

Re-Creating Mott

C.S. MOTT AND CARLS FOUNDATIONS PROVIDE CRUCIAL SUPPORT FOR A NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL AT MICHIGAN

"We approach all problems of children with affection. There is the province of joy and good humor. They are the most wholesome part of the race, for they are the freshest from the hands of God."

That quotation from President Herbert Hoover was one of Charles Stewart Mott's favorites. It appeared for years on the stationery of the foundation that bears his name. It appears today on a plaque that graces the entrance of C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

And well it should. The hospital's very existence is due in large part to the Mott Foundation's generosity: Grants for \$6.5 million (the equivalent of more than \$34.5 million today) were crucial in leveraging the remaining funds to complete the \$9 million project, which opened in 1969. In 1984, the Mott Foundation provided an additional \$2 million for renovations.

Thirty-seven years after opening its doors, Mott's floors bear the weight of equipment undreamed of when it greeted its first patients. The annual number of children who receive care at Mott has tripled, and demand for pediatric surgical services grows by 5-10 percent a year. Nearly every service the hospital provides is operating at or near patient capacity.

Having been very much present at its creation, the Mott Foundation is now a key player in its re-creation. Even before the Board of Regents' approval of a \$523 million building project to replace the current Mott and Women's hospitals, the foundation had already committed \$25 million to the project, the largest single grant ever to the U-M Health System and the largest ever awarded by the Mott Foundation.



An illustration from HKS Architects shows the new 1.1-million-square-foot C.S. Mott Children's and Women's Hospitals

"It's an outstanding facility, one of the finest there is in the world," says William S. White, president and chief executive officer of the Mott Foundation, "but it was quite obvious in our visiting the place that health care has changed dramatically since that building was constructed. The only way you stay at the top is to continue to invest and reinvest in facilities, staff and service."

C.S. Mott's interest in the welfare of children was both personal and passionate, as was that of another Michigan industrialist, William Carls.

Even though the foundation doesn't normally make "bricks and mortar" grants outside of its home town of Flint, "To me, it was absolutely a no-brainer," White says. "It's clear that they need a space for the 21st century."

C.S. Mott's interest in the welfare of children was both personal and passionate. The same was true of another Michigan industrialist, William Carls, the

founder, along with his first wife, Marie, of the Detroit-based Carls Foundation. A German immigrant who arrived in this country in 1924 with a nickel in his pocket, Carls started an air valve manufacturing company, Numatics, 21 years later and built it into a worldwide leader in its field.

"He was a very down-to-earth guy," says Henry Fleischer, a Carls Foundation trustee who worked with Carls for many years. "He loved America and wanted to give back to it. It might sound trite, but he was the salt of the earth."

He also knew tragedy. Long before his business triumphs, he and Marie had a son who died in 1935 at the age of 18 months. They never had another child of their own, but the work of their foundation has blessed the children of countless others.

"Children's health is probably the primary focus of our mission," says Elizabeth A. Stieg, the foundation's executive director, "and we generally give out capital grants. So when you combine the fact that it's a capital grant with its impact on children's health, it was a natural that the U-M would come to us and it was a natural that we would look seriously at the grant request."

Not only did they look seriously at it, but the Carls Foundation, like its Mott colleagues, made one of its largest grants ever, \$4 million, to the project.

"It's clear that Mott is nationally recognized as a leader in the health care they provide for children," Stieg says. "The fact that they have been able to maintain that level of excellence with the older hospital is a testament to the people who work there. When you think about how we would want to maintain the hospital because of its value to the community — locally, regionally and nationally — it just made a tremendous amount of sense that they would want to build this new hospital."

"Mr. Mott felt that health was the absolute bedrock for children being successful in life," says the Mott Foundation's White. "Therefore if you help them in all ways that you can, ranging from nutrition to a safe environment, you have a much better chance of a healthy society later. He always wanted to focus on these most vulnerable of our citizens. It just felt right in my bones, so to speak, to be associated with this project."

"The projects which give me the greatest satisfaction are those where you can say that they're going to continue to benefit people 20 or 30 years from now," he adds.

