giving matters
SPRING 2012

Meeting the challenge

Dads' $450,000 matching gift supports novel research on devastating skin disease

ABOVE *Paul Joseph with his son, Brandon, and wife, Andrea Pett-Joseph*

AT RIGHT *Alex Silver and his son, Jackson*

AS A PEDIATRIC oncologist, Jakub Tolar, M.D., Ph.D., sees tragedy every day. But little compares with the heartbreak he sees working with children who have epidermolysis bullosa (EB), a fatal disease that can cause the skin to slough off at even the slightest touch.

"This is one of the most awful diseases I've ever seen," Tolar says.

While missing patches of skin are one of the most outwardly apparent signs of the disease, they're only part of the complex difficulties these children and their families face. With an esophagus full of lesions, it becomes painful to eat. And because of the body's constant but flawed efforts to repair itself, fingers can fuse together.

Eventually, usually by age 20, these children will die of skin cancer.

But not if Tolar has his way. A member of the pioneering University of Minnesota team offering promising but risky blood and marrow transplants aimed at curing the disease, he is now focused on finding a safer alternative (see sidebar, page 5).

"It is high-intensity, potentially high-yield, very novel research," Tolar says.

That's exactly what got Paul Joseph at the Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Foundation and Alex Silver at the Jackson Gabriel Silver Foundation behind the project. Together the two foundations will contribute a total of $450,000 to Tolar's work—if other donors collectively match it. The University's Medical School and Department of Pediatrics each already have contributed generously to the match, but there is still $250,000 left to raise.

Joseph and Silver have personal motivation for making sure this research prospers. Joseph's 8-year-old son, Brandon, and Silver's 4-year-old son, Jackson, both were born with EB.

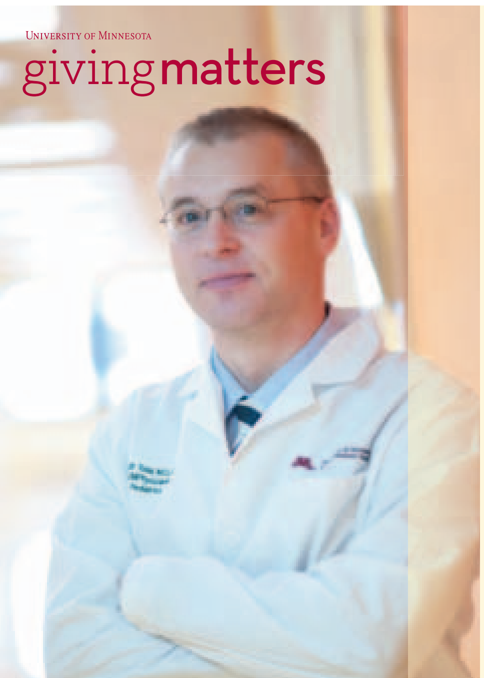
Everyday life with EB can be complicated. At times, even simple activities like walking and taking a bath can be agonizing because of constant open wounds.

"Some days are hard, but Jackson's indomitable spirit is an inspiration to everyone around him," Silver says.

Brandon Joseph, who is now in grade school, is adjusting to the fact that he's different from other kids who get to play sports on the weekend, his dad says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

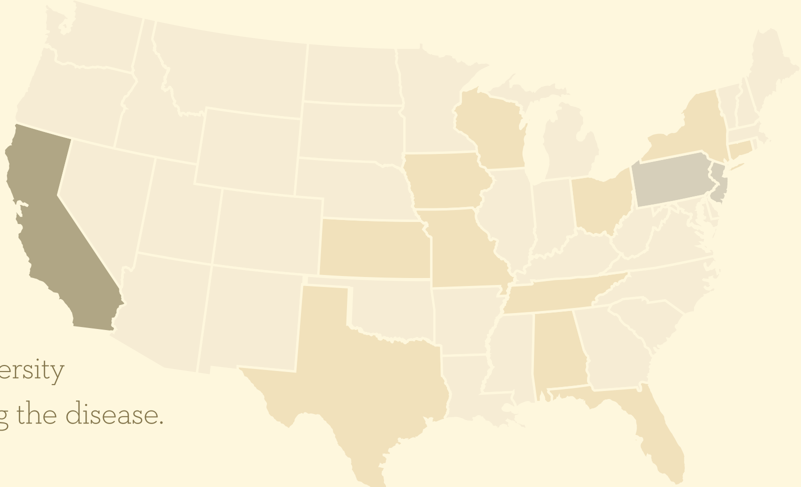
> *The best gift we can give any child with EB is a chance at having a good and pain-free life.*
>
> ALEX SILVER



a better life

Though blood and marrow transplants for treating EB are intense and often risky, children and their families have come from across the country—and from as far as Morocco—to take part in a University of Minnesota clinical trial aimed at curing the disease.

ON THE COVER Jakub Tolar, M.D., Ph.D., is investigating safer treatments for kids who have EB. PHOTO: SCOTT STREBLE



PATIENTS BY STATE ■ 4 ▨ 2 □ 1

your giving matters

The University of Minnesota needs to speak up, says President Eric Kaler, Ph.D., who is urging faculty, staff, and students to let the world know how great the U really is.

At the Minnesota Medical Foundation, we are doing our part. As you read these pages, I think you will be struck by the number of stories that describe the first, the only, and the best.

Jakub Tolar, M.D., Ph.D., for example, who is featured in our cover story, and his colleague John Wagner, M.D., were the first in the world to show that blood and marrow transplants can repair skin damaged by a deadly disease known as EB. Now Tolar is seeking ways to make the risky procedure safer. His work will get a boost from a matching grant set up by two dads and their foundations — as long as others meet their challenge.

