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What A Difference a Gift Makes

Alumni and friends of Loyola University Health System (Loyola) launched a dynamic new fiscal year in philanthropy over the summer and fall, beginning with an extraordinary $2 million gift from The Coleman Foundation to support a new inpatient oncology wing at the hospital. After reading about the project’s goals in this issue of Vision, I hope you will consider partnering with us to realize this important advancement in cancer treatment for all Loyola patients.

Before I get ahead of myself in reporting on the new year, however, I want to take a moment to thank all friends of Loyola who made last year such a success in advancing patient care, teaching and research. We began 2009 with a re-envisioning of the annual fund program which resulted in overwhelming alumni support. The program, including alumni annual fund programs for the Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) and the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff), raised $3.1 million for student aid, faculty support and the highest programmatic priorities of both schools. By increasing communications to alumni and friends in a cycle of purposefully timed and tailored mail appeals, e-solicitations and phonathons, alumni participation rates in philanthropy from Stritch and Niehoff graduates grew exponentially and were actually higher than the average Loyola University Chicago school rate of 8.46 percent. Stritch alums reached 20.9 percent participation, nursing undergraduate alums reached 11.76 percent and nursing graduate school alums reached 13.4 percent.

On the volunteer front, the 16th Annual Swim Across America event was a great success. More than 200 swimmers braved Lake Michigan to raise $135,000 for cancer research at the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center. Loyola has partnered with Swim Across America for many years, and we continue to be inspired by stories from the swimmers about the event’s challenges and rewards. We’re always touched by hearing about their personal connections to loved ones with cancer.

In August, we were delighted to honor private research support with the dedication of the Van Kampen Cardiopulmonary Research Laboratory, made possible by the generosity of the Robert D. Van Kampen family. Over the years, the Van Kampens have been leadership investors in the cardiothoracic program at Loyola. The lab bearing their name will enable Robert Love, MD, professor, thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, and medical director, Lung Transplantation, and his team to conduct research designed to reduce the rate of human organ transplantation rejection.

Finally, I am pleased to update you on recent enhancements made to The Leadership Society. The health system has expanded the scope of The Leadership Society to include recognition not only of donors who have made annual gifts totaling $1,000 or more (Associates) to Loyola University Medical Center, Stritch School of Medicine or Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, but also of individuals whose cumulative, lifetime gifts total $250,000 or more (Stewards). Stay tuned for more information over the course of the year regarding the many courtesies we will now extend to Associates and Stewards of The Leadership Society as our way of saying thank you for all you do to keep Loyola strong.

In the new year, please consider making a gift that will help Loyola remain in the forefront of patient care, education and research as we move forward. You’ll find an envelope tucked into this magazine to make it easy. Thank you!
Planned Oncology Renovation

Renewing the Promise

Recent generous gifts will help complete an ambitious $15 million redesign and renovation of Loyola University Hospital’s Oncology Acute Care Center for in-patient cancer treatment, creating a new environment to “go beyond the illness to treat the whole person.”

The Coleman Foundation

The Coleman Foundation, based in Chicago, has announced a $2 million challenge grant to support the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, one of the four wings of the Oncology Acute Care Center of Loyola University Hospital. It will be devoted to bone marrow transplant patients and their families.

The Coleman Foundation challenge grant is intended to encourage private donations for the project. The Foundation will match gifts on a dollar for dollar basis, up to $2 million, through August 2010. The Foundation, a longtime supporter of Loyola’s cancer care program, is interested in cancer treatments and improving local access to high quality care through direct patient services. Believing that psychosocial support and information are important components of good medical care, the Foundation previously funded The Coleman Foundation Image Renewal Center at Loyola where patients utilize a wide range of services designed to help them revitalize their self-image in a comfortable and relaxing setting.

The Foundation also established the Coleman Professorship in Oncology, held by Patrick Stiff, MD, director of Loyola’s Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center. Dr. Stiff is among the first researchers to use umbilical cord blood stem cells for treatment of certain adult cancers, which is particularly useful for patients who require an unrelated transplant donor. When patients receive high doses of chemotherapy and/or radiation to kill cancer cells, the immune system cells are also destroyed in the process. Bone marrow or umbilical cord blood cells can help the patient develop new immune cells.

The Foundation has begun exploring ways to increase donations of umbilical cord blood. “Cord blood is largely a wasted resource right now,” said Michael Hennessy, president and CEO of The Coleman Foundation. “We are interested in encouraging practical applications that most positively impact the lives of those living with cancer.”

Bone marrow transplant treatment often involves hospital stays of three weeks or more and is stressful for both patients and their families. Redesign and renovation of the wing, which will be named The Coleman Foundation Bone Marrow Transplant Center, will provide 39 private

Above: Proposed designs for various rooms in the new Oncology Acute Care Center.
When Moira Minielly came to the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center at Loyola, she had an aggressive cancer and was given a 10 percent chance of survival. But the treatment plan that Loyola physicians and nurses put into action helped patient rooms; a group exercise room; a meditation room and a family room where family members can cook meals, watch movies, attend support group meetings and celebrate important life events.

