

# The Joseph E. Rechter Breakthrough Frontier Fund For Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Psychiatry

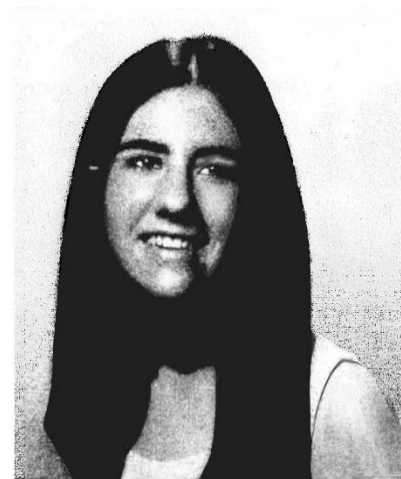
Washington University in St. Louis



## A bright light, gone too soon

Linda Rechter played varsity field hockey and soccer and was active in art and film. She served as a candy striper, volunteered at Grace Hill Settlement House, assisted with St. Louis's Head Start program, and worked as a volunteer at Kibbutz Deganya Aleph in Israel's Jordan Valley. Upon graduating from Whitfield School in St. Louis, she attended the University of Denver. She was funny, smart, sensitive and good-hearted. She had family and friends who loved her dearly.

In November 1977, at age 25, Linda died by suicide. Her family was devastated. Linda had been treated for depression even as a child, but the treatments she received were ineffective. Linda's parents didn't talk about her suicide. In the 1970s, the stigma of mental illness was too great. Through the years, her brother Joseph continued thinking about his sister, the contributions she could have made to the world, and the profound impact her absence had on his family.



*Linda Rechter*

## Bringing mental illness out of the darkness of stigma

Forty-five years after his sister's death, Joseph Rechter decided to honor Linda's memory by supporting the research being conducted by the Department of Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine. **The Rechter Fund will support innovative discoveries and interventions in child, adolescent and young adult mental illness.** Research grants will be awarded annually to projects determined to have high potential for becoming fundamental game changers in the care of this group of patients.

Rechter sees his endowment as a means of righting an imbalance that has continued for far too long. While mortality rates for illnesses like cancer and heart disease have improved dramatically over the years, the number of deaths by suicide have not improved. By funding research, Joseph Rechter hopes to reach a point where the loss of a promising life like Linda's never happens again. **The funding comes at a pivotal moment—the rates of depression and anxiety in young people have increased dramatically within the past several years.** Studies to investigate reasons for this, and possible solutions, are critically needed.

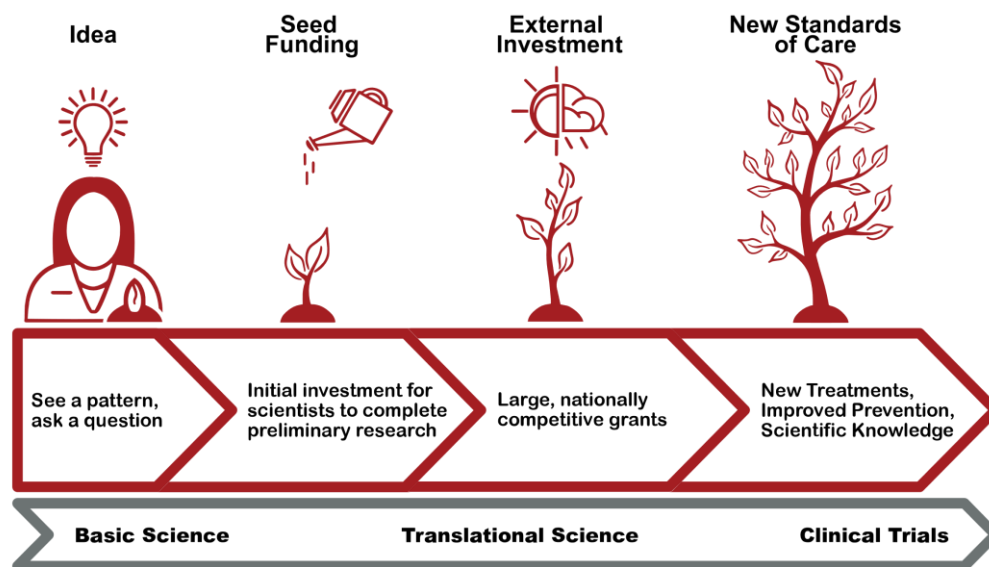
## Propelling bold ideas in an underfunded area of medicine

A major barrier to this effort is lack of funding. Statistics show that suicide kills more in this age group than cancer, but cancer research receives much more philanthropy—enough dollars to support the pursuit of novel treatment ideas. The only major source of funding for suicide and mental health is the National Institutes of Health, and it requires preliminary data showing promising results before considering a research proposal. **Producing that data requires seed funding that is largely unavailable to researchers. Because of this, private philanthropic support of novel ideas plays a vital role in accelerating scientific discovery.** Visionary philanthropists propel these bold ideas, paving the way for new standards of care.

## Cultivating seeds of innovation

The Rechter Fund will provide this critical seed funding, advancing psychiatric research in four key areas:

- Developing new drugs with different mechanisms of action than those now available.
- Advancing the concept of precision medicine—determining what drugs and other therapies are most effective in individual patients, rather than providing a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Investigating how to identify mental illness before it develops or in its earliest stages in order to guide patients to a more positive pathway.
- Addressing the immediate need of overcoming the barriers to patients receiving care, which include missed diagnoses and a scarcity of medical professionals to provide mental-health care.



Help launch the next big idea that could transform psychiatric care.  
Make a gift to the Joseph E. Rechter Breakthrough Frontier Fund.

Our practice is nationally recognized not only for our commitment to providing outstanding patient care but also for advancing discovery and treatment through research. Private philanthropy enables us to perform research from the lab bench to clinical trials—ultimately transforming patient care and preventing others from experiencing the tragic loss the Rechter family experienced.

On behalf of the many individuals who will benefit from your generosity, thank you.

Gifts can be directed to the Joseph E. Rechter Breakthrough Frontier Fund in the form of cash, securities, corporate matching gifts, real estate and personal property. Gifts of all kinds are tax deductible and will make an impact for generations to come through this endowed fund.

**Make a Gift Online:**

Visit [giving.wustl.edu/rechter](http://giving.wustl.edu/rechter) or use the QR code.



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