

Honoring a pioneer

A \$50 million gift from children's advocate Caroline Amplatz, J.D., honors her father, Kurt Amplatz, M.D., by naming the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital. Read more on page 3.



# giving matters

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

WINTER 2009



PHOTO: PATRICK O'LEARY

The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation — represented here by Nancy JS Tellor, Maureen Schulze, Richard Schulze, and Debra Schulze — in December made a \$40 million pledge to support type 1 diabetes research at the University of Minnesota.

"It's like you're given a different life, and it's great."

— PAM DALLMANN, ISLET CELL TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT

## Passion and purpose

Schulze family foundation pledges \$40 million for cure-focused diabetes research

After Pam Dallmann received an experimental islet cell transplant for diabetes, she felt as though she had walked into someone else's life. □ Dallmann was diagnosed at age 6 with type 1 diabetes, a disease in which the body's immune system mistakenly destroys all insulin-producing islet beta cells in the pancreas

so the body doesn't produce insulin properly. It can lead to extreme highs and lows in blood sugar levels and potentially life-threatening complications.

When she was in eighth grade, Dallmann's blood sugar skyrocketed and sent her into a 10-day diabetic coma. As an adult, though she checked her blood sugar levels often, she couldn't always sense when they were dropping to dangerous levels, and she lost consciousness many times.

And 10 years ago — at age 34 — Dallmann lost sight in her right eye.

Then she heard about islet transplant clinical trials under way at the University of Minnesota, and she knew she wanted to participate. In June 2002 Dallmann received an islet cell transplant under the direction of Bernhard Hering, M.D., and she's been insulin-free since that August.

"It's like you're given a different life, and it's great," she says. "It's so great."

Best Buy founder Richard Schulze believes everyone with type 1 diabetes is entitled to that better life. His family's commitment to curing the disease became public December 11 when the University announced a \$40 million pledge for diabetes research from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

When it was made, the pledge was the second largest in the University's history and the second largest by an individual or family foundation to diabetes research in the United States. In recognition of the gift, the University has renamed its Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation (DIIT) the Schulze Diabetes Institute.

"This transformative gift enables some of the world's best minds to aggressively pursue a cure for a disease impacting millions of

continued on back page

# giving matters





Sometimes it's hard to grasp the true meaning of very large numbers. But here's

one that holds tremendous significance for countless people: \$90 million. That figure represents the second- and third-largest gifts the University of Minnesota has ever received. Both were made recently through the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

The first, a \$40 million pledge made in December by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, will advance type 1 diabetes research at the University, where world-renowned scientists are honing in on a cure. As you will read in our cover story, the University has renamed its Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation the Schulze Diabetes Institute in recognition of the gift.

Just two months later, on February 10, the University announced a \$50 million gift from Caroline Amplatz, J.D., in honor of her father, Kurt Amplatz, M.D., a longtime U of M physician and prolific medical device inventor (see story on page 3). As a tribute to the gift and Kurt Amplatz's legacy, the University's children's hospital has been named University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

What do gifts of this magnitude mean for these programs and the people they serve? The Schulze family's gift means that our scientists can conquer type 1 diabetes much faster, perhaps in 8 to 10 years instead of 20 or more, potentially sparing millions of people from the disease's devastating consequences.

Equally pivotal, the Amplatz gift will help ensure that our children's hospital continues to follow in Kurt Amplatz's footsteps, as Caroline Amplatz hopes, "with steadfast and unrelenting determination to improve and save lives."

Please join me in celebrating all of our remarkable donors and the immeasurable ways their generosity improves our world.

Becky Malkerson

President and CEO  
Minnesota Medical Foundation

## Reaping the awards

Psychiatry professor turns professional honors into research funding for up-and-coming colleagues

Clinical psychologist Irving I. Gottesman, Ph.D., has brought a lot to the University of Minnesota. In 1966, just six years after earning his doctorate here, he founded the University's Behavior Genetics Training Program when the field was still young.

