$3 Million McCormick Foundation Gift
Promoting Civic Health

David D. Hiller, president and CEO, the McCormick Foundation, and Mark Cichon, DO, director, Emergency Medical Services, touring Loyola’s Emergency Department.
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As our most generous and dedicated friends, I am pleased to share with you wonderful news from this past fiscal year. Together, we:

- Completed the LUHS portion of the joint university/health system campaign, exceeding all goals and expectations and providing everyone we serve with new resources, facilities and programs, allowing the health system to create a specialized pediatric oncology treatment center and begin much needed Emergency Department renovations.
- Surpassed our fundraising goal for the third consecutive year.
- Led all Loyola University Chicago schools in giving participation because of the generosity of Stritch School of Medicine alumni and the graduates of both the undergraduate nursing and graduate nursing programs of the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing. The American Association of Medical Schools also reported this year that in 2009 Stritch alumni were ranked number one nationally in alumni giving among all medical colleges.

Progress on several projects moved forward last year thanks to estate gifts that alumni and friends left to the health system and medical and nursing schools. A planned gift can enable you to support patient care, research and education while reducing your income, capital gains or estate tax burden, often with a larger contribution than you may have thought possible. If you would like to talk about planned gift options, please call us at (708) 216-3201.

In the last issue of Vision, we featured a story on the $2 million Coleman Foundation challenge grant to support redesign and renovation of the hospital’s Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Thanks to an outpouring of support from grateful families, the challenge was met.

In this current fiscal year, we are focused on health system growth and expansion — particularly to bringing Loyola-quality care to the southwest suburbs. In spring 2011, the Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge will open, bringing together Loyola’s renowned neurosciences and musculoskeletal care specialists and featuring an immediate-care clinic; state-of-the-art rehabilitation facilities; comprehensive imaging services; on-site laboratories and a day rehabilitation center serving stroke and brain injury patients.

We continue our commitment to building upon the research and innovation that occurs when physicians, scientists and medical and nursing students collaborate at an academic teaching hospital by raising funds for projects that enhance our facilities and for medical and nursing scholarships to help attract and retain the brightest students.

I hope you are as excited as I am about the future of Loyola University Health System. There are several opportunities this year to hear more about our plans and celebrate our successes; they are listed on the back cover. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events! ~

Karen Lewis Alexander, senior vice president, Development & External Affairs
A $3 million gift from Chicago’s venerable McCormick Foundation will help fund a new program within Loyola University Hospital’s Emergency Medical Services Department — the McCormick Foundation Care-Accelerated Program.

Each year, physicians and nurses in Loyola’s Emergency Department treat more than 53,000 patients. The number of U.S. citizens ages 65 and older is projected to nearly double by 2030, with a concomitant rise in patients suffering from conditions such as coronary heart disease, acute infections (sepsis), stroke and other vascular and neurological emergencies that require rapid response. The McCormick Foundation gift will help ensure Loyola can meet that need.

Plans to renovate the existing space to create the Care-Accelerated Program area have been created by a design team specializing in emergency medical-care delivery, based on industry best practices and significant staff input. “We’re an academic medical center, committed to our role in creating leading-edge initiatives to optimize patient care. This gift is critical in helping us do that,” said Mark E. Cichon, DO, FACEP/FACOEP, director, Emergency Medical Services and assistant professor, Department of Surgery, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

Based on the principles of Loyola’s successful 24/7 Heart Attack Rapid-Response Team (HAART) initiative, the Care-Accelerated Program will deploy leading-edge imaging equipment, communication access, care protocols, evolving technologies,
pharmaceutical support and expert personnel to streamline care for patients with symptoms requiring rapid diagnosis and treatment. Patients will be cared for within a space uniquely designed to expedite treatment, improve survival rates and maximize comfort and safety.

Among the infrastructure changes: redesign of the floor plan to improve patient flow and visitor comfort; addition of rooms for family/medical staff consultation to facilitate communication; new wiring to allow digital treatment documentation at every point of care; installation of sliding doors separating patient treatment areas to increase patient privacy and positively affect air flow issues, improving safety; and the application of ergonomic design principles to help reduce staff strain and fatigue.

“Our mission is to help improve the civic health of Chicagoland, including the physical health of people in our communities,” said David D. Hiller, president and CEO of the McCormick Foundation. “The path-breaking work in the new accelerated care program will help improve the speed and accuracy of treatment for the region’s most critically ill and injured.”

The McCormick Foundation, established by Col. Robert R. McCormick, long-time Chicago Tribune editor and publisher, made the $3 million gift through its Special Initiatives program. The program supports partnerships with civic, cultural, educational, health and social-service institutions that share its commitment to engaging with others in service to community. Together with a $500,000 gift from Jim and Sally Dowdle that helped establish the HAART initiative and a $2.5 million gift from the John L. Keeley Jr. family to fund Emergency Medical Services Department renovations, this gift will help create the best experience possible for patients and their families at a stressful time.

