

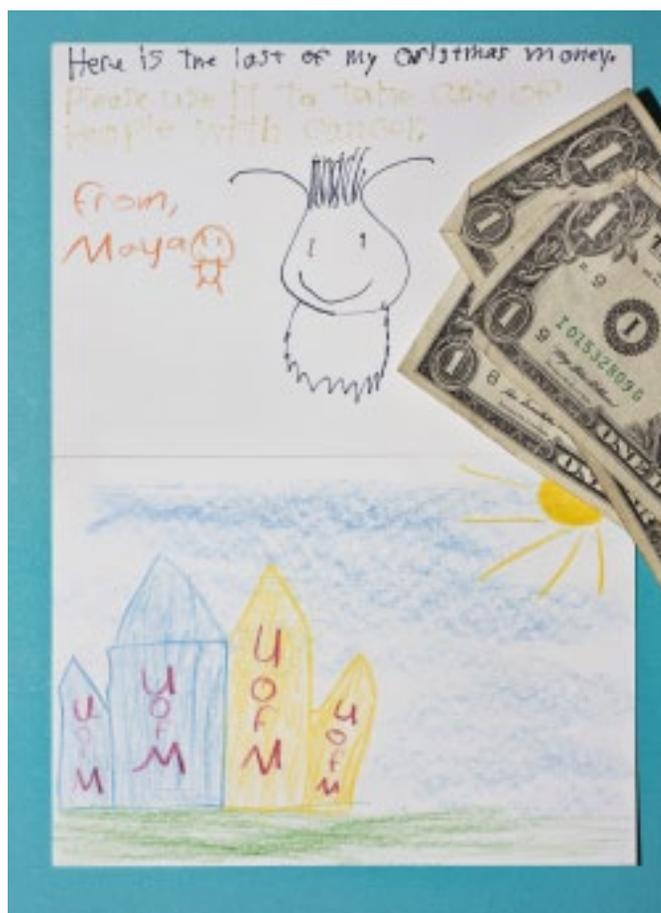
A Different Kind of Giving

‘What the holidays are all about’

A COUPLE YEARS AGO, THE University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center received a very special gift. A fourth grader named Maya sent a card adorned with a drawing of a sunny day and a note: “Here is the last of my Christmas money. Please use it to take care of people with cancer.” Enclosed were three one-dollar bills.

As the holiday season approaches, the youngster’s generosity is a reminder that contributions of all sizes can help advance research to treat and prevent the disease, or make the journey a little easier for cancer patients. One Midwestern family has a tradition of giving to a different charity each year instead of exchanging holiday presents; this year they’ve selected the U-M Multidisciplinary Adrenal Cancer Program as their charity of choice.

“After one of our own was diagnosed with this rare disease, we did some research and picked the institution that we felt was doing the most viable research in the country,” says Steve, who requested his family name be kept private.



Their giving tradition started in 2000, notes Lulu, Steve’s stepsister. “It took us a couple of years of talking about it to get the tradition started,” she says. “‘How can you have Christmas without presents?’ some people asked. But we finally decided this is what we needed to do to teach our children what the holidays are really all about.”

Steve says that when the family comes together each year the focus is now where it belongs — on each other. “Historically it was just a flurry of wrapping paper,” he says. “Now everyone spends their time catching up with each other, and at the end of the day we gather with anticipation while the total amount raised for the selected charity is announced.”

From the eight children in Lulu and Steve’s generation, the family has

grown to include 29 grandkids and 46 great-grandchildren — the youngest of whom, at the time of the interview, was just a week old. With such a large family, even modest donations add up quickly. Between 2000 and 2011, they raised more than \$90,000, benefiting a variety of organizations from local food pantries to groups researching diabetes and leukemia.

“We started off with a suggested donation of \$20 and it’s just grown since then,” Lulu adds. “Now some people give \$100 or \$500, but \$20 is still fine. It has given the holidays a very special meaning for all our generations as we’ve seen how much of an impact just one family can make.”

—IAN DEMSKY

For information about giving to the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center, visit <http://umbealth.me/AltGive>.

Gift Honors Longtime Friend and Mentor

GIFTS FROM KA-SHUI LO, M.D.

