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The Helen Shedd Keith Professor of Surgery

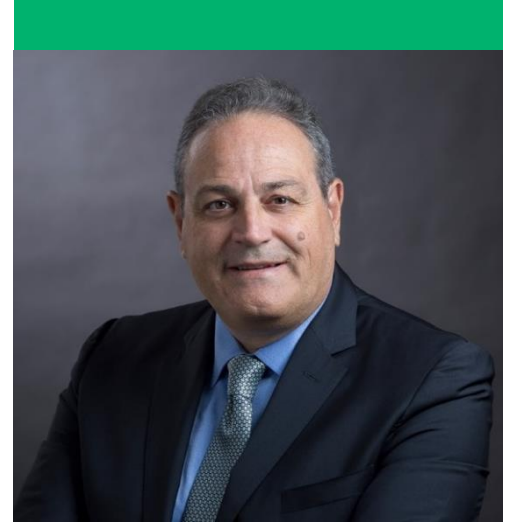
Advancement of Medicine

My primary research interest is exploring the complex relationships among body mass index, glucose metabolism, body composition and bone density. **This endowment has been**

instrumental in expanding the capacity of our research program. Support from the endowment has allowed me to grow our team by recruiting additional faculty and providing them with the tools and resources needed to pursue innovative research. It has also enabled our group to access large-scale national health datasets, empowering faculty, residents and medical students to independently conduct and analyze outcomes research across a broad range of clinical questions.

The endowment has also 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, the endowment supported a recent collaborative study investigating whether preoperative use of glucagon-like peptide 1, or GLP-1, receptor agonists affects weight loss following bariatric surgery. Published in *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, this research addresses a timely clinical question as GLP-1 medications become increasingly common among patients seeking surgical treatment for obesity. The results offer valuable guidance to surgeons and patients as they navigate treatment planning in a rapidly evolving therapeutic landscape.





The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

The endowment will remain central to advancing our research program and expanding access to leading-edge tools and technologies. Investments in biostatistics support, electronic medical record data extraction, and emerging data analytics platforms will strengthen the scholarly output of both faculty and residents. Beyond infrastructure, I am committed to using these resources to actively mentor early-career surgeons, creating structured opportunities for residents and junior faculty to lead research projects, present at national meetings and build the academic foundation needed for long-term success in academic surgery.

With Gratitude

Words cannot fully express my gratitude for your continued and generous support. Your belief in this work has made a profound difference — not only in advancing my own research, but in shaping the careers of the residents and faculty who will carry this work forward for years to come. The opportunities created by your investment extend far beyond the laboratory and the operating room; they ripple outward through every patient whose care is improved by the knowledge we generate together. It is a privilege to pursue this work with your partnership, and I remain deeply honored by your commitment to Rush's mission of excellence in care, education and research. **Thank you, sincerely, for making all of this possible.**