The National Advisory Council brings both strong regional and national perspectives to assist the Health Sciences Center in assessing existing programs and identifying future needs and trends.

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If you’ve visited WVU’s Health Sciences Campus recently, you know that this is a remarkably dynamic time in the life of this institution. New construction is changing the face of the campus. But more significant than new facilities are broad changes in leadership.

We have a new WVU president, Mike Garrison, and with him a fresh vision of the crucial role Health Sciences plays within the University as a whole. President Garrison has asked me to lead the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center through this historic time of transition.

This year we also have new leadership in two of our four schools. Georgia Narsavage, PhD, dean of nursing, and interim dean Louise Veselicky, DDS, in the School of Dentistry have joined Patricia Chase, PhD, dean of pharmacy, who came to WVU just a year earlier, and John Prescott, MD, in the School of Medicine. We also recruited an excellent new director for the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, Scott Remick, MD.

Change brings opportunity. With our growing national reputation, new facilities for learning, an expanding research enterprise, and flourishing patient programs, we are always seeking partners who share our belief in the importance of our mission. WVU was recently honored with the largest private gift in its history, from Ben and Jo Statler, and a substantial share of that gift will go to boost our already outstanding Breast Cancer program. Next year the University will be planning a major capital campaign, and of course Health Sciences will be fully engaged in that campaign.

I want to personally thank you for your great generosity to our institution. We will continue to do everything in our power to merit the trust you have placed in us.

Sincerely,

Fred Butcher, PhD  
Interim Vice President for Health Sciences
West Virginia University’s Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center benefits from the support of grateful patients, loyal alumni and benevolent friends.

This is a report to those generous donors whose recent contributions of $10,000 or more have had a significant and lasting impact on our work.

This report has been published by the Health Sciences Development Office at West Virginia University’s Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center. Please feel free to contact us:

Health Sciences Development
Room G100, HSC North
PO Box 9008
Morgantown, WV 26506-9008
Toll Free: 877-766-4438
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www.hsc.wvu.edu/development
Jo and Ben Statler, both natives of Monongalia County, recently made a $25 million gift to West Virginia University to fund breast cancer care and other health programs, along with programs at the WVU College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

Jo and Ben attended Clay-Battelle High School together, marrying shortly after graduation. Ben earned his degree in mining engineering from WVU, while working the night shift at the Pursglove mine. Before their children were born, Jo worked for the WVU School of Dentistry.

“This is the single largest gift ever made to WVU,” West Virginia University President Mike Garrison said. “The grace and generosity of the Statler family is enormous for our institution and for all of West Virginia.”

The first $5 million will go to the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program at WVU’s Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. A large portion of that gift will be used to purchase a mobile digital mammography unit to be called Bonnie’s Bus, named for Mrs. Statler’s late mother, Bonnie Wells Wilson. This gift from the Statlers honors the memory of Jo’s mother and her courageous fight against breast cancer,” said Scot Remick, MD, director of the Cancer Center. “This is truly transforming for breast cancer patients here at the Cancer Center, and for women in all parts of the state.”

The state of West Virginia will provide an additional $2.5 million in matching funds for cancer research through its Eminent Scholars program. This program, modeled after the “Bucks for Brains” program in Kentucky, has provided great opportunity for expanding and leveraging significant dollars for cancer research, as evidenced by the extraordinary gift from Jo & Ben Statler. This work is key to one of the WVU Health Sciences Center core missions, providing state-of-the-art care for people throughout West Virginia, and for improving West Virginia’s health disparities in cancer.

In October, The WVU School of Medicine announced its largest gift ever from an alumnus of the two-year School of Medicine. Robert Richard, MD, a 1946 graduate, arranged for a bequest during his lifetime that is providing his alma mater more than $2.3 million. Dr. Richard was originally from Granville, WV. After completing his undergraduate education at WVU, he attended the two-year School of Medicine and then moved on to the Medical College of Virginia where he completed his Doctor of Medicine in 1948.

A portion of Dr. Richard’s bequest will be used to fund core research facilities. The School of Medicine plans to purchase new equipment, such as a LICOR Infrared Imaging System, which will be used to analyze proteins that could detect disease. Another purchase will be a BIACOR System, which can be used for drug discovery. This state-of-the-art scientific equipment will be available for use by all faculty members in their research endeavors. The gift will also support key initiatives that are part of the WVU School of Medicine’s Strategic Plan.

