

PULSE

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION
at the University of Virginia Health System



How One Foundation Helped Transform a School

Thomas Foundation Closes Doors After 16 Years of Service to State

When George D. Thomas established the Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation in 1975, he could not have foreseen the incredible impact his generosity would have on many institutions, but particularly on one school at UVa and its students. For over 16 years, the foundation has advanced educational opportunities for health care providers in primary care, generalist medicine, and rural health. The foundation has donated more than \$6 million to UVa, with more than \$4 million of that total going to the School of Nursing. It was to the nursing school that the foundation made its first gift in 1988, and throughout the years the foundation has helped shape all areas of the school—including making the lead gift in the school's first-ever capital campaign. Now, as the foundation closes its doors, it has made its final gift to the nursing school—\$1 million to help make the critical expansion of McLeod Hall a reality.

The Thomas Foundation's generosity has made many notable advances at UVa possible, including:

- Dramatic increases in student financial aid. With the foundation's support, more than 360 nursing students and 115 medical students have received generous scholarships and fellowships, allowing them to graduate with less debt.
- Creation of the first radiosurgery center in the state at UVa, where more than 4,000 patients have received life-saving gamma knife surgery.
- Formation and renovation of two clinical learning laboratories to give nursing students critical, hands-on training in the best patient care and intensive care practices.
- Establishment of four endowed professorships to recruit the very best nursing educators and researchers to UVa.
- Lead support for the McLeod Hall expansion, a project to provide 30,000 square feet of much needed, new space for nursing research and education.

The Thomas Foundation has proven itself to be a devoted benefactor to the UVa School of Nursing.

From Personal Loss Springs New Opportunities for Growth

When he established the Thomas Foundation, George Thomas expressed his desire to assist in providing health care for those who might not otherwise receive it—a mission that sprang from personal tragedy. In February 1972, Thomas' wife Theresa (a diploma trained nurse) became seriously ill with what was considered at the time to be the flu. As her condition worsened, he tried in vain to find a doctor to visit their home in semi-rural Hanover County, Va. Theresa Thomas died shortly after being taken to the hospital, and Thomas established the foundation in her memory. When Thomas himself died in 1977, foundation trustees Jim Roberts and Tom Carr and president Charles Reed took on the mission of promoting educational opportunities for health care providers—and ended up leading the charge to improve nursing and medical education in Virginia, as well as many other health care initiatives.

Roberts, whose daughter Charlotte (Nurs. '79, MSN '96) graduated from UVa, became a charter member of the School of Nursing Advisory Board and served as chair from 1997 until December 2003. He consulted with the school on their first fund-raising campaign, and with his leadership the school raised more than \$19 million to support current and future nursing projects at the University. Roberts worked tirelessly to identify and cultivate potential donors for the school, and his efforts brought the McLeod Hall expansion project to the desk of Virginia Governor Mark Warner—an act that led the state to contribute \$6 million to the \$14 million project.

“Through the Thomas Foundation,” explains School of Nursing Dean Jeanette Lancaster, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., “Jim has had an extraordinary impact on the lives of hundreds of students—and there is no way to count the number of lives that will be changed when our addition to McLeod Hall is built. Our relationship with Jim Roberts and the Thomas Foundation has transformed the UVa School of Nursing, allowing us to offer our students incredible opportunities in nursing education.”



UVa Health Foundation Board Member and School of Nursing benefactor Jim Roberts.

A True Friend to the School of Nursing

Among the mementos in Jim Roberts' office is a photograph of a group of nursing students who received scholarships thanks to the Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation. Roberts, president of the foundation and a member of the UVa Health Foundation Board, is particularly proud of that picture and of the many letters he receives from students each year, thanking the foundation for helping make their dreams of being a nurse or doctor possible.

“Those types of letters are the best rewards,” Roberts says, a telling statement from a man who literally had a day—March 27, 2004—named in his honor by Virginia Governor Mark Warner, commending Roberts' dedication and commitment to the University.

Roberts, a lawyer and partner at Troutman Sanders LLP in Richmond, Va., helped his client and friend, George Thomas, establish the foundation in 1975. But above his responsibilities as president of the foundation, Roberts has taken a special interest in the School of Nursing.

“From the moment Linda Davies, our former director of development, and I ‘found’ Jim Roberts we knew we'd found the school's next guardian angel,” remembers Jeanette Lancaster, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., dean of the School of Nursing. “His commitment, his friendship, and his leadership have helped our school and its students flourish, helping us realize our goals for the present and daring us to make bold plans for our future.”



From increasing scholarships to renovating facilities, the Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Foundation has dramatically advanced educational opportunities for nursing and medical students at UVa.

Nine UVa Medical Specialties Ranked Among Best in Nation

Nine specialties at the University of Virginia Health System are ranked among the nation's best in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2004 edition of "America's Best Hospitals."

UVa divisions listed in the guide include: endocrinology, 5; ear, nose, & throat, 18; urology, 19; digestive disorders, 24; gynecology, 27; cancer, 32; orthopedics, 33; neurology and neurosurgery, 37; and kidney disease, 49.

"It is always an honor to be ranked among the best hospitals in the country, and there is a certain amount of pride in receiving this on a consistent basis," says R. Edward Howell, vice president and chief executive officer of the UVa Medical Center. "This ranking reflects the extraordinary dedication and talent of our faculty and staff. It also demonstrates a desire to never rest on our laurels, but to always strive for something greater. After all, our patients rank us every day for everything we do."

According to the magazine's editors, ranked hospitals perform large numbers of complex and risky procedures, adhere closely to advanced treatment guidelines, incorporate new findings into patient care, and conduct research that gives desperately ill patients more options.



The UVa Health System continues to be ranked among the nation's best.