(Residency 1977, Fellowship 1979), and his wife, Feili Hsu Lo, M.D., of Hong Kong, are supporting the establishment of a new professorship in the Medical School, as well as a medical student scholarship.

Ka-Shui Lo left Hong Kong as a young man to study medicine, graduating in 1970 from McGill University in Montreal with a degree in biophysics, and earning his medical degree from Cornell University in 1974. He then came to the U-M where he completed a residency and a fellowship in internal medicine and cardiology. It was during Lo's time at U-M that he trained extensively under Bertram Pitt, M.D., one of the best-known architects of large-scale clinical trials in cardiovascular disease, who is known especially for his work defining modern treatments for patients with congestive heart failure. Lo has the highest respect for Pitt, and the two remain friends to this day.

Though extraordinarily talented and skilled in cardiology, Lo ultimately chose to devote his career to restructuring his family's real estate business, which was in financial crisis in the 1980s. He turned the company around and grew it into a large conglomerate in the ensuing 25 years. His passion for medicine and improving the health of his native countrymen has never waned, and he served as chairman of the Hong Kong Hospital Authority in the early 2000s. He and his wife are passionate philanthropists, giving to a wide variety of educational and charitable causes.

After making a generous scholarship gift to the Medical School, Ka-Shui and Feili Lo decided to deepen their relationship with Michigan by making a lead gift



David Pinsky, Bertram Pitt and Ka-Shui Lo

to establish a professorship honoring Ka-Shui Lo's long-ago mentor, Bertram Pitt.

Says Pitt, who is today an emeritus professor in the Medical School: "Dr. Lo was an outstanding cardiologist with a clear path to a career in academic medicine. He chose to assist his father and has developed a successful career in business where he has had the opportunity — through his generous contributions — to influence the future of cardiovascular research. I am so grateful to him for his support of this new professorship."

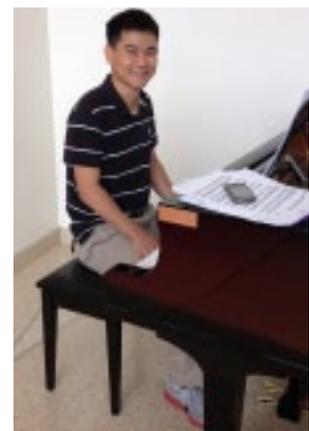
David Pinsky, M.D., division chief of cardiovascular medicine and a director

of the Cardiovascular Center, agrees.

"We are thrilled and honored by the Los' extraordinary generosity. Their gifts to students, and now to this professorship, will not only honor Dr. Pitt's many contributions, but also help us advance cardiovascular research and train physicians of the future.

"On a personal level," Pinsky says, "this gift is particularly important to me as Dr. Pitt's successor, as well as his student. The Los' generous gifts are a powerful vote of confidence in the work we do here at Michigan every day to improve the health of people everywhere." —WH

U-M undergraduate student Gong He plays the piano — a gift from Ann Arbor businesswoman Jan Garfinkle, her husband, Michael J. O'Donnell, and their children — in the lobby of the new C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital. The plaque on the piano reads: "We invite you to enjoy the gift of music as part of your healing."





A Shared Goal: Helping Children See

TWO MILLION DOLLARS OF support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation over two years will allow U-M ophthalmologists and researchers, along with collaborators around the state, to better understand disparities in children’s eye care and work to improve vision for children. The gift will also help fund research into retinopathy of prematurity and offers practical support to children needing specialized eye care.

“The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is committed to creating conditions that prepare children for long-term success,” says Jim McHale, vice president for program strategy for the foundation, which was founded in 1930 by breakfast cereal pioneer Will Keith Kellogg. “The foundation’s support of the Kellogg Eye Center will address the barriers to eye care access for kids most in need, ensuring that all children have access to the quality of health care they deserve.”

Central to the project are questions about prompt detection of childhood eye diseases and follow-up when a pre-

school vision test reveals a problem with a child’s sight. A team of U-M ophthalmologists will work to discover whether socioeconomic and demographic factors such as age, race, household income and community of residence contribute to delayed diagnosis of common childhood vision problems.

