

Feature Story



Heart Health Month 2022

As we find ourselves adjusting to new health concerns and with advice changing daily, our steadfast hearts continue to keep our bodies active and adaptive so that we don't skip a beat. For American Heart Month this February, Stanford Medicine invites you to send a Valentine to your cardiovascular system by learning more about what makes it tick and how to best protect it.

From innovative new treatments for heart failure, to an in-house service for whole genome sequencing for patients with inherited cardiovascular disease, to diverse genetic research that predicts high cholesterol, to the responsible and equitable use of AI to improve surgeries, to lively cardio events, see how Stanford's cardiovascular experts are constantly setting the pace for optimal heart health.

[Explore the stories >](#)

Stanford Medicine in the News



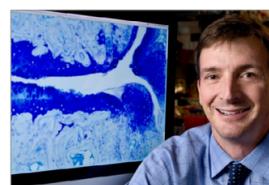
Antibodies in blood soon after COVID-19 onset may predict severity

A look at antibodies in patients soon after they were infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 showed key differences between those whose cases remained mild and those who later developed severe symptoms. [Learn more >](#)



Prior treatment with cancer drug likely renders COVID-19 vaccine ineffective, study finds

Rituximab, a drug widely used in patients with lymphoma, blunts or eliminates the antibody response to COVID-19 vaccines if it is administered before them, Stanford researchers say. [Learn more >](#)



Study identifies how Epstein-Barr virus triggers multiple sclerosis

A new study found that part of the Epstein-Barr virus mimics a protein made in the brain and spinal cord, leading the immune system to mistakenly attack the body's nerve cells. [Learn more >](#)



Discovery of hundreds of genes potentially associated with ALS may steer scientists toward treatments

Using machine learning, Stanford Medicine scientists and their colleagues have found hundreds of genes that could play a role in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). [Learn more >](#)



Deerfield, Stanford University create Porter Alliance for Innovative Medicines

Deerfield Management, a health-care investment firm, has committed up to \$130 million to support innovative translational research at Stanford. [Learn more >](#)



Stanford team finds benefits to online autism treatment

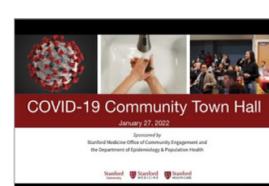
Creating online worlds tailored to kids' interests—part of a therapy called pivotal response treatment—allowed Stanford therapists to use telehealth to motivate children with autism to talk. [Learn more >](#)



A blood test to predict surgical complications?

Stanford researchers have led a national study showing that a blood-based test they developed can predict which patients are at higher risk of surgical complications, such as infection, and would therefore benefit the most from getting in shape for an upcoming surgery. [Learn more >](#)

Stanford Medicine Leaders and Faculty in the News



COVID-19 Community Town Hall

From the Office of Community Engagement, and the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, a new Town Hall meeting addresses long COVID—research, treatment, and recovery—and the existing new versions of the Omicron variant. [Watch the video >](#)

Taking Care of Yourself and Others



Staying active is important — especially for older adults

Randall Stafford, MD, PhD, discusses the importance—and benefits—of physical activity, particularly for aging adults. [Learn more >](#)



Research explores how scammers take advantage of COVID-19

Pandemic con artists have exploited loosened regulations and people's fears to scam insurers and patients out of billions of dollars. [Learn more >](#)

COVID-19: Taking Action—How You Can Help

We are grateful for the expressions of generosity and desire to help coming from across our community. There are various ways in which you can support our response to this ongoing crisis.

• Improve vaccination awareness

Stanford researchers are working to understand the diverse views regarding COVID-19 vaccination. We encourage you to help us by completing this one-time [COVID-19 Vaccine Views Survey](#).

• Give blood or plasma

The Stanford Blood Center urges those who are healthy, and who haven't been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, to make urgently needed blood donations. [Learn more >](#)

• Participate in COVID-19 research

Our Research Registry connects people like you with teams conducting research to make advances in health care. If you are eligible for a study, researchers may contact you to provide additional details on how to participate. [Learn more >](#)

To subscribe to this newsletter via email, please [click here](#).

If you would prefer not to receive any fundraising communications from Medical Center Development, please visit medicalgiving.stanford.edu/opt-out.html or leave a detailed message at 844.427.3491 to indicate that preference.