



# Paying it Forward

*Making a Sound Social Investment*



**Setting a Positive Example**

Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo (President, UTHealth); Dr. Roberta Ness (Dean, School of Public Health); Dr. Faiyaz Bhojani (Shell Oil Company, Global Health Lead, Manufacturing & Chemicals and Regional Health Manager; and Dr. Frazier Wilson (Vice President, Shell Oil Company Foundation).

Marcus Key, M.D. already had a distinguished record of service when he joined the faculty of the School of Public Health at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) in 1977. He was founding Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and had served as Assistant Surgeon General in 1971. He had laid the foundation for how professional education and research in occupational health and safety are regarded in the United States today. His objective at UTHealth was to build the Occupational Health program.

Dr. Key's commitment to health and safety was not limited to his academic role. He was also a stellar public servant in Texas, assuming the responsibilities of City of Houston Health Department Interim Director and serving as founding Executive Director of the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center. In addition to being a gifted leader and administrator, Dr. Key was also a mentor to many students in fields ranging from industrial hygiene and nursing to occupational medicine.

As a world energy capital, Houston is home to many industries in the spotlight for the same workplace and environmental issues in which Dr. Key is an expert. Shell Oil shares Dr. Key's commitment to health and safety. Shell and UTHealth also "share" Faiyaz A. Bhojani, MD, FACP, one of Dr. Key's former students and now Shell's Global Health Lead, Manufacturing & Chemicals and Regional

Health Manager. Dr. Bhojani, who also holds a doctorate in public health from UTHealth, says that Dr. Key "was my mentor in all ways, even after I got my degree."

In 2013, to honor Dr. Key's remarkable legacy, Shell Oil Company partnered with The University of Texas School of Public Health to endow the *Marcus M. Key, M.D. - Shell Occupational & Environmental Health Endowed Chair* to provide funding to recruit and retain senior faculty in the School's Occupational Medicine Program of the Division of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Health. Dr. Bhojani led the effort, which meant making the business case to Shell. "The SPH program proved to align with Shell's vision. Our operating principle is "No harm to people, no harm to the environment," says Dr. Bhojani.



**Honoring Dr. Marcus Key**

A mentor to many students in fields ranging from industrial hygiene and nursing to occupational medicine.

Dr. Bhojani, who views his role as that of "catalyst," noted that it took time to complete the process, but that the investment made sense. He observes, "We like the UTHealth program. We recruit occupational health professionals from the UT School of Public Health, and we believe in being good neighbors, a good corporate citizen. This is a good social investment."

UTHealth is already envisioning its own returns on that investment. School of Public Health Dean Roberta Ness, MD, MPH, says, "This gift will have a great impact on the trajectory of our Occupational Health program." UTHealth Vice President for Development Kevin J. Foyle observes, "Volunteer leaders like Dr. Bhojani make an indelible mark on UTHealth as it continues to serve the community as Houston's health university, setting a positive example for paying it forward."

If you would like more information about how to start an endowment, please contact:

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