Caring for our youngest patients: Expansion of the UVa Children's Hospital will bring together patient care and rehabilitative services under one roof.

in partnership with the pediatric faculty and community to make this building a reality."

The proposed site, on the corner of Jefferson Park Avenue and West Main Street, was carefully chosen for its proximity to the UVa Medical Center while maintaining a prominent presence within the University and the community. The \$48 million, 172,000-square-foot building will have an enclosed, elevated walkway, or "skyway," to connect the outpatient and rehabilitation services to the pediatric inpatient units on the 7th floor of the Medical Center. A nationally renowned children's hospital architect will design the child-friendly building, which will feature playrooms and private meeting areas for parents and physicians.

The timeline for construction is still to be determined. The Medical Center has committed \$10 million toward the project. The remaining \$38 million must be raised from private sources.

The new building will consolidate existing outpatient services, including those located in the Primary Care Center clinics, Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center (KCRC), and several other clinic sites. This consolidation will make visits to the Children's Hospital more time-efficient for parents and less stressful for children. A short-stay unit for overnight observation, a pediatric cancer infusion center, and outpatient clinics for children with autism, cerebral palsy, and diabetes (to name a few) are planned for the new facility. Nineteen inpatient beds from the KCRC will also make the transition.

"On a given night, we can have over 100 pediatric inpatients at the UVa Children's Hospital," says Medical Director Nancy McDaniel, M.D. "With the new building we will continue to provide children with the best health care in the region. We will make collaborative care the standard, and the destination more family-friendly and convenient."

Making a Name for Ourselves

New Building, Name, Part of the Future of Children's Health Care at UVa

Soon, children's health care at UVa will have a new home. Planning is underway for a building that will bring together existing children's outpatient and rehabilitation services—creating a family-friendly destination for children under one roof.

"This new facility will be designed specifically with children's health care in mind," says R. Edward Howell, vice president and chief executive officer for the Medical Center. "With Chief Operations Officer Peg Van Bree heading the effort, we have the leadership in place to work

Children's health care has a new name at the University of Virginia. Following extensive discussions among UVa Medical Center faculty and staff, and involving many community members, the Children's Medical Center will now be called the UVa Children's Hospital. "The name change better reflects the care we provide for children and families and increases community awareness of the incredible things going on at UVa," says Margaret M. Van Bree, M.H.A., Dr. PH., chief operations officer for the UVa Medical Center.

UVa Sinus Lab Receives Over \$1 Million in Equipment Support



A new state-of-the-art sinus lab at UVa will allow physicians such as Joseph Han, M.D., to develop less invasive, and more effective, therapies for patients.

In January, the University of Virginia Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery will open a new state-of-the-art sinus laboratory—one of two of its kind in the nation—that will expand the department's expertise in advanced treatment of difficult sinus cases.

Thanks to donations from Linvatec and General Electric, which outfitted the lab with over \$1 million in equipment, this facility will develop new endoscopic techniques for sinus and anterior skull base surgery. The lab equipment, donated by Linvatec, will allow residents to learn endoscopic surgical techniques through observation and operations on cadavers. Local and regional otolaryngologists can also improve their skills while learning new techniques. The lab will attract international surgeons who will come to UVa to improve their skills and learn new advanced sinus surgery techniques.

The donation came about in large part due to the relationship between retiring rhinologist Charles Gross, M.D., and the surgical equipment company. "Dr. Gross is recognized as a leader in the practice of rhinology and helped the UVa Department

of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery become one of the best in the country," says Stephanie Schlageter, Linvatec marketing director. "We are pleased to honor a physician who devoted his career to alleviating sinus disease and pediatric ear, nose, and throat disorders. We also look forward to partnering with Drs. Joseph Han and Paul Levine as they, and the rest of the department, continue to advance patient care, education, and new surgical techniques."

"In addition to improving patient care and education skills, the lab's equipment allows for research into new, minimally invasive techniques," says endoscopic sinus surgeon Joseph Han. "This means shorter or no hospital stays and less painful procedures."

Han adds that General Electric donated a \$200,000 image guidance system that will greatly enhance computer-aided surgery, making the complicated operations performed at UVa much safer. "It helps me plan for surgical procedures, kind of like looking at a GPS system for the head, or referring to a roadmap before a trip."

Paul A. Levine, M.D., F.A.C.S., Robert W. Cantrell Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, heads the department, which has been listed as a top 20 ear, nose, and throat practice in *U.S. News & World Report* 14 years in a row. "We are deeply appreciative of our corporate partners who helped us design this state-of-the-art laboratory," he says. "With this new equipment, we will continue providing innovative care and developing new approaches for improving the care of our patients. Here at UVa, we are training tomorrow's leaders. The skills and knowledge developed in this lab will help countless patients across the nation, and the world."

A Cancer Center for the Next Generation of Care

“Cancer care in the next ten years will be barely recognizable compared to what it is today.” “New cancer treatments will be precise and targeted, with far fewer side effects or complications.” “Cancer patients will live longer, fuller lives, spending more time managing their disease than suffering from it.” These are some of the realities surrounding cancer care of the future. The UVa Cancer Center plans to play a leading role in ushering in this new generation of cancer care. Toward that end, construction will begin in the next two years to build a new clinical cancer center designed to treat more patients, more comfortably, and to utilize the latest tools in the war against cancer.

According to Cancer Center Director Michael Weber, Ph.D., a growing ability to identify cancers based on their unique molecular profile will make it possible to diagnose and treat them with great accuracy. “Thanks to advances in genetic profiling, we will be able to treat each case of cancer with treatments optimized for the individual,” says Weber. “The new Clinical Cancer Center will give us the facilities to do so.”

The new Cancer Center will also expand its patient support services, including patient education, exercise and nutrition programs, chaplaincy services, and counseling. And, as new diagnostics and treatments become available, the Cancer Center will work to make these life saving interventions available to people across Virginia and beyond.

