

Continued Success

Richard J. Fasenmyer Foundation grant will fund collaborative HIV/AIDS research

A \$3 million grant from the Richard J. Fasenmyer Foundation will fund HIV research by a pair of nationally renowned experts who were among the first to study the virus.

The award will support immunologists Michael Lederman, MD, the Scott R. Inkley Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and co-director of the Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Center for AIDS Research, and Leonard Calabrese, DO, section head of clinical immunology at Cleveland Clinic. The pair will build on their nearly 30-year collaboration to investigate potential relationships between autoimmune inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, and HIV/AIDS.

The grant will help the researchers gain insight into why treatment fails in some HIV patients, better understand which factors protect certain populations from HIV infection and explore similarities between autoimmune diseases not previously thought to be related, such as HIV, rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease.

In addition to advancing HIV knowledge, the research has broader applications across the wider field of immunology, Lederman says. "This grant ultimately will help amplify current research to apply



Michael Lederman, MD, has studied infectious diseases at the School of Medicine for more than 30 years.

what we've learned about HIV immunology to better understand a host of other diseases—from rheumatology and endocrinology to cardiology and infectious diseases, among many others," he says.

The grant-funded project will build upon Northeast Ohio's significant contributions to AIDS and immunology research. In 1983—two years after researchers first found AIDS in the United States—Case Western Reserve researchers discovered the virus is transmitted by blood products. In 1994, the university established the Midwest's first and only National Institutes of Health-funded Center for AIDS Research, which today manages an annual NIH research budget exceeding \$20 million.

"Our investment affirms not only the concern for others that our founder showed during his lifetime, but also that the interplay of research and clinical care are critical to creating a future without HIV/AIDS," says John Baechle, board president of the Richard J. Fasenmyer Foundation.

Entrepreneur Richard Fasenmyer founded RJF International Corporation, a Fairlawn, Ohio-based leader in the manufacturing and distribution of interior wall-coverings, industrial matting products and specialty films.

Gifts Support Medicine and Engineering

Alum's \$6 million commitment will provide funds to two schools



"This fund will support and inspire our students and faculty for generations to come. We are truly grateful."

—Norman C. Tien, dean and Nord Professor of Engineering, Case School of Engineering



A generous commitment from an alumnus of both the Case Institute of Technology and Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine, who wishes to remain anonymous, will provide funding to each of the schools he attended.

The \$6 million commitment will be split equally between the School of Medicine and the Case School of Engineering through the Case Alumni Association.

The medical school's share will create an endowment that will produce income to be directed at the dean's discretion.

"This generous commitment demonstrates not only this donor's passion for the school, but a tremendous vote of confidence in our mission of education and discovery," says Pamela B. Davis, dean of the School of Medicine and the university's vice president for medical affairs.

At the engineering school, the gift will establish an endowment for the school's annual scholarship, equipment and faculty support.

"We are extremely proud of our accomplished alumni and the strong ties they continue to have with the association and the university," says Roger H. Cerne (CIT '63), CEO of the Case Alumni Association. "It is always gratifying to be a part of such philanthropic partnerships."