RUSH

Alfonso Torquati, MD, FACS

The Helen Shedd Keith Professor of Surgery

Advancement of Medicine

My primary research interest is exploring the complex relationship between body mass index, body composition and bone density. This past year, the endowment funds allowed me to hire an assistant professor to develop animal models of metabolic/bariatric surgery for our research lab program. My research into outcomes of metabolic and bariatric surgery continues, as well. Endowment funds have allowed me to hire a second assistant professor and acquire access to the MarketScan database that will enable our research group, including faculty, residents and medical students, to independently access and analyze de-identified national health and outcomes data.

In addition to my own research, the endowment has allowed me to invest in resources like biostatistics and electronic medical record data extraction services that advance the research of both faculty and residents. These efforts have encouraged early-career surgeons to pursue their research goals and added an incredible amount of new knowledge to all areas of surgery. The activities supported by the endowment generated external funding for clinical trials.

This year, I was especially honored to be able to use the endowment to support the research of a promising Rush medical student, which culminated in both a presentation at the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery annual meeting and the publication "Pregnancy and birth complications among women undergoing bariatric surgery: sleeve gastrectomy versus Roux-en-Y gastric bypass." This study compared rates of pregnancy and birth complications between patients who underwent sleeve gastrectomy surgery and Roux-en-Y surgery and found that Roux-en-Y surgery was associated with a higher complication rate. Informed by these findings, patients and surgeons can better decide which procedure to pursue for patients who may become pregnant after surgery.
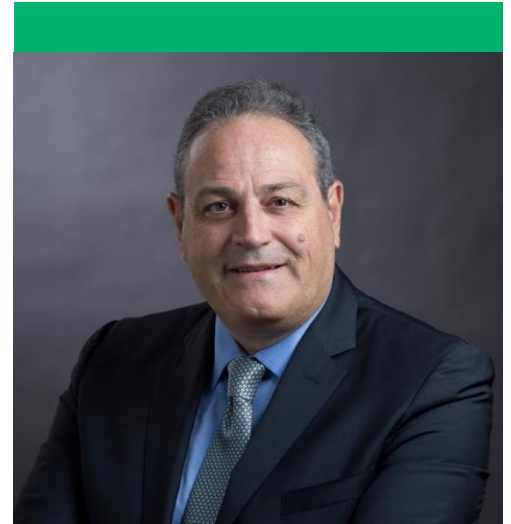
The Year Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

The endowment will continue to support my research and enable me to invest in valuable resources such as biostatistics support and electronic medical record data extraction services. These resources will significantly enhance the research efforts of both faculty and residents, fostering an environment that encourages early-career surgeons to actively pursue their research ambitions.

With Gratitude

I am deeply grateful for your generous support, which has been instrumental in advancing my research and supporting the academic growth of our faculty and residents. Your investment not only strengthens my work but also helps propel Rush's mission to improve health through outstanding care, education and research. Thank you for making a lasting impact.