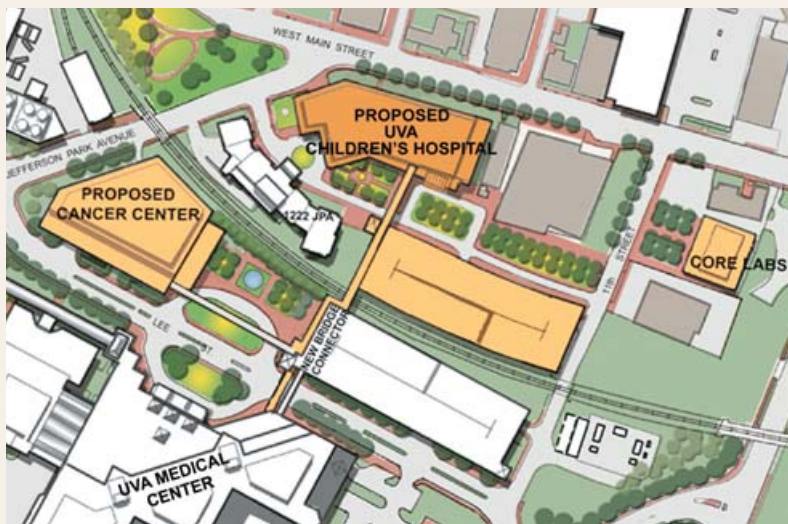
“Based on the momentum we have achieved, we believe that the Cancer Center can become Virginia’s first Comprehensive Cancer Center and a leading model for cancer care nationally,” says Arthur Garson Jr., M.D., M.P.H., vice president and dean, School of Medicine. “The new building will allow us to recruit outstanding physician leaders—leaders like Geoffrey Weiss—to reinforce our disease-focused clinical teams and increase the size of our hematology/oncology program. In achieving this goal, we will be able to provide a powerful service to our patients, who will no longer have to leave the region for state-of-the-art medical care and access to top clinical trials.”

“The new Clinical Cancer Center will make UVa a leader in delivering the dramatic advances in therapy that will come into practice in the next decade,” adds R. Edward Howell, vice president and CEO, UVa Medical Center.



As new Deputy Director for Clinical Research & Clinical Affairs and Chief of the Division of Hematology-Oncology, Geoffrey R. Weiss, M.D. (standing), will play a leading role in shaping the Cancer Center’s future. Weiss is a distinguished clinical investigator, physician, and educator, who previously served as chief of the Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Clinical Cancer Center At-A-Glance



- Expanded and consolidated space and services
- Close proximity to imaging services and University Hospital
- A clinical trials office offering a range of promising new therapies
- Small clusters of exam rooms with access to automated clinical information
- A blood marrow and outpatient stem-cell transplant unit
- Projected cost of \$70 million



Women’s 4-Miler Sets New Record of Support

For the women who run, the Charlottesville Women’s 4-Miler is about perseverance, belief in oneself, and solidarity. It’s also about supporting the UVa Breast Care Center and the women who seek care there. This year, the 4-Miler raised approximately \$49,000. According to Linda Rose, director of UVa breast services, the funds will be used for post-operative health education. In the past, this has included exercise and nutrition programs, a self-help book for patients, and an exercise videotape. Studies have shown that breast cancer patients who exercise properly after surgery recover more quickly.

“It’s a women’s cause, and women feel passionate about it,” says Cynthia Lorenzoni, volunteer director of the 4-Miler. Lorenzoni also acknowledges the invaluable contributions of the Charlottesville Track Club, which runs a 10-week training program for 4-Miler participants.

“It’s a tremendous community event for everyone involved,” adds Rose. “We are immensely grateful to Cynthia and Mark Lorenzoni, the Charlottesville Track Club, the race volunteers, and all of the people who make this event a success. Everyone involved—sponsors, volunteers, and runners—make an invaluable contribution to the UVa Breast Program and give a beautiful gift to our patients.”

\$5 Million Grant Targets Leukemia Drug Development



Collaboration may lead to a cure. John Bushweller, Ph.D. (front), and Milton Brown, M.D., Ph.D., are working together to develop new drug treatments for leukemia.

A research team at the UVa Cancer Center has been awarded a five-year, \$5 million grant to develop new targeted drug treatments for leukemia, or cancer of the blood. The grant comes from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. John Bushweller, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of molecular physiology and biological physics, will share the grant with Milton Brown, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry.

“We are on the brink of a very exciting time for the treatment of leukemia,” Bushweller says. “Our goal is to develop new drugs that encourage specific molecules to inhibit certain altered proteins that arise in leukemia patients. If we can selectively inhibit these proteins, we hope that leukemia can be shut down. Since the molecules are selective, the side effects of treatment and the long-term prognosis for leukemia patients should be significantly better than they are today.”

Bushweller cites the success of the targeted chemotherapy drug Gleevec for chronic myelogenous leukemia as a powerful example of the potential of this targeted approach. “Our

project is based on this concept,” he said. “We hope that our research will make it to clinical trials in patients and prove to be a highly effective weapon in the treatment of leukemia.”

The grant from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is called a Specialized Center of Research (SCOR) grant. “The cornerstone of the SCOR program is its collaborative structure,” said Alan Kinniburgh, Ph.D., senior vice president of research at the Society. “Every recipient works with a cross-disciplinary team of leading researchers from their own and other universities and medical institutions. The concept is that leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma treatments and cures will be discovered most quickly in an environment of collaboration and teamwork.”

Bushweller’s team is collaborating with researchers at Harvard Medical School, the National Human Genome Institute of the National Institutes of Health, and Dartmouth Medical School.

