

## “JUST” GIFTS



Ellie Starr

One of the preoccupying challenges in ensuring the public's health is the growing divide between rich and poor. This problem is portrayed vividly in our cover story about the devastating consequences on mind and body of the Great Recession of 2007–2009—adverse effects that are worsened by income inequality.

Unfortunately, at the very moment when public health research is most needed to tackle these challenges, there is less government funding for such research. It's no coincidence that there's also a shrinking pool of young women and men who can afford to enter the field of public health, because the profession is comparatively less remunerative.

How can we close these gaps? One of the best ways is through enlightened philanthropy. That's why I am so inspired by the many contributors who have strengthened our research, teaching, and learning at Harvard School of Public Health. Through gifts large and small, our contributors not only fund research but also make it possible for students who are passionate about making things better around the world to study with our School's preeminent faculty.

Philanthropy is the tool that can balance the scales of justice—so that every human being can enjoy a healthy life, with all its possibilities. Thank you so much for your generosity.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellie Starr".

Ellie Starr,  
Vice Dean for External Relations

## Innovation and Future

A new \$5 million, five-year gift to HSPH from Matthew and Monika McLennan will fund promising initiatives or research that is novel or experimental and not yet able to win traditional grant funding. The goal, says Matthew McLennan, is to “really move the dial” in terms of health impact, and to inspire others to give similar gifts.

The new gift establishes the McLennan Family Fund for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which will expand discretionary resources for HSPH Dean Julio Frenk and future deans. Half of the gift will go to the Dean's Fund for Innovation, where it will enable deans to allot funds quickly for fast-moving opportunities or for promising research that requires seed or bridge funding. The other half will help launch a new Dean's Challenge Grant Program to support faculty working on innovative solutions to global health challenges.

“Monika and I think this is a powerful form of funding, particularly in a world where NIH [National Institutes of Health] funding, and funding as a whole, is hard to get,” says Matthew McLennan, who heads the Global Value team at First Eagle Investment Management. Adds Monika McLennan, “We also hope to inspire others to contribute to the efforts of the School.”

“This generous gift from Matthew and Monika McLennan represents an extremely important form of support because of its unrestricted nature,” says Dean Frenk. “The gift will allow me, and future deans of the School, to move nimbly in providing funds for promising new lines of research or ideas that might simply be too new or too unproven to win grants from federal agencies or private organizations, but that could have a huge impact on improving the health of people around the globe.”

Matthew McLennan cites the fight against malaria as a good example of why he and his wife chose to give unrestricted funding to HSPH.

“Fighting malaria isn't about just providing a pill,” he says. “It's about a whole system of figuring out how