

giving matters

A publication for supporters of
health-related research and education
at the University of Minnesota

FALL 2008



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAY AND LONNI MOORELAND

Nine-month-old Sarah Mooreland died before she could receive a University-developed experimental treatment for her rare skin disease. Today her parents, Jay and Lonni, have created a fund in her name to help advance the breakthrough research.

"This work can't be done just anywhere. It's being done at the University of Minnesota for a reason: We have all of the elements required to make this research happen."

— JOHN WAGNER, M.D.

Grief leads to hope for others

Family's research fund helps University physicians hone in on a cure for a devastating skin disease

The minute Sarah Mooreland was born, her parents knew that caring for her would be different from caring for their two other children. Clearly, something was wrong with Sarah's skin.

Jay and Lonni Mooreland, of Folsom, California, soon learned that the problem was serious; Sarah had a life-threatening skin disease called recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (EB).

"We were totally shocked," Lonni Mooreland says. "We had never even heard of EB before."

But what they learned was frightening. In people with EB, the body lacks a type of collagen that helps skin attach to the body. That makes their skin extremely delicate—even the slightest touch can cause the skin to tear or blister.

In severe cases, EB also affects the lining of the gastrointestinal tract. Coughing and swallowing can tear the lining of the esophagus and stomach.

As a result, people with EB are very susceptible to infection and can easily become malnourished. If they live long enough, they will likely acquire a fatal, aggressive skin cancer in young adulthood.

And, devastating to the Moorelands, there was no cure.

A glimmer of hope

The Moorelands kept searching. Through an online EB network, Lonni learned that a University of Minnesota team led by blood and marrow transplantation (BMT) pioneer John Wagner, M.D., had developed an experimental therapy aimed at curing EB and had just given it to a child as part of a clinical trial.

The trial marked the first time physicians had approached EB treatment systemically, using marrow-derived stem cells as a way to replace the missing collagen. In theory, with the help of an infusion of stem cells from a healthy donor, the body would start producing the collagen and correct the underlying genetic defect.

"This work can't be done just anywhere," Wagner says. "It's being done at the University of Minnesota for a reason: We have all

continued on back page

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Minnesota Medical Foundation
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University of Minnesota
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Anything from a hunch — a tiny spark of an idea — to meticulous planning can

launch a quest to discover what's possible in medicine, public health, philanthropy, or other realms. But conviction is what sustains it.

The conviction that they were on to something significant led John Wagner, M.D., a pediatric oncologist at the University, and his colleagues to discover a totally new approach to treating a life-threatening skin disease known as epidermolysis bullosa — or EB.

Tragically, 9-month-old Sarah Mooreland, who was born with EB, didn't live long enough to undergo the experimental treatment. But as you'll read in our cover story, her parents' conviction that it holds the best hope for other children with the disease has inspired them to start a fund in Sarah's honor to support Wagner's research.

In the adjacent story, you'll read about Eli Coleman, Ph.D., director of the University's Program in Human Sexuality. He believes so strongly in the importance and value of this program that he not only made it his life's work, but he's also pledged his entire estate to help ensure its future.

Certainly the conviction that her work was worthwhile kept Marguerite Queneau (see story on page 4) active in public health nutrition until she was 85 years old — and it inspired her siblings to establish a scholarship in her name.

Likewise, belief in her cause helped sustain Michelle Macy, featured on page 5, as she swam the English Channel, raising money for breast cancer research with every stroke.

Thank you for sharing my conviction that we are improving many thousands of lives by supporting health-related discoveries at the University of Minnesota. Together, we make more possible.

Becky Malkerson

President and CEO
Minnesota Medical Foundation

Ensuring a lasting impact

Director of the Program in Human Sexuality makes another commitment to his program through an estate gift

For years Eli Coleman, Ph.D., has been the media's go-to source for stories about sexual health. Need to know about the effectiveness of sex education in schools? Need a quote about how to rehabilitate sex offenders? How about stopping the spread of HIV? Coleman's your man.

A longtime professor and director of the Program in Human Sexuality in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Coleman has built his career at the University of Minnesota.

As he was completing his Ph.D. in counseling and student personnel psychology here in 1978 during the "sexual revolution," he noticed a lack of knowledge about human sexuality. So immediately after receiving his doctorate, he joined the faculty of the Medical School's Program in Human Sexuality, which had been established seven years earlier.

