

# Award Recipient

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**Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong** is a physician, surgeon and scientist who has pioneered treatments for both diabetes and cancer, published over 100 scientific papers, and is a named inventor on more than 95 issued patents on groundbreaking advancements across myriad fields. He is also a generous, innovative and devoted philanthropist with an unsurpassed commitment to public service and a passionate interest in using technology to make the world a better place.

Dr. Soon-Shiong and his wife, Michele B. Chan, are among the nation's most generous philanthropists. Through the Chan Soon-Shiong Family Foundation, they have pledged \$1 billion to support the transformation of healthcare in the United States, have given \$135 million to the Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, and have provided \$100 million to facilitate the reopening of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital in South Los Angeles. They have also given \$4 million to the University of California's Global Health Institute, to support interdisciplinary education and research programs to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable people and communities throughout California and across the globe.

Dr. Soon-Shiong and his wife have signed The Giving Pledge, an initiative launched by Warren Buffett and Bill Gates, in which those who take the Pledge commit to giving the majority of their wealth to the philanthropic causes and charitable organizations of their choice either during their lifetimes or after their deaths. They explained their reason for signing The Giving Pledge in the following statement:

Our passion, our mission is to transform health and health care, in America and beyond. Our family foundation was established for that purpose.

Growing up in South Africa during the time of apartheid, we had direct experience of inequality, including great disparities in health and access to good care. After 30 years living in the United States, we see similar disparities in health care on our doorstep in Los Angeles, and across the nation. What was unconscionable to us in South Africa in the twentieth century is just as unconscionable in the United States in the twenty-first.

America has been a land of opportunity for us, as it has for so many immigrants. We are proud to be Americans and we want to see our country strong and healthy. We are blessed to have resources and expertise to contribute.

Our pledge is that, through our family foundation, we will work to erode and eliminate disparities in health care, and to help bring about a system of health care which aims first to keep people healthy, and secondly to ensure that everyone has access to the best quality health care when they need it.