For more information about how to support Loyola University Health System or Emergency Medical Services, contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or call (708) 216-3201.
William Divane Jr.

Board Member Supports Loyola in Many Ways

William Divane Jr. and Loyola University Health System (LUHS) are associated in many ways. He is a volunteer, grateful patient, member of the LUHS board of directors and donor. And in each of these associations, he said, “I’ve seen firsthand the dedication of the people here, and it is entirely impressive.”

Mr. Divane has made two pledges recently supporting key LUHS initiatives. The first, $50,000 in support of nursing education, will help expand the nursing school’s presence on the Maywood campus. The second is a $200,000 gift in support of the Heart Attack Rapid Response Team (HARRT) program. This initiative, the only one of its kind in Illinois, supports an interventional cardiologist on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the program’s first year, Loyola has far exceeded the national guidelines for patients to receive balloon angioplasties within 90 minutes of a heart attack, with a median door-to-balloon time of just 41 minutes. Mr. Divane’s interest in these particular projects is twofold, stemming broadly from his overall appreciation for innovation and novel approaches in addressing health-care issues and specifically from some of his own health issues.

Although he describes himself as “semi-retired,” Mr. Divane is still actively involved in Divane Bros. Electric Co., a commercial and industrial lighting contractor founded by his father and uncles in 1920. Following his father’s untimely death, Mr. Divane became president of the company “at the ripe old age of 25.” Fortunately, he notes,

“Patients can feel vulnerable and alone; bringing Christ to the bedside is huge for them and part of the healing process.”

John Garrity, lay chaplain, Loyola
he had worked in the business from the time he was 14 years old and majored in business at Georgetown University. Competition from the old electrical contracting companies was stiff, he recalls, and, with so little experience, “It made you shake in your boots a little.” But he brought in good key people and together they worked hard, put in lots of long hours, and persevered, helping to make the company the successful business it is today.

Obviously no stranger to confronting challenges, Mr. Divane notes that health care in general is a challenging mission, and new federal health-care legislation seems to raise as many questions as it answers. But he is optimistic that the health system is well-positioned to meet the future. From his perspective as a member of the LUHS board, where he plays a key role as chairman of the development committee, he has been inspired to see how the affiliation between Loyola and Gottlieb Memorial Hospital has brought the unique organizational strengths of each institution to serving patients.

And he sees those patients regularly in his role as a Eucharistic minister. “It is a great blessing for us to have Bill on the front lines working shoulder to shoulder with techs and nurses,” said John Garrity, a lay chaplain who runs the hospital’s Eucharistic Ministry Program. “Patients can feel vulnerable and alone; bringing Christ to the bedside is huge for them and part of the healing process.”

“Bill has been a patient, and he knows what it’s like” adds Marie Coglianese, MPS, director and chaplain, Pastoral Care & Education. “Reflection on one’s experience that produces action — it’s very Ignatian and who we are as an organization.”

When he can take time away from his business and volunteer responsibilities, Mr. Divane and his wife, Jean, love to spend time with their grandchildren. So they invite them to their farm in Wisconsin (especially at planting and harvest time) and travel with — or, in the case of their two Parisian grandsons, to them — whenever possible.

At his 50th grammar school reunion at St. Catherine of Siena School (Oak Park, IL) one of his classmates noted that Tom Brokaw’s book about their parent’s experience of America was called The Greatest Generation. Reflecting on the safe, secure, prosperous lives they’d led as a result, the man added that the book about their own lives would need to be titled ‘The Luckiest Generation.’ Mr. Divane heartily agrees.

For more information about supporting nursing education or patient-care initiatives at Loyola, please write us at development@lumc.edu or call (708) 216-3201.
For Larry Speh, the connection between punch cards and philanthropy is a pretty natural one, even if few people younger than 40 know what a punch card is.

Before his retirement, he was president and CEO of May and Speh, and now serves on the board of the Albert J. and Claire R. Speh Family Foundation, the private grant-making foundation started by his parents that recently made two gifts to Loyola.

In 1947, after a stint in the army, Mr. Speh’s father co-founded (with Roland May) a Chicago-based tabulating company in the back of his brother’s machine shop on Chicago’s Lake Street and christened it May and Speh, Inc. The company, a pioneer in data processing based on punch cards, grew to be a national leader in the corporate outsourcing business and direct marketing industry and was the first in Chicago to install a computer for business purposes.

Until it was sold to Acxiom in 1997, May and Speh was the family business — Mr. Speh and his siblings, he said, “grew up with the company. We talked, lived and ate May & Speh. We all worked there, doing the lousy jobs, like making deliveries in a broken down car with no air conditioning.”

But, he notes, when he came back into the company after running his own for awhile, 40 years of his father’s hard work had produced an enviable platform for growth: a company so fair and decent that it wasn’t uncommon to retain employees for 10, 15, even 20 years and so honest that, in 50 years of business, the company was never sued and never sued anyone. “My dad was very proud of that,” said Mr. Speh. “If we screwed up we fixed it and we didn’t bill for it.”