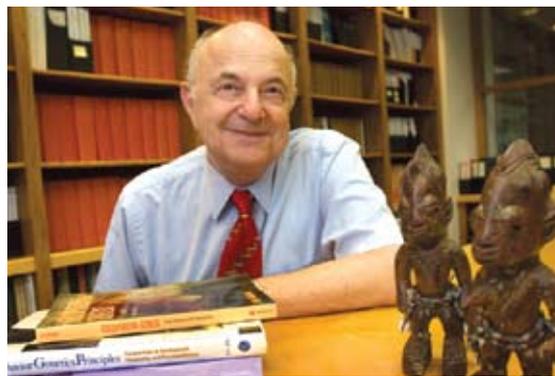
After a couple of decades away, he returned in 2001 with an extensive curriculum vitae listing dozens of studies on severe mental illnesses. And in 2008, Gottesman brought three prestigious awards to the University—two of his own and one for a colleague.

First Gottesman received the 2008 Alexander Gralnick Research Investigator Prize, a \$20,000 award from the American Psychological Foundation (APF) in August. The award recognizes exceptional individuals who research serious mental illnesses and train the next generation of investigators.

Then in October, he received the Lieber Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Schizophrenia Research from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD), which came with a \$50,000 award.

This award also came with the opportunity to name an early-career colleague to receive NARSAD's Sidney R. Baer Jr. Prize for Schizophrenia Research. Gottesman chose Angus W. MacDonald III, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychology at the University who's conducting research on the genetic and neural causes of schizophrenia, for the honor and the \$40,000 award.

"This was a really good year," remarks Gottesman, who says he'd do his work for free. And that's not just talk: He directed \$18,000 of his \$20,000 prize from the APF and his entire \$50,000 prize from NARSAD



Clinical psychologist Irving Gottesman, Ph.D., holder of the Bernstein Professorship in Adult Psychiatry, and senior fellow in the Department of Psychology gained international renown for his studies on twins and schizophrenia.

to support severe mental illness research at the University. MacDonald also directed his award to schizophrenia research here.

A pioneer in behavior genetics, Gottesman conducted a landmark study of identical and fraternal twins in the early 1960s that identified a genetic predisposition to schizophrenia. He had found through an earlier twins study that certain personality traits, especially social introversion and aggressive tendencies, are strongly influenced by genetics.

"In addition to his amazing academic contributions to the field of medical science, Dr. Gottesman is an excellent and sought-after mentor," says S. Charles Schulz, M.D., head of the Department of Psychiatry. "We have all benefited from the visibility of his recent awards."

Gottesman has published several textbooks over the years and trained 36 Ph.D.s. "My influence is to help people think about genetics in addition to whatever else they were thinking about," he says.

For instance, Gottesman is now investigating with psychiatry professor Ken Winters, Ph.D., an apparent connection between attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and alcohol dependency later in life. And with pediatric brain imaging expert Tonya White, M.D., he's looking into why 20 to 30 percent of children with velocardiofacial syndrome (often involving cleft palate, heart defects, and other problems) eventually are diagnosed with schizophrenia or a related disorder.

"Dr. Gottesman is a tremendous mentor," White says. "He's very approachable and willing to teach, which is a terrific combination for someone of such international stature."

Although he has already tried to retire once, the 78-year-old Gottesman has no plans to do so again anytime soon.

"I think while the going is good, I'm going to keep on going," he says. "I have so many unfinished projects and ideas. I feel compelled to work away at them."

PHOTO: PATRICK O'LEARY

PHOTO: KRISTIE ANDERSON

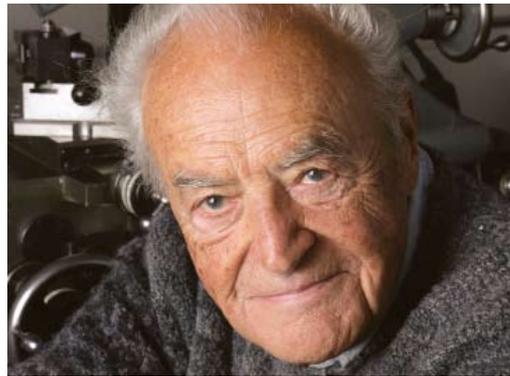
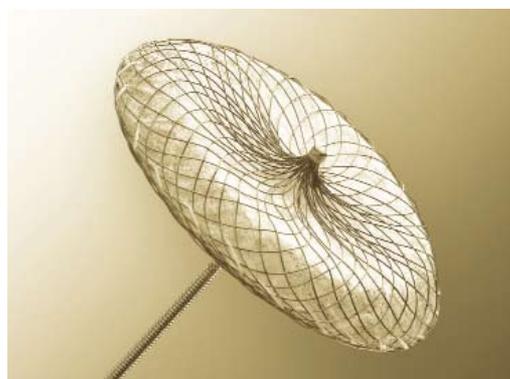


PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOF



FAR LEFT University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital pediatrician-in-chief Aaron Friedman, M.D., poses with donor Caroline Amplatz, J.D., at the February 10 event.

LEFT Longtime University radiology professor Kurt Amplatz, M.D., holds more than 30 patents. His most famous invention, the Amplatzer® Septal Occluder, is used to repair a heart defect without open-heart surgery.

## Honoring a pioneer

Daughter's \$50 million gift in father's honor names children's hospital

As she stood before a crowd saluting her with a loud standing ovation, Caroline Amplatz, J.D., was momentarily overcome by emotion. □ University of Minnesota officials had just announced Amplatz's \$50 million gift to its

children's hospital in honor of her father, retired University professor and medical device pioneer Kurt Amplatz, M.D. In recognition of the gift, the hospital, which is building a new facility, will be called University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

"Thank you for joining me and honoring my father," Caroline Amplatz said at the event. "My hope is that the Amplatz Children's Hospital will follow in my father's footsteps with steadfast and unrelenting determination to improve and save lives. If it does, it will be the best in the world."

The state-of-the-art Amplatz Children's Hospital will be a 96-bed, 227,000-square-foot facility that consolidates the hospital's 50 pediatric specialties in one patient- and family-centered location. It also will house some of the country's leading pediatric research programs.

Ground was broken last summer for the new facility, slated to open by mid-2011.

### A true innovator

Called "the father of interventional radiology" by many, Kurt Amplatz is a pioneer in the use of noninvasive techniques for

treating several medical conditions. His most famous invention, the tiny wire mesh Amplatzer® Septal Occluder, is used to repair a congenital heart defect in children and adults. The device is inserted through a catheter in the patient's groin and has replaced open-heart surgery for tens of thousands of people worldwide.

Amplatz, 85, a University radiology professor for four decades who holds more than 30 patents, also invented devices such as high-resolution x-ray equipment, heparin-coated guide wires, sheathed needles for angiography, and specially shaped cardiac catheters.

"He tinkered all of the time," says Amplatz's longtime colleague and friend John Bass, M.D., a pediatric cardiologist at the University. "He's still tinkering away."

Caroline Amplatz recalled the day she learned her father had written 630 academic papers — an average of one or two papers every two weeks at that point in his career. (He also has authored 75 books.)

"That's a man who has ideas every day of his life," she says.

### A fitting legacy

Department of Pediatrics chair and Amplatz Children's Hospital pediatrician-in-chief Aaron Friedman, M.D., says this gift honors Amplatz and shows confidence in the hospital's future.

"What's special is that this children's hospital now bears the name of someone who knows what we did and what we do, someone who was innovative and wanted to learn, someone who took his tinkering, as he called it, to the bedside to help children," Friedman says. "That is who we are."

Caroline Amplatz's gift, to be paid over 12 years, will help fund the programs and infrastructure needed to support research and care at the Amplatz Children's Hospital.

Among the areas that will benefit is a pediatric hybrid catheterization lab designed to accommodate both a cardiac surgical team and an interventional cardiology team to treat children with damaged hearts.

The gift will also support Adopt A Room, a philanthropy-funded program that creates private, family-friendly, high-tech rooms that let kids control aspects of their environment during hospital stays.

Caroline Amplatz sees the hospital's name as a fitting way to honor her father's legacy.