"Trying to understand and help resolve sexual problems became a very critical need, and I became aware of how little research was done in the area," he says. "There were never-ending questions to answer."

The Program in Human Sexuality has since grown into one of the world's largest and most comprehensive centers for sexual health treatment, research, and education. And although he believes there are still plenty of questions left to answer, today Coleman's work is nationally and internationally known. His research covers

a wide variety of topics: sexual orientation, compulsive sexual behavior, gender identity disorder, psychological and pharmacologic treatment of sexual disorders, and sexual health promotion.

To recognize his achievements, the Medical School last year named Coleman the inaugural holder of its Chair in Sexual Health, the first of its kind in the world.

The endowed chair is currently funded with more than \$4 million in private donations made through the Minnesota Medical Foundation. The funding, to be used at the chair holder's discretion, supports research, education, patient care, public policy advocacy, and efforts to recruit and retain top faculty members.

Coleman is proud to be recognized in this way, and he wants to make sure someone else will have this honor in the future. Through a planned gift, Coleman in October pledged his entire estate in support of the Chair in Sexual Health.

"I wanted to ensure that the program's legacy would continue, recognizing that many sexuality programs have disappeared when faculty retired or died," he says. "The program has been my life's work. I owe the University of Minnesota for giving me this opportunity, and I want to make sure that it's there for others in the future."

Medical School Dean Deborah E. Powell, M.D., says Coleman's gift further proves his "profound" commitment to the field of sexual health. "Dr. Coleman already gives so much as the first holder of this chair," she says. "To have him dedicate his estate to the future of the chair is extraordinary."

Coleman also hopes his gift will encourage more faculty members to support their academic departments.

"I hope that they will think about the needs of the institution in the future and realize that we simply cannot take the University for granted," he says.

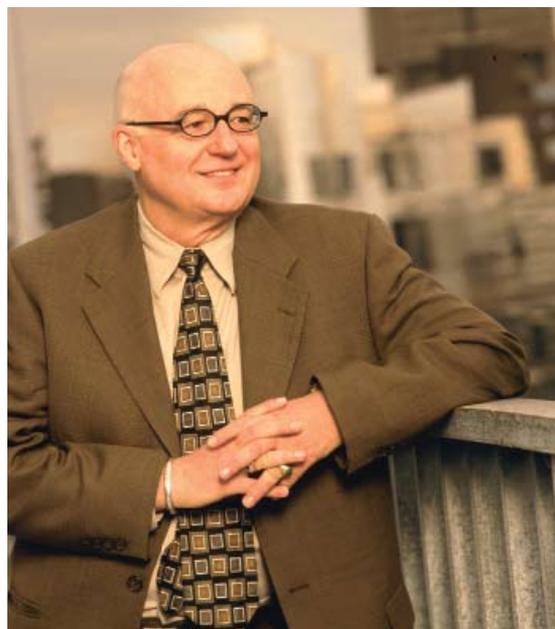


PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

To ensure his program's future, Eli Coleman, Ph.D., has pledged his entire estate in support of the Medical School's Chair in Sexual Health, which he now holds.

Improving cancer outcomes

5th District Eagles Telethon supports vital studies in smoking-related cancer

“You can draw a direct line between research spending and improved cancer outcomes,” says Douglas Yee, M.D., director of the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota. “The more effort, research, and money we put into cancer research, the fewer people are affected by cancer or lose their lives to it. That’s been very clear.”

Participants in the 5th District Eagles Cancer Telethon are taking Yee’s words to heart. Since 2004, the telethon, held annually under the auspices of the Fraternal Order of Eagles on KTTC-TV in Rochester, Minnesota, has raised \$530,000 for the Masonic Cancer Center.

Led by director and CEO Robert Callier, the telethon takes in donations from southeastern Minnesota communities during the 20-hour TV event as well as at 5K races, golf tournaments, bowl-a-thons, and other activities held throughout the year.

Last year, the telethon presented Yee with \$130,000 for the Masonic Cancer Center. That unrestricted gift allowed him to direct the money where it’s needed most.

Yee chose pilot studies that lay the groundwork for obtaining support from federal agencies, such as the National Cancer Institute, for larger researcher projects.