Another accomplishment of these grants was to jump-start the fund-raising process. Local

'To Help All Children'

GIFT HONORING TED VON VOIGTLANDER STRENGTHENS CHILDREN'S MEDICINE AT MICHIGAN

The word "helpmate" describes in a warmly precise way the wonderful relationship that Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander enjoyed for nearly 25 years of married life. A single mother raising her eight-year-old daughter when she first met Ted — she was a waitress at Weber's Restaurant in Ann Arbor and he was a patron ("I remember thinking how handsome he was") — Jane soon became as indispensable a part of Ted's life as he became of hers.

At the time they met, Ted, a co-founder of Discount Tire, was in the early stages of building the young company. There were seven or eight stores in a coast-to-coast chain that now numbers more than 600 stores in 18 states. Jane soon found her role as Ted's travel companion and informal aide de camp, flying out of Ann Arbor Airport with him on the company's Lear 55 jet and visiting as many as eight cities in one day. "When Ted died in 1999, Discount Tire was the largest independent dealer-

ship in the world," she says proudly. "It was a big, big accomplishment."

Jane's daughter, Gwen, whom Ted adopted, shared with her mother the desire to honor Ted's memory and they both agreed that a gift to support the new U-M C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Women's Hospital would be something he would have very much appreciated. Their \$2 million gift will support the new construction. Years earlier Ted had suffered difficulties related to asthma and, in gratitude to the U-M physicians who treated him, he and Jane made a gift to the pulmonary unit which now carries their name. "When you have grandchildren, you want to know that great research is being done to help all children," Jane says. "Gwen and I and Ted's son are all very happy about this gift and what it will mean for Ted's memory and for the future of children's medicine at Michigan."

—Jane Myers



Gwen Haggerty and Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander

Photo: Courtesy Jane Von Voigtlander

schools and youth groups, as well as large companies and community organizations, have all contributed to the campaign, led by U-M Regent David Brandon and his wife, Jan, and U-M head football coach Lloyd Carr and his wife, Laurie.

Personal experience also plays a role in the Brandons' efforts. Their twin sons were born with a rare blood ailment in 1980, and they spent the first several weeks of their lives at Mott's Holden Neonatal Center. "I guarantee

that at least one of our boys would not have made it without Mott," says David Brandon, "and our story is just one of thousands and thousands out there. I remember thinking that someday, when I had the chance, I'd give back to the hospital some way. Helping to raise funds for this campaign is something I'm thrilled to do."

—Jeff Mortimer

Conquering the Scourge of Scleroderma

RYE AND DANTO GIFTS HELP POSITION U-M RESEARCHERS ON THE FRONT LINES

A complex, little-understood condition, scleroderma causes constriction of the skin and progressive, potentially life-threatening damage to internal organs, including the heart and lungs. While great strides are being made in managing its complications, there is as yet no cure. Scleroderma affects 150,000 people in the U.S. and up to 1.5 million worldwide, mostly women in their child-bearing years. It is the most fatal of all rheumatologic diseases.

Two years ago, James R. Seibold, M.D., joined Michigan from the Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine to develop a comprehensive new program of research into treatments and, ultimately, a cure. A world authority on scleroderma, Seibold, a professor of internal medicine, says the U-M's reputation as a world-class research institution was a key factor in his decision to come to Ann Arbor.

"Michigan's expertise in vascular biology and pulmonary medicine make it an ideal multidisciplinary research environment for scleroderma," says Seibold. The U-M Scleroderma Program brings together experts from a variety of specialties to create a comprehensive, collaborative approach to research, education, and care of patients with scleroderma and related conditions.

To show their gratitude for the pioneering work of Seibold, his team and his colleagues, and to hasten the pace of scleroderma research for the benefit of others, two families have made significant commitments to support the U-M Scleroderma Program in the Department of Internal Medicine's Division of Rheumatology.