Mr. Speh attributes this strong adherence to ethical business practices to his parent’s firm commitment to their Catholic faith, which also heavily influenced the pervasive family attitude that, in all things, there was a right thing to do and you did it. “When my dad first started making some money,” Mr. Speh said, “He gave a $50,000 gift to our church.” Later, the Spehs expanded their philanthropic giving to Loyola University Chicago and to Loyola University Health System, where they endowed the Albert J. Speh, Jr., and Claire R. Speh Chair in Urology. And, recently, an unrestricted $400,000 gift from Claire Speh’s estate to the health system has been designated to benefit the hospital’s new Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Mr. Speh has continued the family tradition of giving to Loyola, most recently working with the family foundation and Loyola to establish The Speh Family Student Scholarship to assist students at Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing through a $75,000 gift. “The generosity and vision the Speh family have shown, personally and through their foundation, are really inspiring to me because these gifts treat the human spirit in so many ways, which is what we’re all about,” said Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, president and CEO of the health system. Since his retirement, Mr. Speh has invested in things he finds important—spending time with his children and grandchildren, training his three dogs, feeding the frustrated architect in himself by completing a number of personal building/renovation projects. He also has read extensively in sociology and anthropology to help him assess potential Speh Foundation projects, which focus on supporting programs aimed at Chicago-area young people. And he looks forward to doing some extensive traveling, something he never had much time for in the 24/7 corporate world he inhabited for so many years.

As a Loyola patient himself, Mr. Speh considers the Jesuit-based organization and its personnel “amazing.”

“My family has always had a great deal of respect for, and closeness to, the Jesuits.”

– Larry Speh

For more information on supporting the health system or the school of nursing, contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.
Katheryn “Kay” Stamm’s (BS ’32, MSW ’38) shared a lifelong devotion to Loyola with her husband Thomas J. Stamm (MD ’46, BA ’26). Mrs. Stamm, a nurse and medical social worker, and Dr. Stamm, an eye surgeon and associate professor of ophthalmology at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) spent much of their lives helping the sick and serving those in need, both at the Medical Center and through charitable service trips to countries including Guatemala, Haiti, and Nigeria. Through her estate, Mrs. Stamm has left a $1 million gift to Stritch.

Mrs. Stamm, who died in 2009 at the age of 101, made a generous estate gift to Loyola, including support of Stritch and the Department of Ophthalmology. “We are enormously grateful to Mrs. Stamm for entrusting us with this gift,” said Richard L. Gamelli, MD, FACS, dean, Stritch. “Her generous support of both education and research will benefit both students and patients for years to come.”

According to her son, Mark Stamm, his mother loved to recount how she became a nursing instructor. “After she became a nurse, she applied for a position teaching nurses at Oak Park Hospital, but they turned her down because she lacked experience. A priest from Loyola came to her assistance, calling the hospital to say ‘How in the world do you expect a girl to get experience if you won’t give her any?’ They gave her the job.”

“In those days, he added, “it was unusual for someone like my mother, whose father died when she was two and who grew up poor, to be college educated. She was a career woman in the 1930s and 1940s before she met my dad in 1947.”

Mark Stamm says that his father had studied to become a Jesuit priest, but decided to become a physician instead. Dr. Stamm, who received the Stritch Medal in 1979, was a founding member of Stritch’s ophthalmology department. In 1962 he also helped co-found FOCUS, a non-sectarian charitable organization, to provide extremely poor people in countries abroad with vital medical and surgical ophthalmic services and support. The service group of ophthalmologists each traveled one month a year to provide eye services to the poor. Mrs. Stamm was at his side on these trips, assisting him in as many as ten surgeries a day. Today, FOCUS concentrates its services in Abak, Nigeria, recruiting volunteer physicians, collecting donated medical supplies and raising money to fund its work there.

“As I look back over my life the little I have had to contribute has been closely related to Loyola.” – Kay Stamm in a letter to Raymond Baumhart, SJ, former Loyola president

“Both my parents were generous with their time and money,” says Mr. Stamm. “They lived simply, wouldn’t spend a nickel on themselves, but gave generously to charity. My mom really stressed to me the importance of giving to charities...because she believed that if you can give, you should.”
The recent dedication and blessing of a new state-of-the-art cardiovascular unit at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park, IL has created 21 private patient rooms from former office space on Gottlieb’s sixth floor. The new unit provides advanced care features for heart patients recovering from coronary bypass operations, angioplasty and stent surgeries and those being treated for congestive heart failure and arrhythmia.

The renovation was made possible through a generous $4 million gift from the Gottlieb Memorial Foundation, created at the time of the Loyola affiliation in 2008. Jack Weinberg, chairman of the foundation, shared the ribbon-cutting scissors while dedicating the facility with Trisha Cassidy, president, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital and senior vice president of strategy, Loyola University Health System (LUHS), and Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, president and CEO, LUHS. Among those joining the festivities were members of the LUHS Board; the Gottlieb Foundation Board; physicians; nurses and local officials.

