VISIONARY BALL 2023
Benefiting the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery
October 11, 2023
The Beverly Hilton
ABOUT VISIONARY BALL

Visionary Ball

Visionary Ball is a celebration of life, a tribute to courage, and a recognition of achievement across industries. The signature celebration brings together more than 500 grateful patients, philanthropists, physicians, business leaders, and community partners to support the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery. The success of Visionary Ball is vital to UCLA Neurosurgery’s mission to deliver high-quality patient care, advance research, and educate the next generation of leading neurosurgeons and neuroscientists. Visionary Ball raises crucial funds and awareness in support of our patients who face the most complex neurological disorders of this era.

Learn more at visionaryball.org

UCLA Health and the Department of Neurosurgery

UCLA Health is among the most comprehensive and advanced health care systems in the world, consistently ranked among the best in the nation. The UCLA Department of Neurosurgery is an innovative group of neurosurgeons, neuroscientists, and staff dedicated to providing excellent patient care and the discovery of new treatments for devastating conditions such as brain cancer; Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy, spinal cord and brain injury, stroke, and pediatric neurological disorders.
Visionary Award: Byron Allen

The 2023 Visionary Award will be presented to Byron Allen in recognition of his outstanding career achievements, boundless contributions to society, and tremendous philanthropic support. Byron is a media mogul, comedian, producer, and philanthropist. The founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Allen Media Group, he owns one of the largest cable network portfolios in the industry, including The Weather Channel, while serving as a champion of diversity and inclusion, social justice, and human rights.
2023 HONOREES

Medical Visionary Award: Johnese Spisso, MPA

Johnese Spisso, MPA, became President of UCLA Health, CEO of UCLA Hospital System, and Associate Vice Chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences in 2016. She is a nationally recognized academic health care leader with more than 30 years of experience, and oversees all operations of UCLA’s hospitals and clinics as well as the health system’s regional outreach strategy.

Before coming to UCLA, Ms. Spisso spent 22 years at University of Washington (UW) Medicine in Seattle, where she was ultimately promoted to Chief Health System Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs for UW. She served in that role from 2007 to 2016 and was responsible for two academic medical centers, two community hospitals, a network of community clinics, and the Airlift Northwest flight program. While at UW, Ms. Spisso played a major role in expanding collaborations with regional hospitals and the operational integration of two major community hospitals into UW Medicine. She was also instrumental in leading the development of a statewide trauma system.

Prior to UW, as a registered nurse, Ms. Spisso rose through the ranks over 12 years at the University of California, Davis Medical Center and directed the critical care, trauma and burn center, emergency services, and the Life Flight Air-Medical Program. She began her career as a critical care nurse in the medical, surgical, and transplant intensive care unit at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian.

Ms. Spisso received a master’s degree in health care administration and public administration from the University of San Francisco, and a bachelor’s degree in health sciences from Chapman College. She earned her nursing degree at the St. Francis School of Nursing. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on health care leadership, and she serves on several national boards, including the American Association of Medical Colleges’ Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems.

Ms. Spisso is active in community leadership and has served as the Los Angeles Community Chair for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Light the Night Walk as well as the Los Angeles Community Chair for the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women Luncheon. She has received many awards and recognition throughout her career, recently being named to Modern Healthcare’s Top 25 Most Influential Women Leaders in 2019, Los Angeles Business Journal’s 500 Most Influential Leaders in Los Angeles in 2020, Modern Healthcare’s Top 50 Clinical Leaders of 2020 in the United States, and she received a Women of Influence Award for Health Care from the Los Angeles Business Journal in 2021 and 2022.
Erika Kort will be honored with the Courage Award for her incredible strength and resilience in the face of a rare cavernous angioma in the spinal cord. A real estate agent for Compass, Erika pursued a degree in business management and communications at Tulane University before diving into the real estate world. Previously, the Newport Beach native, who was raised in Los Angeles, worked in publicity for brands and celebrities. In her free time, Erika enjoys spending time with her family and friends, playing pickleball, and traveling.
PAST HONOREES

Visionary Award Recipients
Lauren B. Leichtman and Arthur E. Levine (2019)
Brian Lee (2018)
Edie Baskin Bronson and Skip Bronson (2018)
Michael V. Lewis (2016)
Roma Downey and Mark Burnett (2015)
Steve Tisch (2013)
Elon Musk (2012)
Sidney Kimmel (2011)
Josh and Beth Friedman (2010)
Tony Pritzker (2009)
Peter Morton (2007)
Thomas Barrack (2005)