Leukemia is characterized by the uncontrolled accumulation of blood cells. The disease is divided into myelogenous and lymphocytic leukemia, each of which can be acute or chronic. About 33,440 new cases of leukemia will be diagnosed in the U.S. this year, mostly in older adults.



Members of the Kincaid Trust visit UVa to discuss the future of cancer research. Pictured (left to right): Richard Scales; Sheila Crowe, M.D.; Michael Weber, Ph.D.; Virginia Huschke; and Peter Ernst, Ph.D.

Cancer Research Takes Center Stage

UVa cancer researchers have some private partners to thank for support of their most innovative studies. Over the years, the Virginia Kincaid Charitable Trust has become one of the Cancer Center's most generous research contributors, giving over \$400,000 to fund pilot studies in DNA repair, breast cancer metastasis, and other promising scientific programs.

"We are pleased to partner with the UVa Cancer Center to advance research aimed at improving our understanding of cancer," says Richard Scales, executive director, Kincaid Trust. "We are impressed with the talent and dedication of these researchers and believe their collaborative work could lead to real breakthroughs in cancer care."

For the past several years, the Kincaid Trust, which also supports UVa's Darden School, has issued additional \$10,000 challenge grants for cancer research, on the condition that UVa raise at least that amount in matching funds.

To meet the current challenge, the Patients and Friends Research Fund is already hard at work. Recently, the Patients and Friends group expanded their Steering Committee and extended their reach to Richmond.

"We believe that tomorrow's tools for treating and ultimately defeating cancer will be found in the research laboratory," says Meredith Gunter, co-chair, Patients and Friends Research Fund. "We want to speed that process in every way we can."

Fighting the Darkness

Foundation speeds research to combat macular degeneration

In 1925, activist Helen Keller addressed the Lions Club, challenging those present to become "Knights of the Blind in the Crusade against Darkness." Since that challenge, service to the blind and visually impaired is one of the organization's most significant activities. Their tireless efforts across the nation have helped thousands receive eye examinations and eyeglasses who might not otherwise be able to afford them. Now, the Lions Sight Foundation of Virginia at Roanoke is advancing the search for a cure for macular degeneration, the most common cause of blindness in the U.S. The foundation has made a generous grant of \$200,000 to UVa to support translational research and development of new techniques for diagnosing and treating the disease.

Macular degeneration occurs when the macula, which is located in the center of the retina and provides us with sight in the center of our field of vision, begins to degenerate. With less of the macula



Brian Conway, M.D., is pioneering new ways to diagnose and treat macular degeneration thanks to support from the Lions Sight Foundation of Virginia at Roanoke.

working, central vision—which is necessary for driving, reading, recognizing faces, and performing close-up work—begins to deteriorate. After World War II, new ways to image, or photograph, the eye were developed, allowing doctors to measure the progression of the disease. But for 30 years, no further substantial advances were made. Now that's changing.

"Age-related macular degeneration has replaced diabetic retinopathy as the most serious blinding condition in the U.S.," explains Brian Conway, M.D., chair of UVa's Department of Ophthalmology. "Fortunately, there are a number of new treatments becoming available to treat macular degeneration. New instruments are being developed to study the condition

with such sensitivity and resolution that they make a 'living biopsy' of the eye possible."

This new generation of instruments, based primarily on computer technology, are speeding advances in clinical research. The support of the Lions Sight Foundation will allow Conway and his team to purchase and refine advanced imaging equipment. This equipment will provide the team with high resolution images of the eye, allowing them to detect subtle changes in the eye's tissue. Doctors will now be able to diagnose and measure degeneration earlier and easier, without subjecting the patient to uncomfortable testing. They will also be able to closely monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of new treatments for the disease.

"We are proud to partner with the UVa Health System to combat blindness," says Charles Kipps, president of the Lions Sight Foundation of Virginia at Roanoke. "These innovations have the potential to lead to new and better treatments for macular degeneration, fighting blindness before it begins."



John Kattwinkel, M.D., UVa Children's Hospital

Difference Makers

Two UVa Pioneers Honored for Contributions to Medicine

Recently two physicians from the UVa Health System received national attention as the Discovery Health Channel presented them with Medical Hero Honors during a Hollywood-style gala at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. John Kattwinkel, M.D., chief of the Division of Neonatology at the UVa Children's Hospital, and Raghu Mirmira, M.D., Ph.D., associate director of the Diabetes and Hormone Center of Excellence, were two of 13 honorees recognized for their accomplishments. The awards celebrate the nation's premier health and medical pioneers of the 21st century and the best in medical achievement.

Kattwinkel was honored for his work as chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) task force that evaluated sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) data from around the world. In 1992, the AAP adopted the group's recommendation that babies sleep on their backs. Two years later, Kattwinkel and his colleagues launched the national Back-to-Sleep campaign. Since then, the rate of SIDS has been cut in half—saving an estimated 10,000 lives.

"I am certainly honored to have been recognized for this award by the Discovery Health Channel," he says. "As a result of this campaign, thousands of children and families have escaped the tragedy of SIDS. It is clearly one of the most gratifying activities I have been associated with throughout my career."

Mirmira, who was nominated by the American Diabetes Association, was recognized as a pioneer in diabetes research for his investigation into the use of adult stem cells to treat type 1 diabetes at the genetic level. He and his team hope to reprogram a patient's own cells to produce insulin again.

"I am tremendously honored to receive this award," says Mirmira. "It reflects the tremendous support and confidence placed in me by the University of Virginia, the Diabetes and Hormone Center of Excellence, and the American Diabetes Association."



Raghu Mirmira, M.D., Diabetes and Hormone Center of Excellence

Closer to a Cure

Local Foundation Helps UVa Advance Diabetes Research

With an award from UVa's Ward Buchanan Fund and generous support from the Islet Replacement Research Foundation (IRRF), the University of Virginia Health System performed the state's first islet cell transplant on June 3rd, a procedure with the potential to give type 1 diabetics a chance to live free from daily insulin injections.

