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## Constance E. Lieber, Theodore R. Stanley, and the Enduring Impact of Philanthropy on Psychiatry Research

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Neuropsychiatric disorders constitute the single greatest source of the global burden of disease, but it seems that philanthropy and advocacy aimed at supporting research to alleviate the burden of these disorders often are overshadowed by corresponding efforts in many other areas of medicine. For example, the United States public donates five times more money to cancer than to mental health research (1), and for the United Kingdom public, the equivalent figure is a staggering 900 times more (2). In this context, it is particularly sobering that we recently lost two towering mental health advocates and philanthropists, Constance E. Lieber and Theodore R. Stanley (Figures 1 and 2). These two individuals made an enormous and enduring impact through the initiatives that they created and sustained, through their personal contributions, and through their ability to mobilize others. For the editors, editorial board members, and editorial committee members of *Biological Psychiatry* who constitute the authors of this commentary, the losses are personal. Each of us has received research support made possible through the actions of these unique individuals. In acknowledging our gratitude, we hope that our collective efforts to advance the understanding of mental illness and its treatment are a lasting testament to their impact.

Constance Lieber died on January 15, 2016. With her husband Stephen, Constance led the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD), now known as the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF), from 1989 through 2007. Through the Liebers' generosity and their vigorous advocacy, NARSAD/BBRF has had an enormous impact. Since 1987, BBRF has awarded more than \$346 million in the form of more than 5000 grants to more than 4000 scientists from more than 500 universities based in 34 countries. Critically, 80% of these grants have been small grants to young investigators that have given them resources that often played critical roles in launching careers like ours. The NARSAD Young Investigator Award is a distinction that recognizes scientific promise, and it remains a model funding mechanism for advancing scientific careers. After establishing and leading BBRF, Constance and Stephen created other initiatives, such as the Lieber Center for Schizophrenia Research and the Lieber Clinic for Comprehensive Care at Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute, and more recently, the Lieber Institute for Brain Development on the medical campus of Johns Hopkins University. Constance was very much at the center of psychiatry research advocacy. For us, she was "Connie," our friend and supporter. She knew us, appreciated the challenges of research, was excited by our findings, and worked to advance our field. The impact of her philanthropy lives on, but her absence is sorely felt.

Theodore R. Stanley, known as "Ted," died on January 3, 2016. A cofounder of the Danbury Mint, which became MBI, Inc., Ted Stanley amassed a fortune valued at more than \$1



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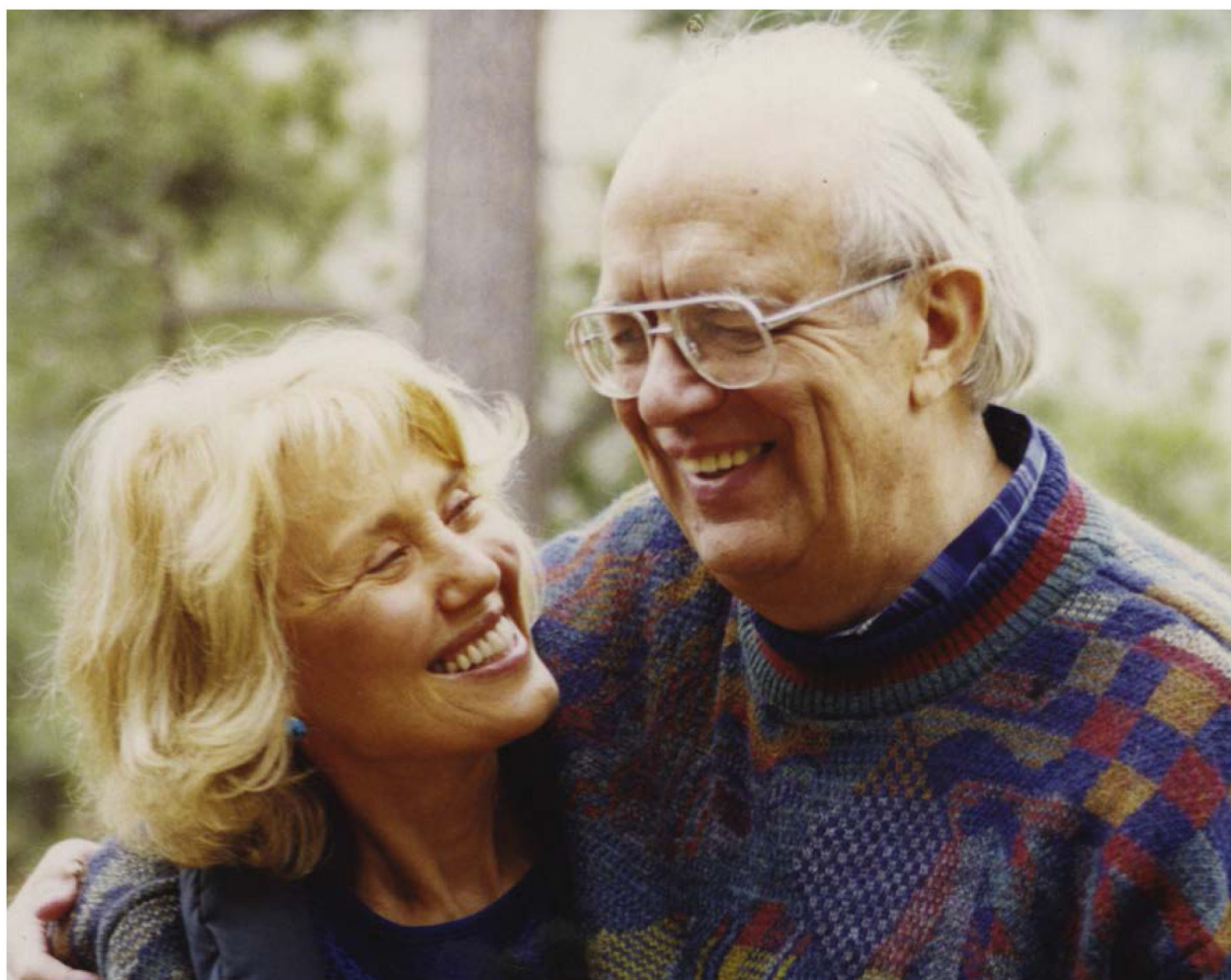
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**Figure 1.**  
Constance Lieber.



**Figure 2.**  
Ted and Vada Stanley.