When she learned of Loyola’s new plans, Moira Minielly, an eight-year cancer survivor, said: “While in treatment, I wanted to be more than a passive recipient of chemo and radiation. I wanted a sense of control back in my life. I sought ways to improve my physical and mental well-being — what a luxury it would have been to have it all within my reach at the hospital facilities! Through this grant, patients now will be offered both a sense of calm and empowerment to make a difference in their treatment and survival. They will have the opportunity to regain a feeling of control in their ‘surreal’ life.”

“With the generous support of The Coleman Foundation and other donors, we will be able to create an environment that supports care of the mind, body and spirit for patients like Moira and their families,” said Dr. Stiff.

Anonymous Gift

The desire to leave a legacy that honors Loyola’s preeminence in treating some of the most critically ill patients inspired a generous individual donor. The donor, who wished to remain anonymous, made a $5 million bequest with no restrictions, to be dedicated to the highest and best use at the medical center. Loyola leadership decided it would be a fitting use of the gift to commit the funds to improvement of the Oncology Acute Care Center in order to better serve cancer patients. Together with a previous $5 million gift from the Donald P. and Byrd M. Kelly Foundation, the donor’s gift makes this possible.

“As knowledge and technology develop and treatment facilities grow outdated, we need to bring them in line with our patients’ expectations and needs,” said Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, president and CEO, Loyola University Health System. “These three gifts will go a very long way in helping us to do that.”

If you are interested in giving toward The Coleman Foundation challenge grant, contact Peggy LaFleur, senior director, major gifts, at mلافleur@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5197.

Moira return to her life cancer-free and to fulfill a life goal: becoming a mom. She reached her goal with the adoption of her daughter Katherine, named in honor of her bone marrow donor.

“Patients now will be offered both a sense of calm and empowerment to make a difference in their treatment and survival.”

Moira Minielly
A life-changing experience with the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Loyola University Health System (Loyola) inspired Susanna Hayes, PhD, to establish a scholarship that will help train young pediatricians.

Dr. Hayes’ niece, Maria, and her prematurely born son, Justin, received live-saving care at Loyola. Early in her pregnancy, Maria experienced many complications. At Loyola, she received treatment that helped her regain her health and deliver Justin as soon as his medical team determined that he could survive.

“Had it not been for Loyola, both Maria and Justin were seriously in danger of dying,” Dr. Hayes said. “Justin has been and continues to be an extraordinarily gifted and loved child. He is in high school now and loves to learn as much as he can, sharing his experiences to the delight of friends and family. The world is a better place with them fully alive, healthy and sharing their gifts of life.”

Dr. Hayes endowed the Justin Shaulis Scholarship in 2004 to be awarded annually to a deserving medical student at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) who maintains good academic standing, demonstrates financial need and plans to pursue a pediatrics specialty. It was important to Dr. Hayes to let Justin know while he was young that his life is a precious gift that she values greatly. She also felt it was important to remind him that it was his medical team that helped sustain both his and his mother’s life.

Recently, Dr. Hayes decided to secure the future of the Justin Shaulis Scholarship through a planned gift to Stritch. She has established a charitable remainder unitrust with the scholarship as the beneficiary. With this gift option, the donor transfers assets to the trust and receives a set income from it for a period of years. When the trust terminates, the remaining balance is distributed to the charitable organization. In this way, Dr. Hayes will receive a steady income stream while also supporting her philanthropic priorities.

“When I make a contribution to Stritch I know I am joining many other contributors who share similar values and beliefs,” said Dr. Hayes. “There is a deep sense of peace and satisfaction in knowing that I can help talented and dedicated young medical students provide essential services to those in need.”

For more information about establishing a scholarship at Stritch, contact Shawn Vogen, PhD, assistant dean, development, at svogen@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5642.

Lisa De Gregoris, one of the two Justin Shaulis Scholarship recipients for 2009, is a third-year student. She chose Stritch, she said, “because I really saw the mission concretized here when I visited. I’ve always been a spiritual person, and that played a large part in my decision to attend here.” Receiving the scholarship at this time, she added, was going to help her choose a specialty based on her passion rather than the ability to repay her loans.
After years in the workforce, some people discover their true passion. If that passion is nursing, Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff) now offers an accelerated nursing program for those who decide to pursue nursing mid-career — and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is helping make the change possible.

