

You can help advance research

Amid all the attention given to diseases and medicines, it's easy to forget that research makes medical progress possible. From the latest techniques in cancer to new drugs for asthma and hearing loss, it all starts in the research lab.

"Prevention and treatments of disease are not perfect," says Linda Toth, Ph.D., associate dean of Research and Faculty Affairs. "The only way to improve them and to eradicate the disease is through research."

Research projects need donations just as much as disease treatments. SIU School of Medicine provides start-up funds for researchers for infrastructure and basic equipment to collect preliminary data. But ongoing funds must be obtained from outside resources to continue running a dynamic research laboratory and keep the research advancing.

Funding also is needed to recruit and keep talented researchers, secure salaries,

process data, add and maintain equipment, the list goes on.

Federal agencies such as the Department of Defense and National Science Foundation offer medical research funding, but getting these funds is extremely competitive and only given for limited time periods.

Local agencies and the School of Medicine's internal grants also have funding available, but vying for these grants takes time. Researchers spend a lot of time writing grants to fund their projects, when that time could better be spent in the lab. Your contribution can keep them in the lab working on projects that will benefit your health or the health of someone you love.

Hundreds of research projects are in progress at SIU School of Medicine, in-



cluding Alzheimer's research, Parkinson's research, cancer research, audiology research and many more. Contact the SIU Foundation for more information about how to help research advance.



Dr. Toth holds a photograph of her parents, Betty and Frank Toth.

Toxicology Research Endowment created

Linda Toth, D.V.M., Ph.D., associate dean for Research and Faculty Affairs, and her husband, Thomas Gardiner, recently created a fund in toxicology research. This fund, the Frank J. Toth Toxicology Research Endowment, was created as a lasting memorial to Dr. Toth's father.

Frank Toth was a chemist for the federal Environmental Protection Agency, working with environmental hazardous chemicals.

The fund will benefit toxicology research, the study of how substances harm people. This includes the toxic effects of drugs, environmental radiation and pollutants in the air, water, and soil. The discovery of toxic substances in children's toys fits into the category of toxicology research. Several researchers at SIU School of Medicine are working on toxicology projects.

"We are exposed to increasing numbers of toxins in our environment, in our food, our air and our water," Dr. Toth says. "Our research is discovering interactions between agents."

She adds, "I hope the endowment will help somebody at the School of Medicine establish and develop a research program to control and identify hazards in our environment."

She hopes to one day advance the endowment to an endowed professorship. "My father died last year, and I've been thinking about doing something like this for a while," Dr. Toth says. "I feel really happy that I've done it. It's a permanent memorial to him."

Denim & Diamonds raises record funds for SCCI

A record \$223,000 was raised during the seventh “Denim and Diamonds” fundraising event held in September.

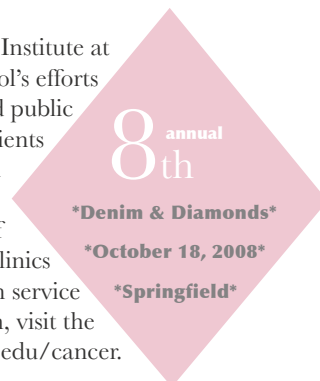
The funds will help SIU School of Medicine develop facilities in the permanent building for The SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute (SCCI) at Southern Illinois University, especially for the five state-of-the-art research laboratories and amenities in the chemotherapy infusion area. The SCCI is slated to open in July.

With a Hollywood theme, guests dressed in denim or formal attire were greeted by friendly paparazzi and red carpet reviewers at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. In addition to 600 guests, 30 sponsors and numerous donors contributed to the auctions.

Thanks to this year’s major sponsors: Citi Smith Barney, Denney Jewelers, Memorial Medical Center, St. John’s Hospital, H.J. and Beverly Collins, Humana, and Joan and Charlie Robbins.

Letitia Dewith-Anderson of Humana and Mark Townsend of IBM co-chaired the event.

The SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU is focusing the medical school’s efforts in cancer research, physician and public education, and treatment for patients from across central and southern Illinois. The new three-story building will consolidate many of SIU’s multi-disciplinary cancer clinics along with research and outreach service programs. For more information, visit the institute’s Web site, www.siumed.edu/cancer.



A weekend of

Wit

The Pulitzer Prize winning drama “Wit” will be performed Saturday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 24 at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St. in Springfield.

A gala fundraiser will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 at the Hoogland, with proceeds benefiting the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU.

The play is being presented by the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU and the Central Illinois Community Palliative Care Initiative.

Gala tickets are \$75 and are available at www.siumed.edu/cancer.

Annual Fund donations off to a good start

This year’s Annual Fund is well under way, with donated funds raising more than \$10,000 over this time last year. Thank you to the alumni, students, staff, faculty and friends who have contributed!

There are many dif-

ferent opportunities to donate to the Annual Fund.

The Student Resource Fund subsidizes student activities and needs. Last year, money was used for the student Winter Ball, furniture for study

spaces and a contract for Gold’s Gym in Springfield.

The Dean’s Excellence fund allows Dr. Dorsey to provide funding for areas of greatest need, including research support, new equipment, and

departmental loans.

If you would like to contribute, contact Lisa McKennedy, director of annual giving, at 217-545-9402 or make an online gift at www.siumed.edu/foundation.

Make an

I M P A C T

While we read much about giving from the wealthy such as Bill and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffet and T. Boone Pickens, it is actually people far less wealthy who give a greater percentage of their income to philanthropic causes.

Although the wealthy get a lot of media attention for their deep pockets, every gift is appreciated and makes an impact.

From the thousands of dollars given by Harbinger society members to the SIU employees who make a donation each paycheck, to the one-time gift of \$5, we’re grateful for every contribution. Combined, these funds make a difference in education, research, and service.

In this new year, please consider giving to SIU School of Medicine.

According to a recent Wall Street

Journal/Harris poll,

55% of individuals

polled said they believe

their contribution will

have an impact.