a time, most times some but not all issues simultaneously. I mentioned the seriousness of Sindhu’s demeanor but please understand that the gravitas was never truly heavy. It was more “low-key” as youths are wont to say nowadays. She was calm and levelheaded; her voice always soft, always strong. She made the effort to understand your needs and to meet them; she knew all the regulations and fulfilled those. Logistical headaches were varnished away and were never noticed. The face of the river was still even as currents roiled underneath.

She accomplished beyond the call of duty. One day, I had iatrogenic complications due to new medicines given by a new doctor and I collapsed in the hallways of the Canary. Unfortunately, no one was around because it was lunchtime. Except for Sindhu and one of her friends. Sindhu immediately reacted, calling for an ambulance, putting a cold compress to my head, pushing me to stay conscious until help arrived. When the ambulance came and I was rushed to Emergency, Sindhu waited until my family arrived. She was there to comfort them and to assure that I was OK. Needless to say, simple gratitude is simply inadequate.

She has since gone on to industry. Sindhu is now appreciated. I don’t think she received recognition from Stanford. A good lab manager is much like a good referee in professional sports. Both are doing good jobs when they are not noticed as they have managed things flawlessly. So her accomplishments were taken for granted. Any conflicts came by way of capricious work mates of which Sindhu received more than her fair share. There were those who thought of her as cheap labor and she was pushed to finish projects at the expense other responsibilities. Post-docs who felt stymied at work took out their frustrations on Sindhu. She was verbally abused. She was muscled out of first authorship in publications. And in any dispute, her side was never taken.

In retrospect, I did not realize the pitfalls of her job. I was one of many that so benefitted from her quiet efficiencies that I ignored her challenges. For that, a valued colleague is no longer at the University. I know that Stanford has the custom of yearly celebrating outstanding employees. It is my regret that I never petitioned her for the honor. I do not think Stanford fêtes staff after they leave but she, among others, soundly merits such an award.

Edwin Chang, PhD
Research Scientist
Molecular Imaging Program at Stanford
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
One of the things I am most thankful for are the incredible women in my work group, which we have affectionally deemed the CVI Sorority. Apart from being smart, talented, and hardworking, they have become my every-day mentors and support system, whom I can go to for anything, work-related or otherwise. These ladies have helped me navigate daunting MR assignments; tedious, seemingly never-ending data cleaning tasks; provided career advice; and are always available to bounce ideas off, whether it relates to complex imaging problems or something related to our beloved pups, Julie and Larry (an honorary sorority member). I cannot express how happy I am that I have found a group that will appreciate a radiology-related cartoon just as much as a Henry Cavill meme. I look forward to continuing to work with and be inspired by these ladies as well as seeing what amazing things they will accomplish in the future.

Virginia Hinostroza, MS
Life Sciences Research Professional
Cardiovascular Imaging
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
I appreciate many people in my life, both personal and in the workplace; these two are the two I want to acknowledge:

**MY SON, SHAWN JOHNSON:**

I appreciate his positive attitude (throughout this pandemic), his understanding of the days I work longer than usual, and his positive attitude. This is a tough and challenging time for many of us, especially our children. Seeing my son focused on his last year in high school and handling business regarding college applications/research makes me proud. I must admit that while this has been somewhat challenging, adjusting, and acclimating to our current climate, I have learned to embrace and appreciate every moment.

**MY COLLEAGUE, LIZANDRO BORRAYO:**

I do not know how I would’ve gotten through the last seven months without Lizandro on my team. He willingly, no questions asked, will help with anything and everything I ask of him (within reason). He makes me laugh daily; he is dedicated and so reliable. I want him to know that I appreciate him so much, and it is a pleasure working side by side with him.

Ruth Reyes-Johnson
HR Manager
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
Appreciation for the SCi3 Team

We are a diverse group, now dispersed at home and 2 imaging centers (at Clark and Porter Dr.) We are more digital than ever with remote meetings, office hours and even remote control of our imaging instruments. It is exciting to be part of a team that is dynamically adjusting to the changing research needs, now strongly impacted by COVID.

More than anything it all comes down to having people who understand each other and work well together. Quiet-spoken and unflappable, Dr. Frezghi Habte is the longest-standing SCi3 teammate. He has been an invaluable source of camaraderie and humor over the years.

With the solid leadership of Dr. Daldrup-Link, clear and direct communication is the norm. Her scientific knowledge and vibrant lab provide opportunities to contribute to productive collaborations which help to make work meaningful and rewarding. With Dr. Jason Lee's arrival, all involved with SCi3 appreciate his reliably methodical and insightful contributions and seemingly insatiable drive to be helpful.

