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News & Information from
the School of Medicine

MedLines

University Hospitals & CWRU Launch 50-Year Landmark Partnership

Pact to create new model for education, research and patient care

The boards of University Hospitals Health System and Case Western Reserve University approved on December 17 a new 50-year partnership to establish a unique and primary partnership between CWRU School of Medicine and University Hospitals of Cleveland (UHC).

The goal of the partnership is to promote innovative biomedical education, research and clinical care as the nucleus around which to bring together available resources to develop one of the top academic medical centers in the world. The agreement, which is effective immediately, will significantly strengthen the historical relationship between the entities by developing a joint strategic plan for all research initiatives.

"This partnership truly represents a shared vision—the existence of a great academic medical center is dependent upon the success of both University Hospitals and the School of Medicine," said Henry L. Meyer III, chairman of the boards of directors of UHC and University Hospitals Health System (UHHS). "We will build on each other's strengths and work as one to attract some of the best and brightest minds to Cleveland."

"The School of Medicine cannot be a truly great medical school if not partnered with UHC as a great teaching and research hospital," said Charles P. Bolton, chair of the CWRU Board of Trustees. "And University Hospitals cannot be a truly great teaching hospital if not partnered with a great School of Medicine."

Principal features of the agreement include:

- A joint research enterprise to be called Case Research Institute (CRI), which will bring together the strategic planning, operational aspects and financial support for all research initiatives of the clinical departments of UHC. The CRI director will be the dean of the School of Medicine; CRI's board will be composed of equal representation from UHC and CWRU, along with two outside directors from leading research enterprises.

- The partners will have joint strategic and operational planning to maximize the impact of research support by re-

ducing administrative costs and focusing a larger share of resources on the research itself.

- The partners will jointly own and operate the new research building currently under construction on Cornell Road (scheduled for completion this year), which temporarily will be named the UHHS-CWRU Partnership Research Building until a principal benefactor with the same shared vision provides significant philanthropic support.

- Recruitment of about 70 new faculty will be jointly funded and managed, with the aim of enhancing both the clinical and academic missions of the partners.

- The partners will create a national model for education focused on life-long learning and continuous competency at all levels, from medical students to residents, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, to faculty and practitioners.

- The partners will jointly seek to develop a nationally renowned academic medical center in Cleveland and will jointly seek federal, state and philanthropic investments to achieve the vision.

"This is not simply an affiliation, but a real partnership, with the elements to serve as the nation's strongest model for a relationship between a research university and a teaching hospital," said Fred C. Rothstein, M.D., acting president and chief executive officer of UHHS. "Our commitment to each other will attract the brightest minds and the most talented clinicians to our shared campus."

"Our success in reaching this agreement reflects thoughtful and committed efforts on the part of many people, but I must express my special appreciation for the work done by Henry Meyer and Fred Rothstein," said Edward M. Hundert, M.D., president of CWRU. "What really made this exciting was that the entire process was one of joint strategic planning toward these shared goals, with input from our faculty. Our goal is nothing less than to create an academic medical center whose teaching, research discoveries, and outreach will help alleviate the burden of human illness worldwide."

Psychiatry Dept. Dedicates New Center of Excellence for Bipolar Disorder

Supported with close to \$2 million from U.S. govt. and UHC

The Research Institute of University Hospitals of Cleveland and the CWRU School of Medicine held a dedication ceremony for their new Center of Excellence for Care and Study of Children and Adults with Bipolar Disorder and Alcohol/Drug Abuse on Oct. 15. Instead of a ribbon-cutting, however, Pedro L. Delgado, M.D., chair of psychiatry and master of ceremonies, gathered the participating officials for a ribbon-joining ceremony, to symbolize how the new center will unite various constituents around northern Ohio, especially the people providing care with people needing care.

The dedication included remarks from the Honorable Marcy Kaptur, U.S. representative, (D-9th District), a passionate advocate for the mentally ill who played a major role in the development of the center, and the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-11th District), who said, "I can't wait for the day in healthcare when we can provide parity for people with mental illness."

Kaptur was instrumental in obtaining a grant of \$987,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA - part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) for the new center. UHC will match the grant with \$1 million (over three years). Kaptur said that she and her colleagues in the Ohio delegation hope to help make the UHC hospital system one of the best in the nation.