Mr. Weinberg noted in his remarks at the dedication that “What we’re doing here is ministering to our fellow man. This gift is a step in the process of continuing the excellence in health care that Gottlieb and Loyola have always striven for.” Mr. Weinberg’s grandfather, David Gottlieb, founded the community hospital with his wife, Dorothy, in 1959 with profits from his company, D. Gottlieb & Co. pinball manufacturers.

The extended Gottlieb family has been involved in the hospital’s welfare from its earliest days. In fact, according to Mr. Weinberg, the responsibility of looking out for the hospital’s good was engrained in family members from the very beginning. He attributes the strength of the commitment in large part to his grandparents — both were passionate about the hospital. His grandmother (who had wanted to be a nurse) was, he believes, the force behind the idea while his grandfather, the quintessential entrepreneur, went all the way with an idea once it was conceived. Mr. Weinberg’s mother, Marjorie, daughter of the founders, was committed to the hospital’s Auxiliary, worked in the gift shop and was a key figure in the construction of the cancer center which now bears her name. His father, who ran the family business for many years, was instrumental in securing land for the hospital to grow, creating a much larger campus than anyone had envisioned in the early days.

When LUHS and Gottlieb agreed to affiliate, one of the major goals was to position Gottlieb as a hospital offering the expertise available at an academic medical center while maintaining the convenience and caring environment of the community hospital. As part of the affiliation, Loyola physicians are practicing at Gottlieb and offer services including: orthopaedic joint-replacement surgeries; OB services; physical medicine and rehabilitation; plastic surgery; and cancer care. “This generous gift builds on the vision and true philanthropy of the Gottlieb family,” said Ms. Cassidy. “Mr. Weinberg, through his role within the Foundation, continues to provide a Gottlieb family legacy at this hospital, bringing the past and the future together.”

For more information on supporting Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, part of the Loyola University Health System, contact The Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.
Do you have some general advice for preventing injuries in children?

Well, it boils down to one concept: supervise, supervise, supervise. And insist on safety equipment — like helmets for wheeled activities, lifejackets on or around water. Injuries far surpass disease as the leading cause of death for children and adolescents (ages 1-19) and falls are number one for injuries needing medical attention. So although we worry about disease, if we pay attention, we can do a lot on a daily basis to keep kids healthy. By the way, when buying a helmet, look for one that is approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or meets Snell helmet-safety standards.

Falls are a typical injury, aren’t they?

Absolutely. Babies should not be allowed in mobile baby walkers. The potential for tumbling down the stairs is just too great. Did you know that mobile walkers have been banned in Canada? Also, to prevent falls, children in car seats should always be strapped in, even if they are on your living room floor. Falling off or pulling furniture over on themselves is also a big concern. So, again, supervise. Playground equipment shouldn’t be more than five feet from the ground and it’s best if the surface below is energy-absorbing, like sand or mulch, rather than grass. Bear in mind that home swing sets can be strangulation hazards if the swings are on ropes rather than chains.

What are your concerns about car seat safety?

My biggest concern is that 70 percent of them are incorrectly installed. Usually, there’s too much “give”— they should move only one inch from side to side and front to back. I know it can be a real challenge to get the seat tight enough because when I had my own checked, I hadn’t done it correctly. If you’re unsure you’ve installed it properly, you can go to www.seatcheck.org, and enter your ZIP code to locate a place nearby to get it checked. I find that grandparents can tend to think we’ve gone overboard on safety, but cars are the number one killer of children, both from riding in them and getting hit by them. Parents need to insist that grandma and grandpa use car seats for the grandkids and should make it convenient for them. No matter how short the trip, children need to be in a car seat installed in the back seat, with the harness level even with the shoulders and the straps secure and tight.

What should parents be thinking about in terms of safety during vacations?

It might seem obvious to many, but water safety is critical. Teaching children to swim is important (although for children under four it isn’t effective) but it can also give parents a false sense of security. Most drowning incidents happen when a child has been out of a parent’s sight for less than five minutes. I recommend “touch supervision” for water activities involving young children, whether in the pool or the bathtub. And lifejackets should be the norm for children on docks and piers and for everyone when boating.

Are there child-safety issues we tend to overlook?

Yes, several that come to mind. Did you know that there are firearms in one third of households in this country and that 70 percent of parents admit that they don’t lock them up? Bedside tables are common places that children find them, especially when visiting other homes. Firearms and ammunition should always be locked in separate places. And pills should be locked up too. Poisoning from prescription drugs, especially those for diabetes, hypertension and heart arrhythmia, is pretty common. The pills can look to children like Skittles or M & Ms. So to “supervise, supervise” I’ll add “lock it up.”

Dr. Judy is a 1990 graduate of Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and the mother of two children—a boy, 8, and a girl, 7. 
Walgreen Gift Continues a Family Tradition

A $2 million unrestricted gift to Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) from the estate of Charles Walgreen Jr. is one of many examples of the Walgreen family’s involvement with the medical school and Loyola University Medical Center through four generations.