Dr. Richard’s gift will be memorialized by the naming of a research space in the new Cancer Center expansion. A dedication ceremony will be held for this purpose after the construction project is completed.

“I regret that I never had the opportunity to meet Dr. Richard before his death last year, but I did meet a member of his family, Allan Babcock of Fairmont,” said Dr. John Prescott, Dean of the WVU School of Medicine.

“Our conversation and those I have had with others who knew him make it clear that he was a man who cared deeply for his profession and for WVU. We are very grateful for Dr. Richard’s generous gift and want his family and others to know that his life’s work will continue through the very special legacy of his magnificent gift.”
Each day more people are aided by the competent medical team at the WVU Eye Institute. Most of us are concerned about losing our eyesight and appreciate the availability of cutting-edge vision services so close to home.

Bill and Erna Atkinson have been long-time supporters of the WVU Eye Institute because of problems with their eyesight. They’ve had to deal with glaucoma, surgery, cataracts, high pressure damage, and other vision-related conditions.

Last year while visiting the WVU Eye Institute, they had the opportunity to hear about additional space that would be available and about a special eye surgery simulator to train ophthalmologists, if the funds could be found to purchase it. As patients of the WVU Eye Institute, those innovations interested the Atkinsons.

When they learned of the provision in the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that permits tax-free transfers of IRA funds (up to $100,000 in 2007 by anyone who is 70 ½ or older) to the WVU Foundation for the benefit of the WVU Eye Institute, they knew they would take advantage of it to purchase the simulator. Being able to carry out their charitable goal without paying taxes on the funds from the IRA appealed to them.

While this direct transfer from an IRA does not earn an income tax deduction as other types of gifts do, the gift does escape both federal and West Virginia income taxes (and in many other states too) and provides the joy of giving.

“We’re pleased that our support will give something extra to the Eye Institute that wasn’t likely to happen if they had to rely on state appropriations,” says Bill.

Erna agrees and says, “State-of-the-art equipment is so important for educational purposes.”

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Charles L. (Chuck) Cotton was a man of principle and integrity. When he died unexpectedly ten years ago at 55, his sister Sandra (Sam) Cotton and his wife Barbara Slaven decided to honor and remember him by creating a library endowment to benefit the WVU School of Nursing. Sam is the Director of the Faculty Practice Plan at the school. Together, they and other family members and friends have provided support for this endowment.

This year Barbara decided to fund the Charles L. Cotton Memorial Scholarship to benefit nursing students enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) curriculum. Her most recent gift honoring her late husband is the first in support of this new program in nursing at WVU. Barbara realizes the special importance of scholarships for doctoral study, as her sister-in-law Sam is enrolled in the first DNP class. These students are most often practicing in their profession while studying to further their education. In addition to her current endowment gift, Barbara has also made a planned gift of retirement assets to augment the Charles L. Cotton Memorial Scholarship.

Honoring a loved one through charitable gifts is a meaningful way to pay tribute to someone special, assuring that worthwhile causes continue to influence the world around us. These endowed funds honoring Chuck Cotton are a fitting tribute to a man who lived his life in the service of others.
The Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust has pledged $1.5 million to establish an endowed chair at the new Fukushima Center for Advanced Brain Surgery at West Virginia University.

The chair honors celebrated WVU neurosurgeon Takanori Fukushima, MD, DMSc, and will support neurosurgery practice, research and teaching at WVU for generations to come.

Internationally known for his clinical work and research in microsurgery, cranial base neurosurgery, and minimally invasive neurosurgical techniques, Fukushima attracts patients from around the globe who seek out his expertise and skill.

The Center is supported by the McQuain Trust and WVU Hospitals. It includes teaching space in the Learning Center, the Cranial-Base Surgery Laboratory in the Department of Neurosurgery, and the neurosurgery programs in WVU Hospitals.

“Dr. Fukushima is an internationally renowned pioneer in brain surgery,” said George Farmer, Jr, trustee of the Hazel Ruby McQuain Foundation. “He has invented countless new techniques and surgical instruments. Now, one of the world’s foremost neurosurgeons will have a way to disseminate his skills from Morgantown to surgeons and patients around the world.”