Meanwhile, surgery professor Ashok Saluja, Ph.D., is closing in on the world's first truly promising treatment for pancreatic cancer. An endowed chair honoring the late Eugene Sit, who died of pancreatic cancer four years ago, and his wife, Gail, will help ensure that this breakthrough research advances.

You'll find many such stories in this issue, but closest to my heart is the adjacent story about my dear friend and colleague Carl Platou, who died of pancreatic cancer on May 29. A charming man, innovative thinker, and war hero, he was especially adept at inspiring others.

On May 9 he was recognized for his role in building critical support for the University's Biomedical Discovery District. The topflight research park is focused on producing the first, the only, and the best in biomedical science. That's a story no one told better than Carl Platou, our beloved ambassador.

Spread the word.

BECKY MALKERSON

PRESIDENT AND CEO
MINNESOTA MEDICAL FOUNDATION

A model of innovation

Discovery district's plaza honors longtime U ambassador

CARL N. PLATOU, M.H.A., was an unwavering optimist. He was also an accomplished health care innovator, a consummate people person, and a decorated veteran who survived World War II against staggering odds. His unique relationship with the University of Minnesota spanned more than 70 years, and the Biomedical Discovery District now coming to fruition on the East Bank campus is tangible proof of his tenacity.

Platou advocated for years to secure the state bonding authorization needed to break ground for the district. He then turned to raising the private dollars needed to equip and populate the cluster of research facilities just north of TCF Bank Stadium.

With the completion of the cancer and cardiovascular research building in 2013, the Biomedical Discovery District will become home to nearly 1,000 faculty and staff working in 700,000 square feet of collaborative research space.

In recognition of Platou's role in creating this economy-boosting incubator for new ideas and discoveries, the district's gateway plaza was named in his honor at a groundbreaking celebration on May 9. Twenty days later, Platou died of pancreatic cancer.

PHOTO: TRAVIS ANDERSON

The Biomedical Discovery District's gateway plaza is named in honor of the late Carl N. Platou, M.H.A., in recognition of his role in creating the new research park.

Very serious stuff

Platou liked to poke fun at himself by recalling his disastrous debut as a freshman at the University. Inspired by four uncles, all of them physicians, he dreamed of becoming a doctor. But at the end of his first term, he had a rude awakening. "I got three Ds, an F, and an incomplete," he recalled.

"My uncle Erling said, 'Maybe you should be a hospital administrator.'"

It was 1943. Instead of changing majors, Platou joined the paratroops and was shipped to the Pacific as a demolition expert. "Very serious stuff," he noted in a recent interview. "Out of a hundred of us who started, 10 lived."

When Platou returned to the University in 1945, he earned a degree in social psychology in three years. "In those days you were so glad to be alive, you just studied all the time," he said. Then he earned a master's degree in hospital administration from the School of Public Health — one of the first awarded by the University. Soon after, in 1952, he accepted an administrative position at Fairview Hospital.

Platou quickly rose to president and CEO and continued to serve in that capacity until he retired in 1988. He saw the potential for transformative change early in his career and eventually grew Fairview from a single hospital into a fully integrated regional health care system that became a model for innovation nationwide.

Platou's association with the University was rekindled in 2005 when he was named senior adviser to the dean of the Medical School. He helped create the Dean's Board of Visitors, an advisory council made up of community leaders, and was the driving force behind the board's efforts to promote the concept of the biomedical research district to state policymakers.

"Carl has a real knack for bringing people together, for engaging the right people at the right time to get something done," Walter Mondale, a member of the board, wrote in a letter supporting the naming of the discovery district's Platou Plaza. "Carl has built bridges between civic leaders, the business community, higher education, and state government, and together we have accomplished a great thing that none of us could have accomplished alone."

- KRISTINE MORTENSEN

Return on investment

Family honors parents with gift supporting U's pancreatic cancer research

Gail and Eugene Sit

WHEN IT COMES to nasty diseases, pancreatic cancer has few rivals.

"It's the worst cancer known," says Ashok Saluja, Ph.D., professor and vice chair of research in the University of Minnesota's Department of Surgery. "More than 44,000 Americans will be diagnosed with it this year, and almost as many will die. It's hard to catch early, and there's no good treatment."

But Saluja, a member of the University's Masonic Cancer Center and one of the world's foremost researchers of pancreatic diseases, has found the first real ray of hope for treating this formidable cancer.

He and his University colleagues have developed a potent compound called Minnelide that disarms pancreatic cancer cells in mice. In one mouse study, 21 days of Minnelide treatment made large tumors undetectable.

A welcome gift

This breakthrough research received a boost recently, thanks to a gift from the family of businessman Eugene Sit, who died of pancreatic cancer four years ago.

Born in China in 1938, Sit arrived in the United States as a 10-year-old who knew no English. But he finished 12 years of schooling in eight and, with the support of his wife, Gail, graduated from DePaul University in Chicago.

Eugene Sit found his calling in the investment business. In 1981, at age 42, he launched Sit Investment Associates in Minneapolis. Today the firm manages more than $11 billion in assets.

Sit died in June 2008 at age 69. Besides Gail, he left six adult children, five of whom work for Sit Investment.

Active in his local community, Sit served on a number of nonprofit boards, including the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Minnesota Orchestral Association, Carleton College, and various boards at the University of Minnesota. In 2007, he received the University's Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award.

