



Success Follows

Earlier this fall I had the privilege of standing on a platform so packed with scholars that we barely had room to breathe — and not one of us minded.

We had gathered in the Iris S. and Bert L. Wolstein Research Building to celebrate winning a \$64 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to transform medical care in our region. Case Western Reserve University is partnering with University Hospitals, MetroHealth Medical Center and the Cleveland Clinic on a project designed to improve treatment of specific medical problems — and to ensure that newly discovered best practices spread beyond major medical centers to physicians' offices across Northeast Ohio.

A previous grant application had failed, but this time School of Medicine Dean Pamela B. Davis became involved as the new proposal's Principal Investigator. Dr. Davis is an internationally renowned expert in cystic fibrosis, and previously served as the medical school's vice dean for research. As often happens when top-notch people are put in the right places, success followed. Perhaps the greatest lesson I've learned in my first months as president is this: We have an awful lot of terrific people here.


In fact, these early days have been full of opportunities to rejoice in faculty achievements. Less than a week after the ceremony in the Wolstein Building, we announced that alumnus L. David Baldwin had been so impressed with the work of Professor Arnold Caplan that he donated \$1.6 million for creation of the L. David and E. Virginia Baldwin Program for Cell-Based Therapy.

Earlier this summer I joined School of Engineering Dean Norman Tien and Professor David Matthiesen in signing an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Commissioners to explore creating a wind power project on Lake Erie. The project is part of engineering's new multi-disciplinary Great Lakes Institute for

Energy Innovation. This effort not only draws on our proven research strengths but also has the potential to play a key role in the world's search for efficient alternative energy options.

These are just a few examples of our faculty's groundbreaking research — and I haven't even touched on their outstanding teaching. My task as president is to help harness this campus' enormous intellectual energy, and in turn find ways to invest still more in those realms most likely to bring the greatest return to society.

Toward that end, we have launched an ambitious strategic planning initiative that involves both university-wide work and more targeted efforts at each school and college. Our broad task force plans exhaustive efforts to gather insights from all of our constituencies — including, of course, our graduates. Interim Provost Jerry Goldberg, longtime dean of the School of Dental Medicine, is leading the effort; more information can be found at <http://www.case.edu/provost/uplan/>.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my new role is the opportunity to meet with alumni; in recent weeks I have attended chapter receptions in California and Minnesota, Japan and Taiwan, and New York. A full listing of upcoming events can be found at <http://www.case.edu/president/about/alumni.html>. I hope to see many of you at these gatherings, or perhaps here on campus at our new Alumni House. For now, let me thank all of you who have welcomed me so warmly, and encourage you to stay in touch as we build a new future ... together. 

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