Niehoff’s accelerated bachelor of science in nursing (ABSN) degree is awarded after completion of an intensive 16-month program. It allows students who have earned a bachelor’s degree in another area to earn a BSN by building on their existing education through clinical lab experiences; the acquisition of practical skills; and the development of critical thinking and clinical decision-making abilities. Their studies will position them to complete the necessary nursing requirements, successfully complete the NCLEX exam and become professional registered nurses.

Since potential ABSN students do not qualify for federal, state or university need-based grants and scholarships, the foundation has stepped up to support them through a $150,000 New Careers in Nursing grant. The gift will provide 15 new ABSN students a $10,000 scholarship. Not only will the scholarship program help make personal dreams a reality — it will help to alleviate the local and national nursing shortage and increase the diversity of nursing professionals.

The first scholarships are being awarded during the 2009-2010 academic year and will focus on African-American, Hispanic, Asian and male applicants.

The impact of this grant will allow the school of nursing to continue to offer a program that has grown exponentially over the years. Ann Solari-Twadell, PhD, RN, FAAN, director, Accelerated Nursing Program, says that “when we look at our Jesuit values, we actualize our mission by offering this opportunity to those who might not otherwise consider coming to Loyola.”

Robert Wood Johnson, one of the 20th century’s most innovative business leaders, built Johnson & Johnson into a world-renowned company and helped redefine the way corporations could serve the public interest. His generosity created one of the nation’s most significant philanthropic foundations, dedicated to improving the health and health care of all Americans. The foundation’s grants focus on building human capital, addressing childhood obesity, promoting health-care coverage, pioneering solutions, improving public health and assisting vulnerable populations.

For more information about supporting nursing scholarships, contact Molly Norris, associate director of development, at monorris@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3106.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in the ABSN program, please encourage him/her to contact Niehoff staff members Nicole Kaminski at (773) 508-2903 or Ann Solari-Twadell at (773) 508-2909.
Premature babies often require constant supplemental oxygen because their lungs are seriously under-developed. This saves their lives, but it also endangers their sight. It can cause abnormal blood vessels to develop in the eyes, leading to retinal detachment — which means blindness for life.

A recent grant totaling more than $400,000 from the Richard A. Perritt Charitable Foundation will help to ensure, however, that Loyola remains at the forefront of the ophthalmology research, physician training and patient care that can treat potentially tragic outcomes like these in patients of all ages.

Critical to making those successful treatments available to patients is continued specialty training of new doctors and the availability of essential technology and equipment.

Currently, Loyola’s Ophthalmology Residency Program is one of the most highly sought after in the country by young doctors wanting to specialize in the field. It also attracts first-rate faculty. “We produce residents who are ethical, kind, caring and concerned and trained at the very top of their profession,” said James McDonnell, MD, who administers the pediatric ophthalmology program at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch).

But few people outside health-care education understand that educating residents for the three years they are training costs their institutions money. “Without independent funding, it’s extremely hard to run a robust program, but Perritt has allowed us to do that; every single aspect of the department has been enhanced by this funding assistance,” said Charles Bouchard, MD, John P. Mulcahy Professor of Ophthalmology and chair, Department of Ophthalmology.

Among the equipment that the latest grant will support is a high-resolution pathology system. This computer-based technology functions as a virtual microscope, allowing residents to view high quality scans of pathology slides rather than rely on the fragile glass slides and microscopes of the past.

The grant also will support the purchase of a cataract surgical simulator, which allows residents to master cataract surgery procedures under a variety of conditions. Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness worldwide, and cataract surgery is the most common surgical procedure in the United States, affecting patients from infancy to advanced adulthood, so residents must be proficient in the procedure.

“Without independent funding, it’s extremely hard to run a robust program, but Perritt has allowed us to do that.”

Charles Bouchard, MD
Gifts from The Perritt Foundation have also been critical in supporting faculty and resident research over the years. In 2008-2009 alone, over 60 articles, abstracts and book reviews came out of the department, a legacy of learning that residents carry forward to benefit generations of patients to come.

“We are gratified at the opportunity to see the advances that are made in research and education at Stritch as a result of Dr. Perritt’s gift,” said Ronald Tyrpin, director of the foundation. “To his dying day, he was doing research, believing that some day we would be able to perform eye transplants, and this is a fitting use of his gift.”

The Perritt Foundation is a longtime supporter of Stritch, having made gifts totaling more than $5 million to the medical school during a 15-year partnership. In addition to ophthalmology research and the Department of Ophthalmology residency training program, the grant will support two medical school scholarships and the Gastrological Oncology Center at Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center. Richard A. Perritt, MD, was a 1928 graduate of Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

For more information about supporting ophthalmology, contact Peggy LaFleur, senior director, major gifts, at mlafleur@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5197.
Doctors’ waiting rooms and examining rooms are unsettling enough when you’re an adult. Imagine how frightening they can seem to a child undergoing cancer treatment.