“We are making great progress in reducing cancer’s impact,” Yee says. “At the same time, we are in a much more competitive environment for federal research funding, so it’s extremely important for the Masonic Cancer Center to have discretionary support to put forward pilot projects.”

All too aware that lung cancer is the No. 1 cause of cancer deaths and that smoking is the biggest contributor to lung cancer, Yee has invested the telethon’s gift to help fund pilot research projects being conducted at the University’s Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center (TTURC).

“The seed money we get from the Eagles is crucial because it allows us to apply for larger grants, often in areas that are under-studied,” says TTURC director Dorothy Hatsukami, Ph.D. TTURC pilot projects that received 5th District Eagles Telethon funding this year include three such under-studied subjects:

- Physical activity as an intervention for smoking cessation in women age 50 and older, conducted by Sharon Allen, M.D., Ph.D., a professor in the Medical School’s Department of Family Medicine and Community Health;
- Risk assessment for African-American light smokers, based on metabolism of tobacco carcinogens, conducted by Kola Okuyemi, M.D., M.P.H., director of the Medical School’s Program in Health Disparities Research; and
- Modeling tobacco dependence in rats using a cigarette smoke exposure system, conducted by Mark LeSage, Ph.D., an assistant professor of medicine.

“It’s hard to get any kind of [federal] funding and harder still to get funding to study something that’s uncharted territory,” LeSage notes. “Pilot funding gives you a chance to be creative, to pursue novel avenues and get your foot in the door to an area that could potentially have a major impact on the field.”

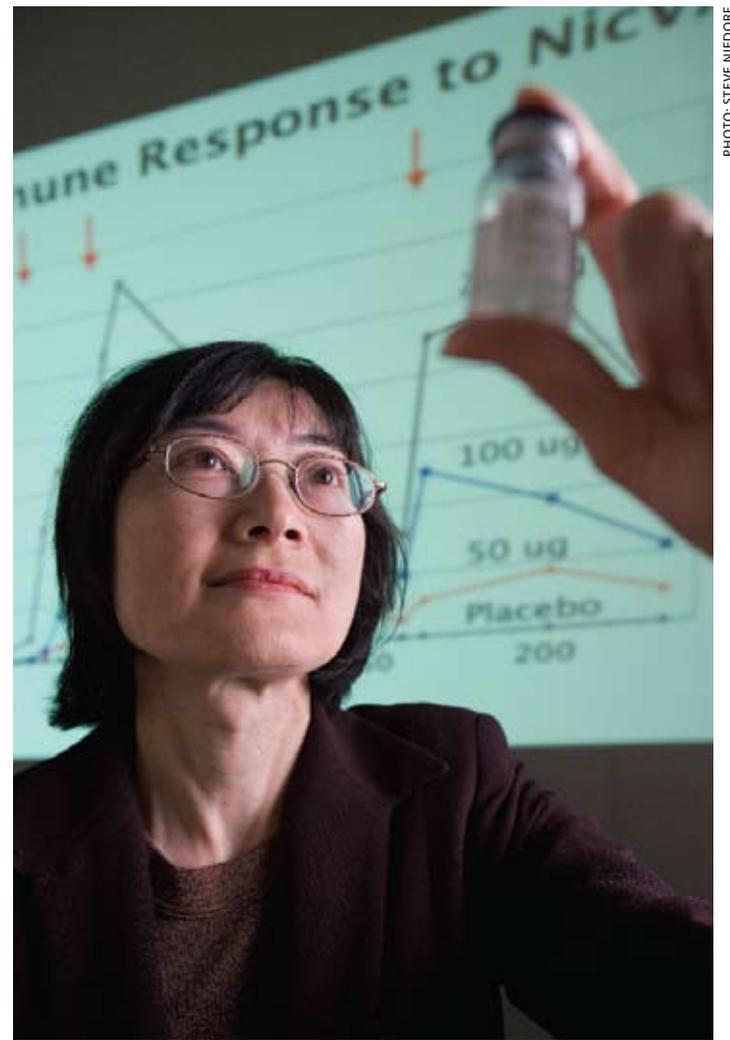


PHOTO: STEVE NIEDORF

Dorothy Hatsukami, Ph.D., whose own research is focused on developing a vaccine to help people stop smoking, directs the University’s Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center (TTURC). The 5th District Eagles Cancer Telethon is supporting several TTURC pilot studies this year.

