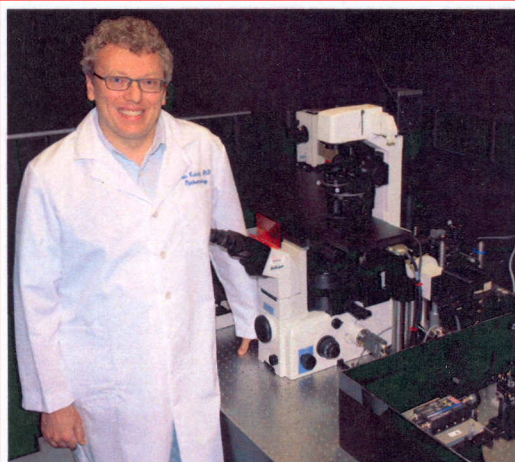


UPSTATE TODAY & TOMORROW

Planned giving opportunities at the Foundation for Upstate Medical University

Colleges of: Graduate Studies | Health Professions | Medicine | Nursing | *Upstate University Hospital*

Spring 2010



Peter D. Calvert, PhD

Dr. Calvert involved in research breakthrough

A team of investigators, led by Peter D. Calvert, PhD, of Upstate Medical University, has made a major breakthrough in research regarding degenerative and neoplastic diseases, such as cancer, using an experimental strategy and mathematical analyses they developed in the laboratory. Dr. Calvert is assistant professor of ophthalmology and adjunct assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Upstate.

The result of their work has allowed one of the most prevalent hypotheses in cell biology and medicine—that the bases of cilia restrict proteins

from entering or exiting the ciliary compartments—to be rejected for soluble proteins. The transport of proteins to and from cilia is crucial for normal cell function and survival.

This discovery allows researchers to focus their efforts on finding other mechanisms for the confinement of soluble proteins to the cilia. The study appears in the March issue of the *Journal of General Physiology*.

Cilia are thin, hair-like projections emanating from most mammalian cells. Their function is well understood in only a few cell types, which include the photoreceptor cells in the retina, but it is clear that they are vital to normal cell function and to human health. "Over the last decade hundreds of genetic mutations that lead to devastating, multiple organ diseases, including those causing blindness and deafness, cancer, kidney disease, obesity, mental retardation and many others, have been attributed

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ANNOUNCING THE UPSTATE LEGACY SOCIETY

The Foundation for Upstate Medical University recently established the Upstate Legacy Society to recognize donors who establish a commitment to leaving an asset to Upstate Medical University/Upstate University Hospital in writing, by will or beneficiary designation on an investment or life insurance policy. No dollar amount is required. All donors will be invited to attend a luncheon with the president of Upstate once a year.



Ruth Wood
Charitable Giving
Planner at the
Foundation for
Upstate Medical
University

The changes that will take effect in 2011 make this type of charitable donation critical for people who wish to reduce their estate tax liability that will be assessed when the sunset provision takes effect.

In 2011, there will be a dramatic

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Upstate Medical University Receives \$1 Million Gift

The Foundation for Upstate Medical University received one of its largest planned gifts ever, a \$1 million bequest to support education and research in the Department of Neurosurgery at Upstate University Hospital. The gift was made from the estate of George W. Perkins Jr., a cattle rancher originally from downstate New York whose son was treated at Upstate in 1978.

The son, George W. Perkins III, was a student at Cornell and was traveling through Cortland when he crashed his car. He was taken first to Cortland Memorial Hospital, then

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George W. Perkins Jr.

Upstate Today & Tomorrow

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Upstate launches new \$1.5 million endowment campaign



Sharon A. Brangman, MD

“It’s difficult for some people to relate theoretically to geriatrics. But the reality is that we will all be there one day. It’s time to create the geriatric care we will someday need ourselves.”

The Sharon A. Brangman, MD, Endowed Professorship in Geriatric Medicine honors Dr. Sharon Brangman, professor of medicine and division chief of geriatric medicine, department of medicine, for her 20 years of outstanding service to Upstate and her nationally recognized leadership, advocacy and expertise in the field of geriatrics, Alzheimer’s disease and cultural issues of aging. The endowment addresses a critical issue in geriatrics today – the serious shortage of geriatricians; specially trained medical doctors in the area of aging and the special needs of older patients.