Fukushima received his degree from the University of Tokyo, and completed postgraduate training in neurosurgery at the University of Tokyo Hospital, the Free University of Berlin and the Mayo Clinic. Currently, he serves as professor of neurosurgery at WVU and at Duke University. He also serves as codirector of the International Neurosurgery Education Foundation. Among his many accomplishments, he developed the Fukushima Skull Base Carotid Bypass Surgery, in use since 1986, and has invented a variety of Fukushima microsurgical instruments.

“Dr. Fukushima’s presence has made WVU Hospitals an international neurosurgery center,” said Bruce McClymonds, president and CEO. “We are pleased to have him here.”

Previous gifts from the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust and its founder, Mrs. Hazel Ruby McQuain, established four other chairs at the WVU School of Medicine. McQuain, who died in 2002 at the age of 92, also made an $8 million gift toward the construction of Ruby Memorial Hospital, named for her late husband, JW Ruby. Additional gifts from the trust and Mrs. McQuain have supported various facets of the University, including recreational facilities, scholarships and research funds.

The West Virginia University School of Medicine has established a distinguished professorship to honor the work of Abnash Jain, MD, section chief of cardiology from 1979 to 2006.

Friends, family, colleagues, alumni and grateful patients created an endowment to support the professorship. “Dr. Jain has truly been a pillar of the WVU Medical School,” said James Brick, MD, chair of the Department of Medicine. “He is an excellent role model for the medical students, residents, fellows and staff.”

Jain has often won recognition from students and peers. His awards include Best Attending Physician in Medicine, Clinician of the Year, and Distinguished Teacher. He is also the recipient of the Laureate Award from the West Virginia Chapter of the American College of Physicians and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dean of the School of Medicine.

He serves as Professor of Medicine in the Section of Cardiology and Director of Cardiovascular and Interventional Fellowship Programs at the WVU School of Medicine.

Jain received his medical degree from Punjab University in Chandigarh, India in 1959. He then became a member and fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he earned a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He did additional postgraduate work in England and Ireland followed by a residency and fellowship at the Albany Medical Center in New York and at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He joined the WVU School of Medicine in 1973.

Jain has been married to Dr. Prem Jain for 37 years. They have two sons, Sandeep and Nitin and two grandchildren, Milun and Syia.
Employees of West Virginia University Hospitals Valet Services are giving back more than keys to the patients they serve at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center. The valets donated $1,500 in tips they received between April and July 2007 to the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center Clinic.

“It’s our way of giving back to the patients we serve,” Jodie Jones, a valet, said. “None of us are here for the tips.”

In fact, a sign posted at the valet station clearly states ‘no tips required,’ but that does not stop satisfied patients and visitors from tipping the staff.

“I’m very proud to have such a caring staff,” Dan Harris, parking manager for WVU Hospitals Security, said. “The money they’ve received is a testament to the quality of their work; the donation they’re making speaks highly of their generosity.”

Valet Services parks approximately 200 vehicles a day for visitors of the MBBoC, Betty Puskar Breast Care Center, Family Medicine Clinic, WVU Dental Clinic and Student Health. Most vehicles belong to cancer patients. In addition to their parking duties, the valets help patients get in and out of vehicles and wheelchairs.

“I like helping people,” says Tom Strakal. “They really appreciate the service we provide. Often they will bring us homemade cookies, doughnuts and pizza. We also get greeting cards and letters thanking us for being so helpful.”

“I thank the valets for their wonderful donation and the positive impact they have in the overall care of our patients,” said Deborah Falconi, director of Oncology Services. “The valets are the first people patients interface with. They are an important part of the WVU team that’s working to help patients feel better.”

“Patients have enough to worry about without worrying about parking,” Jones, who is also a former cancer patient, said. “I know what they’re going through and I am happy to do or say anything to help brighten their day.”
Dr. Joseph Renn III (WVU School of Medicine Class of 1964), and his wife Robin, of Core, West Virginia, recently established two Mountaineer Mentor scholarships to provide assistance to a West Virginia male and female medical student.