Together, Gene and Gail Sit were dedicated to giving back to the community. An embodiment of their giving is the Minnesotans' Military Appreciation Fund, a nonprofit they started in 2005 as a way to thank military service members and their families for serving our country.

In January 2012, the Sit siblings extended their parents' public service legacy by establishing the Eugene C. and Gail V. Sit Chair in Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Cancer Research at the University of Minnesota.

"We wanted to do this to honor our parents," says eldest son Ron Sit. "Naming the chair for both seemed like a natural way to recognize their lifelong relationship."

"Our parents impressed upon us that if one is fortunate, it is important that one give back," adds daughter Debbie Sit.

Other donors to the new $2 million endowed chair include Stanley S. and Karen H. Hubbard and the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation. Saluja is the chair's first holder.

At the forefront

"I'm very proud to be named the first occupant of the chair," Saluja says. "Eugene Sit was a remarkable business investor and philanthropist.

"I'm also proud that I am an immigrant like Mr. Sit," adds Saluja, who is from Malout, India.

The Sit Chair will be a powerful weapon against pancreatic cancer and other gastrointestinal diseases, says Department of Surgery chair Selwyn Vickers, M.D. He and Saluja hope to test the drug in Phase I clinical trials – the first to involve humans – later this year.

"The gift recognizes the tremendous legacy of a couple who have had significant impact on our community," says Vickers. "It speaks highly of Mr. and Mrs. Sit that their children would want to recognize their contributions to our community by providing a tremendous gift to fight this disease."

– DEANE MORRISON

The path to Minnelide

1998 Ashok Saluja, Ph.D., studies pancreatitis at Harvard, where he and his colleagues discover that HSP 70 "heat shock" proteins, which normally protect cells from high temperatures, protect pancreatic cells from pancreatitis.

2004 The Saluja lab finds that HSP 70 levels are higher in pancreatic cancer cells, making the cells hard to destroy.

2005 Saluja and his colleagues discover that a compound called triptolide – used for centuries in China as a natural remedy for arthritis – inhibits HSP 70 in cancer cells. But triptolide is insoluble in water, limiting its use as a drug.

Ashok Saluja, Ph.D.

PHOTO: SCOTT STREBLE

2006 Saluja joins the Department of Surgery at the University of Minnesota.

2009 Saluja's group, Department of Medicinal Chemistry head Gunda Georg, Ph.D., and then-graduate student Satish Patil, Ph.D., make the compound water-soluble and christen it Minnelide (**Minne**sota + tripto**lide**).

2010 The University files a patent for Minnelide.

2011 In preclinical tests, untreated mice implanted with human pancreatic cancer cells live a median of 36 days, compared with more than 390 days for Minnelide-treated mice.

Later this year Saluja's team hopes to enroll patients in Phase I clinical trials.

To support this work, please contact Cathy Spicola at 612-625-5192 or c.spicola@mmf.umn.edu, or visit www.mmf.umn.edu/giveto/minnelide.

Visionary research

Pediatric ophthalmologist leads first-ever albinism drug trial

C. Gail Summers, M.D., is leading the first-ever drug trial aimed at improving vision for children who have albinism.

PHOTO: JIM BOVIN

THERE ARE TOP-NOTCH RESEARCHERS, and there are first-rate clinicians. But few doctors have both the scientific chops *and* the extraordinary bedside manner of pediatric ophthalmologist C. Gail Summers, M.D., says donor Michael Cohen.

Cohen's in a position to know; he's a physician himself. The Texas pathologist and his wife, Sandra Cohen, have made two $10,000 gifts to advance Summers's work. Inspired by the superlative care she's given their 15-year-old son, Matthew, the gifts are helping to support her current clinical trial, a study exploring a possible treatment for vision problems associated with albinism.

Like others with albinism, Matthew experiences vision difficulties stemming from underdevelopment in the central retina. While the degree of visual impairment in albinism varies (Matthew has oculocutaneous albinism type 2; individuals with this type don't typically have white hair or eyelashes), it's the aspect of albinism that poses the biggest challenge. Matthew—a typical teenager who's into skiing, rock-climbing, and drawing—compensates for his vision difficulties in school by sitting near the front and using large-print materials.

The study aims to determine whether patients' vision can be improved by using L-Dopa to turn on a receptor in the retina.

His mother recalls the first time the family visited the Twin Cities for a consultation with Summers. Her clinic waiting room was the first place where Matthew was among kids with albinism, which made the whole family comfortable. Within minutes of meeting Summers, "we knew she was the right choice"—geography notwithstanding, says Sandra Cohen.

Matthew says he could tell immediately that Summers loves her job. "She spends time with each patient ... and she's always included me in the conversation," he explains. Summers's genuine warmth and empathy—traits the Florida native ascribes to her late father, a welder—just earned her the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award from the Gold Foundation.

Summers has studied albinism since arriving at the University in 1985. Along with her mentor, geneticist Richard King, M.D., Ph.D., she cofounded the University's International Center for Albinism, which she now directs. Past president of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, she's published numerous articles on albinism. Summers estimates that she's seen some 500 patients with albinism over the decades, many Minnesotans as well as others from far-flung places like China, South Africa, and Greece.

The first-ever drug trial for albinism, her study aims to determine whether patients' vision can be improved by using the substance L-Dopa (levodopa) to turn on a receptor in the retina. The work is supported by the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, the Heilmaier Foundation, and by generous individuals and families like the Cohens. Many donors, Summers says, are patients' grandparents. "A lot of young families don't have the funds to give, but the grandparents do."