Another arm of the project seeks to improve vision care for premature babies with low birth weight who are more likely to have retinopathy of prematurity, a potentially blinding condition. The foundation’s support also establishes a permanent fund that will help families who might not otherwise be able to purchase special eyeglasses, prisms — used to treat children’s eye muscle problems — and other vision aids for children in need.

The Kellogg Eye Center research team will share knowledge gained over the course of two years at national conferences on pediatric retina disease and on disparities in children’s eye care. —WH

“When I first learned of the scholarship,

I looked Dr. Denno up on the computer to see who this person was — someone I don’t even know — who decided to be so generous.

To know that someone’s out there taking care of future learners is pretty amazing.”

— Jessica Pedersen, fourth-year medical student and recipient of the Jerjis J. Denno, M.D., Scholarship. Denno is a 1981 graduate of the Medical School.

To make a scholarship gift, contact B.J. Bess at (734) 998-6044 or bjbess@umich.edu, or use the envelope provided within this issue of *Medicine at Michigan*.



Professorships Recently Inaugurated

Two physicians who have guided the Section of Vascular Surgery for more than 35 years were honored June 27 at the inauguration of the **James C. Stanley Professorship in Vascular Surgery**. Established through gifts from Helmut Stern, Nancy Rugani, Cal Ernst, and family, friends, colleagues and grateful patients of James Stanley (M.D. 1964, Residency 1970) — section head from 1976-2004 — it supports a faculty member in surgery whose research, clinical applications and teaching promote the field. The first Stanley Professor is Thomas W. Wakefield, M.D. (Residency 1984, Fellowship 1986), a professor of surgery and head of the section since 2004.

A physician respected nationally for



teaching leadership in the techniques of facial rejuvenation was honored September 27 during the inauguration of the **Robert**

Oneal Collegiate Professorship in Plastic Surgery. The professorship celebrates the 40-plus-year career of one of the first residents to train in the Section of Plastic Surgery. Paul S. Cederna, M.D., chief of the Section of Plastic Surgery and a professor of surgery in the Medical School and of biomedical engineering in the College of Engineering, is the first Oneal Professor.

Roger A. Berg, M.D., added to his long history of philanthropy to his alma mater when he made a gift to establish the **Roger A. Berg, M.D., Radiology Research Professorship**. In 1984, he created the Roger A. Berg Prize in Radiology and, in 1986, he and his brothers created the Eve and Albert Berg Memorial Loan Fund, recently converted to a scholarship. The Berg Professorship, inaugurated October 26, supports the research of a senior faculty member in the Department of Radiology. Professor of Radiology and of Biological Chemistry Brian D. Ross, Ph.D., a national leader in molecular imaging, is the first Berg Professor.

On November 8, a faculty member



who greatly strengthened ties between general surgery and otolaryngology was honored with the inauguration of the **Charles J. Krause, M.D., Collegiate Professorship in Otolaryngology**. Established largely through gifts from friends, colleagues, alumni, trainees and faculty of the Department of Otolaryngology, the professorship celebrates the career of a former chair of the department who also served as chief of clinical affairs, senior associate dean and senior hospital director during his tenure. Current Chair of Otolaryngology-Head and

Neck Surgery Carol R. Bradford, M.D., is the first Krause Professor.

Research to improve cancer care was bolstered by the establishment of the **Collegiate Professorship in Cancer Developmental Therapeutics**, inaugurated November 19; Laurence H. Baker, D.O., was installed as the first holder. The professorship supports experimental research in the Division of Hematology/Oncology and the Comprehensive Cancer Center to develop novel therapies for the treatment of various cancers. A professor of internal medicine and of pharmacology, Baker's research focuses on early and late translational research in soft tissue and bony sarcomas, and drug discovery and development.

The contributions to medicine of Henry Sewall, M.D., Ph.D., were celebrated November 26 with the inauguration of the **Henry Sewall Collegiate Professorship in Physiology**. Sewall founded the physiology department in 1882, and his work in immunizing animals against snake venom demonstrated the principle of anti-toxin production. It is the second professorship in the Medical School named for Sewall, following the Henry Sewall Professorship in Medicine. The first Sewall Professor of Physiology is Christin Carter-Su, Ph.D., a professor of molecular and integrative physiology, and a renowned investigator in the field of endocrinology. —KB