Jonathan and Lisa Rye Honor their Son's Progress after 14-month Quest for Correct Diagnosis

When Jonathan and Lisa Rye's son Calvin showed them what looked like a faded bruise on his left leg, the family's dermatologist diagnosed morphea — a usually benign skin condi-



Jonathan and Lisa Rye

Photo: Courtesy Jonathan and Lisa Rye

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tion. But a month later, when Calvin's aching joints and decreasing flexibility caused him to give up the high school sports he loved, the Ryes sought more specialized medical advice. In the following months they endured trips to multiple specialists, resulting in multiple diagnoses and courses of treatment, yet nothing seemed to help.

Fourteen months and many doctors later, the Ryes requested another biopsy. A pathologist diagnosed eosinophilic fasciitis — a rare and serious condition related to scleroderma often characterized by symmetric, painful inflammation and a dramatic loss of elasticity in the tissues of the arms and legs.

The Ryes were devastated by the news, but relieved to have a solid diagnosis for the first time. They continued to search for more effective treatments for their son's condition.

Lisa Rye describes the complicated series of events that followed — events that ultimately led them to Jim Seibold at the U-M Scleroderma Program — as being nothing short of synchrony.

That's because when Seibold took a closer look at Calvin and his biopsy tissue sample, he was quickly able to determine that Calvin's illness was not eosinophilic fasciitis, but another rare condition in the scleroderma family of diseases — generalized subcutaneous morphea.

With an accurate diagnosis, the correct path to treatment finally could begin.

"As we watched our son's extremities harden, his fingers curve and his hands lose all strength, we lived a nightmare, and we could only imagine how painful it was for Calvin," says Lisa. "That's why we were so relieved and grateful when Dr. Seibold was able to correctly diagnose — and to effectively treat — Calvin's condition."

Today, Calvin Rye continues his treatments and has improved dramatically. He is exercising to regain mobility and doing well in his second year as a U-M student. To celebrate and honor Calvin's progress, Lisa and Jonathan Rye made a gift of \$2.5 million to support the U-M Scleroderma Program.

The Ryes' support extends far beyond their generous gift. Displaying the same drive and tenacity they exhibited during the long struggle to solve the mystery of their son's medical condition, the Ryes meet regularly with Seibold and other researchers to help devise strategies for moving the Scleroderma Program forward. Through their efforts, says Seibold, the Ryes have become partners in advancing the program's core mission.

As chairman of Greenfield Commercial Credit in Bloomfield Hills, Jonathan Rye is familiar with evaluating effective business models and believes the U-M Scleroderma Program's strategic, results-oriented approach to finding effective treatments — and, one day, a cure — makes good sense. "Jim Seibold possesses the unusual combination of being a wonderful healer and a great scientist," he says. "Through our efforts, Lisa and I seek to highlight and accelerate the progress of his work by utilizing the power of interdisciplinary research at the U-M."

Marvin and Betty Danto: Gratitude for Two Michigan Physicians Leads to Support for Scleroderma — and the Cardiovascular Center

Starting as an assistant manager for the Detroit-based Englander Furniture Shops, Marvin Danto went on to become chief executive officer and chairman of the board of the eight-store chain. Later, he turned his lifetime of experience toward developing a new concept in marketing home furnishings — the Michigan Design Center. Described as "the pages of your favorite design magazine come

to life," the 215,000-square-foot facility features over 40 professionally-designed showrooms highlighting the most exclusive home furnishings for design professionals and their clients. Danto later expanded the idea to build the 775,000-square-foot Design Center of the Americas, located near Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

For many years Danto suffered from extreme sensitivity to cold that caused his fingers and toes to blanch, and numbness, tingling and burning sensations that made many routine activities very difficult, especially during cold Michigan winters. Over the course of more than 15 years, Danto visited some of the nation's top hospitals to learn more about his condition and to find more effective treatments, but to no avail. Later, a serious cardiac problem led Danto to U-M Health System cardiologist Kim Eagle, M.D., an event Danto now sees as very positive.

"Dr. Eagle was extremely thorough in evaluating my symptoms and medical history," says Danto. "He made a point of keeping me well-informed, and reported back to me on my progress at every step. I found his attention to detail and respect for me as a patient very refreshing."

