

## New members of the International Board of Trustees

### Marsha Deakter, Miami, FL



Marsha is a licensed mental health therapist who works with her clients to develop effective cognitive and emotional skills while also focusing on symptoms of depression, anxiety, trauma and PTSD. She graduated from Barry College and has been in practice for over 40 years.

Marsha's relationship with ICRF began in 2015 when she attended an event in North Miami where Andrew Faas spoke about his health breakthrough with *Gleevec*®, a drug that resulted from research undertaken by ICRF scientists.

Subsequently, Marsha joined a local chapter of ICRF in Miami and was a participant on the ICRF 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary mission to Israel where she met with many ICRF-funded scientists.

In 2017, Marsha attended the Scientific Review Panel meetings in New York. In keeping with her dedication to ICRF, Marsha has sponsored and arranged fundraising events in the Miami area and looks forward to energizing ICRF's presence in Florida.

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### Richard Edelheit, Chicago, IL



Prior to his retirement in 2019, Rick spent in excess of 40 years in public accounting, of which the last 17 years was as a partner at RSM US LLP, an international accounting firm, where he acted as the National leader of the firm's real estate practice.

Rick is a past member of the ICRF International Board of Trustees, has been an active member of ICRF'S Chicago chapter for many years, and has also been active in several other non-profit organizations during his career, including Hillel of Illinois, and JUF of Metropolitan Chicago, among others.

Rick was born and raised in Chicago and currently resides with his wife, Roberta (of over 45 years), in Highland Park, IL. Roberta and Rick have three married children, two living in Highland Park and one in California. Retirement has allowed Rick to spend more time golfing, snow skiing and spending time with his grandchildren.

**Lesley Heller**, Rye, NY



Lesley Heller is a mother of two children (ages 27 and 24). She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, worked on Wall Street and in commercial banking, and five years later, received her M.A. in Arts Administration from Columbia University.

Her first job in the arts was as a Director's assistant at Pace Gallery in NYC. A year and a half later, upon realizing that she wanted to create her own arts space, Lesley left Pace to establish The Work Space, located in the law offices of Dolgenos Newman & Cronin in Manhattan's bustling SoHo district. She was the Director and Curator there for 10 years before opening her own commercial gallery on the Upper East Side in 2006. The gallery moved to the Lower East Side in January 2010.

Lesley Heller Gallery highlighted the work of emerging and mid-career artists through a program of concurrent solo and curated exhibitions in separate spaces within the gallery. The gallery closed permanently in April 2020.

Lesley Heller is also an independent curator, advisor and creative coach.

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**Beth Kaplan**, New York, NY



Beth Kaplan is a financial services executive with experience in global asset management. Over her 23-year career, she has developed data expertise in separately-managed accounts and private and public funds. She is an Executive Director on the Data and Analytics team for Morgan Stanley Investment Management. Beth joined the firm in 2011, after 8 years at Legg Mason, Inc. (formerly Citigroup Asset Management) where she managed the development of the centralized global mutual fund database, led the rebranding of Citigroup Asset Management retail products to Legg Mason and supported numerous Sales and Marketing reengineering efforts. Prior to working at Legg Mason, Beth worked for J.P. Morgan Private Bank on Morgan OnLine and for Morgan Guarantee Trust Company in Finance coordinating expense reporting and forecasting.

Beth earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York at Albany with a major in Finance and Management Information Systems.

Beth is an active participant in philanthropic activities. She is a member of the Morgan Stanley Investment Management's Philanthropic Committee leading charitable events throughout the year. She is an active volunteer for Save a Child's Heart (SACH), an Israeli-based charity and world leader in providing life-saving cardiac surgery for children from developing countries, regardless of race, nationality or socio-economic status. SACH is also training doctors from these developing countries. She works closely with SACH in NY to come up with ways to raise awareness and funds. Additional charities that she participates with are Finding a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures (FACES) and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She is also a big supporter of Mission & Movement, a charity started by a friend of hers, that focuses on education, community development and vocational training in small villages in Africa.

### **Nancy Maizels**, Seattle, WA



Nancy Maizels is a molecular geneticist whose research has focused on how genomic instability drives tumor development. She became entranced by the genome as an undergraduate at the University of California at Berkeley, and she pursued this fascination as a graduate student at Harvard, where she was lucky to work with Wally Gilbert in the exciting earliest days of DNA sequencing. After receiving her PhD she remained at Harvard for three more years as a Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows, and she subsequently continued to explore her interests in genomic structure, function and evolution as a faculty member at Yale, in the Departments of Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry and Genetics; and since 2000, in the Departments of Immunology and Biochemistry at the University of Washington in Seattle, her home town.