A $350,000 grant from the E. L. Wiegand Foundation of Reno, Nev., to Loyola University Health System (Loyola) will help create a pediatric waiting lounge and a pediatric oncology treatment center. The treatment center will have child-sized bed and treatment chairs, each with its own entertainment station where patients can play video games or watch television. Pediatric oncology patients have undergone treatments in the adult treatment center since the cancer center opened in 1994, said Barbara Buturusis, executive director, Oncology Services. Housing the pediatric waiting lounge and treatment center in one area will make treatments simpler for patients and their families because they will not have to walk from laboratory to waiting room to treatment areas.

The adjoining lounge will feature child-sized furniture, bright colors, youthful décor, an area for creating crafts and have plenty of toys, books and puzzles to keep young patients occupied, said Ms. Buturusis. This special area will increase children’s comfort level from the first moment they arrive at the cancer center, making their experiences less frightening and more engaging.

The foundation that made the renovation possible was founded in 1981 to carry out the legacy of the late Edwin L. and Anne Wiegand. “Mr. and Mrs. Wiegand were extremely benevolent during their lifetime,” said Kristen Avansino, president and executive director of the E. L. Wiegand Foundation. “Foundation trustees have been conscientious in awarding grants in alignment with the Wiegands’ values.”

Edwin L. Wiegand was a German immigrant and a self-taught engineer who investigated the illumination properties of electricity through wires. In 1915, he was granted his first patent. In 1917, Mr. Wiegand founded Edwin L. Wiegand Company in Pittsburg. Throughout his lifetime, he continued to work with electricity and never retired, even after he and his wife moved to Reno in their later years. They invested the money Mr. Wiegand earned from his inventions and used the profits to make charitable gifts.

The E. L. Wiegand Foundation was created to perpetuate the benefactor’s lifelong philanthropic mission. The foundation awards grants to Catholic hospitals and has a special interest in pediatric and cancer care. “Although Loyola is outside the Foundation’s geographical purview, our internal due diligence revealed a medical center that shares our commitment to excellence,” said Ms. Avansino. “We contacted Loyola and, during discussions, decided that the creation of a pediatric oncology waiting area and examining room would be a suitable way to honor the Wiegands’ legacy.”

Ms. Avansino said foundation trustees are looking forward to learning about the completed projects because they know the Wiegands would be pleased to play a part in making life easier for pediatric oncology patients. “We are honored to continue to fulfill the Wiegands’ wishes and, in doing so, find the practice of philanthropy a serious, professional and humbling experience,” Ms. Avansino said.

For more information about supporting pediatric oncology, contact Eva Moss, associate director, patient services, evmoss@lumc.edu or (708) 216-8249.
Mary Dominiak, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN wants you to let go of any preconceived ideas you have about nurses. “I think a lot of people don’t really know what nurses do,” Dr. Dominiak said. “Nurses are perceived solely as front-line caregivers: the people who take care of patients in a hospital and implement physicians’ orders. Many people don’t realize that nurses also are teachers, marketers, business owners, policy makers, scientists and researchers.

I have nurse colleagues who are investigating the impact of nursing on health outcomes; studying predictors of heart disease in women; and looking into ways to combat depression in women with cardiovascular disease, just to name a few.”

An assistant professor at Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing and director of the university’s undergraduate Health Systems Management program, Dr. Dominiak is a teacher who prepares students for careers in health-care administration. She also is a researcher, currently investigating marketing and branding methods to attract more students to nursing and diversify the profession.

A proud alumna, Dr. Dominiak has earned all four of her degrees from Loyola University Chicago. “The excellent reputation of the school of nursing brought me to Loyola University Chicago the first time; the commitment to Jesuit beliefs and values is what kept me coming back,” she said.

After stints as a teacher and clinical nurse specialist in nutrition support, Abbott Laboratories recruited her to work in at-home care, supplying IVs and medicines to patients. While at Abbott, she developed an interest in marketing and took an entry-level marketing job there.

Dr. Dominiak spent about 20 years in marketing, first at Abbott, then at Baxter Healthcare Corporation. Although she enjoyed marketing, she missed teaching and decided to return to school in 2003 to earn her doctorate. “I am happy to return to the three things that I really love: teaching, health care and Loyola,” she said.

Rather than sidetracking her nursing career, Dr. Dominiak’s sabbatical in the marketing world helped pinpoint her doctoral research interest. “I knew right away that I wanted to look into nursing’s image—to hone in on whether marketing could help with recruiting, with bringing a more diverse mix of people into the profession and with improving nursing’s image overall,” she said.

Although branding is a concept most people associate with the business world, any organization that needs to communicate the value of its products or services to a wide audience can use branding to communicate that value.

Dr. Dominiak notes that, for the public at large, there are four main nursing stereotypes: the battle axe, the naughty nurse, the angel of mercy and the physician’s handmaiden. “What can nursing do to change these perceptions and become known to the public primarily as the scholarly, theoretically-based profession it actually is?” she asks.