Callier, who has volunteered for the 5th District Eagles Cancer Telethon for 50 of its 54 years, says he’s seen firsthand what research can do to improve cancer outcomes.

“I have a relative who’s been free and clear of cancer for nine years after going through surgery, chemotherapy, everything,” says Callier, who’s also met countless others whose lives have been saved or improved because of treatments developed through cancer research. “It’s been very gratifying,” he says.

– MARY VITCENDA

Scholarship honors sister's contributions to public health nutrition

Marguerite Queneau was never inclined to complacency.

Within about a decade of graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1925 with a degree in home economics, Queneau became the first public health nutritionist for the New York State Department of Health, where she helped build the department's reputation as a pioneer in public health nutrition.

She earned a master's degree in child development and served overseas as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and head dietitian for the 34th General Hospital during World War II.

Queneau also shared her expertise internationally. She taught maternal and child nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health, was a Fulbright Teaching Fellow in Paris, and spent a year in Rome with the United Nations Food Agricultural Organization.

And when she retired — at the mandatory age of 70 — she continued to learn about her chosen field. Queneau attended her last international conference on nutrition as honorary chairperson at age 85.

"She kept going, like most of the Queneaus do," says her 96-year-old brother, Bernard Queneau, Ph.D., who earned his doctorate in metallurgy at the University in 1936.

After Margot — as she was called — died in 1994, Bernie Queneau wanted to do something to honor her. "She really was quite an outstanding nutritionist," he says.

So the next year, Bernie and his siblings established a scholarship in Margot's name at the University's School of Public Health (SPH). Their parents had met as students at the University, and three of the six Queneau children have degrees from the University, so it was close to their hearts.

When another brother, Roland Queneau, died in 1997, one-third of his estate went to the Marguerite Queneau Memorial Scholarship Endowment. The size and impact of the fund grew substantially.

The endowment is now valued at more than \$700,000. To date, 33 SPH students have received the Queneau scholarship, which supports research assistantships and student and faculty development in the school's Public Health Nutrition Program.

Lacey Arneson, one of three SPH students to receive the scholarship in the 2007–08 academic year, says it has allowed her to pursue her passion: research.

"This scholarship has provided me the opportunity to network with many researchers at the University and has opened more

doors for me than I could have ever imagined," she says. "I also had the privilege of meeting Dr. Bernard Queneau and hearing about what an amazing individual Marguerite was. It's been an honor to have this scholarship and to be considered worthy of following in her footsteps."



PHOTO: ERIC MILLER



PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

Marguerite Queneau's brother Bernard Queneau, Ph.D., and his wife, Esther Queneau (top). A Queneau scholarship allows Lacey Arneson (above) to pursue her passion for research.

Charitable IRA legislation extended through 2009

Thanks to recent individual retirement account (IRA) legislation, people age 70½ or older can once again make outright gifts using IRA funds without adverse tax consequences.

If you are required to receive minimum distributions from your IRA and do not need the money for personal use, consider using those funds to make a charitable gift to the Minnesota Medical Foundation (MMF). Although you cannot claim a charitable deduction for the IRA gifts, you will not pay income tax on the gift amount.

You may contribute funds to qualified charitable organizations such as MMF through this legislation if:

- You are 70½ or older.
- Qualified charitable distributions from your IRA total \$100,000 or less for 2008 and for 2009.
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA to MMF.

Your benefits include:

- In many cases, your transfer counts toward your minimum required distribution.

- You may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA in 2008 and in 2009. Married account owners can give up to \$100,000 each per year.
- Your distribution may be in addition to or fulfill any charitable giving you have already planned.

Don't miss this second chance to make tax-free gifts from your IRA. Be sure to contact your tax adviser and IRA administrator if you are considering a gift under this law.

For more information about making a charitable IRA gift to the Minnesota Medical Foundation, contact Mark Parsons at 612-625-2298, 800-922-1663, or m.parsons@mmf.umn.edu. To learn more about other gift planning options, visit www.mmf.umn.edu and select "Gift Planning."

NOVEMBER

2 SUNDAY 6 P.M.
Annual Meeting of the American Association of Medical Colleges—Special Reception
Grand Hyatt,
San Antonio, Texas
Join colleagues from the University of Minnesota Medical School, Medical Alumni Society, and Minnesota Medical Foundation for a special reception during the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC).
① Contact Katrina Roth at 612-625-0336 or k.roth@mmf.umn.edu.