According to Dr. Brangman, “Central New York has a large and growing population of older patients and demographics can’t be ignored. We’re helping patients live longer but ignoring the implications – the complex care and multiple services they require.”

With the exception of pediatricians, physicians in all medical specialties care for older adults. Yet their educational experience very likely hasn’t prepared them for the often challenging, unique needs of these patients. Endowed revenues will be used to recruit a geriatrician dedicated to teaching geriatric principles to physicians across specialties (surgical, emergency medicine, psychiatric, etc.) to improve the overall care older adults receive at any point in Upstate’s healthcare system. All medical student education will be enriched by integrating geriatrics into their clinical training.

This endowment will advance Upstate’s mission of geriatric education by broadening the understanding of the health issues of older adults across medical specialties to ensure that the region’s aging population receives appropriate health care today and tomorrow.

Upstate Legacy Society (continued from front)

change in estate tax laws that may motivate many people to consider charitable giving. When the sunset provision takes effect next year, federal estate tax will be reimposed. There is not estate tax this year, and in 2009, \$3.5 million was estate tax free. However, in 2011, only \$1 million will be estate tax free and the top estate tax rate will be 55 percent.

Charitable giving presents a way to protect some of your estate from being taxed at 55 percent (and additional tax if there are qualified assets such as an IRA, 401(k) or TSA). For more information on how easy it is to include Upstate in your will and protect your estate from government taxes, please contact the Foundation for Upstate Medical University at 315-464-4416.

Research breakthrough (continued from front)

to genes that encode proteins that are involved in the construction, maintenance, signaling or transport of molecules within cilia,” said Dr. Calvert. “Understanding how cilia manage these tasks is of paramount importance for finding therapies and cures for these debilitating and life-threatening diseases.”

Dr. Calvert adds that one of the major questions faced by scientists studying cilia is how proteins are transported to this tiny structure and how, once they arrive there, they are retained.

“One of the favorite mechanisms proposed is that specialized transport molecules deliver proteins

into the cilium where they are then trapped by some sort of barrier that prevents them from diffusing back into the cell body,” said Dr. Calvert. “The same barrier was thought to prevent non-cilium proteins from entering this exclusive organelle. This idea was difficult to test because cilia are smaller than can be resolved by even the most powerful optical microscopes.

Dr. Calvert and his colleagues developed an experimental strategy and mathematical analyses that allowed them to break the resolution limit and reject the hypothesis that the cilium acts as a barrier to the movement of soluble proteins.

\$1 Million Gift (continued from front)

quickly transported to Upstate University Hospital, where he remained unconscious in the neurosurgery department for three months. During that time, Perkins’ parents, George and Nancy Perkins, became friendly with their son’s doctor, department chair and internationally renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Robert B. King.

Perkins III made a miraculous recovery, only to die two years later at age 27 of an unrelated cause. Yet his parents remained grateful for the care their son received at Upstate, and upon his death established an endowment in the Department of Neurosurgery in his memory. It was the first of many gifts the Perkins family made through the years; their generosity to Upstate totals over \$2 million.



FUNDS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Upstate Cancer Capital Campaign Fund - Fund 47660

To support the mission of the Upstate Medical University to improve the lives of the cancer community through education, research and patient care.

Upstate Cancer Research Institute Fund - Fund 47670

To support the needs of the Upstate Cancer Research Institute or other activities relevant to cancer.

George W. Perkins III Memorial Endowment for Neurosurgery - Fund 705

To support education and research in the Department of Neurosurgery.

Robert B. and Molly G. King Endowed Professorship in Neurosurgery - Fund 665

To support an endowed professorship in Neurosurgery.

Sharon A. Brangman, MD Endowed Professorship in Geriatric Medicine - Fund 60945

To fund a professor in the Department of Geriatrics dedicated to teaching geriatric principles to practicing physicians.

For more information about these and other Foundation funds, contact Michele Estabrook today at 315-464-7846. Or visit

www.upstate.edu/foundation/searchfund.php