Dr. Dominiak believes that effective branding can counteract these limiting images, attract more people to the nursing profession and help alleviate the nursing shortage. “Potential nurses don’t appreciate the breadth of career opportunities a degree in nursing offers them,” she said. “By using branding theory and techniques, we can be creative and nuanced in our approach with telling the story of nursing and tailor messages to potential nurses that will enhance recruitment.”

She believes that each team of nurses within a specialty needs to create its own brand to reflect the image it wants to project. Surgical nurses, nurse practitioners, researchers, corporate executives — these are all very different ways of applying one’s education. “I don’t think we can come up with a nursing brand that is one size fits all,” she said. “Nurses need to own the task and the main message we want to get out is that nursing, no matter how you practice it, is really about collaborating with people to maximize their health.”

Dr. Dominiak is confident that with the right branding and marketing, the old nurse stereotypes may soon be extinct. “It’s my hope that more people will realize that the breadth of opportunity in a nursing career is immeasurable, limited only by your imagination and willingness to make things happen,” she said.

To learn about more opportunities to support the Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, contact Shawn Vogen, PhD, assistant dean, development, at svogen@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5642.
Changing the Dynamic of Health-care Education

Patient-focused learning has always been the hallmark of Loyola University Chicago’s nursing and medical education curriculum. That commitment continues to take shape today. Plans for a new building to house Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff) and the new Center for Collaborative Learning on the health system campus have significantly progressed in the last six months.

The new school of nursing building will house classrooms, a patient skills center, a nursing research center and faculty offices. In addition, the Center for Collaborative Learning will be constructed between the new nursing building and the existing Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) building, to house a new health-sciences library and a virtual hospital. These additions to the health system campus will allow both graduate and undergraduate nursing students to pursue their education in state-of-the-art facilities. It also will encourage nursing and medical students to collaborate, developing the skills that produce first-rate patient care. “The architects have beautifully interpreted the executive committee’s programmatic recommendations,” said Niehoff’s dean, Vicki Keough, PhD, RN-BC, ACNP. “We are building something that will change the dynamic of health-care education by breaking down barriers between nursing and medical education.”

The Center for Collaborative Learning will promote team-based learning, to reflect the real-world environment in which health-sciences research happens and in which patients receive health care. The planning process for the building and Center for Collaborative Learning involved working groups that included representatives from facilities management, health system executive officers, faculty from both schools and members of the Niehoff and Stritch administration. “It was critical to involve everyone in deciding how the new spaces could best facilitate our pedagogical objectives” said Richard Gamelli, MD, FACS, dean, Stritch. “What we’ve come up

“We are building something that will change the dynamic of health-care education by breaking down barriers between nursing and medical education.”

Vicki Keough, PhD, RN-BC, ACNP
with, nobody else in health-sciences education is approaching.”

Housing the library in the Center for Collaborative Learning will emphasize the library’s traditional position at the center of campus — a crossroads for intellectual activity — but with a mix of space for contemplation, concentration, communication, collaboration and social activities. At the same time, it will reposition the library as a 24/7 gateway to virtual collections and expertise anywhere in the world. Ultimately, the library will make 90 percent of the collection available in digital format, allowing both on-site and remote computer access to most materials.

A Clinical Simulation Center will house high-tech simulation mannequins and an 8-bed learning center. Here, nursing and medical students can learn and practice psychomotor, critical thinking and physical assessment skills, becoming familiar with equipment and techniques and developing skills before moving on to learn with real people in a “live” clinical setting.

For more information on how you can support the building effort, contact Shawn Vogen, PhD, assistant dean, development, at svogen@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5642.

**Naming Opportunities**

- New building cornerstone gift .............................................. $10 million
- Center for Collaborative Learning cornerstone gift ........................................ $5 million
- Clinical Simulation Center ........................................ $3 million
- Electronic library .......................................................... $2 million
- School of nursing lobby ................................................ $2 million
- Nursing Research Center ........................................ $1 million
- 8-bed Clinical Skills Center ........................................... $500,000
- Nursing dean’s suite .................................................. $250,000
- 150-seat auditorium ................................................... $250,000
- Clinical simulation suites (6) ....................................... $100,000
- Conference room ........................................................ $100,000
- 80-seat classroom (2) ................................................. $100,000
- 45-seat classroom (2) ................................................. $75,000
- 25-seat classroom (2) ................................................. $50,000
- Student lounge ......................................................... $50,000
- Faculty office suite ..................................................... $25,000

**Endowment Opportunities**

- Endowment of academic department ........ $5 million
- Endowment of department chairmanship ..... $3 million
- Endowment of full professorship ............... $2 million
- Endowment of visiting/term professorship .... $1 million
- Endowment of student scholarship fund .... $100,000
A Life Serving Patients and Science

When he was turning 85, the Amish community of Arthur, IL, 176 miles SE of Chicago, threw Harry L. Messmore Jr. MD, a birthday party, although he hadn’t practiced there for 40 years. But the 11 years he spent among them as a general practitioner were crucial ones in which he honed the patient skills for which he was (and still is) legendary at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch).

