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## Lab dedicated to infant safety

Hospital receives donation to focus on rapid identification of infections



Sidney, Phyllis and Andrew Rabinowitz (background) listen as Phyllis Rabinowitz's father, Henry Belsky, speaks at the laboratory dedication. (Sun photo by Chiaki Kawajiri / August 24, 2007)

By Kelly Brewington | Sun reporter  
August 25, 2007

After Andrew and Phyllis Rabinowitz's 9-day-old daughter, Rebecca, died of an undiagnosed viral infection last year, the couple hoped to prevent other parents from experiencing such grief.

Yesterday, officials at the University of Maryland Hospital for Children dedicated a laboratory to develop rapid testing for viral infections in infants, launched with a \$110,000 donation from the Rabinowitz family.

The couple made the gift through their R Baby Foundation, which they established shortly after Rebecca's death to promote research on viral infections and to raise money for treatment.

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Maryland School of Medicine, said the foundation's donation will also help educate people about the risks of infant infections.

"The R Baby Foundation's donation is an incredibly valuable gift," he said, "not only for Baltimore, but for the entire state."

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### 1918 influenza pandemic



In 1918, a virus spread across the planet — unstoppable, incurable. In Baltimore, the impact was shocking. And as World War I was coming to an end, a new battle was shaping up in homes, schools and neighborhoods. By the end of October the virus had claimed more than 3,000 Baltimoreans. By spring it had killed an estimated 50 million people — 650,000 of them Americans. Nearly a century later, the people who lived through it and the victims' families still recall their experiences with the flu.

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