As Danto's heart condition was controlled, and his trust in Eagle grew, he asked for the physician's advice about his sensitivity to cold. Eagle diagnosed the cause as Raynaud's phenomenon and referred him to Jim Seibold who confirmed Eagle's diagnosis and recognized it as an early symptom of scleroderma. Danto says he is grateful to both Eagle and Seibold for correctly diagnosing his condition and for developing an effective treatment plan, citing both physicians as emblematic of the U-M's commitment to excellence.

While his own case of scleroderma is relatively mild, Danto is very aware it remains the



Betty and Marvin Danto

Photo: Ted Mase

Continued

most fatal rheumatologic illness, one that imposes an overwhelming burden on many victims. A desire to help others with scleroderma, coupled with gratitude for the care he received, led Danto and his wife, Betty, to give \$2 million to the U-M Scleroderma Program. Betty Danto has also been treated at the U-M, and two of the couple's three children attended the University. Their gift will establish the Marvin and Betty Danto Research Professorship in Connective Tissue Research.

"I'm hopeful that the Dantos' gift will accelerate breakthroughs in understanding the disease processes active in scleroderma," says Seibold, "breakthroughs which may ultimately benefit patients with other significant disorders of scarring and blood vessel injury."

Eagle says he and his colleagues in the U-M Cardiovascular Center are also working hard to better understand blood vessel damage caused by scleroderma, hoping it will directly benefit patients with pulmonary hypertension, peripheral vascular disease, and perhaps atherosclerosis. For this reason, the Dantos have also recognized Eagle's work in cardiology and vascular biology through a \$2 million gift to the U-M Health System's new Cardiovascular Center building project. In recognition of their gift to the Cardiovascular Center, the University will name the auditorium in the center's new clinical building The Marvin and Betty Danto Auditorium.

Now in his late 80s, Marvin Danto acknowledges that the benefits of research he and his wife are helping make possible may come too late to help him personally. "But hopefully," he says, "the work that Kim Eagle, Jim Seibold and others are doing will someday bring real benefits to people who are suffering with this condition.

"But who knows," he says, after pausing a second, "maybe it will help me, too."

—Glen Sard

For more information on the U-M Scleroderma Program:
www.med.umich.edu/scleroderma

Peg Bertsch, Supporter of Hearing Loss Research, Dies at 88

The U-M Medical School lost a longtime friend and pioneering supporter of hearing loss research when Margaret G. "Peg" Bertsch, 88, died on March 3 in Grand Rapids.

Bertsch, a U-M alumna who was active in theater and drama during her Michigan days and who, throughout her life, remained deeply involved in her community, funded research at the U-M to help determine the cause of certain types of genetic hearing loss, a condition prevalent in her family. Characteristic of her style, drive and dogged idealism, just one week after establishing the fund Bertsch called the Medical School to check on the progress of the research she was supporting.

Bertsch showed great foresight by supporting genetics research in the mid-1990s, a time when the Human Genome Project was in its infancy and few understood the importance of studying the genetic basis of disease. Her support enabled the U-M to develop a premier research group dedicated to understanding the genetic basis of deafness. "Peg Bertsch was dedicated to making a difference," says Gregory Wolf, M.D., chair of the Department of Otolaryngology, "for her family, and for the world at large. We will greatly miss — and always remember — her inspiring spirit and the significant influence she had on advancing our work."

The Michigan Difference A Campaign for Medicine at Michigan

The Difference Made to Date*: \$370 million (74%)

Fund-raising Goal: \$500 million



Student Support: Building the Next Generation of Leading Physicians and Medical Scientists

To date: \$40 million of \$50 million goal (80%) for new scholarships

Faculty Support: Investing in Creative Teaching and Superior Learning

To date: \$58 million of \$80 million goal (73%) for new professorships

Facilities Support: Building the Infrastructure 2

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Research Support: Launching New Program and Research Initiatives 2

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Bequest Intentions Goal: \$50 million



Estate Gifts: Future Support for the Health System To date: \$55 million of \$50 million goal (110%)

* as of January 31, 2006