Last but not least, of course I join many who appreciate having had the opportunity to know Dr. Sam Gambhir. I was half-convinced that he was getting comedy coaching. On top of his ever-impressive scientific insight and being in large part responsible for the abundance of resources for medical research that we enjoy at Stanford, I often remember how he managed to make us laugh or smile. He was a true role model of how to manage the most difficult circumstances with poise and grace.

Laura Jean Pisani, PhD
Associate Director, SCi3
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
In the month of Thanksgiving, I would like to show my gratitude to our finance group, faculties and their teams I worked with over the past months. All their help and collaboration makes work easier in this difficult time. Every moment of harmonious pleasant working atmosphere created a pleasant memory in my life.

Leo Chonghui Guo
Finance Manager
Stanford Medicine | Radiology

My appreciation is somewhat abstract. I would like to take a moment to appreciate anyone who has done something to uplift others around them without seeking recognition, and even as a response to personally experiencing oppression. I think of women like Stacey Abrams who felt her gubernatorial bid to be stymied by voter suppression. Her response was to found the Fair Fight Action group to enroll new voters who had traditionally been overlooked or otherwise hindered from voting. The part that strikes me the most, and earns my appreciation, is that the day to day work of seeking donors and establishing support for voters is not glamorous. And depending on the outcome, the work may remain invisible. But she did it anyway.

Funmilola Oladini, MD, MBA
PGY-3, IR/DR Resident
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
Dear socially distanced stranger,

your choice to give up the last 7 months of your regular life, being careful and socially distancing, could very well be the reason why someone in my family is alive today.

Thank you!

To the fighter in me:

I appreciate the fighter in me who made me survive those terrible days,
the fighter who led me through those awful circumstances,
the fighter who made me stand up against all odds,
the fighter who will never give up!

Anonymous
Who I Appreciate

This year, I was surprised to receive an invitation to chair a conference session at the SPIE Photonics West conference. It was an urgent replacement and only left one day for me to prepare. As I never chaired any conference before, I was thrilled but more nervous about this challenging opportunity. The next day, the conference room was filled with over a hundred attendees. Before the meeting started, I was still upset about myself. But as soon as I started greeting everyone and introducing the first speaker loudly, everything went smoothly. I ended each talk by opening questions to the audience and asking follow-up questions. I felt so confident that I had no fears to lead the scientific discussions with many experts. But four years ago, I was still a Ph.D. student who was shy even to ask a question in front of the crowds. Looking back, I can see how much I have grown during my postdoctoral training at Stanford.

In the middle of the conference, I noticed a familiar face in the audience – my postdoctoral mentor Dr. Eben Rosenthal, sitting in the front row and smiling at me with thumbs up. At that moment, I felt so happy and grateful to him. Four years ago, I was embarrassed as I forgot the question I was about to ask when standing in front of the microphone at a big conference. Four years later, I was delighted to chair a conference session and later became an invited speaker at an international conference next year. There is no doubt that the Stanford scientific community has been a highly nurturing environment for me and that Dr. Rosenthal has played a critical role in shaping me into who I am today and guiding me towards the right academic career direction.

Over the past four years, I have benefited tremendously from the day-to-day interactions and meetings with him and collaborators of diverse backgrounds across the country. He is a very open-minded, inclusive, and inspiring mentor who always encourages us to raise questions and critiques during lab meetings. Although I am not a native speaker, I always felt safe and comfortable to speak up at lab meetings. Although he is extremely busy as an associate director of the Stanford Cancer Institute, an actively practicing surgeon, and an academic leader in translational research, Dr. Rosenthal is strongly committed to mentoring us and always makes time to meet, discuss, and support our research projects and career development. During these meetings, I would freely pitch my ideas and present my work in progress to him and collaborators and receive insightful feedback. Each year, he would also support me to attend multiple international conferences to learn, present, and connect with the larger scientific community. With his introduction and support, I have established a strong professional network to support my research and career development inside and outside Stanford. Over time, I have also built strong confidence in freely expressing my scientific ideas and presenting my research work, although this was not the culture I grew up with.

As a first-generation college student in my family, I would not have been where I am today without the amazing support from many people surrounding me. During the transition period of my career as a postdoctoral fellow, I have been fortunate to have an incredibly supportive postdoctoral mentor who has guided me on the right career path. Dr. Rosenthal is an outstanding physician-scientist who has set an example for many of us with his strong leadership and visions in translational cancer research. More importantly, he is a dedicated mentor who is eager to help trainees succeed. My personal and professional growth over the past four years is largely attributed to the engaging and motivating lab culture Dr. Rosenthal has built. I really appreciated all the opportunities to learn from him on his vision and his graceful way of communicating with others. As I was invited to write an article about “someone you appreciate,” I truly appreciated all the guidance, trust, support, freedom, and learning opportunities that Dr. Rosenthal has given me.