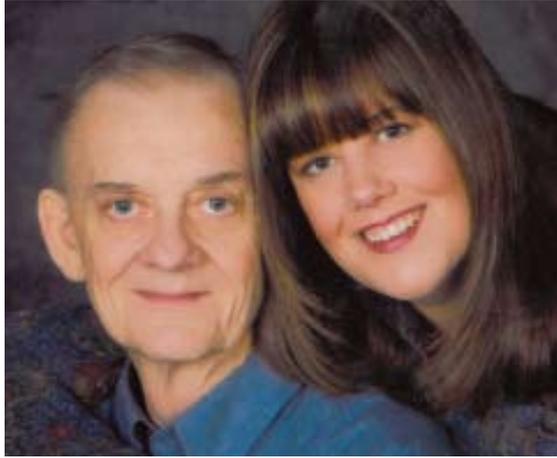
"Every day he's alive, the world is a better place," she says.

To learn more about Kurt Amplatz, M.D., and plans for the new University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital facility, visit [www.mmf.umn.edu/news/hospital.cfm](http://www.mmf.umn.edu/news/hospital.cfm).

# Paying it forward

A daughter honors her father with a scholarship that keeps on giving

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY WICK



Nancy Wick established an endowed scholarship in memory of her father, John Manning.

After John Manning was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and told he had just a few months to live, his daughter, Nancy Wick, spent those months caring for him and learning from his example.

"He had a lot of integrity and honesty. He would tell you how it was," Wick says of her father. "He showed that integrity throughout his whole life — even when he was sick. He never wallowed. He was always upbeat and positive."

Manning, who died a little over a year ago at age 61, grew up in Kentucky in a family of nine children and served in the Army for

four years. He moved his family to Minnesota from Maine when Wick was a child and worked at a large accounting firm before establishing his own company focused on helping small businesses.

When she received an inheritance following her father's death, Wick says she carefully considered what to do with the money. "I feel like I've had a blessed life, and I wanted to 'pay it forward.'"

"I wanted to establish a legacy in my father's name — one that would live forever," she says. "I wish my father could have, but it's the next best thing."

Wick, who was working at the University of Minnesota as a business analyst at the time of her father's death, created the John M. Manning Endowed Fund to support female medical students at the University who are studying to be oncologists and who have lost a parent to cancer. "I picked oncology because my father died of cancer. I'd love to see the day when cancer doesn't exist," she says.

Proud owners of three Bengal cats, Wick and her husband, Tom, also created a fellowship through the University's College of Veterinary Medicine to benefit feline medicine.

Wick says she's hopeful that her scholarships will benefit women working in these

fields and that it will inspire them to support others in the future. "I hope that when they are at a point in their life when they could pay it forward, they will," she says.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR STUDENTS

The cost of obtaining a health professional degree is steep and climbing — as is student debt. That burden was reduced last year for 715 University of Minnesota students in the Medical School and School of Public Health who received scholarships through the Minnesota Medical Foundation to support their quest for a first-rate education. Scholarships attract top students and allow them more time to study, volunteer, and gain hands-on experience.

For more information about scholarships in medicine and public health at the University of Minnesota, go to [www.mmf.umn.edu/give/scholarships](http://www.mmf.umn.edu/give/scholarships).

# On message

MMF's new communications and marketing VP values the power of storytelling

As vice president of communications and marketing for the Minnesota Medical Foundation (MMF), Sarah Youngerman is applying her expertise in new ways but for a familiar cause: health-related research, service, and care at the University of Minnesota. Youngerman, who joined MMF in September, has worked for the University for the last eight years, most recently as director of community and public affairs for the Academic Health Center (AHC).

"My position at MMF offers me exciting new opportunities to advance the University's message and mission. There are so many outstanding stories highlighting the generosity, leadership, and innovation of people who support the University," she says.

At the AHC, Youngerman led public relations efforts concerning the University's

biomedical research program, the Mayo Clinic Partnership, and a variety of policy issues at the state and federal level. She came to the University in 2000 as manager of media and public relations for the AHC and in 2004 served as interim director of the University News Service.