"It's a tremendous success story," explains R. Edward Howell, vice president and CEO, UVa Medical Center. "The UVa Health System has become one of fewer than 15 facilities in the United States to perform an islet cell transplant, securing our position among the nation's elite diabetes-related programs. Every day UVa is advancing models of care that will change the way we treat diabetes."

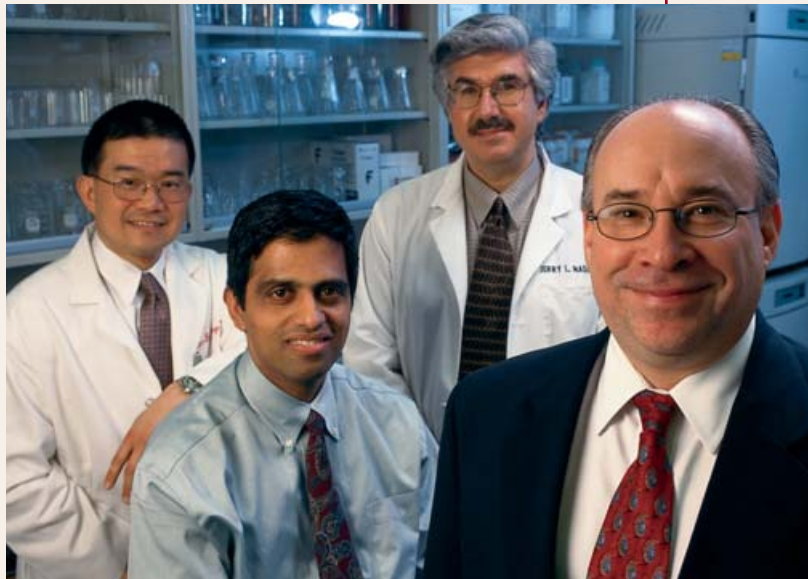
The success story begins two years ago when Paul and Diane Manning of Keswick, Va., donated \$500,000 to help UVa establish the Center for Cellular Transplantation and Therapeutics, the first islet cell transplant program in the state. Islets are cells in the pancreas that secrete insulin. With type 1 diabetes, islet cells are targeted for destruction by the body's own immune system, forcing patients to take daily injections of insulin to survive. Islet cell transplants could allow diabetics to produce insulin on their own once again.

"While the federal government has committed some funding to the research," explains Paul Manning, "both private and corporate support is vital to accelerate research from the laboratory into clinically useful treatments." The Mannings—who founded the IRRF to raise awareness and funds for accelerating the search for a cure—have two children with type 1 diabetes. Like UVa, the Mannings are searching for a cure.

Ken Brayman, M.D., was brought on board to direct the center, and within two years he performed the groundbreaking procedure on Charlottesville resident Lori Ratliff, a type 1 diabetic who has been forced to take daily insulin injections for over 32 years. The operation was a success. Now Brayman is collaborating with Jerry Nadler, M.D., director of the Diabetes and Hormone Center of Excellence and associate director of the cellular transplantation program, to research new ways to improve islet cell transplants, including eliminating the need for patients to take toxic immunosuppressant drugs. The diabetes center—which ranks among the nation's top five endocrinology programs—is conducting complementary, cutting-edge research toward discovering an overall cure for diabetes.

And that news should bring hope to the millions worldwide who live with diabetes every day.

"Lots of people have no clue how close we are to curing diabetes," says Manning, whose IRRF has since awarded UVa an additional \$250,000 to advance the team's work. "It has been a difficult road for them, and we have the opportunity to give them real hope, especially if they have children. The cure is closer and closer every day."



Ken Brayman, M.D. (front), is teaming with Jerry Nadler, M.D. (far right), director of the Diabetes and Hormone Center of Excellence, to develop new ways to improve islet cell transplants. The team, along with Zandong Yang, Ph.D. (far left), and Raghu Mirmira, M.D., Ph.D., and other members of the diabetes center hope to one day discover a cure for diabetes.

The Human Face Behind the Medical Headlines

Lori Ratliff was 16 years old when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, a condition that forces Ratliff to give herself insulin shots four to six times a day in order to survive. But now she may no longer need the daily shots she's been giving herself for the last 32 years as Lori Ratliff became the first recipient of an islet cell transplant in Virginia.

Ratliff received her first transplant on June 3 in a one-hour procedure. The cells were injected into a vein in her liver, where they attached themselves and began producing insulin. After the transplant, her insulin requirements decreased by 50 percent. She received a second infusion of islets on August 27. "Now it's much easier for me to control my blood sugar levels," says Ratliff, who takes daily immunosuppressant drugs to keep her body from rejecting the new islet cells.

Paul and Diane Manning, founders of the Islet Replacement Research Foundation, which helped make the surgery possible, celebrated Ratliff's prognosis. "When you are able to take all of your research and apply it to a particular person and see a positive result in that person, then you are putting a face to the science," says Paul Manning.

UVa plans to perform 10 more transplants within the next few years.



Islet cell transplant recipient Lori Ratliff (seated), with her surgeon Ken Brayman, M.D., and transplant coordinator Winsor Simmons, R.N.

Grateful Patient's Commitment Advances Pituitary Research



Taking the next step toward a cure: Michael Thorner, M.B.B.S., D.Sc. (right), and Mario Geysen, B.Sc., Ph.D., are working together to develop new drug compounds to target pituitary tumors.

In 1996, Sal Ranieri of Long Island, N.Y., came to UVa for surgery to remove a pituitary tumor. He was so impressed with the care he received that he decided to help advance UVa's research into finding better treatments for the disease. His latest gift of \$200,000 has fostered not only collaboration within the Health System, but across Grounds as well. This collaboration may well lead to new treatments for pituitary tumors, bringing patients new hope for a cure.

