

# medicine

at M I C H I G A N

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Body  
and Soul



# THE MICHIGAN DIFFERENCE

Gifts in support of medicine at Michigan

## \$22 Million from Retail Pioneer Launches A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute

**A** new and extraordinary gift to the University of Michigan Health System is making possible a new and extraordinary institute – one with a mission of supporting fundamental research to advance the understanding of the causes, treatment and prevention of a broad range of human diseases.

The A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute, being established in the Medical School, is named for the retail pioneer whose funding and vision led to its creation. In addition to \$7 million of support for research into neurological diseases being conducted by neurologist Eva Feldman, a new \$15-million commitment by Taubman creates an endowment whose earnings will fund the institute, and the research of individual Taubman Scholars within the institute, for generations to come.

The first five Taubman Scholars, including Feldman, have been chosen from among the Medical School's top scientists. Each was selected for his or her remarkable creativity and research that holds the potential to significantly advance the development of a cure or preventive treatment for a human disease.

Typically, scientists will receive three-year grants that will provide \$200,000 per year for their laboratory teams to pursue the most promising possibilities in their work. The scholars also will serve as advocates for research by taking part in efforts to educate the public about the importance of biomedical research, and of public and private support. At the end of three years, the scholars' grants may be renewed, and new scholars may be chosen from among the Medical School faculty, by an oversight committee chaired by U-M Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs Robert Kelch (M.D. 1967, Residency 1970). In addition to Kelch, the committee includes Medical School Dean James Woolliscroft, M.D. (Residency 1980); Kim Eagle, M.D., co-director of the Cardiovascular Center; Feldman, who was the first Taubman Scholar chosen; Taubman; and Jeffrey Miro, a Michigan-based attorney and adjunct professor at the U-M Law School. In



David Pinsky, Valerie Castle, Max Wicha, A. Alfred Taubman, Eva Feldman and Yehoash Raphael

Photo: Paul Janowski

November, Feldman was named director of the institute.

Taubman, who studied architecture at the U-M, borrowed \$5,000 at age 26 to found a small development company, and three years later – in 1953 – opened his first shopping center in Flint, Michigan. Today, The Taubman Company is one of the world's largest developers and managers of commercial real estate, with a portfolio of shopping malls located in major markets from coast to coast, as well as in newly-emerging markets across Asia.

**“We are on the doorstep of amazing scientific discoveries that will dramatically improve the health of people around the world. I am especially proud that [this] groundbreaking work is being done right here in Michigan.”**

—A. Alfred Taubman

By developing and introducing many important retail design and business refinements – from climate-controlled, enclosed malls to efficient parking and circulation systems, to the first food courts – Taubman has profoundly

changed not only the way people shop, but also how they live, work and socialize.

With his gift to create the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute and support research at the Medical School, Taubman has solidified his position as one of the University of Michigan's leading donors. Taubman's cumulative giving to the University now stands at more than \$60 million – more than \$56 million of which has been given as part of the University's \$2.5 billion Michigan Difference fund-raising campaign.

The first five Taubman Scholars are:

**Valerie Castle**, M.D. (Fellowship 1990), a pediatric cancer specialist whose lab is working on strategies to make cancer cells “commit suicide” in the most common form of solid-tumor cancers in children. Castle chairs the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, and holds the Ravitz Foundation Professorship in Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases.

**Eva Feldman** (M.D. 1983, Ph.D. 1979), a neurologist whose laboratory has already received support from Taubman to fund research on the use of stem cells and other novel approaches to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also ►

known as Lou Gehrig's disease (see "Taubman Gift Advances ALS Research," summer 2007 *Medicine at Michigan*). Feldman heads the Program for Neurology Research and Discovery and is the Russell N. DeJong Professor of Neurology.

**David Pinsky**, M.D., a cardiologist who studies proteins involved in preventing the formation of clots inside blood vessels, which could lead to a new class of drugs to prevent strokes and heart attacks. Pinsky also serves as chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine; the J. Griswold Ruth, M.D., and Margery Hopkins Ruth Professor of Internal Medicine; and as a director of the Cardiovascular Center.

**Yehoash Raphael**, Ph.D., a cell biologist who is developing ways to grow stem cells into the auditory hair cells that are crucial to our ability to hear, and to implant those cells into deaf ears to replace damaged cells and restore hearing. Raphael is the R. Jamison and Betty J. Williams Professor of Otolaryngology and a member of the U-M Kresge Hearing Research Institute.

**Max Wicha**, M.D., a cancer researcher who reported the first finding of stem cells in a solid tumor — the small number of cells that fuel the tumor's growth. Wicha serves as the founding director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Distinguished Professor of Oncology.

