In 1998 and early 1999, five new endowed professorships made possible by private gifts totaling more than $7.5 million were inaugurated at the Medical School. Those professorships, in the order of their inauguration, are:

The John L. Kemink Professorship in Neurotology, inaugurated April 24, 1998, with the installation of Steven A. Telian, M.D.

The Albion Walter Hewlett Professorship in Internal Medicine, inaugurated April 27, 1998, with the installation of Kim Allen Eagle, M.D.

The Rachel Upjohn Professorship in Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, inaugurated October 2, 1998, with the installation of John F. Greden, M.D.

The Distinguished Professorship in Oncology, inaugurated November 13, 1998, with the installation of Max S. Wicha, M.D.

The Percy J. Murphy, M.D. and Mary C. Murphy, R.N. Professorship in Pediatrics for Child Health Delivery, inaugurated January 13, 1999, with the installation of Gary L. Freed, M.D., M.P.H.
Each gift and each professorship is its own special story.

The John L. Kemink Professorship commemorates the life and memory of John Kemink (MD 1975), a uniquely gifted surgeon and member of Michigan’s faculty from 1981 until his untimely death in 1992, whose commitment led to the establishment of Michigan’s leading Cochlear Implant Program. The Kemink chair was made possible with gifts from the U-M Hospitals, departmental faculty, colleagues, friends and family. The first holder of the chair, Steven A. Telian, is professor of otolaryngology and chief of the Division of Otology–Neurotology. He also serves as medical director of the Cochlear Implant Program and the Vestibular Testing Center.

The Albion Walter Hewlett Professorship honors the father of William R. Hewlett of Palo Alto, California, co-founder of the Hewlett-Packard Company, who established the chair in his father’s honor. Dr. Hewlett was a progressive medical educator and cardiovascular specialist who served as chair of medicine in the Medical School from 1908-1916 before returning to his native California and a position at the Stanford Medical School. The chair’s first holder is Kim Allen Eagle, associate chair in internal medicine and chief of clinical cardiology. His research in the evaluation of heart conditions in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery has changed the way physicians approach heart disease in such patients.

The Rachel Upjohn Professorship in Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences was made possible though a gift from an anonymous donor which also supports an accompanying clinical fellowship supporting the research of junior fellows in depression and related mood disorders. The first holder of the Upjohn Professorship is John Greden, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and senior research scientist in the Mental Health Research Institute, who has helped characterize two new psychiatric syndromes: caffeinism, and tricyclic antidepressant withdrawal, clarifying the role of cholinergic mechanisms in the latter. For two decades he has been investigating the longitudinal course of depression.

The Distinguished Professorship in Oncology was made possible through gifts from Cis Maisel Kellman, John and Suzanne Munn, the Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Research Division of the Warner-Lambert Company headed by Ronnie Cresswell, and the Cancer Center Development Committee led by Jay Alix and Steve Radom. The chair is to be held by the director of Michigan’s Comprehensive Cancer Center, currently Max S. Wicha. His research interest is in the field of breast cancer, and how breast cancer cells grow and metastasize.

The Percy J. Murphy, M.D. and Mary C. Murphy, R.N. Professorship in Pediatrics for Child Health Delivery was made possible by a gift from Mary Murphy and her late husband, who graduated from Michigan’s Medical School in 1941 and practiced in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula in the town of Calumet for his entire career, with Mary Murphy serving as his nurse assistant. The chair’s first holder is Gary L. Freed, who joined Michigan’s faculty in 1998 as director of the Division of General Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases. His area of interest is health services research, especially outcome assessment and adoption of clinical guidelines, particularly regarding immunization, breast feeding and health policy.