Kaptur, currently the woman with most seniority in the House of Representatives, said she has been concerned with the plight of the mentally ill for most of her legislative ca-

reer. Her vision, she said, is to see the 'circles of care' expand out from CWRU and UHC to help areas around the state.

She read a letter from a constituent who suffers from mental illness. Although diagnosed in 1978 with mental illness, the letter writer didn't receive relief until 1991, when the person was treated by Joseph Calabrese, M.D., a professor of psychiatry who will co-direct the new center. Until then, the person could not write at all, the letter said. The center's other co-director is Robert L. Findling, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry, who specializes in pediatric psychiatry.

Delgado, the Douglas Bond Professor of Psychiatry, spoke about the lack of services for children, which he hopes the new center will rectify. "For a long time, it was thought that children didn't have mental disorders. We've gotten better at diagnosing mental illness in children, but, unfortunately, it hasn't translated into clinical care."

Also taking the podium at the event were Lynn T. Singer, Ph.D., deputy provost and interim vice president for medical affairs, CWRU; Edward M. Hundert, M.D., president, CWRU; and John Ferry, M.D., interim president and chief executive officer, UHC. Hundert, who also is a psychiatrist, said, "This is a great example of the partnership between UHC and CWRU. It is the sort of effort that becomes possible by working together." He also said that the majority of families in America have been touched by mental illnesses, including his own. He said he has been public about his only brother

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Ribbon Joining- Rather than cut a ribbon, university, hospital, and government representatives joined a ribbon to demonstrate the connection the new center of excellence for bipolar disorder will make to the community. Gathered around the ribbon: Center Co-director Robert Findling, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Deputy Provost and Interim Vice President for Medical Affairs Lynn Singer, Co-director Joseph Calabrese, CWRU President Edward Hundert, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, University Hospitals of Cleveland Interim President and Chief Executive Officer John Ferry, and psychiatry faculty member Robert Ronis.

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Bipolar

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who suffered from mental illness and who committed suicide while in college.

The center will work with people of all ages who are suffering from bipolar disorder (and other serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia), especially those with co-occurring alcohol or drug abuse. It will specialize in consultation, treatment, and research.

The Department of Psychiatry is recognized as one of the leading sites in the world for clinical research into the treatment of bipolar disorder. More patients with this condition

are studied at UHC than in any other single site in the world, according to Calabrese. He and Findling are leaders in treatment-oriented research for bipolar disorder.

The center's mission is to improve the lives of dual diagnosis patients as well as their families. The Center of Excellence will closely coordinate its activities with existing programs and centers dedicated to treating patients with serious mental illness and substance abuse. Contact numbers for the new Center of Excellence:

Adult (216) 844-2850

Child and Adolescent (216) 844-3881

E-mail Address Bipolar.COE@uhhs.com

Skeggs

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magnificent 30-foot power boat only a few months before his death.

And resourceful he was. Skeggs is best known for inventing the Autoanalyzer, a machine to analyze components in a continuous flow of blood. He set up a workshop in the basement of his home and worked on the Autoanalyzer during his spare time. Technicon Corp., purchased the design in 1954. The machine offered hospitals and labs a low-cost, very accessible method of doing routine blood screenings. The descendants of his instrument today form the basis of automated clinical chemistry.

Skeggs also worked on one of the first artificial kidneys, collaborating with Dr. Jack Leonards of WRU's Department of Clinical Biochemistry. Paul Berg, Ph.D., who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1980 for his work on the development of recombinant DNA technology, worked with Skeggs on

the artificial kidney while a young graduate student in the Department of Biochemistry.

Skeggs' area of research was the chemistry of the renin-angiotensin system. In 1968, he won the Vernon Stouffer award for contributions to this area. The award lauded Skeggs for "identifying the structure of angiotensin, for the discovery of angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) and for the synthesis of renin substrate." These achievements have contributed broadly to the understanding of the physiology and biochemistry of hypertension. He was inducted into the Cleveland Medical Hall of Fame in 1997.

Skeggs was born Aug. 2, 1918. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was awarded several medals. He and his wife were married in 1941 and had three children: Laura Jean Tradowsky, Josephine Dick, and David C. Skeggs. Most recently, they made their home in Kirtland.

[Sources for this article include the Cleveland Medical Hall of Fame biographical sketch on Leonard Skeggs by Shari M. Sweeney, published in Cleveland Magazine, June 1997.]