Guolan Lu, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Rosenthal Lab
Stanford Medicine
Homage to My Dad

My Dad was born in London in the 1930's and got caught up in the war
He and his sister evacuated to the country, a frightening time for all I'm sure
The whole family made it through the Blitz, their home still standing which was good
My Dad managed to remain in good spirits despite his unconventional childhood

My Dad spent some time in the parachute regiment during the national draft
It was an elite branch of the army and they got to jump out of aircraft
Thankfully he managed to stay in one piece as he was hurtling through the air
He spent time out in North Africa - not sure what he did while he was there!

In his 20's he went on a trip to Italy and met a young woman on the tour
They hit it off almost straight away, love at first sight I'm pretty sure
Isobel was originally from Scotland, but lived in Montreal
Taught music and was a famous singer on the radio, it didn't faze my Dad at all!
It was hard to court overseas in those days, and they couldn't stand to live apart
Isobel relocated to England shortly after and they made a brand-new start
They got married pretty quickly and 3 years later my brother turned up on cue
He was well behaved and slept all night, it made them decide they wanted two

I was born some time later, came out with jaundice and long black hair
I specialized in crying and projectile vomiting that left my parents in despair
I was not too good at sleeping, so my Dad used to put me in the car
He drove me round the streets for hours, the most effective way by far

When I was very small my brother and I were pretty mean
Used to bounce up and down on my Dad's tummy and pretend he was a trampoline
My Dad bore it with good grace and never seemed to mind
Secretly I am sure he was quite relieved to leave those years behind!

We grew up and still played tricks on him - one day we locked my Dad outside
We saw him skulking round the house trying to see how he could get inside
He disappeared from view and a short time later came sauntering down the stairs
He had managed to shin up a drainpipe, and crawl through a window open upstairs

We always went on holidays as a family, usually going away at least twice a year
We visited some pretty exotic places - we were very spoiled that was clear
I remember happy holidays spent on the beach and relaxing in the sun
It didn't really matter where we went, we always managed to have fun

My Dad always encouraged me at school and made sure I was well educated
When I was accepted into St Mary's Medical School my parents were elated
I always worked as hard as I could to try and stand out from the crowd
I appreciated what my parents gave up for me, and wanted to make them proud

My medical career did not work out as planned, radiology not my first pick
I had to give up my dream of surgery, which at the time made me feel quite sick
However now I really enjoy my job, and I hope I always will
My Dad came to my graduation dinner, a black tie-do with Maggie Thatcher- what a thrill!!

My brother got married and eventually my Dad became a doting Grandfather of 3
He relished his new role as "Oompapa" and soon became a retiree
We all spent a lot of time together, my Dad a jokester through and through
He'd drop what he was doing at a moment 's notice if we needed him, it's true
My parents were supportive but not too happy when I relocated to the US. They frequently came and visited me in California and were proud of my success. In later years, my Dad's health was in decline, and he started to lose his sight. It was very hard to be away from home, and not be there to ease his plight.

I feel bad that I could not be there for him when he was feeling out of sorts. My Dad died when he was 84, but he is always in my thoughts. My parents were married over 50 years and content with life that much was clear. I am very proud to have been his daughter, with many happy memories to keep him near!

Robert Stevens 1932 - 2016

Kate Stevens, MD
Associate Professor
Musculoskeletal Imaging
Stanford Medicine | Radiology

Appreciation
I wanted to submit this photo with my wife Megha, whom I appreciate so much in supporting me in everything, from our trip to Hawaii in January, which proved to be very fortunately timed as we haven't left home since then, due to the pandemic.

Vipul Sheth, MD
Assistant Professor
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
Who I Appreciate

We have many blessings and reasons to be grateful, and we always pause to remember those gifts, especially during the holiday season. I appreciate my husband and best friend, John. John and I share many of the same passions and interests (we actually met at the annual SIR meeting when we were both awarded the SIR resident in training scholarship). I was fortunate to have him by my side supporting me throughout my residency and fellowship years. It was comforting to know that no matter if I had a bad or a good day, I had someone that I trust to talk to and who I could share it with; someone who could relate and who would understand my joy or my pain. When life becomes stressful, John always knows how to make me laugh and brings me a sense of calm. Together we find peace through our shared faith, and John has been a constant source of positivity and stability in my life.