This estate gift will help fund the planned Center for Collaborative Learning, a new facility on the Maywood campus to train both medical and nursing students. “This curricular innovation will keep us on the forefront of educating health professionals to care for patients; it is mission-critical,” said Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, president and CEO, Loyola University Health System.

The Walgreens can trace their Loyola connection to the family’s friendship with Samuel Cardinal Stritch, archbishop of Chicago from 1940–1958, for whom Loyola’s medical school is named. According to his daughter-in-law, Kathleen Walgreen (wife of Charles Walgreen III), Mr. Walgreen Jr. and his wife, Mary Ann, were close friends of Cardinal Stritch’s family. “My mother-in-law liked to tease that her son, my husband, played football with the Cardinals, implying he played with the NFL team. In reality, he played with Cardinal Stritch,” Kathleen Walgreen recalled.

Mary Ann Walgreen, a devout Catholic, supported Loyola and various other Catholic causes and institutions. She inspired her husband to get involved as well, even though he was a Methodist for most of his 100 years of life. “My father-in-law was baptized a Catholic when he was 96 years old,” said Kathleen Walgreen. “He used to jokingly say, ‘They know they’ll get me someday, they just don’t know when.’”

Joking aside, Mr. and Mrs. Walgreen Jr.’s dedication to Loyola rubbed off on their children. Mr. and Mrs. Walgreen III have chaired the annual Stritch Dinner four times within their 34-year marriage, most recently in 2009. Their children and grandchildren have participated in the Stritch Junior Service League. “We have 18 grandchildren; six have already participated in The Stritch Junior Service League and two or three will participate next summer,” Kathleen Walgreen said.

“Supporting and receiving care at Loyola is just something that has always been in the family, thanks to my in-laws. My husband and I have been proud to continue the tradition and I am confident our children and grandchildren will keep it going.”

Kathleen Walgreen
When anyone in the Walgreen family has a serious medical problem, they rely on Loyola physicians, even though they could see physicians closer to their Lake Forest home. “All of us have been Loyola patients at one time or another,” Kathleen Walgreen remarked. She and her husband turned to John Shea, MD, professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, Stritch, when three of their children experienced problems with their third and fourth vertebrae. “Dr. Shea asked us, ‘What are you doing to your children?’” Kathleen Walgreen recalled, with a laugh. “We figured out it was the trampoline we had outside when the children were growing up. There was always someone bouncing on it.”

Loyola also has kept members of the Walgreen family on the run, literally. Colin Grassie, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Walgreen III, a serious triathlon participant, underwent knee surgery with Pietro Tonino, MD, associate professor and chief of the Division of Sports Medicine. “Colin was able to continue competing in Ironman triathlons after the surgery,” Kathleen Walgreen said. “He’s still going strong, thanks to Dr. Tonino, who has become a family friend and has helped just about every knee in the family.”

Recently, Mr. and Mrs. Walgreen III contributed $100,000 to an endowed scholarship in their name, a legacy that will help educate medical students for generations to come. “Supporting medical students so they can become compassionate physicians is a great gift both to them and to society, and it’s more critical than ever in today’s economy,” said Richard L. Gamelli, MD, FACS, dean, Stritch. “We couldn’t appreciate it more.”

Commenting on her father-in-law’s gift, as well as those she and her husband have made, Mrs. Walgreen said, “Supporting and receiving care at Loyola is just something that has always been in the family, thanks to my in-laws. My husband and I have been proud to continue the tradition and I am confident our children and grandchildren will keep it going.”

For more information about supporting scholarships or making an estate gift to Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.
Endowed scholarships established in the memory of two Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) alumni commemorate the spirit of two physicians who were passionate about medicine and deeply appreciated the financial assistance they’d received to pursue their dreams. Hardworking and dedicated, both these alumni clearly took the Jesuit philosophy of “doing more” to heart when it came to patient care. Scholarships in their honor seem a fitting tribute to their lives of service to others.

James K.L. Choy, MD, Scholarship Fund

The James K.L. Choy, MD, Scholarship Fund, was created with $500,000 from the doctor’s estate with preference in the award going to a student from a working-class background. Dr. Choy (’37) was raised in Hawaii, the son of Chinese immigrants, earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Hawaii and a Master’s Degree in anatomy at Loyola University Chicago before enrolling at Stritch. “He was the first in a family of five siblings to be college educated,” said his daughter, Cathie Choy, PhD. “His father, who owned a general store, paid for whatever tuition and scholarships didn’t cover; it was a challenge for grandpa to do this.”

Dr. James Choy completed his urology residency at Cook County Hospital, where he met his wife, Helen, a dietician. She, coincidentally, also was a first-generation Chinese American whose parents owned a general store — but one in Tucson, AZ. After his residency, he was drafted into military service, then set up practice in Topeka, KS., where he and Helen raised three children.