“God has financially blessed us and we wanted to give back to the School,” Renn remarked. “Drawing from my experience in medical school and in the medical profession, we can help build confidence in the students so they can deal with the many challenges they’ll face. We’re proud to be Mountaineer Mentors and look forward to supporting our students throughout their four years of medical school.”

The recipients of the Renns’ generosity are Melanie Ward of Cross Lanes and Farooq Choudhry of Morgantown (pictured above with the Renns).

“Knowing that I have the Renns available for guidance is an extra bonus.” Melanie said. “Dr. Renn has already alleviated some of my fears by letting me know that I’ll survive! The first day we met, he talked about his experience in medical school and it helped me breathe a little easier.”

Farooq also commented, “It was great to meet the Renns and learn from Dr. Renn that the difficulties that I may face aren’t that different than what he experienced in medical school. And, knowing that they are here to support me gives me the added confidence needed to succeed.”

Thanks to the support of the Renns, and others who provide scholarship support through the Mountaineer Mentor Scholarship program, students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to realize their dreams of becoming physicians, can do so. Mountaineer Mentors not only provide financial support, they have a relationship with their students, lending real-world experience to their medical education.

As new Mountaineer Mentors, Joseph Goldston, MD, and Evelyn Melnik, MD will not only provide four years of financial support to their scholarship recipient, Allison Simpson (pictured below), but they will also have the opportunity to be involved in Allison’s journey through medical school.

Both Joseph (Class of 1976) and Evelyn (Class of 1971) received their medical degrees from the WVU School of Medicine and currently reside in Bristol, Virginia where Joseph specializes in emergency medicine and Evelyn in neonatology. “We are both very proud of our alma mater and grateful for the chance to provide others with the educational opportunity to enjoy a career in medicine. WVU has meant a lot to us and it will change the lives of these recipients and the people they touch.”

Allison’s heart lies deep in West Virginia. She grew up in Mineral County, where her family still resides and her younger brother just graduated high school. Allison’s sister is currently a junior at WVU. “I’ve always lived in West Virginia and plan to practice here in the future.”

Allison feels an immense amount of gratitude for the support Drs. Goldston and Melnik have given her. “I really appreciate this scholarship! It’s great to be part of this program, and to realize that alumni of the school are still giving back and making a difference in the lives of current students. After learning about the program, I hope to be able to participate as a mentor myself someday.”
Momentum
The Margaret Fae Perry Scholarship was created several years ago by the Perry family to honor the nursing career of Margaret and her love of learning. Margaret’s niece, Suzy Warman, and her husband, JC, owners of Slight Indulgence Wine and Gourmet Food Store in Morgantown, have played a major role in the establishment and continued funding of the scholarship. In addition to contributing portions of their wine sales, JC and Suzy helped to organize the first annual Margaret Fae Perry Scholarship Gala.

With dinner provided by executive chef Robert Wong, wine by Falcor Wine Cellars and music by the Mon River Big Band, the success of this year’s gala was made apparent by the nearly $10,000 raised for the scholarship fund.

The Warmans plan to host the gala each Spring with the hopes that its success continues to grow.

Margaret Fae Perry worked as a clinician and an industrial nurse before entering the Air Force Nurse Corps in 1950. She served in the Korean War as a flight nurse, evacuating the wounded from the front. She died in the line of duty while caring for soldiers aboard a C-47.

Scot C. Remick, MD, a renowned cancer physician and researcher, has been in place as director of the WVU Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center since June 2007. “Dr. Remick brings with him a history of compassionate cancer care, dedication to advancement of medicine through clinical research, and strong organizational and institutional leadership,” said John Prescott, MD, dean of the WVU School of Medicine.

“Among the most attractive aspects of this position is the extraordinary energy and commitment of all our partners in the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. I am convinced the center is poised for great things.”

Remick is a graduate of New York Medical College, with residency training at Johns Hopkins and fellowship training at the University of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center. He has won a number of large, competitive, peer-reviewed research grants from the National Cancer Institute and other funding agencies and he has been an active participant in national and international cancer research efforts.

“We are particularly lucky to have attracted a person who has given such thoughtful study to the role of the patient in the advancement of medical science,” Prescott said.

