

A Vision for the Future

Campaign Update

Helping millions of people locally, nationally and internationally who suffer from ocular disease and conducting research to cure the causes of blindness is the ambitious goal of the Vision Research Center. Providing the resources to do so is the ambitious \$31.4 million goal of the Vision Research Foundation's *A Vision for the Future* Campaign.

We are proud to announce to date that the campaign has raised \$12.4 million in gifts and pledges from generous supporters in the community. We are deeply grateful for several very generous gifts received in recent months:

- *We are both excited and humbled to receive an anonymous gift of \$200,000 toward the Vision Research Center endowment.*
- *We gratefully acknowledge a gift of \$50,000 from the Louetta M. Cowden Foundation, Bank of America and Arthur H. Bowen, trustees.*
- *Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to Fred Bartlett for the \$30,000 gift from the Timothy Fund, which was given in honor of his aunt, Winifred Spradling.*
- *The Allergan Foundation has recently awarded the Vision Research Foundation a gift of \$25,000 toward our postdoctoral training program.*
- *The Alcon Foundation made a donation of \$20,000 to support the Vision Research Center's Retinal Research fellowship.*

And, we are very grateful to Felix Sabates for his generous offer to match the donations to our year-end appeal up to \$10,000 and to donors who have chosen to support state-of-the-art equipment needs for the Vision Research Center. Thanks to Dr. Sabates' motivational and gracious gesture, we were able to double our annual appeal and match funds for equipment totaling \$40,000 toward our \$31.4 million campaign goal.

We are also very proud to welcome the following individuals to our Campaign Leadership Cabinet, whose dedication and generosity is so vital to our efforts:

Ed Matheny, Honorary Chair

Don Alexander, Campaign Co-Chair

Mary Shaw "Shawsie" Branton, Campaign Co-Chair

Albert P. Mauro, Jr. Campaign Co-Chair

Charles Benson

Marshall H. Dean, III

Dan Dickinson

Ronald D. Jury

Nelson R. Sabates

Vision Research Center President's Message



Nelson R. Sabates, MD, FACS
President, Vision Research
Foundation of Kansas City
Professor and Chairman,
Department of Ophthalmology

With the launch of the Vision Research Foundation's *A Vision for the Future* Campaign, 2008 was an exciting milestone in our efforts to create a premier Vision Research Center in Kansas City.

The objective of our campaign is to provide a direct avenue for translational research and educational excellence to ensure that patients with ocular disease receive the most advanced medical treatments available.

The UMKC Vision Research Center at the School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology, along with the UMKC School of Pharmacy, Truman Medical Centers and Sabates Eye Centers offers an unprecedented interdisciplinary synergy with a unified goal: to better diagnose, prevent and treat eye disease and vision disorders in order to make a difference in the lives of millions of people worldwide.

A Vision for the Future Campaign has seen the acquisition of great talent and leadership on many levels. Campaign co-chairs Al Mauro, Don Alexander and Shawsie Branton provide strong philanthropic leadership, as well as the recruitment of the influential and dedicated Ed Matheny as our honorary campaign chair.

To complete our progress in 2008, the announcement of the appointment of Dr. Peter Koulen as the Felix and Carmen Sabates Missouri Endowed Chair in Vision Research has energized our supporters and created vital opportunities for success! We have seen an increase in momentum along with great enthusiasm in our campaign activities.

The Vision Research Center's work to find and fight the causes of eye disease and provide effective treatments for people with low and reduced vision is critical in developing the renowned Life Sciences Initiative currently unfolding in Kansas City.

I hope you will find the enclosed information in this edition of the *Spectrum* both informative and inspirational and will join in to help create a "Vision for the Future" in Kansas City.