Supporting a diverse, talented faculty

The mark of a great university is its faculty. With nearly 700 talented faculty members – including a Nobel Prize Laureate and members of the National Academy of Sciences – UC Davis School of Medicine is truly a community of scholars and professors helping the university discover and share knowledge to advance health.

One of the most valuable means of recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty is to provide endowed chairs and professorships. Endowments, made possible in large part by charitable support, produce annual income that becomes a stream of lifelong support.

Endowments invigorate research interests, refine and enhance teaching skills, and build bridges to other academic disciplines. The Beneto Foundation Professorship, for example, has helped M.I.N.D. Institute neuroscientist David Amaral focus on a multi-year autism phenotyping project that will help identify potential biomarkers of autism. It has been a time-intensive endeavor that would not have been possible for Amaral without the help of a professorship.

Endowments and professorships have a cyclical influence on the school. They draw renowned professors who, in turn, attract talented students. An exceptional student body then becomes a magnet for new, top-notch faculty.

UC Davis School of Medicine faces intense competition from older universities that have accumulated the financial resources to offer chairs and professorships to many deserving faculty. While endowments have been established at UC Davis School of Medicine to reward accomplished medical faculty and researchers, more awards are required to support additional faculty who can help the school take the next step toward international prominence.

An investment in a UC Davis School of Medicine endowment means an alignment with an exceptional institution – one that greatly enhances the quality of life for the Sacramento region by training the next generation of physicians. Naming an endowment also brings broad recognition as faculty use the title when presenting at scientific meetings, in journal articles and other forms of communication.

UC Davis School of Medicine seeks your philanthropic support to fund endowed chairs or professorships. Your gift will make the difference in our ability to recruit and retain top faculty who will continue to discover and share medical knowledge with the local community and the world.
ROY BROPHY CHAIR IN PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Mark Servis, M.D.
Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

Named in honor of a former University of California Regent and former chair of the M.I.N.D. Institute Board of Directors, the Roy Brophy Chair supports teaching, research and service at UC Davis. Psychiatrist Mark Servis, who is deeply involved in curriculum reform and medical education, holds the chair. Servis is using funds from the Brophy Chair to:

- Organize an annual faculty development session in medical education.
- Provide for a full-day retreat for psychiatry faculty to help them develop a strategic plan for medical student, resident and faculty education.
- Enhance the educational activities of psychiatry faculty, such as virtual reality computer technology.

“The Brophy Chair serves as a clear and unambiguous signal of the importance of medical education,” Servis says. “I'm deeply appreciative of the generous support provided by Roy and Becky Brophy that has allowed us to pursue these important initiatives in medical education.”

M.I.N.D. CHAIR IN FRAGILE X RESEARCH

Randi Hagerman, M.D.
Medical Director, UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute
Professor of Pediatrics

Randi Hagerman, medical director of the M.I.N.D. Institute, is an internationally recognized expert in fragile X syndrome, the most common cause of inherited mental retardation. She recently led the team of researchers at the institute who identified a new, neurological condition that predominantly affects older carriers of fragile X.

Hagerman conducts robust research, provides clinical oversight of the fragile X multidisciplinary evaluation clinic, and teaches medical students, residents and interdisciplinary trainees.

“The chair allows me to devote more time to research, as well as my clinical duties,” says Hagerman. She is able to develop collaborations across the UC campuses, in addition to national and international centers that help her develop cutting-edge treatment programs, such as newborn screening for fragile X syndrome. “The M.I.N.D. Institute is becoming internationally renowned for our work in fragile X. None of this would have been possible without this chair,” she says.
FRANCES LAZDA CHAIR IN WOMEN’S CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

Amparo Villablanca, M.D.
Director, UC Davis Women’s Cardiovascular Medicine Program
Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine

Frances Lazda was 89 years old when she met Amparo Villablanca, an expert in heart disease in women who founded the first women’s heart program in the United States at UC Davis Medical Center.

Impressed with the cardiologist’s work, Lazda decided to join Villablanca’s efforts in preventing and treating women’s heart disease through a philanthropic gift. She established the Frances Lazda Chair in Women’s Cardiovascular Medicine shortly before her death from congestive heart failure in 2004 by leaving her estate to UC Davis Health System.

Villablanca – a UC Davis School of Medicine graduate – provides leadership in strengthening the clinical, educational and research missions as they relate to cardiovascular disease in women. The chair also enables her to address the under-recognition, under-diagnosis and under-treatment of cardiovascular disease in women, as well as gender differences in heart disease symptoms, risks, outcomes and treatment.

“Though heart disease in women is the leading cause of death in the United States, women are less likely than men to receive critical preventive care or life-saving medical interventions,” Villablanca says. “The chair will enable us to reach more women patients to ensure that they receive the cardiac care and education they need.”

DAVID LINN CHAIR IN ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

David Fyhrie, Ph.D.
Director, Orthopaedic Research Laboratory
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Awarded in 1995 by one of the world’s most influential technology leaders, Larry Ellison of Oracle Corp., and named for his brother-in-law, the $5 million David Linn Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery was established to provide three musculoskeletal chairs at UC Davis.

Endowment income from the chair enabled UC Davis to recruit orthopaedic researcher David Fyhrie, set up his lab space and purchase equipment. It also allowed Fyhrie to allocate career enhancement funds to outstanding students and junior faculty. Fellowships provide seed money essential to nurture higher-risk projects through their infancy – projects that can attract external funding from larger sources, such as the National Institutes of Health.

Fyhrie says the endowment has allowed him to think less conservatively with research projects and to support post-doctoral scholars and students. “The five-year commitment to a Ph.D. student or the three-year commitment that a post-doctoral candidate needs is more easily made since I can rely on the endowment income,” he says.

Because of the increasingly competitive international environment of research, Fyhrie says endowment funding becomes even more critical: “Private, endowed research funding provides the means necessary to be responsive to new developments and permits the exploration of riskier research ideas.”
UC Davis Health System seeks **$30 million** in private donations to fund endowed chairs and professorships: **$1.5 million** per chair and **$1 million** per professorship. Your philanthropic contribution is needed to support the innovative research and teaching by faculty in the following areas:

- Vascular research
- Cardiovascular disease
- Transplant research
- Stem cell research
- Pain medicine
- Urology
- Public health
- Infectious diseases
- Pediatrics
  - Respiratory diseases
  - Child abuse and neglect
- Neurosciences
  - Autism research
  - Learning disorders
- Cancer
  - Basic science
  - Clinical research
  - Prostate cancer
  - Breast cancer
  - Lung cancer
  - Pediatric cancer
  - Genetics
  - Immunology

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To learn more about this initiative, contact Health Sciences Advancement at (916) 734-9400