"Sarah has already proven to be the right choice for MMF at this very important time. She has a strong track record in public relations and effectively tells the outstanding stories behind the research, faculty, and

programs of this University," says Becky Malkerson, MMF's president and chief executive officer. "Sarah's relationships both inside

and outside the University are an asset for MMF. I am thrilled to have her on our team."

Youngerman holds a B.A. in political science and international studies from Macalester College. She earned her master's degree in strategic management and finance from the University's Carlson School of Management.

PHOTO: SCOTT STREBLE



Sarah Youngerman

## MAY

**8-9 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**  
**WineFest No. 14—A Toast to Children's Health**  
 Wine Symposium:  
 Friday, 5:30–7 p.m.  
 Grand Tasting:  
 Friday, 6:30–9:30 p.m.  
 Special Reserve Reception:  
 Saturday, 5:30–6:30 p.m.  
 Fine Wine Dinner:  
 Saturday, 6 p.m.–midnight  
 The Depot, Minneapolis

Enjoy a fabulous two-day celebration featuring dazzling wine, gourmet cuisine, exceptional auction lots, and exciting entertainment, while raising funds to support children's health research, education, and care at the University of Minnesota. This year's event will showcase the Pacific Northwest with honorary winemaker Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.

Join community leaders, local business professionals, and fellow wine lovers for the premier wine event of the year.  
 ① Contact Amy Ault at 612-626-5720 or a.ault@mmf.umn.edu, or visit [www.thewinefest.com](http://www.thewinefest.com).

Inspired by the wine country of the Pacific Northwest, Susan Anderson's painting "Abundance" will be a highlight of the WineFest No. 14 live auction.



## JUNE

**15 MONDAY 11 A.M.**  
**Karen's Hope Ataxia Benefit**  
 Oak Marsh Golf Course, Oakdale, Minnesota  
 This charity golf tournament, silent auction, and dinner in honor of Karen Frigstad, who was diagnosed with Friedreich's ataxia eight years ago, benefits the Bob Allison Ataxia Research Center at the University of Minnesota.  
 ① Contact Valerie Petermann at 612-624-4444 or v.petermann@mmf.umn.edu.

**15 MONDAY**  
**Golf Classic "fore"**  
 Diabetes Research Town & Country Club, St. Paul

An afternoon of golf to benefit the Jeffrey Dobbs and David E. R. Sutherland, M.D., Ph.D., Diabetes Research Chair at the University of Minnesota's Schulze Diabetes Institute.  
 ① Contact Valerie Petermann at 612-624-4444 or v.petermann@mmf.umn.edu.  
**18 THURSDAY 5:30 P.M.**  
**Heritage Society Banquet**  
 McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
 This annual banquet hosted by the Minnesota Medical Foundation and the University of Minnesota Foundation recognizes donors who have included the University of Minnesota in their estate or financial plans and celebrates their

extraordinary support of education and research. By invitation only.  
 ① Contact Shannon Vanderheyden at 612-624-6128 or smm@mmf.umn.edu.  
**29 MONDAY 6:30 P.M.**  
**Dean's Scholars Society Dinner**  
 McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
 This dinner celebrates members of the Medical School Dean's Scholars Society, a group of benefactors who fund scholarships designed to attract top Minnesota students to the University's Medical School. By invitation only.  
 ① Contact Shannon Vanderheyden at 612-624-6128 or smm@mmf.umn.edu.

go to : [www.mmf.umn.edu](http://www.mmf.umn.edu)

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

## Simply outstanding philanthropists

Dedicated philanthropists who support the University of Minnesota through the Minnesota Medical Foundation received well-deserved recognition from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) last fall.

Alfred and Ingrid Lenz Harrison, named Outstanding Individual Philanthropists, have been longtime supporters of and volunteers in the areas of children's health at the University and the arts in the Twin Cities. They helped to found the University Pediatrics Foundation and have played important roles in raising more than \$68 million for the University's Department of Pediatrics since 1989. Among their many contributions, they established a \$1 million challenge fund to support the University's Autism Spectrum Disorders Initiative in 2007.

