

GIFT OF HEALTH

Compiled by RYANN RASMUSSEN

Gift from Mullikin Family Funds Medical Scholarship

In the late 1940s, Walter Thomas Mullikin, M.D., was known by patients on the army base in Hurlon, Calif., as “The \$2 Doctor.” He didn’t scrimp on care, but he did provide the best he could at a price families could afford.

A lifelong proponent of affordable health care, Dr. Mullikin will be memorialized at his alma mater, the University of Utah, with a \$100,000 gift from his daughter, Kathryn A. Mullikin, on behalf of the Mullikin Family Trust. The gift establishes the Walter Thomas Mullikin, M.D., Endowed Scholarship Fund in the School of Medicine. Each year, a \$4,000 scholarship will be awarded to a medical student based on need and merit.

Ms. Mullikin said her father knew firsthand the burden of financing medical school: he worked three jobs to pay the bills. “He just had nothing, but he always said, ‘Once you have an education, that’s something that no one can ever take away,’” she said, adding that he enjoyed his time at the U and would have wanted to help students pay their way through school.

After graduation from the School of Medicine in 1945, Dr. Mullikin served as a surgeon in the U.S. Army. In 1960, he opened a hospital in Artesia, Calif., the first Mullikin Medical Center, which provided affordable health care to local farmers and ranchers. By 1995, Mullikin Medical Centers had grown to include a 99-bed hospital and 52 multi-specialty clinics in 13 states, with nearly 3,000 employees. It merged with Alabama-based MedPartners to form MedPartners-Mullikin Inc., one of the nation’s largest privately held health organizations.

“We are honored to have the Mullikin family establish this scholarship in Dr. Mullikin’s memory,” said Stephen R. Warner, U of U associate vice president for health sciences development. “He was a remarkable clinician and businessman with tremendous vision and an undaunted work ethic. His legacy will continue at the medical school through this gift.”

Rice Chair in Nursing Dedicated to Healthy Aging

Just months before Robert Rice lost his battle with cancer in summer 2007, it wasn’t unusual to see him riding his bike—with a helmet on—smiling as he peddled, recalled his wife, Joyce.

Because of their shared dedication to healthy living, the couple contributed \$1.25 million to the College of Nursing to establish the Robert L. and Joyce T. Rice Presidential Endowed Chair in Healthy Aging.

“Staying active and making healthy choices was always a big part of our lives together,” said Mrs. Rice, who travels and fulfills her “grandma” duties to keep busy. “Maintaining our health as we age is so important, because you never know what life will bring. With this gift, we hope to encourage others to do just that.”

In 1952, Mr. Rice opened Salt Lake City’s first fitness gym, which later became part of European Health Spas, at one time the world’s largest physical fitness chain. The businessman and his wife of 58 years made numerous contributions to the University of Utah, including: \$1 million to rebuild Rice-Eccles Stadium; a presidential endowed chair in the David Eccles School of Business; and endowed funding for cancer research, the College of Pharmacy, John A. Moran Eye Center, and the medical school’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Aside from their charitable efforts, the Rices have ties to the U as many of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are graduates or are currently enrolled. Several are working on nursing degrees.

“Robert and Joyce Rice felt so strongly about the importance of healthy aging that they placed this gift as a statement in support of staying active and living well, no matter our age,” said Maureen Keefe, Ph.D., R.N., dean of the College of Nursing. The chair, she added, will become the cornerstone of the college’s new Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Education.

Eccles’ Gift Honors Swenson with Scientific Symposium



James R. Swenson, M.D.

James R. Swenson, M.D., professor emeritus of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the School of Medicine, has been honored with a \$100,000 gift from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation to support a symposium named in his honor.

The annual James R. Swenson, M.D., Scientific Symposium is a day-long event showcasing studies from around the country to help advance physical medicine and rehabilitation research at the University of Utah.

“We are so grateful to the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation for their support of this symposium and their generous gift of \$100,000, which will honor Dr. Swenson and name this event in perpetuity,” said Joseph B. Webster, M.D., associate professor and interim chair of the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. “By highlighting current writings and encouraging further research, this scientific symposium will

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For the inaugural Benning Society Lecture in Medicine last June, Mario R. Capecchi, Ph.D., explained his Nobel-winning research. The public lecture was sponsored by the society: 12 medical school faculty members who hold the prestigious H.A. and Edna Benning Presidential Endowed Chairs. They were established in 2005 with a \$22.5 million bequest from the late Arthur E. Benning, former president and chairman of the board of Amalgamated Sugar.

2 New Chairs Endowed by Eccles Foundation Honor U of U Nobel Laureate

What more can you give a Nobel Prize winner after he's been presented the gold medal representing the pinnacle of scientific achievement?

The George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation established two \$1 million endowed chairs to honor University of Utah geneticist Mario R. Capecchi, Ph.D., winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The chairs will help fulfill one of Dr. Capecchi's most important goals as an educator: to provide outstanding young researchers in genetics and biology financial help to launch their careers in Utah.

Spencer F. Eccles, chairman and chief executive officer of the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, and chairman emeritus of Wells Fargo, made the surprise announcement Feb. 23, before 1,000 friends, colleagues, and dignitaries attending a gala in honor of Capecchi.

