

## REGENERATIVE MEDICINE: “NEXT IS TRULY NOW”

As the excitement of a new triennium began in the fall of 2021, the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Glenda Winchester and the Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother F. Lon Lowry shared their endorsement of the partnership between the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star and WFIRM (Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine) as one of their selected charities and a special project for the Most Worthy Grand Patron.

Remember when we were all wearing MASKS, staying at home, taking the vaccines, and trying to act normal? Well, the doctors, scientists, researchers, and lab technicians at WFIRM were working. The doors were *locked* to the Institute, but the research never stopped. You see, their mantra is “NEXT IS NOW”, always dedicated to finding a cure, not just a treatment.

Perhaps, that’s the big difference. FINDING A CURE NOT JUST A TREATMENT. With over 300 employees on site, representing up to 64 different countries all within ONE BUILDING in Winston-Salem, NC, their passion for helping human beings throughout the world, is never ending.

Currently, there are 16 members appointed to represent this partnership on the GGC REGENERATIVE COMMITTEE. We have had zoom meetings, in person meetings and chats as we proudly set our goal at ONE MILLION DOLLARS to raise during this triennium. We have projects in the works such as selling quilts; have a VIRTUAL 5K WALK; continuing the Cruises for Regenerative Medicine (where members of the faculty join us on board and hold lecture series) to selling pins. The list goes on and on, but the goal is always in sight: to help humanity in all ways we can.

We have a new donation sheet that incorporates not only the Chapter Name and Number but the Jurisdiction, so we are able to tract the monies collected and posted to the account at WFIRM. Remember, all donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE (501.c.3) and go directly to them with no-middleman. We can offer these forms to use in honor, in memory or just because.

Our committee is excited to share the information regarding the use of YOUR OWN STEM CELLS in replacing or repairing injured or damaged body parts. WFIRM is working closely with our service men and women in helping with their own individual situations along with research in successfully growing new organs using your own cells. Remember, your body won’t reject your own stem cells!

We are honored to be included in breaking news in medical research and the amazing work of this partnership. As they say “stay tuned for the next exciting adventure”....And you’ll be the first to know!!

WFIRM + OES = IMAGINE

Written by Peg Reiterman, Chairperson  
GGC Regenerative Medicine Committee, 2021-2024