



MILESTONES

MARKING THE SUCCESS OF THE ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

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RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Estate Funds Support Basic Science Leukemia Research at Albany Med

Every day at Albany Medical Center, scientists are exploring ways to advance medical science. Dorina Avram, PhD is one of them. As a postdoctoral fellow at Oregon State University, Dr. Avram identified two molecules—BCL11A and BCL11B. These switch molecules, or transcription factors, control the expression of genes and play an important role in both brain development and the immune system. Now at Albany Med, Dr. Avram is running her own lab and focuses her work on understanding these molecules. She is specifically interested in their role in the development of leukemia.

Dr. Avram's research is exceptionally complex—science in its rawest form. But someday her work at the bench will translate to bedside therapies. "If we understand these molecules, and we can control their expression, therapeutic mechanisms can be developed," Dr. Avram explains. Undoubtedly, her research is building a foundation to help alleviate the suffering and extend the lives of leukemia patients.

Recently, Dr. Avram received an estate gift from the late Marion Lonergan. This philanthropic resource for leukemia research comes during a crucial time with federal support for cancer related research steadily declining. "During this funding period everything makes a difference," says Dr. Avram. Currently, she uses the Lonergan Estate funds to supplement the salary of a lab technician, purchase research-related supplies and utilize flow-cytometry technology. "Very often these types of flexible funds help us to generate preliminary data to apply for more grants," Dr. Avram continues. And in today's competitive funding environment (the total number of grants receiving federal support has dropped by half) compelling preliminary data is critical.

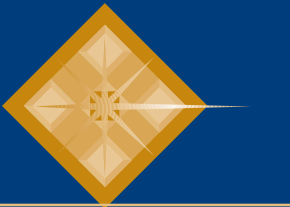
In fact, her preliminary data has earned Dr. Avram a 5-year, \$1.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health that supports her research in



Dr. Avram's research could one day lead to treatments or even a cure for kids like Faith. Faith was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2006. Faith continues to receive treatment at the Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders at Albany Medical Center.

the role of BCL11B. This, along with Mrs. Lonergan's generous gift, will enable Dr. Avram to continue her important research.

To support basic science research at Albany Medical Center, please contact Rick Werwaiss, director of principal gifts, at 518-262-6806. ♦



From the President and Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIENDS,

Several years ago the Board of Directors at Albany Medical Center adopted a strategic plan focused on quality, excellence, service, collaboration, compassion, integrity, and fiscal responsibility. This year, more than ever before, we have experienced the most impressive results from our efforts.

Take, for example, the extensive changes that have been made to our landscape. In May, we opened our new Physicians Pavilion, a state-of-the-art outpatient care facility built specifically for the comfort and convenience of our patients. And in June, we welcomed the Hilton Garden Inn at Albany Medical Center onto our campus—a necessary and long overdue amenity that we are now able to extend to patients, families, students, and friends of Albany Medical Center.

Equally important are the many positive changes that have occurred within our walls this past year. We have been so proud to be recognized both locally and nationally for our continued focus on quality and excellence. In 2007:

- We posted the best rate in the state for pediatric heart surgery over the past five years.
- The American Heart Association/Stroke Association lauded our success in following evidence-based guidelines for patients with heart failure, coronary artery disease, and stroke.
- We were honored by the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) with the prestigious Pinnacle Award for Quality and Patient Safety.
- We were recognized as the Most Improved in Information Technology by the American Hospital Association.
- We were named a National Performance Improvement Leader by Thomson Healthcare.
- For the 10th consecutive year, Albany Medical Center was named a Consumer Choice Award winner by the National Research Corporation.

These accomplishments came from a long-term dedication to our adopted strategic focus. But also, at the heart of each one of these successes is another common element—philanthropy. None of them would have happened without your ongoing support.

Donation funds provide the financial foundation necessary to secure current programs and solidify our success for the future. As the articles in this edition of *Milestones* demonstrate, we are fortunate to have a community of donors that recognize the importance of giving and supporting our ability to provide quality care, a high-tech education experience, and compelling biomedical research.

As a donor, I hope you will take pride in our success this year. Most importantly, I hope you will join me in looking ahead with a sense of positive anticipation to the next one. With your continued support, the coming year will be filled with more growth, more achievement, and most definitely, a continued dedication to our community of students, patients and friends.

With gratitude,



JAMES J. BARBA
President and Chief Executive Officer

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In Her Mother's Honor

Foundation Board Member Supports the Alzheimer's Center of Albany Med

There are more than five million people in the United States living with Alzheimer's disease. But for Albany Medical Center Foundation Board member, Jacqueline Dunbar Grande, one of those five million mattered most—her mom. In 2000, June Bryant Dunbar was diagnosed at the age of 56. "My mom was a very successful woman. Her intellect was everything to her so there was a tremendous amount of denial in the beginning," Grande explains.