For nearly three decades, John and Nancy Lindahl, recognized by AFP as Outstanding Volunteer Fundraisers, have been pillars of

the Twin Cities' philanthropic community. For the last three years, they served as volunteer cochairs of the University of Minnesota's on-campus football stadium campaign. Committed advocates of childhood cancer research and education, the Lindahls also support the University Pediatrics Foundation through WineFest, an annual spring gala that benefits children's health research, education, and care at the University.

Former MMF employee Rosemary Gruber—who was director of development for the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota from August 1999 to January 2008—was named AFP's Outstanding Professional Fundraiser in recognition of her successful 20-year career in the field.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals is a worldwide organization that works to practice and support ethical and effective fundraising. Learn more at [www.afpnet.org](http://www.afpnet.org).



PHOTO: KATE MCGOUGH



PHOTO: GREG HELGESON

TOP Alfred and Ingrid Lenz Harrison  
 ABOVE Nancy and John Lindahl

# 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 September 1 and December 31, 2008.

Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center, Marshall, Minnesota, pledged \$144,000 to establish the Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center Scholarship Fund, encouraging students from Marshall and the surrounding counties to pursue a medical education. The four-year, renewable scholarships support new medical students, with preference given to those who begin medical school in Duluth.

Benjamin and Vivian Calmenson, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, and Naples, Florida, have made an additional \$100,000 gift to the Robert Calmenson Pediatric Cardiology Research Fund. The donors established this fund 10 years ago to honor their son Bob on his 50th birthday. Bob had serious childhood cardiac problems that were treated at the University of Minnesota's Variety Club Heart Hospital, now part of University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

The Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF), Minneapolis, contributed \$573,750 to further leading-edge diagnostic and therapeutic programs for childhood malignancies. CCRF has been a strong partner of the University of Minnesota for more than 20 years and

actively promotes and educates the general community about recent medical advances in childhood cancer.

Edmond "Eli" Coleman, Ph.D., Minnetonka, Minnesota, has established an estate gift to support the Chair in Sexual Health in the University of Minnesota's Program in Human Sexuality (PHS). As director of the PHS, Coleman is the first and current holder of this endowed position. His generous commitment ensures support for the position in perpetuity.

A gift of \$359,000 has been received from the estate of Mary L. Dyar to establish an endowed scholarship for medical students. The B. A. Dyar '05 and Robert Dyar '34 Memorial Scholarship, named in honor of Mary Dyar's father and brother, recognizes her family's association with the University of Minnesota Medical School for more than 100 years.

Kathleen A. and Thomas R. Goswitz, Shoreview, Minnesota, have committed a future estate gift that will support diabetes research at the Schulze Diabetes Institute. Their commitment honors the exceptional

care that Kathleen received as an organ transplant recipient at the University of Minnesota Medical Center.

Isaac's Journey... "where HOPE begins" Foundation, Sauk Centre, Minnesota, has pledged \$2 million to establish the Isaac's Hope Fund for Curing Childhood Cancer. Established by Joshua and Linda Lieser in memory of their son Isaac, who died from neuroblastoma, the fund was created to endow a faculty position dedicated to eliminating children's cancer. The chair will be called the Isaac's Hope Chair for Curing Childhood Cancer.

William and Jean Kreykes, Eastham, Massachusetts, have made a \$25,000 outright gift, as well as a separate future commitment, to establish the William Kreykes CLARION Scholarship Fund for students in the Master of Healthcare Administration program in the School of Public Health. Mr. Kreykes is a 1966 alumnus of the program and cochair of the Program in Healthcare Administration Endowment Campaign Committee.

Dr. John W. and G. Anne LaBree, Minneapolis, have committed a future estate gift to establish the Karen Anne MacCarthy Eating Disorder Clinical Research and Education Fund in the Department of Psychiatry. They have an additional future gift in support of medical student scholarships. Before they retired,



## A recession-proof investment in a healthier future

In these uncertain times, here's one thing you can be sure of: The University of Minnesota will continue to educate tomorrow's medical innovators and conduct pioneering research to eradicate diseases and conquer disabilities.

You can help plan for tomorrow's cures today by including the Minnesota Medical Foundation in your estate plan. By making a future gift through the foundation, you create a legacy that will improve life for future generations without giving up your assets now.