“We lived and died by him; he is a complete doctor—a brilliant scientist and an excellent clinician” said Chilakamarri Yeshwant, MD, who has recently made a $25,000 commitment in support of the Harry Messmore Endowed Lecture. The lectureship will bring leading hematology/oncology and blood coagulation scientists to Stritch with the goal of inspiring current students to pursue studies in these specialties, just as Dr. Messmore was inspired at University of Illinois Medical School by prominent lecturers.

It was Dr. Messmore’s love for science and long-held desire to pursue a pathology residency, along with his desire to return to the teaching environment he had known during his general residency, which drew him away from his country practice. Leaving, in his words, “was like a divorce.” And due to circumstances beyond his control, another blow came when he was unable to pursue a pathology residency at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital (Hines), as he had wished.

But signing on for a hematology residency there allowed him to immerse himself in the laboratory work he so much wished to do. Three years as a hands-on laboratory scientist in hematology led to a lifelong passion, with board-certification in both hematology and oncology, as well as internal medicine. At 87, and now blinded by macular degeneration, Dr. Messmore is still actively involved in science. He and a team of Hines and Stritch scientists are putting the finishing touches on their study, begun in 2002, of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, an uncommon but explosive condition which causes blood to clot too fast.

This continued engagement with medical science doesn’t surprise Dr. Yeshwant, who gained his own love for hematology/oncology under the tutelage of Dr. Messmore. Even after his mentor’s retirement, Dr. Yeshwant said, “He was the guy to call with difficult cases. There was nobody else.” It wasn’t, however, his acuity as a bench scientist that brought members of the Amish community he’d treated as teenagers to his 85th birthday party. It was his dedication and respect for patients, which was still evident to Dr. Yeshwant and his fellow residents long after Dr. Messmore had given up delivering babies and had become the leading leukemia specialist in Chicago’s western suburbs. “He never asked anyone to stay late and make rounds with him. But we wanted to,” said Dr. Yeshwant. “He really has a heart. He impacted me.”

Of his long, successful career at Stritch, where he started as soon as there were enough patients in the new Maywood hospital, and where he still serves as a consultant to the coagulation laboratory, Dr. Messmore says “It gives me great pride to have been part of the expanding medical center; I felt a part of an organization full of comradeship and a common goal. I loved the teaching environment and never wanted to leave.”

For more information about contributing to or establishing an endowment at Stritch, contact Shawn Vogen, PhD, assistant dean, development, at svogen@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5642. ~
Few organizations can boast of employees who directly give back to their employers. But in response to a recent challenge, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) faculty and Loyola University Hospital (Loyola) medical staff did just that.

The challenge, issued by Richard L. Gamelli, MD, FACS, dean, Stritch, and Paul K. Whelton, MD, MB, MSc, president & CEO, Loyola, was for faculty and staff to move beyond their ordinary contributions and make additional monetary gifts in spring and summer 2009 to support the school and medical center. It is a testament to the spirit of Loyola that so many employees responded to the call.

Both faculty and staff immediately showed their overwhelming support. More than 125 individuals made gifts either to the Stritch School of Medicine Unrestricted Gift Fund or the hospital’s Health Excellence Fund, both of which go to meet the greatest needs of the medical school and the hospital. To date, their gifts have surpassed $466,000.

The gifts received through this challenge will help both Stritch and Loyola continue to be leading centers of education, medical research and clinical care during challenging financial times. “Extraordinary employees make extraordinary things happen,” commented Dr. Whelton in a recent letter to the entire staff. “I remain overwhelmed by the generosity of our faculty and staff, who not only opened more clinic time for their patients, but also opened their own wallets and gave gifts to Stritch and to the medical center’s Health Excellence Fund.”

Actions like these make Loyola a unique place not only to work but also to be treated. Patients and friends, as well as our faculty and staff, know that when they support Loyola they are supporting an institution that cares deeply about each person who comes through the doors.
The Falk Medical Research Trust, a longtime supporter of research initiatives at Loyola University Medical Center and Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch), recently made a $1.1 million gift in support of Stritch’s Burn and Shock/Trauma Institute (BSTI) and its Infectious Disease and Immunology Institute (InDII).

“The mandate of Mrs. Falk’s trust document is to focus on diseases for which there is no known cure, so we look for projects that will be of fairly immediate usefulness to patients. These research programs, like others we’ve done at Loyola, demonstrate these qualities,” said Catherine Ryan, senior vice president, Philanthropic Management, Bank of America, who oversees the trust.