8 SATURDAY 11 A.M.
Scholarships: Investing in a Healthy Future
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota
This annual luncheon honors our medical student scholarship recipients and the

generous donors who have contributed to the Minnesota Medical Foundation's scholarship program.
By invitation only.
① Contact Brittany LaMere at 612-625-7490 or b.lamere@mmf.umn.edu.

9 SUNDAY 5 P.M.
Party in the Park
Nickelodeon Universe,® Mall of America,® Bloomington
This fun-filled family event grants guests exclusive access to Nickelodeon Universe attractions, live entertainment, auctions, and a delectable dinner. Party in the Park benefits the internationally renowned University of Minnesota Department of Pediatrics and the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview.
① Contact Amy Ault at 612-626-5720 or a.ault@mmf.umn.edu.

14 FRIDAY 7 A.M.
Connections Mentoring Breakfast
A. I. Johnson Great Room, McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota
The Connections Physician-Student Mentoring Program matches University of Minnesota medical students with community physicians for a mentoring relationship intended to last through the student's four years of medical school. Every fall, the mentor program kicks off with this opening breakfast that provides participants with an opportunity to meet and discuss their goals and expectations. Open to all mentors and student mentees.
① Contact Katrina Roth at 612-625-0336 or k.roth@mmf.umn.edu.

JANUARY

22 THURSDAY 5:30 P.M.
Diamond Awards
Minneapolis Marriott, City Center
Don't miss Minnesota's premier baseball charity event, Diamond Awards, where Minnesota Twins and guests will celebrate the baseball season and raise funds for medical research. Proceeds from the fourth annual Diamond Awards will support

the University of Minnesota's innovative research and patient care in ataxia, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's, and ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease)—devastating illnesses that affect thousands of families in Minnesota alone.
① Contact Valerie Petermann at 612-624-4444 or v.petermann@mmf.umn.edu.



PHOTO: STEVE JOHNSON

The Masons of Minnesota marched through the University of Minnesota campus October 4 to commemorate their historic pledge to support the fight against cancer. A rededication ceremony marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Masonic Memorial Hospital, which now houses a cancer clinic.

go to: www.mmf.umn.edu

For event descriptions, updates, links, and contact information.

Fighting breast cancer one stroke at a time

Michelle Macy grew up swimming. "I probably started swimming before I could walk," says the Minnesota native who now lives in Beaverton, Oregon, and works for Nike, Inc. A competitive swimmer in high school and college, she set a personal goal to swim the English Channel.

When her mother, Kathleen Macy, was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2007—two weeks before Macy was to leave for Europe—her goal became something bigger: a mission to raise money to fight the disease.

Before moving to Oregon in 2005, Macy worked as a lab technician on a breast cancer vaccine study at the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota. Her mother later became a patient at the center, where she continues to receive cancer treatment.

"This has been challenging for our family," says Michelle, whose grandmother and two aunts have also battled breast cancer.

When Macy began training for the 21-mile swim across the Channel, people started sending her donations. She decided to donate half of the money she raised to the Masonic Cancer Center. Since she completed the swim in September 2007, Macy has swum competitively around the country with the goal of raising \$50,000 for breast cancer research at the University.

Nike has provided matching donations, and several other sponsors have contributed to her cause as well. Says Macy, "It's a way for me to honor my family and friends who are and have been courageous in their fight against breast cancer."

To learn more about Macy's accomplishment and her goals, visit www.macyswim.com. To support the Masonic Cancer Center, contact Kathy Beenen at 612-625-6495 or k.beenen@mmf.umn.edu, or give online at www.mmf.umn.edu/give/cancer.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MICHELLE MACY

Michelle Macy's swim across the English Channel last year raised money for breast cancer research at the University.

A special thanks

We'd like to extend an extra thank-you to the following individuals and organizations that have made commitments totaling \$100,000 or more between May 1 and August 31, 2008.

The American Legion and Auxiliary Heart Research Foundation, St. Paul, made gifts totaling \$118,898 to the Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary Heart Research Foundation Chair. The foundation has supported the work of faculty at the University of Minnesota Medical School since 1948. Mark Schleiss, M.D.—the latest beneficiary of its support—is working on a vaccine to protect against cytomegalovirus, a leading cause of neurological abnormalities and hearing loss in infants.

The Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, Bayport, Minnesota, committed \$3.25 million. This gift established the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation Chair in Adult Clinical Cardiology in the Lillehei Heart Institute and provides support for cardiovascular disease prevention research and education, including support for the cardiology division's fellowship program.

The Curtis L. Carlson Family Foundation, Long Lake, Minnesota, pledged \$100,000 in support of the John S. Najarian, M.D., Surgical Chair in Clinical Transplantation. Gifts from donors like the Carlson Family Foundation are benefiting inaugural Najarian chair holder David E. R. Sutherland, M.D., Ph.D., professor of surgery and co-director of the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation.

The Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF), Minneapolis, contributed \$1.48 million to help advance childhood cancer research in the Department of Pediatrics. CCRF has partnered with pediatricians from the University of Minnesota for more than 20 years to reduce—and perhaps one day, eliminate—the devastating effects of childhood cancer.

Gyrus ACMI, Inc., Southborough, Massachusetts, pledged \$180,000 for the establishment of the Surgical Simulation Fellowship Training Fund. This fellowship—the first of its kind in the nation—will help provide faculty from the University of Minnesota with the means to train doctors from around the world in surgical simulation.

Mary S. Heiserman, Ph.D., Minneapolis, committed a future estate gift that will help accelerate kidney transplant research. Dr. Heiserman has been a licensed psychologist for more than 30 years and has specialized in children's mental health. She made the commitment in gratitude for the exceptional care she received as a kidney transplant patient at the University of Minnesota.

The estate of Julia M. Hoffer contributed \$375,061 to the Department of Pediatrics to promote effective treatments for childhood illnesses.

Delores M. Lutterall, Mankato, Minnesota, committed a future estate gift that will help advance childhood cancer and heart disease research. Her commitment honors her family's dedication to improving the health of children throughout Minnesota, the nation, and the world.

Dusty and George A. Mairs, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, gave \$100,000 to the Mairs Family Chair. Established by the Mairses in 2003 in appreciation of the care that George received as a cancer patient, this chair supports the Bone and Soft Tumor Center in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Medtronic, Inc., Minneapolis, continues to advance health-related research and education at the University of Minnesota through its recent gifts totaling \$166,236. Medtronic has supported talented faculty and students at the University for many years through a partnership that has improved people's health worldwide.

The estate of Eleanor A. Pederson, Willmar, Minnesota, contributed \$203,854 to the University of Minnesota's pediatric cardiology program. She and her late husband, Alf Pederson, were farmers in the Willmar area and generously named the Minnesota Medical Foundation as one of the beneficiaries of their estate.

Dr. Leon and Alma Jean Satran, Minneapolis, pledged \$100,000 for the establishment of the Dr. Leon and Alma J. Satran Scholarship Fund. Both Dr. and Mrs. Satran are alumni of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Satran is a

member of the Medical School's faculty and a pediatrician. They established the Satran Scholarship to help students pursue a world-class education at the Medical School.

Jean Covert Sauer, M.D., Edina, Minnesota, committed six future estate gifts that will help establish the Burton P. Grimes Scholarship Fund and grow the balances of her five existing scholarship funds in the Medical School: the P. V. Mehmel, Ph.D., Scholarship Fund; Winton G. Nasman Endowed Scholarship for Students Interested in Mental Health Care; Otto Raths Endowed Scholarship Fund for Psychiatry; Sauer Endowed Scholarship; and Barbara H. Subak Endowed Scholarship. Dr. Sauer is a member of the Medical School's Class of 1956 and a graduate of the Department of Psychiatry's residency program.

Carlos H. Schenck, M.D., Minneapolis, pledged an additional \$100,000 in support of the Linda Shiro Schenck, M.D., Women Medical Students Endowed Scholarship. Established by Dr. Schenck in memory of his late wife in 1994, the Schenck Scholarship supports women who are pursuing a medical education at the University of Minnesota.

The Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation, Dallas, made gifts totaling \$500,000 for the establishment of the Smith Foundation FSHD Fund and the Smith Foundation Cell Therapy Fund. These funds will help support the work of Michael Kyba, Ph.D., and Rita Perlingeiro, Ph.D., who are studying and developing treatments for facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, which is characterized by weakness of the facial muscles, scapula, and arm.