UVa is playing a leading role in illuminating the cause and progression of pituitary tumors and acromegaly, a life-threatening condition caused by the development of a pituitary tumor that over-secretes growth hormone. Ranieri's first gift helped Michael Thorner, M.B.B.S., D.Sc., chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, and Edward Laws, M.D., F.A.C.S., devise a way to genetically map a tumor's DNA, giving them vital clues to why pituitary tumors form. In addition, the team has discovered and cloned a receptor that may be involved in the development of pituitary tumors, and therefore might be a target for new therapies to stop tumor growth. UVa has

also advanced the use of gamma knife irradiation for persistent tumors, and helped to develop a compound that blocks excess growth hormone action.

Now the team is close to developing two new approaches to treating acromegaly that will be more cost-effective and help patients whose tumors are surgically invasive. With Ranieri's continued support, Thorner was able to match his talents in endocrine studies with the chemical expertise of H. Mario Geysen, B.Sc., Ph.D., from the University's Department of Chemistry. Thorner and Geysen hope to synthesize compounds that will target the body's immune system to kill pituitary tumors. With the preliminary data they hope to collect, they plan to apply for larger federal grants to speed their work.

"The pace of our research, and the milestones we've reached, would not be possible without the help of donors like Sal Ranieri," says Thorner. "Private support seeds promising research and allows investigators to explore novel ideas. With Mr. Ranieri's help, we are developing a strategy for defeating pituitary tumors. We are working toward a cure."



Alumni and friends across the nation came together to help chart the future of the School of Nursing.

Partnerships are a Hallmark of School of Nursing Support

Donohoe Endowment to Honor Extraordinary Nurse

As a student, an educator, and as a practitioner, Katharine Donohoe (Nurs. '73) was committed to the nursing profession. She was nationally and internationally known for her clinical expertise in neuroscience nursing. She lectured and published extensively on neuromuscular diseases and multiple sclerosis (MS). During her 25-year career, she worked to create networks, support groups, and camps for patients with chronic, progressive, and sometimes fatal diseases—extending her reach beyond the hospital and into communities. Donohoe's death from breast cancer in 2000 has now spurred family, friends, and former classmates to work together to create a legacy in her memory. The group has established an endowed fund and is working to reach their \$50,000 goal to support clinical nursing research at UVa, the Katharine M. Donohoe Clinical Research Award.



Katharine Donohoe

"It is fitting that Katharine's friends have chosen to honor her memory in this way," says Jeanette Lancaster, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., dean of the School of Nursing. "The intramural research funds awarded from the endowment will help advance promising clinical research that will impact how nurses care for patients for years to come." Income from the fund will be used to support graduate nursing

students, nursing faculty, and/or partnerships between nurse clinicians and nurse faculty for projects to improve patient care.

Donohoe's work as a nurse practitioner revolved around her desire to make sure her patients could live independently for as long as possible and spend quality time with their family and friends. She helped develop an adult day-care program in New York to allow MS patients to remain as active as possible and provide respite for the people who take care of them. Her work earned her international recognition, and she was awarded the International Organization of MS Nurses June Halper Award, recognizing her "leadership, innovation, and overall excellence in the field of nursing."

Sallie Eissler (Nurs. '75), one of Kathy's roommates in college, is working with Kathryn Clark (Nurs. '73) to lead the effort to establish the endowment at UVa in Donohoe's memory. "She challenged everyone around her," remembers Eissler. "After her death, there was a hole in our hearts. By creating this legacy at the School of Nursing, we have a chance to give something meaningful back to a school we all loved, in her name." The group hopes to make the first award at their 35th class reunion.

Giving something back is a common theme among many UVa nursing alumni who are banding together to make a real difference in the life of the school. Other projects that have been funded by groups of alumni include:

- The Class of 1959 has raised more than \$60,000 toward a \$100,000 goal to endow the Ann Pollok Hemmings Clinical Excellence Fund to foster clinical education and recognize students with excellent clinical skills, while
- Ten former RN-BSN students raised more than \$100,000 to create the RN-BSN Leaders Scholarship, to support current registered nurse students pursuing their baccalaureate degree.

Such strong alumni support helps the School of Nursing foster future generations of talented and dedicated nurses, nurses like Katharine Donohoe. If you are interested in making a gift to the Donohoe Endowment, or learning more about other initiatives at the School of Nursing, please call (800) 297-0102 or (434) 924-0138.

Envision Process Helps Nursing Look to the Future

The Envision Process started in the fall of 2001 as an internal series of debates between faculty and University administration to discuss each school's strengths and needs. But the School of Nursing decided to do things a little differently.

"We received so much productive information when we did the internal Envision sessions that we wanted to take the show on the road," explains David Black, assistant vice president for development for the school. "We designed our Envision Nursing regional sessions to engage alumni in substantive conversations with the dean about their thoughts and hopes for the school."

Two years later, the Envision Nursing sessions are considered an unqualified success by administration and alumni alike.

"We will be forever thankful for the feedback we received," says Black. "Alumnae from the ages of 21 to 85 came out to show their support and love for the school, helping us develop the messages we need to advance the school's outreach and mission. We have been able to identify the next generation of alumnae volunteers, and we have been challenged to create stronger networks between students and alumnae."

If you are interested in keeping abreast with what's going on at the School of Nursing, please visit: www.nursing.virginia.edu/alumni/charts&paths.



Nursing Students Without Borders allows UVa students to provide basic health education and care to rural communities in El Salvador. Now the organization seeks to expand its influence.

