

October 19, 2011

***How will this major gift and the new building help the program?***

We are grateful for this generous gift that emphasizes the commitment of this incredibly vital Northwestern Ohio community to upholding the highest standards of excellence in our institution.

The Center for Diabetes and Endocrine Research (CeDER) is a strong bearer of excellence in diabetes and endocrine research. The Wolfe gift will strengthen its infrastructure exponentially. The building of the Wolfe Center brings CeDER's affiliated laboratories in the College of Pharmacy in close proximity to its affiliated laboratories in the College of Medicine. This will strengthen scientific interaction and intellectual exchange.

Moreover, the gift will enable us to develop unique mouse models of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and to equip a core facility to diagnose these diseases and their related metabolic disorders in mice.

In brief, this initiative will provide much needed support to maintain the excellence of our research program, to expand its growing reach and increase our competitiveness to successfully apply for further training and research funding from federal, state and pharmaceutical agencies.

This generous gift will enable us to maintain our national and international profile in diabetes training, research, prevention, treatment, and ultimately, cure.

***What are the Center's major goals and Objectives?***

Diabetes is spreading at an epidemic rate worldwide in parallel to the rapid spread of obesity. CeDER was established to foster research, academic training and patient care in the area of diabetes and related diseases (atherosclerosis, hypertension, and fatty liver disease). Diabetes is also associated with infertility, sleep disorders, osteoporosis, cancer and Alzheimer. A major objective of the center is to establish a strong research base fostering collaborations around existing scientific and clinical strengths in order to unravel the basis of diabetes and all its related diseases, with an overarching goal to develop novel therapeutic and preventive modalities, and possibly a cure for this devastating disease.

***What sets your program (and UT) apart from other diabetes programs?***

Diabetes care is the future of medical care, as most cardiovascular, kidney, liver, neurological diseases, Alzheimer, cancer and many others are either caused by diabetes or their course intensifies with diabetes. The need to stop the disease could not be overemphasized. To reach this goal, we built a center as a nexus of scientific interactions focusing on diabetes research. The uniqueness of our program is that we draw strengths in basic science and clinical care in all diabetes-related diseases, and in the development of drug and technology from various colleges, including

Medicine, Pharmacy and Engineering. The comprehensive and collaborative nature of our programs has made it possible to create a nationally recognized diabetes research center in the state of Ohio.

***Any other thoughts or information you wish to share?***

Despite our success in building CeDER, a lot remains to be done: core facilities need to be created and federally supported training and program projects need to be established. I am committed to using the Wolfe gift to raise federal support of training our youth and secure the growth of our enterprise. Today, there is a thriving community of scientists, physicians and educators that contributes to the outstanding leadership of our school and represents our best hope for the future of our community. The Wolfe endowment is a celebration of a significant milestone in the history of diabetes research and care in Ohio.