This is a golden age of discovery for biomedical research, and Nancy's interests in genomic structure and function have put her in the front row – and occasionally on stage – during these exciting times. She has had the honor of organizing international meetings and editing books and journals that promote cancer research, and she has trained more than 50 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who have gone on to their own independent careers.

Nancy first became involved with ICRF in 2007, as a member of the ICRF Scientific Review Panel. She previously had the opportunity to review lots of papers and lots of grant applications, from the US and other countries, but among the small pile of ICRF applications she was assigned to review, there were several that went far beyond anything she had seen before in the creativity and common sense applied to solving an important problem with relatively frugal budgets. She returned as a reviewer, and was honored when ICRF invited her to chair the International Scientific Council (ISC). In that capacity, she will work to help ICRF to continue to identify and fund the very best of Israeli cancer research, and to find new ways to share the excitement of that research with the dedicated community that supports ICRF.

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### **Michelle Makori**, New York, NY



Michelle Makori is an internationally-acclaimed television journalist, news anchor, reporter and producer, and has covered the biggest global economic, financial and geopolitical events of the past two decades. She most recently served as a lead anchor and editor-in-chief at i24News broadcasting across the USA and around the globe and was instrumental in setting up i24's American operations.

Michelle joined i24News from CGTN (China Global Television Network) where she was a key member of the team that launched the U.S.-based global English channel. Michelle was the lead anchor/producer of "Global Business America," CGTN's flagship global economic and business news show.

Prior to joining CGTN, Michelle was an anchor and reporter for Bloomberg TV for five years covering both American and Asian markets. She was also a reporter with CNN Money based at the NASDAQ. Before moving to New York in 2005, Michelle was one of the main anchors and producers for SABC Africa Television, based in Johannesburg. Born in Israel, raised in South Africa and now a proud American citizen, Michelle speaks five languages.

Michelle holds a Post Graduate Honors Degree in Media Studies and Journalism (with distinction), and a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Law and Psychology, both from South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand. She graduated top of her class from Damelin Business School and also obtained her FINRA General Securities Representative license.

She has a broad range of philanthropic interests and served as the emcee at the 2019 Friends of the IDF gala, which raised a record \$37 million to support the well-being of Israel Defense Force soldiers.

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### **Rhonda Mims**, New York, NY



Rhonda Mims is Regional Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Centene Corporation. Previously, she was executive vice president and chief public affairs officer at WellCare Health Plans until its January 2020 acquisition by Centene. At WellCare, Rhonda was responsible for the company's corporate communications, brand marketing, government affairs/public policy, corporate social responsibility, diversity, inclusion, and social determinants of health initiatives. She also served as president of the WellCare Community Foundation.

Before joining WellCare, Rhonda was director of corporate social responsibility at Paul Hastings, LLP, where she oversaw the firm's diversity and inclusion strategy; charitable giving; pro bono and volunteer efforts; and environmental sustainability.

Prior to that, she served as senior vice president of corporate responsibility and chief diversity officer for ING Americas and president of the ING U.S./ Voya Foundation. Rhonda holds a juris doctor degree and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of South Carolina.

Her extensive legal experience includes roles with the U.S. Department of Justice, the National District Attorney Association's American Prosecutor's Research Institute, and the South Carolina Office of Attorney General. Rhonda serves as the Chair of the Thirty Percent Coalition and is a past chair of The Executive Leadership Council.

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### **Charles "Chip" Serlin**, Chicago, IL



Chip Serlin was born and raised in Niles, IL, and attended the University of Illinois where he received his BS in Accountancy, graduating with Honors and later embarking on a career as a Certified Public Accountant. For over eighteen years, Chip worked in consumer auto sales, auto finance and auto insurance. He is the co-owner of Auto Warehouse and Seguro Facil and is the owner of Serlin Capital. He is also the former co-owner of Car Outlet and Todo Seguro.

He worked as a CPA for Altshuler Melvoin and Glasser from 1995-2002 and for Coopers and Lybrand from 1990-1994.

Since 2018, Chip has been a board member of the Chicago chapter of ICRF and, in September of this year, he was elected as Chairman of the Chicago Board. Chip has chosen to volunteer with ICRF because, lacking scientific or medical skills, he realized he could play an important role by raising money to support those who can make a difference. Chip is married and has three children and two stepchildren.