The Starkey Hearing Foundation, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, gave an additional \$100,000 to the MMP Fund of the International Hearing Foundation to help strengthen the work of the otopathology research laboratory at the University of Minnesota. Since 2000, the Starkey Hearing Foundation has distributed more than 280,000 hearing aids to people from around the world and since 1995 has helped advance the University of Minnesota's work on behalf of hearing-impaired individuals.

Joel S. Stoeckeler, M.D., Hudson, Wisconsin, committed a future estate gift that will eventually establish a scholarship and a lectureship on rural medicine at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Stoeckeler is an alumnus of the Medical School and School of Public Health. He currently practices medicine in Baldwin, Wisconsin.

PRESIDENTS CLUB DEFINES NEW GIVING SOCIETY

The Presidents Club is the University of Minnesota's only recognition club for University-wide cumulative giving, and its 12,500 members have driven the success of philanthropy at the University.

To more adequately recognize donors' generosity, the University is modifying the Presidents Club's giving societies. As a result of the changes, which are outlined below and go into effect January 1, 2009, some donors will move to a higher giving society:

1. a new highest-level lifetime-giving society, the John Sargent Pillsbury Society, will be established for cumulative giving of \$10 million or more;
2. slight adjustments will be made to the Regents and Trustees societies' giving levels; and
3. the Chancellors Society will include individuals who previously were members of the Founders Society.

The University has set a goal to become one of the world's top three public research institutions. The new framework for the Presidents Club will better honor our donors' lifetime giving to the University and more clearly demonstrate philanthropy's crucial role in achieving this goal.

Presidents Club members will receive letters explaining these changes in more detail and providing specific information about any changes to their giving societies.

Drs. Dennis C. Theis and Ann I. Fromell-Theis, Orono, Minnesota, committed a future estate gift that will eventually establish the Drs. Dennis C. Theis and Ann I. Fromell-Theis Endowed Research Fund. The fund will support research on heart disease and, in particular, regenerative heart problems and immunology.

The Muriel Whiteside Charitable Trust, Duluth, Minnesota, contributed \$191,831 to the Whiteside Institute for Clinical Research. A collaboration of the University of Minnesota Medical School–Duluth Campus and St. Luke's Hospital and Foundation, the Whiteside Institute promotes clinical research in the Arrowhead Region with an emphasis on cancer, lung disease, and heart disease.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

Welcome, new members!

Because of their generous support, the following donors became members, or rose to a higher giving society, of the University of Minnesota Presidents Club between May 1 and August 31, 2008. Their gifts have been designated (all or in part) to the Medical School, School of Public Health, Masonic Cancer Center, or other areas served by the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

BUILDERS SOCIETY

(\$1 million or more)

+ Dr. Ray C., '46, and + Hattie B. Anderson
Minnesota Masonic Charities

REGENTS SOCIETY

(\$500,000 to \$1 million)

Alumni Association and Foundation,
Program in Healthcare Administration
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

TRUSTEES SOCIETY

(\$100,000 to \$500,000)

American Foundation for Gender and
Genital Medicine and Sciences
Nash Avery Foundation
Dr. Edward J., '58, and Jane S. Bardon
Children's Respiratory and Critical Care Specialists, P.A.
Engdahl Family Foundation
Gyrus ACMI, Inc.
Jewish Communal Fund
Drs. Jerome H., '57, and Shirley Graves Modell
National Sports Center Foundation
+ Eleanor A. E. and + Alf Pederson
Dr. Leon and Alma Jean Satran
Dr. Sheldon C., '45, and + Priscilla M. Siegel
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Dr. Brian D. Zelickson and Mary McCarthy

CHANCELLORS SOCIETY

(\$50,000 to \$100,000)

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+ Dr. John W., '51, and + Jayne R. McLinden
Troy A. Pearson
Primary Surgical, Inc.