He and two other scientists won the Nobel Prize in October 2007 for their pioneering research in gene-targeting in mice: a technique that has revolutionized the study of mammalian biology and allowed the creation of animal models for hundreds of human diseases.

"I'm thrilled to announce our gift of \$2 million to create the Mario R. Capecchi, Ph.D., Endowed Chairs in Genetics and Biology, established in honor of the University of Utah's First Nobel Laureate by the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation," Mr. Eccles said.



Nobel laureate Mario R. Capecchi, Ph.D., left, thanks Spencer F. Eccles, right, chairman and chief executive officer of the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, for endowing two chairs in biology and genetics. University President Michael K. Young applauds the gift announced last February.

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help sustain greatness in our work for years to come."

A 1959 graduate of the U School of Medicine, Dr. Swenson completed his residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at New York University under the guidance of former Utah physician Chester Swinyard, M.D., Ph.D., and Howard Rusk, M.D., considered the father of rehabilitation medicine. In 1965, Dr. Swenson returned to the U, where he was named first chair of the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

That year, he established a student training program and, three years later, a residency program. During his nearly 40 years at the U, Dr. Swenson helped the division grow to include 15 full-time faculty members, two fellows, and 13 residents, in addition to dedicating 28 inpatient beds to rehabilitation at University of Utah Hospital.

Aside from his professional accomplishments, Dr. Swenson is admired for his genuine regard for individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries. That became his motivation for setting high expectations for faculty, residents, and medical students, according to Dr. Webster.

Hoffman Holds Hansen Chair in Cancer Research

John M. Hoffman, M.D., has been named to the Willard Snow Hansen Presidential Endowed Chair in Cancer Research Established in Loving Memory by His Daughter, Mary H. Boesche.

Dr. Hoffman, professor of radiology and neurology at the U School of Medicine, directs the Molecular Imaging Program at the University's Huntsman

Cancer Institute. He is investigating ways of using PET imaging to better locate infections in cancer patients, which will lead to more appropriate antibiotic therapy. He also is studying the effects of chemotherapy on brain function and memory.

As medical director of the Utah Center for Advanced Imaging Research (UCAIR), Dr. Hoffman is interested in using PET imaging to find non-invasive methods of understanding the biological processes of cancer and to assist with the selection of appropriate therapies for cancer patients.

The Hansen chair honors the prominent Utah farmer, businessman, state senator and legislator who died of cancer in 1927. It was established to recognize effort and achievement in cancer research, and support research to find new cures and treatments for cancer-related diseases.



John M. Hoffman, M.D.



Spencer F. Eccles

The foundation has a long-standing interest in the University's genetics program and in the work of Dr. Capecchi, distinguished professor of human genetics and biology, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigator. In the mid-1980s, in partnership with HHMI, the foundation built, furnished, and provided funds for the George and Dolores Eccles Institute of Human Genetics. With its latest gift, the foundation has contributed more than \$17 million to the U's human genetics education and research programs. The foundation's other directors are Lisa Eccles, president, and Robert M. Graham, secretary, general counsel, and treasurer.

The new endowed chairs are unique, because they will rotate to fund two untenured junior scientists to pursue their research and work alongside Dr. Capecchi for three-year periods. Typically, endowed chairs are awarded to senior tenured faculty. The chairs are in genetics and biology, because Dr. Capecchi's

first appointment at the University, after leaving the faculty of Harvard Medical School in 1973, was in the biology department.

University President Michael K. Young said the endowed chairs are not only a fitting tribute to Dr. Capecchi, but also are an investment in the University's future. "As the University produces more world-class scientists—and Nobel Prize winners—in the coming years, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation will be remembered for its great generosity in establishing a lasting legacy to build on the great work of Mario Capecchi," he said.

"For the University to cultivate its next Nobel Prize winner, it must have the resources to produce great scientists," Dr. Capecchi said. "Establishing two endowed chairs in my name is an honor for which I will always be grateful to the foundation."



Special guests at the gala included high school science students from across Utah who had an opportunity to meet the University's first Nobel laureate, Mario R. Capecchi, Ph.D., center.



Susan L. Beck, Ph.D., A.P.R.N.

Beck Named to New Chair in College of Nursing

Susan L. Beck, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., is the first holder of the Robert S. and Beth M. Carter Endowed Chair in Nursing at the College of Nursing.

An advanced practice oncology nurse with more than 25 years' experience, Dr. Beck is professor of nursing and former associate dean for academic programs. Her research interests include symptom management for cancer patients and organizational interventions to improve care. She is principal investigator on a study to develop a tool to measure the quality of nursing care related to pain management and co-investigator on a multi-site clinical trial of a nursing intervention to reduce fatigue related to cancer treatments.

Dr. Beck served six years as project director for University of Utah Hospital's Program to Improve Patient Care. She was president of Cancer Pain Relief-Utah and a member of the Partnership to Improve End-of-Life Care in Utah. She also was appointed to the Oncology Nursing Society Foundation's first national advisory council for the Center for Leadership, Research, and Information.

The \$1 million endowment was established by the Carter family. A U of U alumnus, Mr. Carter owned a trucking business that was once the third-largest in the nation. In memory of his wife, he funded a scholarship in her honor at the College of Nursing. His family's contribution was made in appreciation of the excellent nursing care Mr. Carter received in his final days. ▀