The precursor molecule for the neurotransmitters dopamine and adrenaline, L-Dopa is currently used to treat Parkinson's disease. Two-thirds of the study subjects are receiving L-Dopa in liquid form, with the rest receiving a placebo; neither Summers nor the participants know who's receiving which liquid.

Summers plans to enroll 45 participants in the 20-week, randomized, double-blind study; she has 34 so far, and 29 have already finished. Many of the participants are her own patients, with a handful traveling monthly from other Midwestern states. By this time next year, she hopes to have a better idea of the treatment's potential. "I have some who are saying, 'My vision's better,' but there's no way to know yet," she says.

Summers is cautiously excited about the possibility. "It might make a difference," she says. But whatever the study's outcome, she's already doing that—making a difference—for young patients around the globe.

–SUSAN MAAS

To learn more or to support albinism research at the University of Minnesota, contact Chuck Semrow at 612-624-6313 or c.semrow@mmf.umn.edu, or visit www.mmf.umn.edu/giveto/albinism.

Endowed funds grant intellectual freedom

ELIZABETH SEAQUIST, M.D., fell in love with the lab almost 40 years ago. She got her first taste of research working for four summers in the University of Minnesota laboratory of William Krivit, M.D., then head of the Department of Pediatrics, on a paid fellowship from the American Heart Association.

"I couldn't have done this if I hadn't gotten paid, because my parents had no money," says the Minneapolis native, now a thriving member of the University faculty. "I had to earn money."

Those paid fellowships are so rare now, Seaquist says, which is why she feels privileged to return the favor to students today using philanthropic funding from the Pennock Family Land Grant Chair in Diabetes Research, which she has held since 2002. "People need to know their work is valuable," she says.

The late George and Jevne Pennock created the chair in memory of their daughter, Molly Pennock Eininger Lindeman, who died from complications of diabetes in 1984.

An endowed chair, the pinnacle of faculty achievement, generates flexible annual income that the chair holder can use at his or her discretion. Chair holders often use the funding to explore new ideas, gather preliminary data that may one day attract greater support from the National Institutes of Health, respond quickly to unforeseen research opportunities, or train students and fellows.

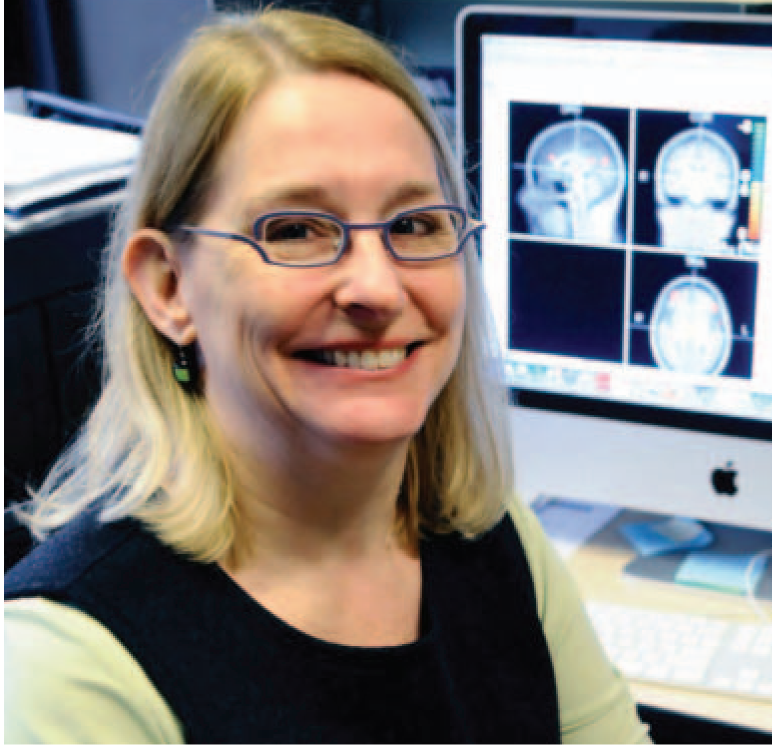
Seaquist has used the money from the Pennock Chair for many of these purposes, from paying students who work in her lab to growing a program to a point that she could attract major federal grants.

"It has allowed me to do so many different things," she says.

But she fears that, without more flexible funding through philanthropy, the future of academic medicine is in jeopardy. Many funding agencies direct their money to one specific project, which can leave investigators scrambling to fill in the gaps between grants and doesn't allow scientists the freedom to pursue exciting new research tacks.

That's what makes her endowed chair such an asset, Seaquist says—it provides a steady funding stream that isn't linked to just one project.

PHOTO: JIM BOVIN



Elizabeth Seaquist, M.D., says endowed chairs foster the pursuit of novel ideas.

"It's there to let someone be creative and do the work of a faculty member, which is to discover new knowledge, teach students, and not have to worry every minute about how you're going to fund your salary and fund your lab," she says. "It's been an enormous, enormous blessing to have the endowed funds I've had."

–NICOLE ENDRES

To learn more about how your gift can make a difference in diabetes research, contact Jean Gorell at 612-625-0497 or j.gorell@mmf.umn.edu, or visit www.mmf.umn.edu/giveto/diabetes.

Meeting the challenge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"[Brandon] is a good reader, and he's a bright kid. He's very inquisitive," says his dad. That means that he often has "big life questions"—why this is happening to him, why no one can make the EB go away—that are downright impossible for his parents to answer.

Joseph and Silver are hoping that, with a little help, they'll give Tolar the resources to cure EB. With Tolar's drive and the right financial support, Joseph and Silver are confident that this research will improve the lives of children who have EB and related skin diseases.