Elena Violari, MD
Clinical Fellow
Pediatric Radiology
Stanford Medicine | Radiology

Who I Appreciate

Growing up, we never really thought of distance. Our rooms were next to each other, separated only by a thin wall, and we were never far from each other. None of us could have imagined that we would be separated by a 10-hour flight a couple of years later and that the long distance between us would get even longer during a pandemic – a reality shared by many people. Until things have calmed down, daily updates on iMessage and Facetime video calls will suffice, but future sister reunions will undoubtably be more appreciated than ever.

Mana Shams, MD and Sara Shams, MD
Stanford Radiology Resident
Stanford Medicine | Radiology
To my lovely family,

I'd like to express my gratitude to my family: Iris, Chris, and my wife Suyeon. I know that it is really hard to live as a foreigner and family of postdoc in the U.S. Due to the pandemic, this year was an extremely challenging time for our family. Even if it is a harsh time to take care of a newborn baby (Chris is now 10 months old and Iris is 30 months old), our family tried to spend this year with happiness and gratitude. Especially, I’d like to appreciate to my wife, Suyeon Lee. Thank you so much for everything!

Kyungoh Jung, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Stanford Medicine | Radiation Physics
DR. GUIDO A. DAVIDZON
Joined the task force for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of the Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI).

DR. GOZDE DURMUS
has been selected to join the 2020-2021 Office of Faculty Development and Diversity's (OFDD) Junior Leadership Bootcamp Series. The goal of this program is to provide emerging leaders at Stanford Medicine with an introduction to leadership by current leaders from across Stanford Medicine.

DR. CRAIG LEVIN
receives the Edward J. Hoffman Medical Imaging Scientist Award for contributions to the field of medical imaging science. The award is presented at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Medical Imaging Conference.

DR. PHILIP YUE-CHENG CHEUNG AND DR. SARA CHENG
Congratulations to Dr. Philip Yue-Cheng Cheung and Dr. Sara Cheng for winning the best Radiology case presentation at the annual Radiology training course of the American Institute for Radiologic Pathology (AIRP). Philip won the best case in the discipline Pediatric Radiology (slide 53 ff in the slide show below) and Sara won the best case in the discipline abdominal/gastrointestinal imaging (slide 24). The AIRP four-week Radiologic Pathology Correlation Course offers training for radiology residents, fellows and practicing radiologists from around the world. We are very proud that two of our trainees won the best case presentation at the same AIRP course, out of hundreds of cases submitted by residents from training programs in North America and around the world. The cases can be reviewed here:


Historical best case presentations are here: https://www.airp.org/resident-courses/case-submission/best-cases
Congratulations to Dr. Hannah Valantine, M.D., for her election to the Academy of Medicine

Please join the celebration on December 1, 2020:

https://www.onlineregistrationcenter.com/register/222/page1.asp?m=275&c=393

Dr. Valantine is a professor of cardiovascular medicine at Stanford. She was the Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Faculty Development at Stanford before joining the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as the Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce and Diversity. At NIH, Dr. Valantine has run a highly productive research program within the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), where she created the Genomic Research Alliance for Transplantation (GRAFT), a consortium of five heart and lung transplantation programs in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, which has enrolled and is actively following more than 500 patients, 40% of whom are African American/Black.

Dr. Valantine served and serves as mentor and advisor to many faculty and trainees at Stanford, particularly women in medicine. Many of us received valuable input and advice from her on important matters related to a career as a clinician, leader and/or researcher in the field of medicine and biomedical sciences.

You can learn more about Dr. Valantine's many achievements here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hannah_Valantine
https://profiles.stanford.edu/hannah-valantine
In Real Life

I am the child that the village has raised. In shaping the child, this village allows for a dance between the boundaries and reach of one's dreams and the needs and demands of the village at large. Many try to show the best masteries of the dance. I cannot describe to you all who contributed but I would like to recall the stories of some who are special mentors.

My mother was born in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, a polyglot nation that anchors the South-East Asian Peninsula. She remembered her father as a kind man, one who allowed youths their youth. She knew a house that echoed with happy children. But she also knew the Second World War and the Japanese invasion and the death of her father from lung cancer after the war. Time passed, wounds healed, she became a successful businesswoman and she married my father who eventually moved his family to Canada. My father adjusted well to Canada (he had a good job as a Professor of Mathematics) but it was a tougher go for my mother. Her social networks were lost, the language was not familiar and the cold Canadian winters were not the balmy days of her Malaysian upbringing. But she did adjust. Snow became beautiful to her; she marveled at the long wintry sweeps of the Canadian land. Snow scenes decorated the windowpanes during Christmas Eve. Snow was something the little children wanted and one could just stand outside, in the deep of winter, with husband in tow and watch the children and enjoy being a family in Canada. And this acceptance passed on to me. I have always felt that she took me for whatever I would become. This was not the feeling that I received from Canada at large (I suspect that many of my peers felt likewise) so it felt reassuring that she appreciated my own self. She, in turn, is one whom I truly appreciate.