Nursing Across Borders

Student Organization Seeks to Build Clinic in El Salvador

The residents of San Sebastian, El Salvador, struggle with a host of ailments, many that could be prevented with basic health education. UVa's Nursing Students Without Borders (NSWB) is providing that education. The group has traveled to El Salvador nine times since 1999 to bring much needed medical supplies, teach basic health care topics, and train future health care providers.

Encouraged by the positive effect they've had on the community so far, these students are now partnering with the Building Goodness Foundation of Charlottesville, Va., to build a new health care clinic for the community. This 4,000-square-foot facility will increase medical services to the area, as well as expand existing community health education programs to promote wellness.

Dean Jeanette Lancaster, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., applauds the program's efforts as an early application of the ideals of the nursing profession. "This school is built on the premise that our graduates will be leaders both while in school and upon graduation. NSWB has been a visible sign and symbol for commitment to caring and leadership," she says.

The physicians and nurses who travel to El Salvador from UVa see about 300 patients a day in the government clinic that serves

San Sebastian and the surrounding rural communities—23,000 people in all. Nursing students have instituted teaching programs for midwives and a diabetes support group in the town. In addition to the hundreds of pounds of medicine and supplies that are donated from Charlottesville organizations, especially MERCI at the UVa Medical Center, NSWB brought two emergency medical technicians to train Red Cross members, a pressing need in this rural community whose closest hospital is 30 miles away.

In 2003, UVa students purchased a \$6,000 tract of land in San Sebastian to build a permanent medical facility for the Red Cross, complete with separate waiting and exam rooms and sufficient electricity and plumbing. The group has joined with the Building Goodness Foundation, which will donate building expertise and skilled labor to finish the project. NSWB must raise the funds for the cost of materials, equipment, medical supplies, and air fare for the builders, approximately \$200,000.

To learn more about this project, please call David Black at (800) 297-0102 or (434) 924-0138. Or visit the NSWB's Web site at: www.nswb.org/index.php.

Moore's Will Delivers Legacy of Care



William Moore, M.D. (Med. '38), and his wife Dorothy, want to make sure that future generations of medical students can attend the UVa School of Medicine.

During a nearly 30-year practice as an obstetrician/gynecologist, William T. Moore, M.D. (Med. '38), delivered his fair share of babies. From 1946 to his retirement in 1973, the Richmond physician brought a generation of children into the world while keeping their mothers healthy. It's a legacy of care he can see every time he runs into one of his deliveries—now grown—walking down the street.

Now, Moore is preparing to leave a legacy of a different sort. By designating the UVa School of Medicine as one of the beneficiaries of his estate, he is ensuring that future generations of students have the opportunity to practice medicine. "I want to see to it that other people can have the privilege of attending UVa," he says. "Hopefully, they won't have to do what I had to do, which was take a series of odd jobs to pay my way through school."

In Moore's day, students had little recourse when money was tight. A support system of scholarships and student aid did not exist to the extent it does today. Moore's bequest is

to be unrestricted, but he knows that the University will follow his wish that the assets be used to ease the financial burden on future students.

"I want them to use it for those people who are really in need, so that they don't finish medical school with a big load of debt," he says. "Then maybe they can do the same for someone else one day when they are ready to create their own wills."

Moore's desire to leave his legacy to the School of Medicine stems from his belief that the University is responsible for much of his success in life. After his residency at Johns Hopkins, he spent three years in the Pacific during World War II, returning to Richmond to go into private practice. For 10 years after retiring, he served as a surveyor for the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the primary hospital accreditation organization. Now, he simply wants to ensure that a portion of his eventual estate will benefit those who need it most.

"It gives me a good feeling, knowing that my estate is going to the School of Medicine," he says. "When you give something, why not make sure that it helps as many people as possible?"

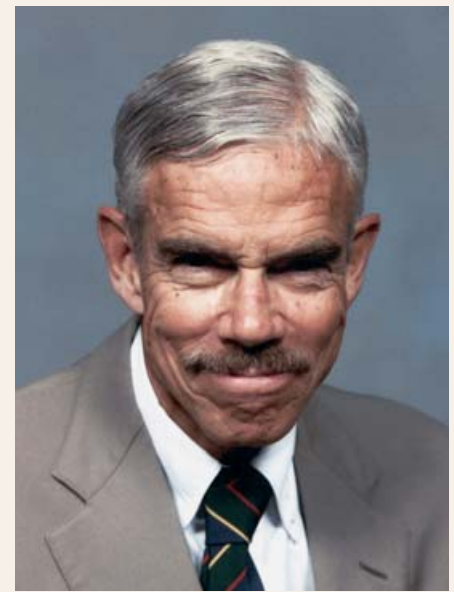
BEQUESTS

A Way to Leave Your Mark at UVa

Through a will, living trust, or retirement plan, individuals can make gifts to UVa that are larger than anything they could imagine in their lifetimes. A bequest in your will may be used to direct a gift to the University in the form of cash, securities, real estate, personal property, or a percentage of your estate.

Bequests help donors realize their vision for the future of the School of Medicine or Nursing or any part of the Health System in a tangible way without an uncomfortable financial burden during their lifetime. You may designate how you want your gift used, or leave your bequest unrestricted to be used where the need is the greatest.

Leave your legacy by making a gift in your will to the UVa Health System. For more information, please call Deb Donnelly, Health System Development, (800) 297-0102; or Barry Collins, UVa Medical Alumni Association/Medical School Foundation, (866) 315-0947. Or visit our Web site at: www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/development.



Carter Lowe (Col. '40, Med. '57)

A Man of Conviction: Carter Lowe

The estate of Carter Lowe (Col. '40, Med. '57) has left \$446,000 for scholarships designed to attract Native American and other minority applicants to the School of Medicine. Lowe, who passed away in January, was an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving in both the European and Pacific theaters. After trying his hand at everything from farming to manufacturing, he decided to pursue his boyhood dream of becoming a medical doctor.