Promoting Research into Trauma

Because trauma is the leading cause of death for people in the United States between the ages of 1 and 44, clinical and laboratory research aimed at reducing the incidence and devastating effects of traumatic injury is urgently needed.

The $500,000 grant to the BSTI will be used over two years to support researchers’ salaries and supplies in a collaborative research program focusing on tissue-injury-and-repair studies. The program will expand the research objectives of the institute and provide new training opportunities for young researchers. Ultimately, this collaborative work may position BSTI to obtain a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Center Grant on traumatic injury, which will allow research to continue at a higher level.

Research that Takes on Infectious Disease

Stritch’s InDII was established in 2008 to study how microbes and the human immune system interact and translate those findings into the treatment, control and prevention of diseases caused by viruses, bacteria and other human infectious agents. Today, microbial infectious diseases are among the most profound health challenges we face — both at home and abroad. At the same time, immune deficiencies resulting from solid organ and stem cell transplantation require study to help improve the efficacy of these procedures. Through research, scientists can better understand microbes, the immune system, and the interactions between them so that they may translate this knowledge into clinical applications to control, treat and prevent diseases caused by infectious agents.

The InDII will use the $510,000 gift over two years to fund pilot research projects likely to develop into externally-funded research programs, develop a unique master’s degree program, develop outreach programs aimed at high school students and build collaborative relationships with scientists in Stritch’s Oncology Institute and BSTI to promote new research.

“Biomedical research is becoming more interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary every day, and the collaboration the gift makes possible illustrates how research teams working together can improve our understanding of pathophysiological processes and possible treatment interventions. Since burn and trauma victims are often more susceptible to infectious complications, this is a natural collaboration that will focus on improving treatment strategies for these patients as well as for addressing the challenges that microbial infectious diseases pose to all of us,” said Richard Kennedy, PhD, vice president, Health Sciences Research, Loyola University Medical Center and senior associate dean, Stritch.

The Falk Medical Research Trust is an independent foundation established in 1991 through the generosity of the late Marian Falk, widow of Ralph Falk, MD. Dr. Falk pioneered research making intravenous therapy safe and practical and later founded Baxter International, Inc., now headquartered in Deerfield, IL.
Participating in research projects while a student at Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) led to a long and distinguished research career for alumnus John J. Callaghan, MD (’78). Dr. Callaghan and his wife recently established the Dr. John and Kim Callaghan Medical Student Research Fund in the Department of Orthopaedics to inspire more students to pursue a research career.

“If I had not had research opportunities while at Stritch,” says Dr. Callaghan, “I may never have gone forward with a productive research career. I think that there are many great young minds who have questions that they would like to answer. We hope this gift will enable students to answer questions concerning orthopaedic problems that will advance patient care.”

Dr. Callaghan, the 2008 Stritch Alumnus of the Year, currently holds the Lawrence & Marilyn Dorr Chair in Hip Reconstruction & Research at the University of Iowa, where he is a professor of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation & Biomedical Engineering. Over the years, he has seen remarkable improvements in the care of patients with musculoskeletal problems and believes this results from advances in medical education as well as the ability to pursue research questions which can improve patient care.

“It is becoming more challenging to obtain funding for even the most excellent research projects,” says Dr. Callaghan, “and one of the only ways we will be able to do this in the future, especially for those starting out with their careers, is to give back to the institutions that helped make our careers in life as great and fulfilling as they are today.”

The Callaghans chose to create an endowed fund because they wanted to help generations of students. Endowments are increasingly important in the current economic climate, providing a stable level of support for educational institutions. The couple also wanted to show their long-term support of Stritch.

“What I would tell my fellow alums is that all of us needed a start in our lives and we have all done extremely well as physicians because of our Stritch education,” says Dr. Callaghan. “I think that because of this tremendous experience afforded us and because of the spirit we all had for the place, that when it is possible we should all consider giving back. Kim and I have no better feeling than when we see monies that we have contributed help the next generation potentially reach even loftier goals.”
News in Brief

Loyola Appoints School of Nursing Dean

Vicki Keough, PhD, RN-BC, ACNP, has been named dean of Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing. Dr. Keough had been serving as the acting dean since July 2009. Dr. Keough joined Loyola University Chicago in 1986 and the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing in 1992. Most recently, she served as a professor and associate dean of the school’s master’s program and director of the doctor of nursing practice program. Dr. Keough plans to focus on increasing endowed scholarship aid. She also hopes to complete Loyola’s planned nursing school building, which will include the Center for Collaborative Learning, a unique shared space that emphasizes collaboration between physicians and nurses in training.