ICON Award Recipients
Elizabeth Gabler (2019)
Rob Lowe (2018)
William Friedkin (2013)
Burt Bacharach (2010)

Luminary Award Recipients
Frank Gehry (2019)
Felice (Phil) L. Loverso, PhD (2018)
Ted Gagliano (2012)

Courage Award Recipients
Donald P. Bellisario (2016)
Cameron Burnett (2015)
Susan and Jonathan Dolgen (2014)
Rabbi David Wolpe (2013)
Kate Berg (2012)
Doriana Sanchez (2011)
Joan Hyler (2009)

Rodney Respect Award Recipients
Jon Lovitz (2016)
Brad Garrett (2015)
Kelsey Grammer (2014)
Chuck Lorre (2013)
Chelsea Handler (2012)
Bob Saget (2011)

Louie Anderson (2010)
Jim Carrey (2009)
Tim Allen (2007)
Jay Leno (2005)

Visionary Leadership Award Recipients
Elizabeth Goldhirsh-Yellin (2014)

Medical Visionary Award Recipients
Ronald W. Busuttil, MD, PhD (2019)
John C. Mazziotta, MD, PhD (2018)
Linda M. Liau, MD, PhD, MBA (2016)
Melvin Cheatham, MD (2015)
Patrick Soon-Shiong, MD (2014)
Richard Merkin, MD (2013)
Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, MD (2012)
Louis Ignarro, PhD (2011)
Gerald Levey, MD (2010)
David Feinberg, MD, MBA (2009)
Michael Phelps, PhD (2007)
Donald Becker, MD (2005)
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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MARQUEE SPONSOR  $500,000  ($490,254 is tax deductible)
- Five premium VIP tables of ten (50 guests total)
- Diamond slide in digital tribute
- Marquee Sponsor designation on printed materials, press releases, and event video screens
- Private hosted dinner with medical leadership of the Department of Neurosurgery
- Photo opportunity with honorees and celebrity guests
- Special, on-stage recognition during the event
- Sponsor fifteen dedicated UCLA doctors, nurses, or medical care providers to attend the event

TITLE SPONSOR  $250,000  ($244,152.40 is tax deductible)
- Three premier VIP tables of ten (30 guests total)
- Emerald slide in digital tribute
- Title Sponsor designation on printed materials, press releases, and event video screens
- Photo opportunity with honorees and celebrity guests
- Special, on-stage recognition during the event
- Sponsor ten dedicated UCLA doctors, nurses, or medical care providers to attend the event
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

VISIONARY SPONSOR  $100,000  ($96,101.60 is tax deductible)
• Two VIP tables of ten (20 guests total)
• Ruby slide in digital tribute
• Visionary Sponsor designation on printed materials, press releases, and event video screens
• Photo opportunity with honorees and celebrity guests
• Special, on-stage recognition during event
• Sponsor eight dedicated UCLA doctors, nurses, or medical care providers to attend the event

TRAILBLAZER SPONSOR  $50,000  ($48,050.80 is tax deductible)
• One premier table of ten
• Platinum slide in digital tribute
• Trailblazer Sponsor designation on printed materials and event video screens
• Photo opportunity with honorees and celebrity guests
• Special recognition from stage
• Sponsor four dedicated UCLA doctors, nurses, or medical care providers to attend the event
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LUMINARY SPONSOR  $25,000  ($23,050.80 is tax deductible)
• One premium table of ten
• Gold slide in digital tribute
• Luminary Sponsor designation on printed materials and event video screens
• Special recognition from stage
• Sponsor two dedicated UCLA doctors, nurses, or medical care providers to attend the event

INNOVATOR SPONSOR  $10,000  ($8,050.80 is tax deductible)
• One preferred table of ten
• Silver slide in digital tribute

CONTACT
Contact Chantelle Eastman for more information on custom opportunities.
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(310) 562-9566

Donor advised funds (e.g., Fidelity gift fund) and corporate matching platforms (e.g., Benevity, OneCause, etc.) do not permit donors to receive benefits in exchange for gifts they’ve made. If you wish to receive the benefits from this event, please pay with a source of funds other than a donor advised fund or corporate matching platform.
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