"The best gift we can give Jackson and any child with EB," Silver says, "is a chance at having a good and pain-free life."

–NICOLE ENDRES

Contribute to the match at www.mmf.umn.edu/giveto/eb or by contacting Courtney Billing at 612-626-1931 or c.billing@mmf.umn.edu.

Making a pioneering treatment safer

In a clinical trial almost five years ago, University of Minnesota transplant pioneers John Wagner, M.D., and Jakub Tolar, M.D., Ph.D., performed the world's first blood and marrow transplant (BMT) for treating epidermolysis bullosa (EB).

Though BMTs have improved life for 11 of the 20 kids treated so far, Tolar says, the procedure is risky because of the chemotherapy needed before it and the chance the body will reject the cells transplanted from someone else.

That's why his newest research is focused on finding a safer alternative.

One approach, dubbed "natural gene therapy," would use healthy skin that is present on some children with EB to create stem cells in the lab that would then be given back to the patients to grow more healthy skin.

A different "seamless gene therapy" approach would involve "cutting" the DNA of faulty skin cells in the lab and using the corrected cells to create stem cells that would be given back to the patient.

These experimental techniques should eliminate the rejection risk normally associated with transplants because patients are essentially receiving transplants of their own cells, Tolar says.

These techniques also have the potential to help heal burns and treat autoimmune diseases of the skin. And the concept—modifying a patient's own cells to mend or prevent damage—could be applied to repair other organs, he says.

On-target cancer treatments

A grateful patient supports technical training in radiology

ALTHOUGH BOB JOHNSON calls himself a "Swede from the East Side of St. Paul," with a little prodding, you'll learn that he carries many other titles as well: lawyer, former Minnesota state legislator, war veteran, proud father of six, cancer survivor.

And one thing becomes clear: He does not shy away from challenges—he seeks them out.

"I lied to get into the Navy in September of 1941," says Johnson, who was 17 years old at the time. When World War II started, he was in the Navy ROTC at the University of Minnesota and went on to serve two years on a naval destroyer in the South Pacific.

After returning to Minnesota, Johnson graduated from the University's Law School and practiced law for more than 50 years, in addition to representing the Highland Park area of St. Paul, Minn., as a state legislator for 12 years.

Yet to come was his biggest challenge.

In the late 1990s, Johnson was diagnosed with prostate cancer and sought treatment at the University. Following months of radiation while under the care of Kathryn Dusenbery, M.D., Johnson made a full recovery.

> *I'm a firm believer that if somebody does something for me, I should do something for them.*
>
> BOB JOHNSON

"She did a marvelous job and restored my confidence," Johnson says of Dusenbery. In the years that followed, he has made annual financial contributions and an estate gift to support her work. "She really took great care of me. You couldn't help but support her," he says.

Where the physicists come in

Dusenbery, an associate professor and head of the University's Department of Therapeutic Radiology-Radiation Oncology, specializes in pediatric and gynecological tumors but also works on eradicating prostate tumors.

She says Johnson's philanthropic support has helped to build one of the nation's first residency programs for medical physicists and transformed the way the University trains the experts who deliver radiation treatments for cancer.

PHOTO: SCOTT STREBLE

Radiation oncologist Kathryn Dusenbery, M.D., and medical physics resident Brian Hundertmark, Ph.D., discuss the best course of action for a patient.

"Today's radiation machines are very complicated. It takes trained medical physicists to make sure the equipment is running correctly and that the doses desired are actually delivered," Dusenbery explains.

"Our physicists leave this institution very well trained. Because of their skills, the treatment given under their supervision is as accurate and safe as it can be," she says.

Importance of philanthropy

"Mr. Johnson's gifts along the way have helped a lot," Dusenbery says. "Bob had a lifelong interest in education, as did his late wife, Betty. I'm pleased that these gifts have been used for education."

In addition to annual gifts, Johnson created a charitable lead trust; half supports Dusenbery's work, and half supports the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota. The trust, which contributes to the University annually, also provides Johnson with financial and tax benefits.

"I'm a firm believer that if somebody does something for me, I should do something for them," says Johnson. "There are a lot of people who need help, and this was a beautiful way to do it."

– ROBYN WHITE

Keeping current

How to ensure that your benefits are distributed as you intended

You can have the most up-to-date will or living trust, but if your beneficiary designations on life insurance and retirement plans are not current, much of your planning could be undone. Consider:

- Under federal law, a surviving spouse is automatically the beneficiary of a 401(k) plan. This is true despite what a will or prenuptial agreement states—or even what the beneficiary designation provides. If a widow or widower remarries, the new spouse will be entitled to the funds, unless a spousal consent waiver has been properly executed.
- Unlike a 401(k) account, an IRA does not automatically pass to a surviving spouse. Instead, the beneficiary designation on file with the IRA custodian dictates how the funds will pass. This could create a problem if the named beneficiary is deceased at the IRA owner's death or if the beneficiary is no longer married to the IRA owner.
- Named beneficiaries of IRAs can take advantage of the ability to stretch out the receipt of income—and the payment of taxes—over their lifetimes. For example, if a 27-year-old grandchild is named the beneficiary of a $100,000 IRA, he or she need only take about $1,780 the first year, allowing the balance to continue growing. Each year's required distribution will be based on the account balance and the grandchild's remaining life expectancy. This option is available only for named beneficiaries, however, so it is important to keep designations current.
- Life insurance generally passes to the beneficiary named on the policy. Owners who marry, divorce, or have other life changes should review beneficiary designations to ensure that they still reflect the owner's wishes.
- Keep in mind that you can name the Minnesota Medical Foundation (MMF) as the beneficiary of all or a part of your life insurance or qualified retirement plans. Your estate will be entitled to a charitable deduction for any amounts we receive, and any income taxes that might be owed by other recipients will be avoided.