“My dad was one of only three urologists practicing in Kansas, and the first to be board-certified,” added Wesley Choy, MD, (’77) an orthopaedic surgeon with a practice in Kankakee, IL. In addition to being on staff at several hospitals and clinics, Dr. James Choy completed three tours of volunteer duty on the hospital ship Hope that sailed to Tunisia and Brazil.

The elder Dr. Choy was driven to provide the highest quality care to patients of all ages throughout the Topeka area. “My father kept up with the latest procedures throughout his career. He and my mother would drive to outlying towns and rural areas to care for patients,” his son Wesley recalled. “Until later in his career he never had a partner so he was constantly on call and did rounds twice a day, including weekends and holidays.” Despite his hectic schedule, Dr. Choy made time to enjoy life. He took his children fishing and to football and basketball games at Kansas University. “He was an avid tennis player and also enjoyed music; he played the organ,” Cathie recalled.

Dr. Choy’s children agree the scholarship is the best way to memorialize their father. “He never forgot the assistance he received from Stritch and wanted to make sure that somebody like him would have the same opportunity,” Cathie said.

The H. C. Victor Chiang, MD, Scholarship

The H.C. Victor Chiang, MD, Scholarship, established with a $250,000 family gift in memory of Dr. Chiang, a 1984 alumnus, is awarded each year to a first-year Stritch student. Alicia Kurtz, recipient of the 2009-2010 scholarship, worked five jobs as an undergraduate to make up for expenses her educational loans did not cover. She was overwhelmed with the thought of more debt upon entering Stritch. “Knowing first-hand the value of an educational dollar, the scholarship meant the world to me,” Ms. Kurtz said. “The days that I struggle or feel burnt out, I think of the Chiangs and remember that they are invested in my education and want me to succeed too, and that gives me the inspirational boost I need to push a little harder.”

Dr. Chiang was born and raised in Taiwan, the oldest of seven children. His father worked in finance, his mother was a teacher. He met his wife, Alice, a physical therapist, at an alumni event at National Taiwan University. Dr. Chiang came to the United States to advance his studies, earning a
doctorate in biochemistry. At age 32, he decided to go to medical school and was accepted at Stritch. “It was his passion to work with people rather than in the lab,” Mrs. Chiang explained. “He was very grateful to find a school that accepted a nontraditional student.”

After finishing his internal medicine residency at the University of California, Irvine, Dr. Chiang completed a gastroenterology fellowship at Georgetown University and eventually set up a solo practice in the Washington, D.C. area. “He spent a lot of time with his patients, getting to know them on a personal level,” said Mrs. Chiang. “His patients became our extended family and they all adored him.”

Dr. Chiang’s son Andy, a judicial law clerk for a Maryland judge, added “For my father, working at his job was like being on vacation. But toward the end of his career we were able to drag him away from his work and take him travelling.”

Grateful for the financial assistance he received to pursue his medical career, Dr. Chiang gave scholarships to local students and volunteered at clinics for underprivileged patients. “He never forgot that he grew up in extremely modest circumstances. He had a lot of internal confidence but remained humble,” said his son, Andy Chiang. “I hope I can emulate him in my career and personal life.”

For more information about starting or contributing to a scholarship to Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.

That’s exactly what Nancy Welch Knowles decided to do by including Loyola University Health System in her estate planning.

“I am committed to Loyola’s splendid work in patient care and research and want to do everything I can to see it continue. Making a bequest in my will is an ideal way for me to make sure that happens.”

If making a bequest to support patient care, medical research or health-professions education interests you, the Office of Development can help you include the correct language in your will and ensure you wishes are fulfilled.

Please contact us at: development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201
Philip Hillmer, MD, recently presented Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine with an estate gift as a tribute to his late father and his father’s life’s work. The Raymond E. Hillmer, MD, Scholarship will honor Dr. Raymond Hillmer, a member of the first group of medical students to graduate from Loyola in 1909. While not himself a Stritch alum, Dr. Philip Hillmer created an estate plan that would allow him to endow a Stritch scholarship with 50 percent of his estate.

“My father had high admiration for Loyola, its remarkable philosophy and his training there. I consider this the gift he’d have given, if he had had the opportunity,” Dr. Hillmer said.

His father came from an old Chicago family dedicated to serving others (his great-grandfather was a three-time state senator), and his parents brought him up to do the same, Dr. Hillmer noted. “Dad would be very pleased to know that the gift would make it feasible for young medical students to get an education and fulfill their dreams,” he said.

After completing his medical education at Loyola, the elder doctor Hillmer practiced in Chicago and La Rose, IL, before joining the medical corps during WWI, where he served as a captain first in Waco, TX, and then in Siberia. He returned to his practice in La Rose in 1918, where he practiced until 1927. For the remainder of his 58-year career, he practiced in Michigan’s upper peninsula, including time as the staff physician for two mining companies and in private practice. Although a humble and taciturn man by nature, his son remembers him summing up his successful and satisfying career by saying “I was a damn good diagnostician, if I do say so myself.”