—Kara Gavin and Glen Sard

For more information, a podcast of Taubman and the five inaugural Taubman Scholars discussing this gift and commenting on the Taubman Institute's potential to accelerate U-M research, as well as audio comments by the scholars, visit:

[www.med.umich.edu/opm/newspage/2007/taubmaninstitute.htm](http://www.med.umich.edu/opm/newspage/2007/taubmaninstitute.htm)



Peter and Virginia Corriveau

### Gratitude Takes the Form of Physician Support

Peter Corriveau, founder of Corriveau Steel, and his wife, Virginia, of Farmington, Michigan, recently made gifts totaling \$200,000 in gratitude for care received from U-M physicians. Support went to Kim Eagle, M.D., the Albion Walter Hewlett Professor of Internal Medicine, to fund clinical education; Timothy M. Johnson, M.D., the Lewis and Lillian Becker Professor of Dermatology, for his work with melanoma; and an expendable gift to the Division of Nephrology. Corriveau is a graduate of the University of Detroit.

### Mardigian Foundation Funds Aortic Research

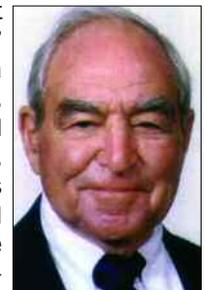
Continued support from the Edward and Helen Mardigian Foundation to the Cardiovascular Center is funding research in new techniques in catheterizations/interventional cardiology and echocardiography/heart imaging. The foundation's gifts to aortic research at the Cardiovascular Center total nearly \$1 million, and its generosity also has benefited the Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Geriatrics Center, as well as a library and Armenian studies at Michigan's Dearborn campus. An industrialist and philanthropist, Edward Mardigian Sr., who died in 1993, funded museums and the restoration of historic Armenian churches and monasteries worldwide. His widow, Helen, serves as president of the foundation, and his son, Edward Jr., serves as vice president and treasurer. According to Edward Jr., his father believed the U.S. was good to him and he wanted to give back. "He always felt that whatever you gave would come back tenfold."

### Mulkey Professorship Pays Tribute to Michigan Training

Dorothy M. Mulkey, M.D. (Residency 1972), of Flushing, Michigan, has established a bequest which will create the Dorothy M. Mulkey, M.D., Endowed Professorship in Rheumatology, as well as the Dorothy M. Mulkey, M.D., Endowed Research Fund in Rheumatology. Mulkey, who was among the first women to complete a residency in rheumatology at Michigan, was a protégé of Giles Bole (M.D. 1953, Residency 1956), then chief of the Department of Rheumatology and later dean of the Medical School. After a career as assistant dean at the Michigan State University medical school and nearly 30 years in private practice, Mulkey decided to leave the bulk of her estate to Michigan where she trained.

### Ravitz Foundation Spurs Translational Cancer Research

A \$1 million gift from the Ravitz Foundation, a Southfield, Michigan-based philanthropic organization with interests in health care and cancer research, has created the Ravitz Foundation Phase I Translational Research Unit in the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Phase I research involves clinical trials which translate basic laboratory research into experimental therapies; such translational research is the first step in the process of testing a new therapy on actual patients. Burt Shifman, a director of the foundation, refers to the gift as "the fuel to do the research that needs to be done."



Edward Ravitz

Edward Ravitz, a native of Kalamazoo, was a builder and real estate developer who, at the time of his death in 1999, had helped build more than 15,000 single-family and apartment homes in Michigan and another 12,000 in other states.

### Towsley Foundation Supports New Eye Imaging Center

The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation has awarded \$1.5 million to the U-M Kellogg Eye Center to help fund a state-of-the-art eye imaging center, to be named for the Towsleys. The new center will capture images of the eye to be used in gathering information about eye disease. The Midland, Michigan-based foundation's generosity has benefited many areas of the University and its Health System. Harry Towsley (M.D. 1931, Residency 1934), a member of the Medical School faculty for 37 years, and his wife, Margaret Dow Towsley, were both major benefactors to the U-M, and the foundation has continued that tradition of generosity to Michigan over the years.



Photo: Martin Voet

John Vincent and Burton Vincent Jr.

### Vincent Professorship Advances Diabetes, Metabolism Research

A gift from the Molly Vincent Foundation has established the Marilyn H. Vincent Professorship in Diabetes Research, honoring the family of Marilyn H. (Molly) and Burton J. Vincent and helping advance leading-edge diabetes and metabolism research at Michigan. Molly Vincent had type 2 diabetes mellitus, and one of her sons, Burton Jr., is afflicted with type 1. Both illnesses significantly affected the Vincent family and led to Molly's wish that her estate contribute to future advances in diabetes research. Burton Jr. and his brother, John, are carrying out their mother's wishes by creating the Vincent Professorship. Molly Vincent was an Ann Arbor native, and Burton Sr. was a visionary businessman who received his business degree from the U-M in 1948.