To learn more, please contact Jay Kautt on MMF's planned giving team at 612-626-0510 or j.kautt@mmf.umn.edu, or visit www.mmf.umn.edu/giftplanning.

A gift to the U, lifetime income for you

Support groundbreaking health or medical research at the University of Minnesota and receive steady income for life with a charitable gift annuity. Through a simple contract, you agree to make a donation of cash, stocks, or other assets to the Minnesota Medical Foundation. In return, we agree to pay you a fixed amount each year for the rest of your life.

In addition to providing future support for research and receiving lifetime fixed payments, a charitable gift annuity offers additional benefits:

- Your gift is partially income tax-deductible.
- Your gift payments are partially income tax-free throughout your estimated life expectancy.
- Your payments are fixed—unaffected by economic ups and downs.
- The gift annuity can be for one or two people, so your spouse or another loved one can also receive payments for life.
- If you use appreciated stock to make your gift, you can eliminate capital gains tax on a portion of the gift and, typically, can spread the rest of the gain over your life expectancy.

To receive a personalized example illustrating how a charitable gift annuity can work for you, contact Jay Kautt at 612-626-0510 or j.kautt@mmf.umn.edu.

Find a planned giving option that works for you

Try out our new online gift illustrator to see the available giving opportunities and benefits.

z.umn.edu/MMFGiftIllustrator

giving thanks

We'd like to extend an extra thank-you to the individuals and organizations that have made commitments totaling $100,000 or more to the University's health-related work between October 16, 2011, and April 15, 2012.

The Rasmussen Center uses a unique array of tests to assess risk for heart disease and stroke.

PHOTO: RICHARD ANDERSON

3M Company, St. Paul, Minn., contributed nearly $150,000 through outright and matching gifts to the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, toxicology research, and other areas.

5th District Eagles Cancer Telethon of Southern Minnesota, Rochester, Minn., gave $140,000 to the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota.

Daniel F. and Cathleen M. Aldrich, Sheridan, Wyo., committed a future estate gift in support of medical student scholarships.

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, Bayport, Minn., contributed $3 million to cardiovascular research, education, and care.

Earl E. Bakken, Waikoloa, Hawaii, committed $2.5 million in support of cardiovascular research, cancer research, integrative healing rotations for medical students, and the Center for Spirituality and Healing.

Thomas L. Busch, Edina, Minn., committed a future estate gift to the Dorothy M. Busch Memorial Fund in honor of his mother. The fund supports cardiovascular valve research.

Children's Cancer Research Fund, Minneapolis, made gifts totaling nearly $440,000 to the University's childhood cancer program and Child-Family Life Services at University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

Jeanne E. Corwin and the family of Burt H. Corwin pledged $200,000 to sponsor the Corwin Family Adopt A Room at University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

The Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Foundation, Beverly Hills, Calif., gave $100,000 to the Fund for Epidermolysis Bullosa and Related Research.

Jimbo and Candi Fisher, Tallahassee, Fla., gave $500,000 through Kidz1stFund to establish the Kidz1st-Fund for Fanconi Anemia Research.

The Fung Family Trust, San Gabriel, Calif., pledged $500,000 for the establishment of the Leo C. T. Fung, M.D., Pediatric Urology Scholars Program in memory of Dr. Fung.

Donald L. and Patricia A. Garofalo, North Oaks, Minn., made gifts totaling $145,000 in support of the Donald and Patricia Garofalo Chair in Preventive Cardiology, Cancer Immunotherapy Fund, and other funds that support cardiovascular research, education, and care.

The estate of Sheldon I. Greenberg, Belmont, Mass., made contributions totaling $108,000 to the Sheldon I. Greenberg Cancer Research Endowment and the Sheldon I. Greenberg Scholarship Endowment.

Drs. Franz Halberg and Othild M. Schwartzkopff, St. Paul, Minn., gave $100,000 to the Halberg Center for Chronobiology.

Dr. Gary D. and Barbara L. Hanovich, Golden Valley, Minn., committed a future estate gift that will eventually establish the Dr. Gary and Barbara Hanovich Scholarship Fund at the Medical School.

Healthier Minnesota Community Clinic Fund, Inc., St. Paul, Minn., made gifts totaling $430,990 in support of the Community-University Health Care Center and a fund that bears the Healthier Minnesota Community Clinic name.

William A. Hodder, Edina, Minn., and family pledged $4 million through Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF) to establish the Suzanne Holmes Hodder Chair in Pediatric

PHOTO: STEPHANIE DUNN

PRESIDENTS CLUB

gaining momentum

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 October 16, 2011, and April 15, 2012. 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.

Cancer Research in memory of his wife and $1 million through CCRF to support pediatric cancer research.

Dr. Leaetta M. Hough, St. Paul, Minn., made gifts totaling $800,000 to establish the Professorship in Innovative Research in Parkinson's Disease in memory of her mother.

The Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation, St. Paul, Minn., pledged $250,000 to help establish the Eugene C. and Gail V. Sit Chair in Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Cancer Research (see story on page 3).

