

The Lerner Research Institute

Friends of the LRI

Fall 2007

Thanks to Your Donations, Patient Care Unfolds at The Lerner Research Institute

Dear Friends:

I want to take a moment and thank you for your past support and interest in The Lerner Research Institute of the Cleveland Clinic. Each day at the Institute, more than 1,300 Faculty, postdoctoral fellows, students and technologists work together to pursue answers that will unlock better diagnoses, treatments and preventive strategies for some of humankind's most devastating diseases.

One humbling lesson we have learned over the last year is that individuals, regardless of age, occupation or wealth capacity can make a difference in medical research.

Kai Johnson: When her cherished grandmother died from ovarian cancer in January 2006, Kai Johnson challenged her friends and family to donate to cancer research at The Lerner Research Institute instead of giving her birthday presents. Over the summer, the 12-year-old Ashtabula resident presented a \$235 check to Janet Houghton, Ph.D., Chair, Cancer Biology – seed money toward a permanent fund to support cancer research in the Genomic Medicine Institute and Cancer Biology. Kai is now challenging others – individuals, businesses and private foundations – to match her efforts by contributing to

the “Kai’s Challenge: Music for Life” fund. The intent is to reach \$10,000 by December 31, 2007.

The Bright Side of the Road Foundation: In an effort to help a friend who was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease), this group of young professional men and women from Chagrin Falls has dedicated itself to supporting research to find a cure. The foundation pledges to raise \$1.5 million over five years to support the Barry Winovich Endowed Chair for ALS Research at the Institute. The recipient is Erik Pioro, M.D., Ph.D., Neurosciences, the Director of the Cleveland Clinic’s Center for ALS and Related Disorders.

The Brandon Family: When the Brandon family discovered that a member of their family has juvenile diabetes, they knew that they had to do something to accelerate research into a cure. Ed Brandon, patriarch of the family and a member of the Cleveland Clinic Board of Trustees, rallied his family and friends and mounted a letter-writing campaign geared toward raising the \$1.5 million dollars needed to fund a chair. The Eddie J. Brandon Endowed Chair for Diabetes Research enabled us to recruit from Denver a renowned diabetes researcher, Jan Jensen, Ph.D., as the Director of the Center for Diabetes Research within the new

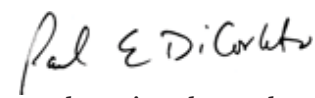


Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine.

These are only a few of the examples of people from within our community who are making a difference. Due in large part to your and their continued generosity, we can focus on and create novel therapies and preventive medicines unimaginable even a decade ago. Your gifts, large or small, do make a difference and can continue to do so one dollar at a time.

I humbly urge you to consider renewing or increasing your annual gift to The Lerner Research Institute at the end of this tax year. By investing in the Institute, you help translate our research into innovative healthcare that will improve the quality of life for countless numbers of people worldwide.

Sincerely,


Paul E. DiCorleto, Ph.D.
Institute Chair

Have You Thanked a Medical Researcher Lately?

You hear it all the time:

§ Your good friend calls to tell you that they just passed their five-year mark of being cancer free.

§ Your husband underwent triple bypass surgery and is now running a marathon.

§ Your children and grandchildren, now because of a simple genetic test, can make lifestyle choices that one day will spare them from the health consequences that you live with today.

It may sound simplistic ... but did you say “thank you” to a medical researcher? Today we are living longer, healthier lives, and it all began with an idea – in a medical research lab. These ideas translate into better screening and diagnostic tests, more effective drugs, treatments and less invasive surgical procedures that make an immediate and long-term difference in our lives and in the lives of those that we love.

Working in nearly 36 disease- centered research programs in more than 130 laboratories, the researchers at The Lerner Research Institute pursue answers that will unlock the door to better diagnoses, treatments and preventive strategies for some of humankind’s most devastating diseases including **heart disease, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, diabetes, cancer, hepatitis, HIV, arthritis** and more.