For more information, contact Mark Parsons at 612-625-1440 or 1-800-922-1663. Or send an e-mail request to [giftplanning@mmf.umn.edu](mailto:giftplanning@mmf.umn.edu).

Visit our Web site at [www.mmf.umn.edu/giftplanning](http://www.mmf.umn.edu/giftplanning)

## 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 September 1 and December 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.

**JOHN SARGENT PILLSBURY SOCIETY**  
(\$10 million or more)

Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation

**BUILDERS SOCIETY**  
(\$1 million to \$10 million)

Eddy Foundation

**REGENTS SOCIETY**  
(\$250,000 to \$1 million)

Alumni Association and Foundation, Program in Healthcare Administration

+ Mary L. Dyar

Dr. Bob and Jean Smith Foundation

+ Donna M. Spooner

C. Paul and Irene Venables Foundation

Teddy and Laura M. Wong

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(\$100,000 to \$250,000)

AO North America, Inc.

+ Doris C. Engdahl

+ Julia M. Hoffer

Hope On Wheels Hyundai Dealers, Inc.

**CHANCELLORS SOCIETY**  
(\$25,000 to \$100,000)

1923 Fund

American Chemistry Council

American Legacy Foundation

Bronco Investments, Inc.

Danald D. and Elin E. Cadmus

Dr. George C., '54, and +Patricia M. Dorsey

Dr. Mark C. and Nancy A. Engasser

Sabra M. Hamilton Foundation

William and Jean M. Kreykes

+ Joyce M. Lammersen

P & J Medical, Inc.

Pacific Northwest Friends of FSH Research

Dr. James G., '55, and Mary S. White

**HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
(Future gifts)

Edmond "Eli" Coleman, Ph.D.

William and Jean M. Kreykes

Margaret A. Osborne

Jan Robertson

+ Deceased

Dr. and Mrs. LaBree held faculty leadership positions in the Medical School and School of Nursing, respectively.

The estate of Mary LaDue Pickworth, San Jose, California, has made distributions totaling \$321,603 to the Max E. and Mary LaDue Pickworth Endowment Fund for world-class research and education at the University of Minnesota Medical School and \$350,000 to the Max E. and Mary LaDue Pickworth Endowed Chair in Neuroscience. These gifts honor Max E. Pickworth, M.D., a member of the Medical School's Class of 1930, and Mary LaDue Pickworth, a member of the College of Liberal Arts' Class of 1929.

Kraig S. Lerud, M.D., Orlando, Florida, has made a future commitment to the University of Minnesota Medical School—Duluth Campus. A practicing pathologist and alumnus of the Medical School, Dr. Lerud is medical director of anatomic and clinical pathology and cytopathology at AmeriPath Central Florida.

The estate of Ernestine Pittelkow, Minneapolis, has distributed \$250,000 to the Hematology, Oncology, and Transplant Division Memorial Fund in the Department of Medicine. This gift will be used by clinical researchers treating patients at the Masonic Cancer Clinic.

Research to Prevent Blindness, New York, made a second \$110,000 gift in 2008 to the Research to Prevent Blindness Fund in the Department of Ophthalmology. The organization supports eye research at major scientific institutions throughout the United States and has been an annual contributor to the University of Minnesota Medical School for many years.

The Schott Foundation, Chanhassen, Minnesota, has made a five-year pledge of \$125,000 in support of the Schott Fellowship, which will benefit predoctoral fellows at the Schulze Diabetes Institute. The foundation also made an outright gift of \$25,000 in support of work by Klearchos Papas, Ph.D., in pancreas preservation and tissue engineering. Schott Foundation principal Owen Schott and his brother Dell Schott, a member of the foundation's board of directors, have a long-standing interest in and commitment to diabetes research at the University of Minnesota.

The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, Bloomington, Minnesota, has made a five-year pledge of \$40 million. This commitment will allow the University of Minnesota to capitalize on its strengths in type 1 diabetes research and, ultimately, shorten the timeline for translating this research into a cure. (See cover story.)