Photo: Stefanie Fineman

Arul Chinnaiyan and Keith Pomeroy. Chinnaiyan's research team has discovered that fusion of genes causes prostate cancer to develop.

## Keith Pomeroy Kicks-off "Wolverines Against Prostate Cancer Challenge"

A leadership gift of \$100,000 from Keith Pomeroy of Birmingham, Michigan, is catalyzing a challenge posed by the Prostate Cancer Foundation, the world's largest philanthropic source of research funding for prostate cancer. The foundation has challenged the Michigan Center for Translational Pathology to raise \$1 million, which the foundation will match dollar-for-dollar to accelerate the search for a cure and better treatment.

Pomeroy, general partner with Pomeroy Investment Corporation, a privately held real estate and health care investment company, was diagnosed with prostate cancer, joining the "reluctant fraternity," as he calls it, of more than 2 million men dealing with the disease. Treated at the U-M, Pomeroy has emerged as an energetic advocate of the work of Arul Chinnaiyan, M.D., Ph.D., who, along with his research team in 2003, found that two genes unique to prostate cancer fuse together and can be easily detected, resulting in a perfect target for cancer-killing therapies. With targeted therapy, physicians will be able to kill prostate cancer cells without damaging healthy cells. Chinnaiyan's work also holds important implications for other common solid tumors, including cancer of the breast, lung, colon and skin.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation has awarded the U-M close to \$5 million for prostate cancer research during the last decade. Pomeroy says that by stepping up its commitment through the Wolverine Challenge, the foundation is helping "accelerate the potential of [Chinnaiyan's] transformational discovery."

**PROFESSORSHIPS RECENTLY INAUGURATED**

**The William S. Smith Collegiate Professorship in Orthopaedic Surgery**

Family, friends and colleagues of William S. Smith (M.D. 1943, Residency 1950) honored him with the establishment of the William S. Smith Collegiate Professorship in Orthopaedic Surgery. On July 26, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery Robert N. Hensinger (M.D. 1964, Residencies 1966 and 1971) became the first Smith Professor.



**William Smith**

**The Leland and Elaine Blatt Family Professorship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology**

Moved by the prospect of extending lives and potentially curing children with serious forms of cancer, Elaine Blatt, through her family foundation, established the Leland and Elaine Blatt Family Professorship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. On August 29, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases and of Internal Medicine Gregory A. Yanik, M.D., was installed as the first Blatt Professor.



**Elaine Blatt (right) with son, Doug, and his wife, Tracy**

**The Alexander J. Trotman Professorship in Leukemia Research**

A longtime supporter of the Comprehensive Cancer Center with her husband, Alexander, Valerie Trotman established the Alexander J. Trotman Professorship in Leukemia Research following his death in 2005. Professor of Internal Medicine and Cancer Center Associate Director of Translational Research Moshe Talpaz, M.D., a leading clinical investigator in hematologic malignancies, became the first Trotman Professor on October 1.



**Valerie Trotman (center) with daughters Samantha Burman (left) and Helen Trotman (right)**

**The Reed Nesbit Professorship in Urology**

In tribute to the career and life of one of the top urologists of his time, family, friends and colleagues in the Department of Urology have established the Reed Nesbit Professorship in Urology. On October 11, Professor of Urology Edward J. McGuire, M.D., was installed as the first recipient of the Nesbit Professorship, which supports an outstanding tenured faculty member in the Department of Urology.



**Reed Nesbit**

—Kevin Bergquist

**LIVES LIVED**

**John Steuer Dobson, Community and U-M Supporter, Dies at 88**

The Ann Arbor community and the University of Michigan lost a loyal and dedicated friend when John Steuer Dobson died on July 19, 2007. Born in Ann Arbor in 1918, he lived his entire life here. Known to his many long-time friends as “Honest John,” he carried on a three-generation family tradition of community involvement and philanthropy in addition to pursuing a long and distinguished legal career.



Dobson graduated from Michigan Phi Beta Kappa and lettered in track as a half-miler. A graduate of the Law School, he championed many causes during his career, including successfully representing U-M faculty members investigated by the House Un-American Activities Committee. He was a principal in several firms bearing his name and served three elected terms on the Ann Arbor City Council, as well as on many boards and commissions. Dobson was a founder of the Ann Arbor Community Center, the Huron Valley National Bank, and the Huron Valley Tennis Club where he was a sought-after partner and feared adversary.

Dobson’s generosity benefited a number of causes within the U-M Health System, including research into Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders, for which he and his wife established the John S. and Alice B. Dobson Research Fund in the Medical School. He will be remembered for his ebullient spirit, his definite opinions, his support of Michigan athletics, his love of music, his sense of humor, and his love of and devotion to his family. Dobson is survived by his wife of 25 years, Alice, two daughters, two stepdaughters, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.