

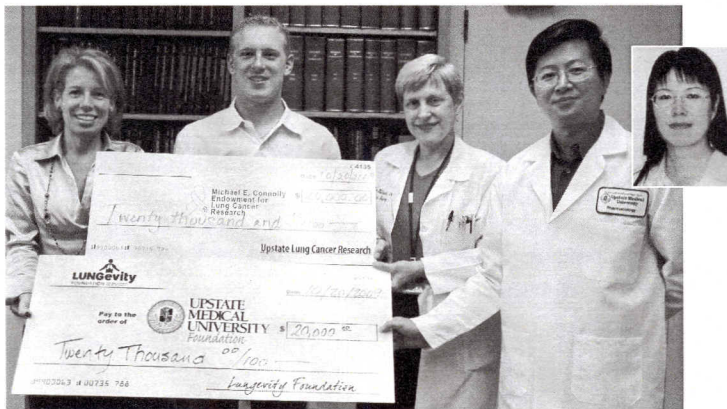
*Celebrating  
5 years*

## Michael E. Connolly Endowment for Lung Cancer Research

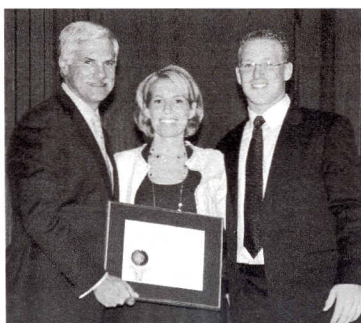
*Advancing the understanding of lung cancer*

The Michael E. Connolly Endowment for Lung Cancer Research made its second research grant award to support a promising new study. Thanks to \$20,000 in matching funds from LUNgevity Foundation, a \$40,000 grant was awarded to Upstate Medical University investigator Jing An, MD, to develop new, targeted drugs that make lung cancer cells more sensitive to radiation therapy at lower doses and with greater effectiveness. This study, *Development of New Radio-sensitizers for Human Lung Cancers*, will lead to a better understanding of how cancer cells defend themselves against radiation therapy and advance new medicines to clinical trials.

Work continues on the 2008 endowment-funded study of very early stage non-small cell lung cancer, the most common lung cancer, for which surgery is the treatment of choice. This study, *Analysis of Lung Tumors to Determine Targeted Drug Therapy after Surgery*, will identify the presence of certain tumor markers found in lung cancer patients and determine which patients might benefit from drug treatments after surgery to help reduce the chance of their cancer coming back. ■



Penny and Ryan Connolly (left) award the second grant from the Michael E. Connolly Endowment for Lung Cancer Research to Upstate Medical University investigator Jing An, MD, PhD. Pictured is Leslie J. Kohman, MD, and Ziwei Huang, PhD, chair, Department of Pharmacology and director, Upstate Cancer Research Institute. PHOTO INSET, Jing An, MD.



David R. Smith, MD, president, Upstate Medical University, presents the 2009 President's Award for Excellence in Philanthropic Service to Penny and Ryan Connolly at the Fall Faculty Convocation in September. The annual convocation celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding colleagues and those in the community who actively represent the values of Upstate Medical University.

## Vision 2000

*Celebrating  
12 years*



Francesca Pignoni, PhD

*Leaders in  
retina-focused  
vision research*

The Center for Vision Research (CVR) enjoys continued growth. Francesca Pignoni, PhD, from Harvard University Medical Center, joined the Center for Vision Research last summer bringing with her new staff, new equipment, and NIH-funded grants totaling more than \$3 million. Dr. Pignoni's research holds promise in better understanding the causes of retinal diseases such as macular degeneration and related conditions. The addition of Dr. Pignoni and her lab to the newly renovated research space in Weiskotten Hall's 5th floor addition increased the center's world-renowned group of vision researchers to more than 40 researchers including faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, technical investigators, and support staff.

Dr. Pignoni's research with eye

*Continued on back*

### *For more information:*

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## John K., MD, and Mitzi Wolf Endowment for Neurological Education

*Learning from world-class scholars*

*Celebrating  
12 years*

The John K. and Mitzi Wolf Endowed Lecture is made possible with support from the Wolf Endowment for Neurological Education. Faculty, residents, and fellows from Upstate departments campus-wide, as well as the general public, are enriched by this unique experience to learn from pioneering experts in the field of neurology. Planning for the 2010 program is underway. ■

### **Vision 2000** *Continued from front*

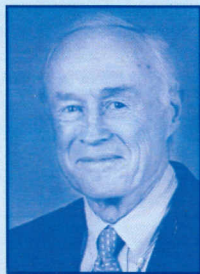
development in the *Drosophila* (fruit fly) meshes well with other members of the CVR team. The group focuses on diseases of the retina but as assistant professor Michael Zuber, PhD, says, "We're very diverse in our approaches and interests, but what brings us together is the desire to solve these problems. Diversity is the key to our success." Dr. Zuber along with Dr. Andrea Viczian are part of the Retinal Stem Cell Consortium--an international collaboration of vision scientists.

In 2009, Upstate researchers joined their colleagues at the three other SUNY medical universities and SUNY Optometry to form the SUNY Eye Institute (SEI) to enhance fundamental and translational research for the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases to the benefit of all New Yorkers. The strength of SEI lies in the collective strengths of the component institutions. Integrating these strengths will lead to national and international recognition for excellence in eye research. ■

The Center for Vision Research proudly launched its new website on March 23. The new site offers visitors a fresh new look and user-friendly navigation to browse the latest CVR news and developments. New features include in-depth reviews of CVR investigators and their work, collaborations with vision scientists throughout the world, grant funding, and more. Visitors can subscribe to a free online newsletter as well as easily make safe, secure online donations to support the promising work of the Center for Vision Research at Upstate Medical University.

Visit today!

[www.centervisionresearch.org](http://www.centervisionresearch.org)



*Robert B. Barlow, PhD*

Dr. Robert B. Barlow, professor of ophthalmology at Upstate Medical University and an award-winning, internationally known vision scientist, died December 24, 2009. A member of the Upstate faculty since 1966, his leadership was critical in establishing the Center for Vision Research and the Vision 2000 endowment to support vision research, and most recently, the SUNY Eye Institute.



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