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

(\$25,000 to \$50,000)

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Margaret H. Kennedy
Matt and + Martha L. Kramer
Matrix Foundation
Sara and Kelly K. Morlock
Dr. Amy Susan Mulvahill, '82
North American Systems International
John E. and Darlene L. Ptak
Drs. Ricard R., '59, and Barbara M. Puumala, '59
Quality Wine & Spirits Co.
Blake A. and Sheri L. Smith
Robert Stippich
Suburban Radiologic Consultants, Ltd.
Maxine S. and John A. Syrjamaki
Roland and Rose Thom
Waymouth Farms, Inc.
Dr. Brenda J. Weigel and Ross W. Bartels
George Weston Bakeries, Inc.
Dr. George L., '89, and Leni G. Wilcox, '89

HERITAGE SOCIETY

(Future gifts)

Dr. Lee M., '67, and Bonnie L. Espeland
Kathleen A. and Thomas R. Goswitz
Mary S. Heiserman, Ph.D.
Clayton and Susan S. Kaufman
Delores M. Lutterall
Dr. Joel S. Stoeckeler, '85
Dr. Dennis C. Theis and Dr. Ann I. Fromell-Theis

+ Deceased

MINNESOTA MEDICAL FOUNDATION

at the University of Minnesota

The Minnesota Medical Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota.

SCHOOLS WE SUPPORT

Medical School
School of Public Health

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Bob Allison Ataxia Research Center
International Hearing Foundation
University Pediatrics Foundation

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GRIEF LEADS TO HOPE continued from front page

of the elements required to make this research happen.”

Those elements, he says, include a first-of-its-kind Stem Cell Institute, a Center for Translational Medicine that helps move new therapies from the laboratory to patients faster, and a group of world-class investigators who are thinking about how the immune system will respond to new stem cells.

Worth the chance

They knew the treatment would be risky. Studies in mouse models looked promising, but only two other humans — 2-year-old Nate Liao and his 5-year-old brother, Jacob — had undergone the experimental therapy.

For Jacob, it was too soon to tell whether the transplant was working. But for Nate, who'd had the therapy seven months earlier, it appeared that the transplant was beginning to take. Lab tests showed that his body was producing the missing collagen. He wasn't blistering as much as before, his face plumped up, and he was asking for potato chips, a food he was now able to eat for the first time.

On top of the risk involved in any experimental therapy, Sarah had had some kidney and heart problems shortly after she was born.

But Jay and Lonni felt that the potential benefit was worth the risk. Without the transplant, Sarah likely would live much of her life in pain and die in her teens or early 20s of skin cancer.

“We had to try — for her,” says Jay. “If people don't step forward and take the risk, doctors will never be able to improve upon their strategies.”

Tragically, Sarah died from complications of the chemotherapy that preceded the BMT. Doctors believe that her heart — while it appeared to be functioning well during tests — may have been predisposed to weakness because of her previous heart problems, her parents say.

Bringing hope to other Sarahs

Today the Moorelands are taking another step to help University physician-researchers improve the EB therapy. They've created the Sarah Mooreland EB Fund to provide Wagner and colleague Jakub Tolar, M.D., Ph.D., with funding to continue their innovative work.

“We have spent hours with Dr. Wagner and Dr. Tolar,” says Jay Mooreland. “We truly



GETTING IT STARTED

Toddler Nate Liao and his doctor, John Wagner, M.D. (above), made international news last year when Nate became the first person to undergo an experimental umbilical cord blood and bone marrow transplant aimed at curing epidermolysis bullosa. Nate is now thriving, and his body is producing the collagen it was once missing. His parents, Theresa and Roger Liao, helped launch the research leading to this experimental therapy by pleading with Wagner to find a cure and contributing about \$32,000 from fund-raising events and their own pocketbook to help make it happen. The Children's Cancer Research Fund provided crucial support as well.

believe they have a gift from God to see things down to the cellular level, something that separates them from others.”

So far, the Moorelands and their friends and family have contributed about \$50,000 to the fund. Jay and Lonni have given \$28,000 of that total to support EB research in Sarah's honor.

“We know Sarah didn't die in vain, but it helps to see how her death can influence others to donate,” says Lonni. “Those donations help the doctors, which ultimately brings hope to other families where there wasn't any before.”

To make a gift to the Sarah Mooreland EB Fund or to learn about other ways to support EB research at the University of Minnesota, contact Elizabeth Patty at 612-273-8638 or e.patty@mmf.umn.edu.

giving matters FALL 2008

Published three times a year by the Minnesota Medical Foundation

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PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION

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