Talking with Grande, even a casual observer can see that her thoughts are often with her mom. The denial is gone now. Whether she is discussing her family's future, or smiling as she remembers the cadence of her mother's mantra, "study hard; get a good education," Grande is focused and passionate about her mother's condition, care, and treatment. But Grande, like so many caregivers, is also frightened and frustrated by the debilitating effects of a horrific disease. Thankfully, as a member of the Albany Medical Center Foundation Board, Grande had a special opportunity to direct her passion to a positive place.

"After my mom started seeing Dr. Zimmerman at the Alzheimer's Center of Albany Medical Center, we really noticed a difference," Grande says, "so I decided that I wanted to help." Working with the Albany Medical Center Foundation, Earl Zimmerman, MD, Matthew Bender IV, endowed chair for Alzheimer's Disease and clinical director of the Alzheimer's Center of Albany Med; Beth Smith-Boivin, director of the Anne B. Goldberg Alzheimer's Resource Program; and the staff at the



Grande spending time with her mom, June, this summer.

Alzheimer's Center, Grande is leading the effort to increase community awareness and raise funds for the Center's work in supporting patients and their families. To achieve these goals, the Friends of the Alzheimer's Center was established in 2005, and on November 4, 2007, the Center will sponsor the *June Bryant Dunbar Luncheon to Support the Alzheimer's Center of Albany Med*.

"Philanthropy is critical for us because so many of our services are not reimbursable," explains Smith-Boivin. "Taking our time talking to patients, educating family members, and exploring caregiver resources are important services but insurance companies will not cover these costs."

So, more than six years after her mother's diagnosis, Grande's focus has changed. She is no longer thinking about just her mom and her family. Grande is thinking big. Now all five million people battling Alzheimer's, and the five million more that will be diagnosed by 2010, matter to Grande. As Grande says so simply, "The end goal, every day, is to find a cure." ♦

June Bryant Dunbar Luncheon to Support the Alzheimer's Center of Albany Med

*November 4, 2007
Canfield Casino
in Saratoga Springs
Catered by The Lily and the Rose*

To attend the luncheon, or to learn more about how you can support the Alzheimer's Center, please contact Jane Berger Ginsburg, senior associate director of leadership gifts at Albany Medical Center Foundation, at 518-262-8133.

New Medical Education Project Inspires Alumnus to Give



Dr. Iannuccilli

We all grow to understand and accept the facts that everyone makes mistakes, and that practice makes perfect—except in the field of medicine where there is no room for error. Physician educators are constantly managing the difficult task of educating medical students without jeopardizing patient safety. It is a rather complicated process when you consider the time it takes to master highly difficult clinical skills—students don't walk into a trauma suite for the first time and perform a thoracotomy. Skills are mastered by watching, learning, and progressing through levels of responsibility before attempting complicated clinical procedures on real patients in real emergencies.

Fortunately, with the advancement of technology, the medical education model is shifting, making the balance between skills and safety easier to achieve. Simulation equipment now offers the opportunity to develop expert clinical skills during realistic re-creations of medical situations.

Thanks, in part, to alumni like Edward A. Iannuccilli, MD '65, this method of learning

will soon be available at Albany Medical College. Plans are underway to build a new Clinical Competency Center, complete with advanced simulation technology.

"When we heard from Dean Verdile about what the College was doing, we knew that this was the area that we wanted to support," explains Iannuccilli. "The continuing education of physicians is the longest learning period of their professional careers. Anything that can be done to enhance that process can only bring rewards to, and improvement in, patient care."

Learning to teach students in this way, however, presents a learning curve for educators. With a career dedicated to improving medical education, Iannuccilli understood this well. So he chose to establish the *Iannuccilli Family Endowed Medical Education Fund for the Sosa Academy*. This fund provides ongoing endowment support for the development of the Center and faculty education.

"Establishing the *Iannuccilli Fund* under the Sosa Academy provides a dedicated resource for student education and faculty develop-

The Sosa Academy

The Academy provides financial and educational resources to provide advocacy and support for faculty educators, stimulate curriculum development, maintain patient-oriented educational programs, and promote educational scholarship. The Academy is led by Henry Pohl, MD, the current Julio Sosa, MD Chair and vice dean for academic affairs. Both the Chair and the Academy honor Dr. Julio Sosa, a former professor of medicine and radiology at Albany Medical College.

The Academy exists and continues to function solely on the basis of philanthropy. To support the Sosa Academy, please contact Rick Werwaiss, director of principal gifts at the Albany Medical Center Foundation at 518-262-6806.

ment that will help to strengthen medical professionalism and clinical competency.

Obtaining simulation technology, and then utilizing it pedagogically, requires a huge financial commitment," explains Dean Vincent Verdile, MD. "We are so grateful to Dr. Iannuccilli for his generous support."