Lowe served as chief of internal medicine at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Michigan from 1968-71, retiring from his practice in 1990. He also served as a clinical investigator for the Upjohn Company, and, after his retirement, as medical director of Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan from 1993-96.

Lowe wanted to help others achieve their dreams as he was able to do, and the funds left by his estate will offer deserving candidates a chance to succeed in life. "Carter was a man of conviction, integrity, and dedication," says long-time friend and estate executor, Preston Parish. "He lived for his practice. It was his life. It took precedence over any other activity, and he was eternally grateful to the University of Virginia Medical School for allowing him to realize his dream."

An Ongoing Commitment

For George Hurt, M.D. (Med. '64), giving is an ongoing obligation. During the last UVa Health System Campaign, Hurt, with his wife Cinda, made a lead gift of \$100,000 to create the John A. Jane Professorship in Neurosurgery. As one of Jane's first neurosurgery residents, Hurt spearheaded fund-raising efforts among Lynchburg-area alumni, as well as heading the Lynchburg Campaign Committee.

Now, the Hurts have decided to act again. With the creation of a \$200,000 charitable remainder trust for the next Health System Campaign, they have once more invested in the future of the University. "I think that the needs of the University, and specifically the School of Medicine, are ongoing and never completely satisfied in order for patient care and research to advance," says Hurt. "It is important for friends and alumni to step up and continue to give over time. One single gift does not satisfy our commitment to our school."

This time around, a planned gift has certain advantages for the Hurts. "From a financial standpoint, if you're a person reaching retirement, planned giving offers a lot of tax advantages, as well as the ability to offer sizable gifts to the University without hindering your present financial situation," says Hurt.

"Planned giving is not immediate resources for the University, it is stimulating, and in the long run can be even more beneficial," he adds. "Planned giving has a lot of benefits and will sustain the University down the road."

With their new gift, the Hurts are showing their gratitude for the education and training Hurt received at UVa. "It doesn't make any difference where you are in your practice," he says. "What is important is to recognize your teachers and the institution that gave you your start in practice and put you where you are today."



School of Medicine benefactors George Hurt, M.D. (Med. '64), and his wife Cinda, are committed to helping the School of Medicine advance patient care and medical research.

CALENDAR

- February 19 Children's Ball for the UVa Children's Hospital
- February 25-26 Dance Marathon, benefiting the UVa Children's Hospital
- May 6 Compass Rose Society Event
- June 4 21st Annual Walk-for-Kids
- June 4-5 21st Annual UVa Children's Hospital Telethon

In the News

UVa Researchers Awarded Federal Grants for Innovative Work

Researchers led by UVa Health System pathologist **Robin Felder, Ph.D.**, have been awarded a \$10.2 million federal grant to further their studies on the genetic basis for high blood pressure (hypertension) and salt sensitivity. Information gleaned from the team's research can provide new insights into how hypertension works, how it can be tested, and how it can be treated. Meanwhile, the Health System has been awarded a \$6 million five-year federal research grant that will fund the operation and staffing of a new **Digestive Health Research Center** at UVa. The center will bring vital research from the laboratory to the bedside, potentially serving thousands of patients with digestive diseases in Virginia and the eastern seaboard.

Talented New Recruits to Head UVa's Divisions

Geoffrey R. Weiss, M.D., is the new deputy director for clinical research and clinical affairs and chief of the Division of Hematology-Oncology. He is a distinguished clinical investigator, physician, and educator, who previously served as chief of the Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. **Bankole Johnson, M.D., Ph.D.**, a practicing physician and psychiatrist widely known throughout the United States and Europe, has joined the UVa Health System to lead the Division of Psychiatric Medicine. An expert on alcohol and drug addictions who recently worked at the University of Texas, his research integrates the study of brain functions and the behavior aspects of addiction medicine. **Michael D. Dake, M.D.**, has been chosen to head the Department of Radiology. He comes to UVa from the Department of Interventional Radiology at Stanford University Hospital, where he served as an associate professor of radiology and medicine, chief of cardiovascular/interventional radiology and co-director of the cath/angio laboratories.

Faculty Highlights

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, and **Edward R. Laws Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S.**, have been chosen as new members of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. The honor brings to 15 the number of UVa faculty who currently serve as members of the prestigious institute.

Shayn Peirce-Cottler, Ph.D., assistant professor in biomedical engineering, recently won the Rita Schaffer Young Investigator Memorial Award from the Biomedical Engineering Society. The award is in recognition of a high level of originality and ingenuity in scientific work in biomedical engineering.

Health System Development

Michael J. Morsberger, *Associate Vice President*
Deborah B. Donnelly, *Assistant Vice President*
David C. Black, *Assistant Vice President, Nursing*

Pat Belisle, Liz Blaine, Kathy Buckpitt, Heather Hightower, Mary Beth Knight, Jeff Moster, Karen Ratzlaff, Timothy Redden, Karen Rendlemen, Cindy Reynolds, Joe Schmidt, Nancy Scogna, Amy Siddons, Michelle Wamsley, Anne Watkins

Health System Development works on behalf of the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, the Medical Center, and the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library to raise private support for needs tied to the missions of the UVa Health System.

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PULSE

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

A NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
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1 A True Friend to Nursing



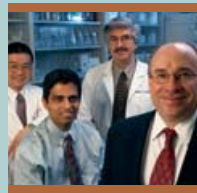
2 The Future of Children's Health



3 The Next Generation of Cancer Care



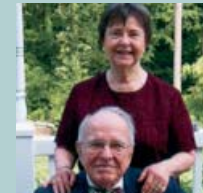
4 Foundation Advances Fight Against Blindness



5 Moving Closer to a Cure for Diabetes



6 Nursing's Global Outreach



7 Med Alum Leaves a Legacy of Care



8 UVa Health System in the News



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