The top floor of the Biomedical Research Facility will house laboratories of the Center for Neuroscience along with state-of-the-art equipment to investigate the development, structure, and function of neural systems in the brain and spinal cord. This unique design of laboratories and facilities is the result of a multi-year effort that involved touring top research facilities across the country and incorporating their best elements into a novel layout to further scientific discovery. Employing an open lab approach to the arrangement of laboratory benches and office space for trainees results in scientists knowing more about the work of their colleagues than is possible when laboratories are divided by walls and doors. As a result, scientists will form unique collaborations to understand how the brain works, how it is affected by injury and disease, and how to facilitate repair mechanisms.

This floor of the building will house microscopic technology unique within WVU and, in collaboration with the WVU Nanoscience Initiative, will implement novel technologies for tissue imaging that are available at only a handful of other research facilities nationwide. Our scientists will use these facilities for projects such as time-lapse imaging of brain development or monitoring therapeutic drug actions. We have also planned to construct on this floor a walk-in virtual reality system, whereby the visualization is tied to a computer array that simulates brain activity and movement of cells. This will be the most sophisticated computational biology system on our campus, rivaling capabilities at other institutions. This technology-laden floor will permit our neuroscientists to bring their individual expertise together in a collective enterprise to solve problems in brain biology.
Over 400 alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the West Virginia University School of Dentistry participated in a four-day celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the WVU School of Dentistry at Stonewall Resort April 18-21, 2007. A welcome reception started the festivities on Wednesday night and an alumni and family brunch concluded the event on Saturday afternoon.

Thursday began with the dedication of the Dr. Clarence C. & Maxine Davis Cottrill Endowed Lecture. Through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Cottrill’s daughter and son-in-law Kathryn and Leo Vecellio, a lecture will be given yearly to honor them and their contributions to dentistry over the years. Keynote speaker Dr. Gordon Christensen gave a presentation on the many areas of dentistry.

Friday began with the 13th annual Frank Stevens Golf Spectacular, which raised over $23,000 for student scholarships. This has become one of the most successful events in recent years, thanks to the support of alumni and friends. The evening’s highlight was the Gala Dinner and Dance with entertainment provided by Bobby Nicholas and his band.

Saturday morning began with an alumni brunch where three individuals were honored for their contributions to the School of Dentistry and the Alumni Association over the years. Drs. Ron Jackson and David Funderburk received the Distinguished Alumni Award and Dr. Rich Crout received the Alumni Achievement Award.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration marked the first official function of the new Interim Dean of the WVU School of Dentistry, Dr. Louise Veselicky.

Louise Tupra Veselicky, DDS, was appointed interim dean of the School of Dentistry at West Virginia University in March. Veselicky received a bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene and a DDS at WVU. She received a master’s in dentistry and education at the University of Pittsburgh.

She has served on the WVU faculty in the Department of Periodontics since 1991, most recently as clinical associate professor. She has served as senior associate dean for educational programs in the School of Dentistry, interim chair of periodontics and interim associate dean of clinical affairs.

“It is an honor to lead the School of Dentistry during this transition period,” Veselicky said. “I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve the people of the state of West Virginia by continuing the tradition of quality dental education, research, service and patient care.”
FINANCIAL INFORMATION
More than $24 million was contributed by alumni and friends to the West Virginia University health sciences during fiscal year 2006-07 in the form of cash gifts. This is an increase of almost $7 million from the previous fiscal year and an increase in each donor category as noted in the bar graph to the right. All private gifts are received and administered by the WVU Foundation, Inc. Our progress over the past year would not have been possible without you. Thank you!
The number of private donors to the schools and health care facilities of the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center has increased in every category during fiscal year 2006-07 compared to the previous fiscal year. The total number of donors has grown from 8,571 to 10,566. As your support continues to grow, so do our successes. Thank you!

**Total Number of Donors by Source**

- **12.4% Corporations & Foundations** (1,307 donors)
- **38.6% Alumni** (4,082 donors)
- **6.5% Orgs. & Others** (684 donors)
- **42.5% Friends** (4,493 donors)

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Donor Recognition
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The 137 friends listed below each donated $10,000 or more during fiscal year 2006-07. Your gifts comprised more than 70% of all private dollars to the WVU Health Sciences Center during this time period. You are an extraordinary group and we thank you for your outstanding support!

Donors of $10,000 and Up

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

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