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News @ Rhode Island Hospital

Rhode Island Hospital Receives \$15 million Gift to Create Neurosciences Institute

Rhode Island Hospital has announced a \$15 million gift from the Frederick Henry Prince 1932 Trust to develop and support a neurosciences institute. Conferred by Elizabeth J.M. Prince of Newport, and her children Diana Oehrli, Guillaume de Ramel and Regis de Ramel, the gift will establish the Frederick Henry Prince Memorial Fund at Rhode Island Hospital, and will create The Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute. This is the largest gift in Rhode Island Hospital history.



"This extremely generous gift will allow Rhode Island Hospital to launch an institute that will combine clinical and research efforts in neurosurgery, neurology and psychiatry. Rhode Island Hospital is uniquely positioned to do so, as it is the only hospital in the state with all three areas of expertise," said Timothy J. Babineau, MD, president and chief executive officer of Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. "This incredible opportunity will benefit all of Rhode Island. The new institute will be a catalyst for the neurosciences and for economic development in our knowledge-based economy."

The Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute will be located on the Rhode Island Hospital campus. It will bridge the departments of neurosurgery, neurology and psychiatry at both Rhode Island Hospital and [The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University](#), allowing for more comprehensive collaboration among these closely-linked disciplines. The neurosciences institute also will work closely with the [Brown Institute for Brain Science](#), under the direction of John Donoghue, PhD.

Norman Prince, the son of Frederick Henry Prince, was a founding member of the LaFayette Escadrille, a squadron of American volunteers fighting for France during World War I. The squadron was created in 1916, a year before the United States entered the war. In October 1916, Norman Prince's plane crashed while landing at nightfall. He suffered multiple injuries, including brain trauma. He died three days later and is buried at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

"My children and I believe that were he alive today, my great-grandfather would have been as excited as we are to direct this gift from his trust. As a philanthropist and successful entrepreneur, he would have recognized the enormous potential that this institute can foster, not only in discovering new ways to treat people but also in developing this state's economy.

He and his wife, Abigail Norman Prince, would have been deeply touched that the institute will bear their youngest son's name, Norman Prince," said Elizabeth "Lisette" Prince. "Most of us have known someone with a neurological impairment—it may be from an accident such as my great-uncle Norman Prince's brain injury, or a loved one who suffers from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, epilepsy or other illnesses. This gift will help Rhode

Island Hospital researchers and clinicians conduct the groundbreaking research necessary to better treat the millions of people who suffer from these illnesses every day.”

“Studying the human brain is the last frontier of academic medicine, and this gift will enable Rhode Island Hospital to become one of the nation’s leaders in neurosciences,” said G. Rees Cosgrove, MD, FRCSC, chief of neurosurgery at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital and chair of neurosurgery at the Alpert Medical School. “Thanks to this wonderful gift, Rhode Island Hospital’s new neurosciences institute will be focused on conducting research to then be translated into the most advanced care for patients with diseases that affect the human nervous system.”

The gift will launch the developmental phase of The Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute. A search for a director will start immediately.

Frederick H. Prince (1859–1953) was a Boston financier. As an early investor in railroads, he owned two railroads outright, but jokingly said he controlled 46 (his were junctions to the others). He also owned the legendary Union Stock Yard & Transit Co. in Chicago and Amour & Co.; was widely credited for having forecasted the 1929 crash; and developed Chicago’s Central Manufacturing District, the first planned urban industrial real estate park in the country. A friend of Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr., F. H. Prince helped finance Kennedy’s acquisition of the Robertson-Cole/Film Book Offices, which would evolve to RKO Pictures. Owners of the Marble House, F. H. Prince and his wife Abigail (1860–1949) were summer residents of Newport, where she was born.

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