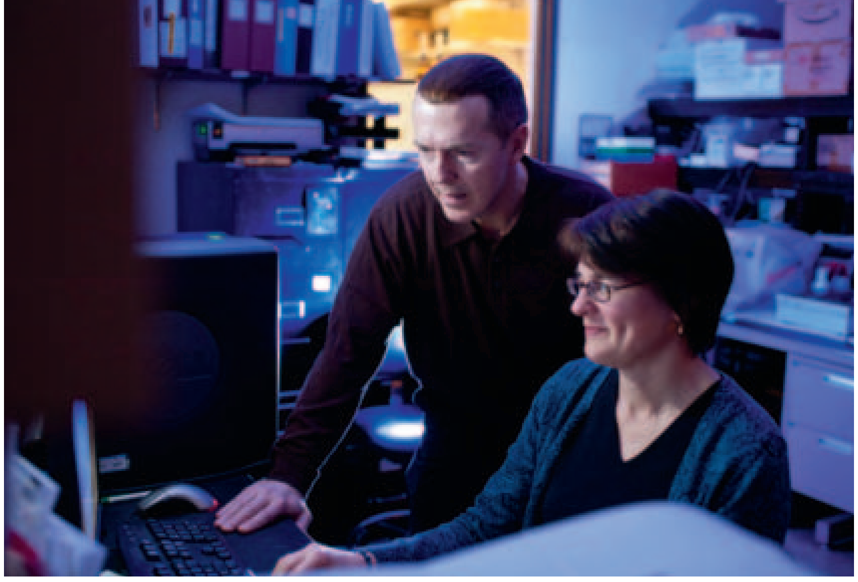
The Killebrew-Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament, Sun Valley, Idaho, gave $350,000 in support of leukemia research at the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota.

Medica, Minneapolis, pledged $150,000 for the establishment of the Health Insurance Research Program–Student Support fund and made additional gifts in support of heart disease prevention and mental health awareness.

Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, Inc., pledged $250,000 to establish the Minnesota Lions Islet Imaging Lab Fund and contributed $50,000 to establish the Research on Kidney Disease and Diabetes Fund.

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, Inc., St. Paul, Minn., made gifts totaling $170,000 to establish the Minnesota Lions Retina Research and Equipment Fund and support the Pediatric Ophthalmology Program, and a pledge of $275,000 to establish the Lions Retinal Imaging Center.

The Minnesota Vikings, Eden Prairie, Minn., pledged $200,000 to sponsor the Minnesota Vikings Adopt A Room at University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital, while the **Minnesota Vikings Children's Fund** gave $240,000 to the Department of Pediatrics in support of pediatric research and the Vikings Fitness Playbook.



University research on gene biomarkers may help determine the best treatments for ovarian cancer.

PHOTO: SCOTT STREBLE

Research to Prevent Blindness, New York, contributed $100,000 to advance ophthalmology research.

The Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund, St. Louis Park, Minn., made gifts totaling $241,624 in support of eight cancer research funds at the University.

The Jackson Gabriel Silver Foundation, New York, gave $100,000 to the Fund for Epidemolysis Bullosa and Related Research.

The Family of Eugene C. and Gail V. Sit, Sit Investment Associates, Inc., and Sit Investment Associates Foundation, Minneapolis, pledged $1.1 million to establish the Eugene C. and Gail V. Sit Chair in Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Cancer Research (see story on page 3).

Renee V. Varas, Miami, Fla., committed a future estate gift of $150,000 that will eventually support pediatric cancer research.

The Karen Wyckoff Rein in Sarcoma Foundation, Shoreview, Minn., gave $151,000 in support of six sarcoma studies and two scholarships for medical students.

JOHN SARGENT PILLSBURY SOCIETY

$10 MILLION OR MORE

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation

BUILDERS SOCIETY

$1 MILLION TO $10 MILLION

+Suzanne & William Hodder and Family
The Family of Eugene C. and Gail V. Sit, Sit Investment Associates, Inc., and Sit Investment Associates Foundation

REGENTS SOCIETY

$250,000 TO $1 MILLION

Floyd D. Dygve
Fung Family Trust
Mark and Jacqueline Hegman
Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, Inc.
Park Nicollet Health Services
Sarah W. Sweatt and Charles B. Sweatt Foundation

TRUSTEES SOCIETY

$100,000 TO $250,000

American Pancreatic Association
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
eBioscience, Inc.
+Sheldon I. Greenberg
Dr. Stephen J. Haines and Jennifer L. Plombon
Harry L. and Janet M. Kitselman Foundation
William Lawrence & Blanche Hughes Foundation
The Luther Family Foundation
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CHANCELLORS SOCIETY

$25,000 TO $100,000

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Analyte Health/SexualHealth.com
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Transwestern
+Dr. Thomas R., and +Freda L. Turner
+Betty Jane Walen
Dr. Joseph J., '61, '70, and Rachel M. Westermeyer
Danyang Zhao

HERITAGE SOCIETY

FUTURE GIFTS

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Thomas L. Busch
Floyd D. Dygve
Marshall H. Friedell
Dr. Gary D. and Barbara L. Hanovich
Alice M. Meppen, in honor of +A. David Meppen
Dr. Evan L. Nelson, '61
Kathryn A. and +Russell L. Scheffler
Dr. Thomas F. Sheridan, '81
Faye Wallsten

+Deceased

Marketing in earnest

U of M senior raises funds for cystic fibrosis research

PHOTO: SHAWN SULLIVAN

Nikolas Job and his family have raised about $50,000 for cystic fibrosis research at the University by auctioning off specially designed goalie helmets.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA senior Nikolas Job wrapped up his academic year as a communications major and is beginning his third straight summer internship at a company he hopes to work for one day.