The estate of Donna M. Spooner, St. Paul, made a distribution to benefit both cancer and stem cell research. A graduate of the University of Minnesota College of Human Ecology, Ms. Spooner received a bachelor's degree in human ecology and a master's degree in design and textiles.

The Vikings Children's Fund, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, has given \$170,000 to support faculty research grants and the Vikings' "Tackle Influenza" program. For more than 30 years, the Vikings Children's Fund has provided significant funding to meet the many needs of children in the Upper Midwest.

Wells Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation pledged \$150,000 to the Wells Family Prodrome Program Fund to advance the Department of Psychiatry's efforts to better understand and effectively treat early-stage schizophrenia. Researchers hope that early intervention will reduce some of the negative outcomes of this devastating disease, which can include the inability to hold a job and manage finances and, in extreme cases, homelessness. The Wells family has committed long-term and transformational gifts in support of schizophrenia research at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Andrew W. Wolf, Palm Harbor, Florida, has committed a future estate gift in support of the Department of Pediatrics. Mr. Wolf received critical medical care at the University of Minnesota's children's hospital when he was an infant and intends for the estate gift to support the new University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

**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**

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International Hearing Foundation  
University Pediatrics Foundation

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PASSION AND PURPOSE continued from front page

people worldwide," says University President Robert Bruininks, Ph.D. "I want to personally thank the Schulze family for their leadership, passion, and generosity."

**A history of success**

For decades, University physicians and scientists have been working toward a cure for type 1 diabetes. The first islet cell replacement therapy took place in 1966, when surgeons William D. Kelly, M.D., and Richard C. Lillehei, M.D., Ph.D., performed the world's first clinical pancreas transplant.

In 1974, Schulze Diabetes Institute director and DIIT founder David Sutherland, M.D., Ph.D., led a team that performed the world's first human islet cell transplant using cells from a deceased donor. Three years later, his team performed the world's first islet transplant using cells from a living donor.

Since then, Sutherland, Hering, and others have established the protocol standard for human islet transplantation. In 2008 the University was selected as one of three principal sites in the United States to conduct phase III trials, the final round of study before the Food and Drug Administration determines whether human islet cells can be used as a standard therapy for diabetes.

About 90 percent of patients who have undergone this procedure through clinical trials are now insulin-independent.

**Advancing a cure**

Through pioneering work at the Schulze Diabetes Institute, the Stem Cell Institute, the Center for Translational Medicine, and other critical University resources, three promising conceptual cures have been identified: human islet transplantation, pig islet transplantation, and stem cell-derived islet cells. The Schulze family's gift will support research focused on efforts to implement these cures.

Richard Schulze's daughter Debra has managed her type 1 diabetes with "Herculean" strength for the last 28 years, her father says. But the family envisions a day when the disease can be cured, not just managed.

The family searched nationally and internationally for people who are as passionate as they are about curing diabetes. They



Meri Firpo, Ph.D.

Bernhard Hering, M.D.

wanted to invest their money in the people who could do the most good with it — those who could deliver a cure in the foreseeable future. The Schulzes found those people at the University.

"It was gratifying to know that, at the end of the day, in our own backyard, we had this group of people who were so poised, so passionate about finding a cure," Richard Schulze says.

**One common goal**

Not only do the Schulzes believe in the University team's passion, they also believe in the promise of its work.

Because there's a limited supply of human islet cells available for transplantation, Hering, scientific director of the Schulze Diabetes Institute, is investigating whether islets from medical-grade pigs, raised by the nonprofit Spring Point Project, could be used for transplants in humans. In 2006 Hering's team reversed diabetes in nonhuman primates by transplanting islet cells from such pigs.

And because the immunosuppression required with transplants can be challenging, stem-cell scientist Meri Firpo, Ph.D., is working to reprogram adult skin cells into stem cells that can generate islet cells. She's also using stem cells to study how cells and tissues involved with diabetes develop, in hopes of someday discovering new ways to enable islet cells to regenerate or avoid destruction in the first place.

And they all share one goal.

"Let's stand up to diabetes and put an end to it," Hering says. "Let's give those we love freedom to be who they are without the constant fear of what will happen next. ... Let's give them back their lives."

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