Recently retired from active practice, Iannuccilli now spends his time on his entrepreneurial interests, building on the success of two companies he founded—T2, Inc, a Rhode Island-based home infusion company, and CME Consultants, a physician and professional education company. However, after more than 40 years in medicine, memories of his first days treating patients are always with him. "It was finally my opportunity to see and care for patients after all the didactics," he recalls. "I was a nervous wreck, but I finally started to feel like a physician."

Iannuccilli hopes that his gift will help future generations of medical students feel a little less nervous, but still equally as exhilarated by the knowledge and skill that comes with being a physician. ♦

Ways of Giving Corner...

ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER SPECIAL EVENTS 2007-2008

June Bryant Dunbar Luncheon to Support the Alzheimer's Center of Albany Med

Canfield Casino
in Saratoga Springs
November 4, 2007

Dancing in the Woods

W.A. Harriman
State Office Campus
December 7, 2007

Melodies of Christmas

Proctor's Theatre
December 11-16, 2007

Children's Hospital Radiothon

News Talk Radio 810 WGY
Crossgates Mall
May 30-31, 2008

CMN Children's Hospital Telethon

FOX23-WXXA
WMHT Studios
June 1, 2008

*For more information
about the above events,
please call Albany Medical
Center Foundation at
518-262-3322,
or visit us on the web at
www.amc.edu/foundation/levents.html.*

*There are many ways to make a
contribution to Albany Medical Center.
In this edition we highlight...*

RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

IRAs, 401 (k)s, 403 (b)s, and other qualified retirement plans are among the best ways to benefit Albany Medical Center at death. By naming us beneficiary of some or all of your retirement plan benefits, you will likely save more taxes when giving these assets compared to gifts of securities, real estate, and other investments. Here's why:

- Your testamentary gift of your retirement plan benefits avoids income taxes because Albany Med is tax exempt.
- Your gift also qualifies for an estate tax deduction, ensuring that your heirs will receive more of your other assets.
- To make this type of gift, simply contact the administrator of your retirement plan and request a beneficiary designation form. You designate Albany Medical Center as the beneficiary of part or all of your retirement plan assets and you do not have to change a will.

New law allows for tax free giving from IRAs, only through year-end of 2007!

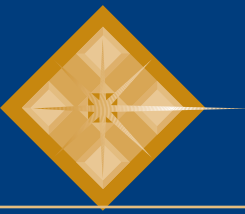
Congress passed the Pension Protection Act of 2006 into law. This law creates a new and exciting gift planning opportunity to make gifts from your IRA and exclude the amount of your gifts from gross income. To qualify:

- You must be 70-1/2 years of age or older;
- The transfers must go directly from your IRA to qualified charities;
- Your gifts cannot exceed a total of \$100,000 per year; and
- Your gifts must be outright.*

This opportunity is only available until the end of 2007, and the gift does NOT qualify for a charitable tax deduction.

** Transfers to supporting organizations, donor advised funds, and charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities do not qualify.*

For more information about retirement account gifts, or to learn more about the advantages of other planned gifts, please call Lori A. Matt-Murphy, associate vice president for foundation operations and planned giving, 518-262-3322.



Albany Med Employee Establishes Endowment to Honor the Memory of a Lost Son

Daniel George Kalmer was born on October 6, 1997 with a serious congenital condition—a diaphragmatic hernia. Although at 7 pounds, 7 ounces he was not the smallest baby in Albany Med’s neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), Daniel was the sickest. Sedated and on an oscillating ventilator, he was carefully monitored by the medical, nursing and respiratory care staff under the direction of Michael Horgan, MD and Joaquim Pinheiro, MD.

Daniel’s parents, Kathleen and Leonard were able to be with Daniel each day. “We were confident with the care our son was given at Albany Med and trusted that all measures would be taken to try to save our child,” Kathleen explains.

But despite the heroic efforts of the NICU staff, Daniel died while being prepared to transfer to another hospital with an ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machine.* He was only six days old.

* Thanks to the generosity of others, an ECMO machine is now available at Albany Medical Center. This piece of equipment plays a critical, supportive role in complicated pediatric surgical procedures.

Since Daniel’s death, Kathleen and her husband have made an annual memorial donation to the NICU. But, Kathleen explains, “We have always wanted to do something more, not only to keep his memory alive, but also to honor those who dedicate themselves to caring for these precious babies.”

As an employee of Albany Med—Kathleen is a registered nurse in radiation oncology—she understands how an endowment fund can help. So in honor of the 10th anniversary of Daniel’s birth, the Kalmers established the *Daniel George Kalmer NICU Endowment Fund*. The fund will support the educational and clinical needs of the nursing and auxiliary staff of the NICU, including support for education and equipment purchases that will help improve outcomes for critically ill infants.

To support the Children’s Hospital at Albany Medical Center, please contact Rob Saba, senior associate director of leadership gifts at 518-262-0897.



Endowment funding to support education and training helps our physicians, nurses, and staff provide the very best care to Albany Med’s smallest patients.



**Albany Medical Center
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