As the end of the tax year approaches, please take a moment and consider thanking medical researchers at The Lerner Research Institute with a charitable, tax-deductible donation. During the holidays, a gift of support is a wonderful way to celebrate or memorialize a special person in your life. Your support will help to accelerate medical progress and to deliver medical benefits to those in the



Alicia Hoose, M.P.A.
Director of Development

greatest need – in Cleveland and around the world. For your convenience, this year we have included a self-addressed envelope.

Together, donors and researchers are a formidable team committed to finding cures for some of life’s most debilitating diseases of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

If you or a loved one has benefited from the miracle of today’s medicine, please be sure to thank a researcher.

Just in the last few years, philanthropic support has contributed to these advances (among many others):

- Discovering a protein that may control the progression of Alzheimer’s disease
- Suppressing a certain activity of a tumor-fighting protein called p53 to reduce the severity of side effects experienced by cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy
- Unlocking how your body can use its own adult stem cells to regenerate heart tissue injured by a heart attack
- Creating a simple blood test that can accurately predict the likelihood that a patient will suffer a heart attack.

Philanthropic Support at Work

The mission of The Lerner Research Institute is to promote human health by investigating the causes of disease and discovering novel approaches to the prevention and treatment of disease. The Institute is also committed to the training of the next generation of biomedical researchers and to productive collaborations with those providing clinical care.

§ Cleveland Clinic researchers, including **Robert Silverman, Ph.D.**, Cancer Biology, discovered a new virus called XMRV and received a \$600,000 grant from The V Foundation to investigate any link between the virus and prostate cancer. The grant will support development of a blood test for XMRV antibodies to signal the presence of the virus and to determine the relationship between XMRV infections and prostate cancer – steps that could lead to a vaccine for prostate cancer.

§ The Genomic Medicine Institute's Center for Personalized Genetic Healthcare (CPGH) is taking the lead in translating the latest developments in genomics research and applying them to patient care and genetics counseling. Patients receive education, counseling and greater insight into their personal health at CPGH. "This is probably the only center of its kind that has pertinent translational healthcare under one roof. We don't make decisions for patients, but we give them the information and resources they need to make informed decisions," said **Charis Eng, M.D., Ph.D.**, Chair, GMI.

§ There's been no doubt that smoking increases the risk of coronary artery disease.

What remained a mystery is exactly how smoking threatens cardiovascular health – until now. **Stanley Hazen, M.D., Ph.D.**, Cell Biology and Head of the Section of Preventive Cardiology and Rehabilitation, led a team of researchers who may have uncovered the chemical link between smoking and the risk of coronary artery disease. The present studies give investigators a new tool for determining individuals who are at increased risk for future heart attack, stroke and death who might otherwise not have been identified with traditional testing.

§ **Jay Alberts, Ph.D.**, Biomedical Engineering, is working to make constraint-induced therapy, or CIT, a more viable therapy option for stroke patients. Unlike other physical therapy approaches (which teach patients to overcompensate for their stroke by relying solely on the functional limbs), CIT forces patients to use their affected limbs. This helps to develop the muscles and neural control to regain function of the limb. Investigators are evaluating an assistive device that could be used by stroke patients at home and without supervision – making physical therapy using CIT easier and more accessible for stroke patients.

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Friends of the LRI

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There are several ways that you can support The Lerner Research Institute. For more information, please contact Alicia Hoose at 216.444.1821.

Annual Giving Perhaps the easiest form of giving and the one with the most immediate impact is outright donations of cash or real assets, such as stocks, bonds and property (including real estate and tangible personal property like artwork).

Endowments Donations of cash and real assets are used to create permanent support and to help attract new, vital talent to The Lerner Research Institute. Endowed support can create chairmanships, endowed chairs that support researchers within departments, fellowships, lectureships, research and education programs, and funds for departments that otherwise might be unavailable.


Planned Gifts A variety of long-term, planned giving options (charitable remainder trusts, bequests and gift annuities) can support research for many years.

Naming Opportunities Benefactors can create a lasting legacy by arranging for the naming of buildings, laboratories and other facilities. One example is the Center for Genomics Research building, which opened in Spring 2005.

iSupport You can conveniently and securely direct your support specifically to The Lerner Research Institute:

www.lerner.ccf.org/giving

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