Hill-Rom, a medical technology firm, makes the chest-compression vest Job has used since childhood to manage his cystic fibrosis (CF). Not only has the company offered Job the chance to work in marketing, but it often sends him to speak to groups of physicians, nurses, and others about its products and his personal experience.

"When I graduate, I hope to get a job at Hill-Rom. They seem to like me," he says modestly.

> *I always recommend that anyone with CF in Minnesota go to the U. Everyone with CF should have doctors who care about them.*
>
> NIKOLAS JOB

What's not to like? Job is not only affable and charming but a one-man fundraising powerhouse.

Six years ago, when Job was just 15 years old and played goalie for his Minnetonka High School hockey team, he and his father contacted artist Todd Miska to design two helmets—one for Job and one for a silent auction, raising $3,000 for CF research.

Since then the family has commissioned a new helmet design every year, raising about $50,000. It also hosted a golf tournament last summer that brought in $10,000, and the family plans to host another.

The funds raised through the Nikolas Job Foundation go to the University to support research and help CF families in need. "The U does remarkable research," says Job. "The doctors work hard to find drugs to benefit everyone with CF."

Job was diagnosed with CF at 6 months old and has received care at the Minnesota Cystic Fibrosis Center at the University ever since. "I always recommend that anyone with CF in Minnesota go to the U," he says. "Everyone with CF should have doctors who care about them."

On a recent trip to Costa Rica, Job saw firsthand that top-notch care isn't available everywhere. He met a girl with CF who was nearly his age but looked about 12 and weighed less than 100 pounds. "Hopefully, the vests and medicines will help," says Job, who represented Hill-Rom, distributing vests and $5 million worth of medicine.

Like many pediatric patients before him at the University, Job has transitioned to the U's adult CF clinic. "The pediatric team does a great job of getting patients ready to make that leap," says LyNette Rasmussen, his nurse practitioner. She adds that the two teams meet weekly to review patients, "so we've heard about these kids long before they come to the adult team, and that facilitates transition."

Regarding Job, she says, "Nikolas is an energetic college student. I love seeing him—it's exciting to keep track of where life is taking him."

Next year, life will take Job to Denmark, where he'll attend his father's former college. Then, after one more year of college, he hopes to begin his marketing career in earnest. No doubt he'll be making an impact on CF research wherever he lands.

– KARIN MILLER

MINNESOTA MEDICAL FOUNDATION

The Minnesota Medical Foundation helps people live healthier lives by advancing health-related research, education, and care at the University of Minnesota.

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School of Public Health

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS
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International Hearing Foundation

Minnesota Medical Foundation
McNamara Alumni Center
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getting involved

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
SUMMER–FALL 2012

JUNE

11 MONDAY

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN GOLF CLASSIC

Windsong Farm Golf Club
Independence, Minn.

Join us for this fourth annual event, which includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, lunch, on-course food and beverages, a deluxe player gift package, dinner, and much more. Your foursome will be joined by a surprise celebrity golfer. Proceeds benefit University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

ⓘ Contact Nick Engbloom at 612-626-8429 or n.engbloom@mmf.umn.edu.

11 MONDAY

INTERNATIONAL HEARING FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC

Crystal Lake Golf Club
Lakeville, Minn.

Attendees of this 20th annual event will experience a day of golf, complete with a cart, lunch, dinner, and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the International Hearing Foundation, an affiliate of the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

ⓘ Visit www.internationalhearingfoundation.org/services.html.

18 MONDAY

GOLF CLASSIC "FORE" DIABETES

Town and Country Club
St. Paul, Minn.

This 16th annual tournament benefits the University of Minnesota Schulze Diabetes Institute's efforts to develop a cure for diabetes. It includes morning and afternoon rounds, a live auction, and a lunch and dinner program. Join in the fun and help support a tournament that has raised nearly $5 million for diabetes research since its inception.

ⓘ Contact Katie Mae Pritchard at 612-625-5682 or k.pritchard@mmf.umn.edu.

21 THURSDAY

KAREN'S HOPE ATAXIA BENEFIT

Oak Glen Golf Course
Stillwater, Minn.

This 11th annual charity event includes a golf tournament, silent auction, and dinner. It benefits the Bob Allison Ataxia Research Center at the University of Minnesota, an affiliate of the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

ⓘ Visit www.karens-hope.org.

JULY 23 MONDAY

REIN IN SARCOMA PARTY IN THE PARK

Cafesjian's Carousel and
Como Park Visitor Center
St. Paul, Minn.

This annual event, hosted by the Karen Wyckoff Rein in Sarcoma Foundation, benefits sarcoma research at the Masonic Cancer Center. Join us as we celebrate the 12th anniversary of this event with a magical evening of music, entertainment, and family fun.

ⓘ Visit www.reininsarcoma.org.

OCTOBER 4–5 THURSDAY–FRIDAY

MEDICAL SCHOOL ALUMNI CELEBRATION

McNamara Alumni Center | University of Minnesota

This year's celebration welcomes all alumni for two days of reuniting with old friends, celebrating achievements, and learning what's new at the Medical School. Join us for an alumni awards banquet, a medical education forum, lunch with the dean, class reunion receptions and dinners, and more. Invitations will be mailed in August; registration will also be available online. Celebrating reunions this year are the classes of 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992, 2002, and 2007.

ⓘ Visit www.mmf.umn.edu/alumni/reunions or contact Katrina Roth at k.roth@mmf.umn.edu or 612-625-0336.

Event descriptions, updates, links, and contact information also available at: **www.mmf.umn.edu**

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giving matters

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