My mother prepared me for my eventual family. My wife is an American, born in Seattle, raised in the Sunset District of San Francisco. She grew up in an era where San Francisco was the Rome to the United States’ wacky, iconoclastic Left Coast. The counterculture vibe was breathable and certainly influenced my future wife’s youthful interests. She soon noticed that the Hippies that inhabited the City wore second-hand clothes that oftentimes came from Eastern European villages. And, at the beginning of her adolescence, she adopted a life where she acquired knowledge of ethnic peasant costumes from all regions of Eastern Europe. She can spot these costumes from far away and oftentimes can identify country and village of origin as well as era. Her level of expertise is like that of a top wine connoisseur. Her passion is that of a pure academic yet Silicon Valley deems these pursuits impractical. She cannot be rewarded. Nevertheless, she plows on in life, determined to pursue her interests, determined to slake her thirst to be an individual. I think I appreciated that quality in her when I first met her. I suspect that she sensed this and the mutual comfort was the seeding for the long and stable marriage that we have together.

This mutual appreciation gave us the confidence to raise a daughter whom I would say has the same ethic of acceptance and appreciation for others. My daughter, though, can display that affection in strange ways. She has perfected the art of the friendly insult. I am a frequent target – my habit of putting my head 6 inches in front of my body while walking with deep thought, my symphonies of snoring at night, and my liking of Star Trek (“Captain Kirk is such a gross womanizer!”) are all rich sources of ridicule for my daughter. Yet, deep down, she appreciates me. Birthday gifts from her are tickets to the latest Star Trek movie. I think I reciprocate. I appreciate the quirks of my daughter just as I appreciate the quirks of my wife and I am sure the affections for each other’s eccentricities are mutual. My daughter’s cheerful insults extended even to the late Sam Gambhir. My daughter liked Sam and the more she liked Sam, the more she ragged on him. Sam seemed to enjoy this because he ragged back. Sam did this to all he cared for.

Growing up in Phoenix, Arizona, Sam’s Indian family was rare. I myself was one of only three Chinese families in a Southern Ontario town of 80,000 so I dare to say that I sense his childhood. The internal South Asian world of his family had to find adaptations towards the larger, louder American society. The child of immigrants won, with vengeance. Sam is of course, a pioneer in Molecular Imaging, a Founding Father of Clinical PET technology. To achieve this, Sam trained himself to saunter and bound between the diverse disciplines of Medicine, Physics, Engineering, Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. He borrowed and linked concepts such that he forged the scaffolds to a new and burgeoning field. His intellectual endeavors seemed free and effortless. He was like a magical, ethereal male aspara who joyfully communicated between the heavenly deities. The realm of the Silicon Valley appreciated his works. In his career, the Valley rewarded him richly. Consequently, his building of a novel field also provided opportunities for individuals such as me, who, in turn, built upon what he himself originally wrought. My own livelihood in California was established and for that, I am grateful.

I hope that I conveyed my lesson. That in one’s Hegelian efforts to reconcile the wishes of self with the wishes of society, one must be with those who share the same struggles and who offer a viable path. I will always be appreciative.

Edwin Chang, PhD
Research Scientist, Molecular Imaging Program
Stanford Medicine | Radiology

Appreciation
In Loving Memory of Ashley Kilkelly

I say a little prayer

The moment I wake up
Before I put on my makeup
I say a little prayer for you
While combing my hair, now
And wondering what dress to wear, now
I say a little prayer for you

Forever, forever, you'll stay in my heart
And I will love you
Forever, forever, we never will part
Oh, how I'll love you
Together, together, that's how it must be
To live without you
Would only be heartbreak for me

I run for the bus, dear
While riding I think of us, dear
I say a little prayer for you
At work I just take time
And all through my coffee break-time
I say a little prayer for you.

Forever, forever, you'll stay in my heart
And I will love you
Forever, forever we never will part
Oh, how I'll love you
Together, together, that's how it must be
To live without you
Would only be heartbreak for me

My darling believe me
For me there is no one
But you.

Aretha Franklin: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtBbyglq37E
Dionne Warwick: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kafVkJLxYg
“Give thanks not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of your life. Appreciate and never take for granted all that you have.”

– Catherine Pulsifer