Like his father, Dr. Philip Hillmer is a war veteran, having served as a pilot in Vietnam before returning to the U.S. to complete his undergraduate education and, later, to attend medical school. He is currently a retired reserve officer. After completing a residency in general and internal medicine, Dr. Hillmer decided to specialize in rehabilitation medicine and spent the majority of his career working with veterans as a physician at Bay Pines VA Hospital in Florida. His military service put him in a good position to serve these patients, because, he believes, the most effective patient care results when the physician can treat both the person and the disease. Understanding first-hand some of what his patients had experienced helped him to treat the whole person. This had always been his father’s goal as a physician and was his as well. It is also what both father and son always admired about medical education at Loyola: the focus on creating compassionate physicians committed to patient-centered care.

Commenting on his hopes for the scholarship, Dr. Hillmer said, “The magnitude of a gift doesn’t show until it can be used for what it’s intended to achieve.”

For more information about how to support Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine with a planned gift, contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.
On October 6, 2002, Michelle Salerno’s life came to a screeching halt. The diagnosis was advanced Hodgkins lymphoma and the prognosis wasn’t good. She was ready to fight, but many of the doctors she saw thought it was a lost case. In 2003, she came to Loyola’s Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center where she met Dr. Tulio Rodriguez and everything changed.

“He never gave up on me. There was always a plan B, something else to try,” said Ms. Salerno. “Dr. Rodriguez would always tell me that I’m not dying any sooner than the rest of the people living. Loyola gave me hope for life.”

For Ms. Salerno, that plan B was a series of stem cell transplants, rigorous chemotherapy and clinical trials. They first transplanted Michelle’s stem cells, but they weren’t strong enough to fight the cancer. She needed a donor. Tests revealed her oldest brother Joey to be a perfect match and, in 2004, she had a second transplant.

Still, the cancer was there. Even after seven years of chemotherapy her bone marrow wasn’t healthy and she was receiving blood and platelet transfusions once every two to three weeks.

Loyola suggested Ms. Salerno contact Joey to donate again for a stem cell boost that would repair her bone marrow, but he lived in Bethesda, Maryland. Though she knew Joey would be there in an instant for her, she didn’t want to add a financial burden. Thanks to the generosity of a Southwest Airlines program, Joey was able to fly to Chicago free on a donated ticket. On March 9, 2010, her brother gave her 5 million stem cells and she hasn’t had a transfusion since.

“The best part about the Southwest ticket was that it was an open-ended one. He didn’t have to fly out on any particular day. This gift let us enjoy time together while he was here. I can’t say ‘thank you’ enough: Loyola, Southwest, my brother — you truly saved my life,” said Ms. Salerno. The Southwest Airlines Hospital Medical Transportation Grant Program assists families like Ms. Salerno’s throughout the country focus on healing by helping to reduce worries about transportation expenses.

“It’s amazing to see the change in Michelle,” said Dr. Rodriguez. “It is wonderful to see someone who was so sick and suffered for so long having fun and being able to enjoy life again.”

Laura Morell, social worker at the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center, has seen the difference that the donated Southwest tickets make in the lives of people struggling with cancer.

“We’ve seen lives changed and uplifted thanks to these tickets,” said Ms. Morell. “We’ve flown family members in as donors or just to be of support. And family support when battling a disease like this makes all the difference.”

For more information about the Southwest Airlines ticket program, contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.

The Southwest Airlines Hospital Medical Transportation Grant
Also Treating the Human Spirit
Loyola to Open New Facility in Burr Ridge

The Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge is slated to open in the spring of 2011, offering Loyola’s musculoskeletal and neuroscience programs with world-class care provided by Loyola University Health System physicians. The facility totals 100,000 square feet at 6800 N. Frontage Road and will feature an imaging center as well as rehabilitation services including day rehabilitation and aquatherapy. An immediate care center, primary care center, a sports medicine program, pain management center, a sleep center, ophthalmology and hearing center, osteoporosis center, infusion center and a laboratory also are planned. In addition, medical and surgical specialists who partner with these physicians will be available to patients requiring consultation.

Whelton Receives National Recognition

Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, president and CEO of Loyola University Health System, has been named one of the nation’s top health-care leaders by Becker’s Hospital Review. Becker’s is a bimonthly publication that offers business and legal news and analysis of hospitals and health systems to its readers. Becker’s named Dr. Whelton to its 2010 list of the 256 most-influential leaders in the health-care industry. In 2009, Modern Healthcare and Modern Physician magazines named Dr. Whelton one of the 50 most-powerful physician executives in the nation.