Stritch Goes to the Museum

Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine Department of Radiology donated more than 1,000 medical images to the Museum of Science and Industry for use in YOU! The Experience. Nearly 90 percent of the images used in the medical imaging portion of the exhibit come from Stritch’s donation. Touch-screens in the exhibit allow guests to see the difference between a healthy and an unhealthy organ, a fetus at different stages of development, observe complex body systems and gain an insider’s view of what happens when a bone breaks. Terrence C. Demos, MD, professor, Department of Radiology, and Arcot Chandrasekhar, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, were instrumental in collecting the images. “These images are invaluable teaching tools for our guests and allow them to understand the complexity of the human body and the amazing power of medical technology in an entirely new way,” said Patricia Ward, PhD, director of science and technology at the museum.

Searching for Better Leukemia Drugs

A new study could point the way to the development of better drugs to fight the deadly childhood leukemia called mixed-lineage leukemia (MLL). The study will help in the search for what could be the first highly effective drug for MLL. Such a drug would work by disabling a protein that turns normal blood cells into cancer cells. Researchers from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) and the University of Virginia reported results in the journal Nature Structural & Molecular Biology. “We hope this will lead to an effective therapeutic approach for patients who generally do not do well with current treatments,” said second senior author Nancy Zeleznik-Le, PhD, a professor in the Department of Medicine at Stritch. Acute MLL accounts for about 80 percent of infant leukemias. Only about one-third of patients with MLL live longer than five years. Existing drugs have limited effectiveness and often cause toxic side effects.

Event Provides Window into Latest Cancer Treatments

The Loyola University Health System hosted an Investigation and Impact event on Nov. 4 for friends and supporters to explore how some of Loyola’s innovative cancer treatment techniques transform lives. Guests had the opportunity to visit leading-edge laboratories for an up-close look at the cancer research process and to hear about therapies including anti-cancer vaccines currently under development that show strong bench to bedside potential.

Study Confirms Chemotherapy Benefit in Breast Cancer Patients

Chemotherapy generally improves survival in postmenopausal breast cancer patients, according to a landmark study led by Kathy Albain, MD. However a second study, also headed by Dr. Albain, found that a multigene test on a breast tumor can identify a subset of women who may not benefit from chemotherapy. The related studies were published in the journals Lancet and Lancet Oncology. “With the right chemotherapy regimen, we can favorably impact survival,” Dr. Albain said. “But it also is important to avoid the toxicity and medical costs of chemotherapy when it may not be needed.” For 10 years, Dr. Albain and colleagues followed 1,477 women who had hormone receptor-positive cancer that had spread to at least one lymph node. Women who received chemotherapy plus the drug tamoxifen were 24 percent less likely to see their cancer come back than women who received tamoxifen alone. The second study found there appeared to be no chemotherapy benefit to women who had a low score on the gene test, while those with higher scores did benefit. Dr. Albain is a professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

Niehoff Professor Named American Academy of Nursing Fellow

Linda Witek Janusek, PhD, RN, has been inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Janusek is a professor at Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing and a graduate faculty member of the Neuroscience Program and Breast Cancer Research Program at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Dr. Janusek was among 98 fellows who were inducted at the Academy’s 36th Annual Induction & Soiree in late 2009 for her achievements and contributions in nursing. Dr. Janusek is a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded researcher whose work focuses on understanding the body’s response to physical and psychosocial environmental stressors. As a professor and scientist, Dr Janusek leads a multidisciplinary biobehavioral research team and mentors pre- and post-doctoral fellows and faculty colleagues.
After a summer spent doing volunteer work, the 20 members of the Stritch Junior Service League were honored at the 59th Annual Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine Award Dinner held at the Chicago Hilton on Nov. 20. Among their summer projects, the high school students visited with senior citizens and did some gardening at the British Home in suburban Brookfield; prepared meals at the Inspiration Café, which serves homeless residents of Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood; played ball with residents of Misericordia Heart of Mercy, a home in Chicago for people with developmental disabilities; pitched in at the Chicago Food Bank; and prepared meals for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Medical Center.

More than 1,100 supporters and friends of medical education attended the dinner, where His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, OMI, was the recipient of the Sword of Loyola, which recognizes notable achievements of outstanding leaders for contributions in a field other than medicine. Gerard V. Aranha, MD, was the recipient of the Stritch Medal, which recognizes a Stritch faculty member or alum for outstanding service to medicine. The gala has raised millions of dollars for educational initiatives at Stritch since its inception in 1950.
Save the Date

The Loyola University Health System Gala
May 8, 2010
Loyola University Health System Campus

Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine 2010 Reunion
September 23-26, 2010
The Maywood campus and at The InterContinental Chicago O’Hare
For more information, visit www.stritch.luc.edu/alumni.

Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing Gala
Friday, October 1, 2010
The Drake, Chicago
For more information, visit www.nursing.luc.edu/alumni

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