Loyola Becomes First Chicago-Area Hospital to Use Robotic Catheter for Heart Rhythm Disorders

Loyola University Medical Center became the first Chicago-area hospital to use a new robotic catheter guidance system to treat abnormal heart rhythms. Treating this common heart rhythm disorder by burning heart tissue with a catheter works dramatically better than drug treatments. One year after undergoing a treatment called catheter ablation, 66 percent of patients with an irregular heartbeat were free of any recurrent irregular heartbeats or symptoms, compared with only 16 percent of those treated with drugs. Results were so convincing the trial was halted early. These findings were published by David Wilber, MD, director of Loyola’s Cardiovascular Institute and a nationally known researcher in heart rhythm disorders, in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Four Loyola Programs Among Nation’s Best

For the eighth year in a row, U.S. News & World Report magazine has ranked Loyola University Hospital as one of the top 50 hospitals nationwide for heart and heart surgery. Loyola also was ranked among the top 50 for ear, nose and throat; urology; and neurology and neurosurgery. 2010-2011 Best Hospitals includes rankings of 152 medical centers nationwide in various specialties. The rankings are based on reputation, death rates, patient safety and care-related factors.
Multigene Test Changing Breast Cancer Treatment Decisions

A Loyola study found that a multigene test that predicts whether early-stage breast cancer patients will benefit from chemotherapy is having a big impact on treatment decisions by patients and doctors alike. The test caused doctors to change their treatment recommendations in 31.5 percent of cases, while 27 percent of patients changed their treatment decisions. In most such cases, the change was to avoid chemotherapy. The test examines 21 genes from a tumor sample to determine how active they are. A test score between 0 and 100 predicts how likely the cancer is to recur. For women with low scores, chemotherapy is not recommended. These data were conducted by Loyola investigators Shelly Lo, MD, Patricia Mumby, PhD, Ellen Gaynor, MD and Kathy Albain, MD, and published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Gottlieb’s Marjorie G. Weinberg Cancer Center Now Part of Loyola

Patients confronting cancer will now have the option of receiving treatment at a second Loyola cancer care center, offering the convenience of a community hospital and the expertise of a world-class university hospital. Patrick Stiff, MD (’75), director of Loyola’s Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center and newly appointed Chairman of Oncology at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, will oversee treatment at Loyola Cancer Care & Research at the Marjorie G. Weinberg Cancer Center. In coming months, patients at the Marjorie G. Weinberg Cancer Center will have access to a full spectrum of Loyola cancer clinical trials.

Loyola Launches New Program in Health Services Research

Loyola University Health System has established a new Program in Health Services Research to study how doctors and nurses can provide better health care at lower costs to more people. Health services research is a burgeoning field that examines such topics as access to health care, costs, outcomes, patient safety and patient education. The Program in Health Services Research will significantly strengthen Loyola’s overall commitment to research, which is central to the mission. Heading the new program is Frances Weaver, PhD, director of the Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital. Weaver has a joint appointment at Loyola and Hines.

Pay-it-Forward: A New Approach to Kidney Transplants

Since Loyola University Medical Center launched its Pay-it-Forward Kidney Donation Program in March 2010, more than 20 good Samaritan donors have stepped forward to donate. A Pay-it-Forward transplant begins when an altruistic donor offers to donate a kidney to a stranger, beginning a chain. The donor’s kidney is then given to a compatible transplant candidate who has a willing but incompatible donor. This second donor then agrees to give a kidney to a second patient with a willing but incompatible donor, and so on. Potentially, a chain can go on forever. Pay-it-Forward began with four people who offered to donate kidneys to four complete strangers, with no strings attached. The program is the first of its kind in the Midwest and the largest in the United States, according to the National Kidney Registry, the nonprofit organization that coordinates the donations.

Loyola Researchers Report on Benefits of Vitamin D

Vitamin D has proven health benefits for diseases including cancer, osteoporosis, heart disease and now diabetes. A recent review article published by researchers from Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing concluded that adequate intake of Vitamin D may prevent or delay the onset of diabetes and reduce complications for those who have already been diagnosed. These findings appeared in the latest issue of Diabetes Educator. Many of the 23 million Americans with diabetes have low Vitamin D levels. Evidence suggests that Vitamin D plays an integral role in insulin sensitivity and secretion. Vitamin D deficiency results in part from poor nutrition and reduced exposure to sunlight, which is common during cold weather months when days are shorter and more time is spent indoors. Diet alone may not be sufficient to manage Vitamin D levels. A combination of adequate dietary intake of Vitamin D, exposure to sunlight and treatment with Vitamin D2 or D3 supplements can decrease the risk of diabetes and related health concerns.

News in Brief

Kathy Albain, MD

John Milner, MD
Ruth K. Palmer Nursing Research Symposium
Groundbreaking Ceremony for School of Nursing Building and Center for Collaborative Learning
Loyola University Health System Campus
April 9, 2011

Loyola University Health System Gala
Honoring William G. and Mary A. Ryan Recipients of the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service
Loyola University Health System Campus
May 21, 2011

Experience the Spirit, Continue the Tradition
Stritch School of Medicine Reunion Weekend
Loyola University Health System Campus
September 23-25, 2011

The Stritch Dinner
The Field Museum
November 19, 2011

For more information about these upcoming events, please contact us at (708) 216-3201 or development@lumc.edu