Dear alumni and friends,

I am pleased to announce that construction will begin this year on the University at Buffalo Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) and Biosciences Incubator, an undertaking that represents one of the most significant developments in recent decades for UB's health sciences community. The new building housing these two facilities will be located downtown on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus at Ellicott and Goodrich streets, adjacent to Kaleida Health's Buffalo General Hospital.

Other facilities that will be located in the currently planned nine-story, 440,000-square-foot structure are Kaleida Health's Global Vascular Institute and the Jacobs Institute. The latter was established in June 2008, when the Jacobs family of Buffalo announced a $10 million gift to UB in support of clinical and research activities in heart and vascular disease.

The CTRC, which is being funded by $100 million in state appropriations received last year, will occupy approximately 130,000 square feet, and the Biosciences Incubator, funded by $18 million in state appropriations, will occupy approximately 40,000 square feet.

The Global Vascular Institute (GVI) is being funded in part by $65 million from HEAL New York* that was provided to Kaleida Health to help it implement the Berger Commission's mandate to close Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital and relocate its heart, vascular and neurosurgical facilities.

The GVI will occupy the first five stories of the new building. The CTRC and the Biosciences Incubator will occupy the top four stories.

As currently planned, we will break ground on construction of the facility in March or April of this year. Kaleida would like to see its first patients in the GVI in late 2011, and we anticipate that the CTRC/Biosciences Incubator will be ready for occupancy in 2012.

The idea for the CTRC/Biosciences Incubator project emerged from an extensive academic and campus master planning initiative that is being undertaken by UB and The State University of New York.

This master campus plan, which is being developed in the context of UB 2020, the university's long-term strategic plan, includes the goal of eventually migrating all five of UB's health sciences schools—*(1)* medicine and biomedical sciences, *(2)* dental medicine, *(3)* nursing, *(4)* pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, and *(5)* public health and health professions—downtown to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus to form a vibrant UB Academic Health Center on that site.

The relevance of the CTRC/Biosciences Incubator project to the development of a UB Academic Health Center on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus—a cornerstone of regional economic growth—made it a top priority for the university's five-year capital plan.

Furthermore, the implementation of the recommendations of the Berger Commission and significant philanthropic commitments now provide us with an unparalleled opportunity to pursue this project, whose programmatic synergies will ensure a "world-class" clinical, research and translational program for the UB Academic Health Center.

These synergies also will be fostered by the CTRC/Biosciences Incubator being located in close proximity to other key health-sciences facilities already located on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, such as UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute and our affiliated hospitals.

* Healthcare Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers

In addition to our goal of fostering productive collaborations, the decision to construct the building in conjunction with Kaleida Health reflects a concerted effort to undertake the project in as efficient a way as possible and with economies of scale that pertain to land acquisition, facilities' infrastructure and shared administrative space.

The CTRC will include the research laboratories of the major clinical departments in the UB health sciences schools and the core infrastructure required to support the university's clinical research operations and mentored-research training programs. These programs are critical to translating knowledge gained from UB 2020's Molecular Recognition and Bioinformatics Strategic Strength into the care of patients through the Health and Wellness Across the Life Span Strategic Strength. (This latter strategic strength initially focuses on three translational and clinical research areas: aging and development; metabolism, obesity and diabetes; and brain and behavior.)

The CTRC is, therefore, essential to our ability to fulfill the research goals of the Health and Wellness Strategic Strength and to position UB to compete for one of 60 clinical and translational service awards from the National Institutes of Health.

To accommodate these complex, interrelated objectives, the CTRC will include the following components:

- At least 30 state-of-the-art laboratories occupying approximately 80,000 square feet. This component will include shared instrumentation facilities, cold rooms, supply areas, office space for investigators, work stations for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and seminar and meeting rooms.
- An Ambulatory Research Center that will feature 8-10 examination rooms to recruit human subjects and fulfill regulatory requirements. This component will include blood-drawing and specimen-collection units, laboratory processing and imaging facilities, secure medical-research record-storage capabilities and administrative offices.
- A Clinical and Translational Research Resource and Operations Center that will provide administrative, statistical, bioinformatics and data management to support the design, implementation and analyses of clinical and translational research studies.
- The UB 2020 Health and Wellness Clinical Research Skills Training Program, the primary objective of which will be to foster the development of independent physician-scientists capable of both understanding state-of-the-art molecular research and translating it into care for a growing population of patients with chronic diseases related to aging, obesity, diabetes and so on. We plan to accomplish this goal through a five-component, two-year Clinical Research Training Program we have developed.
- A biorepository for the collection and storage of specimens, such as blood, urine and tissue, used in clinical research. This component, which will include a phlebotomy suite and specimen-processing laboratory, obviates the current inefficiencies at UB that have resulted from individual studies or research units establishing their own biorepository infrastructures.

Located on the top floor of the new building will be the Biosciences Incubator, which will provide "one-stop" support and services for start-up companies that result from medical research discoveries involving UB faculty or intellectual property. The facility will continue UB's emphasis on a commercialization continuum that begins with the inventor and provides him or her with a robust mix of services and mentoring.

In summary, the CTRC/Biosciences Incubator will bring together for the first time at UB the critical components needed to perform interdisciplinary, disease-focused research. This enriched environment will facilitate research that more rapidly translates into improved public health. In addition, it will enable us to more effectively recruit and retain physician-scientists and to compete for federal and private research grants.

I am confident that these facilities will contribute enormously to the reshaping of UB's health sciences culture over the next 10 years. There is no other place in the world, that I am aware of, where—under one roof—physicians and scientists are given the tools they need to conduct basic and translational clinical research and to commercialize their discoveries.

I look forward to updating you periodically on this exciting project and describing how the new collaborative spirit of medical research and treatment in Buffalo begins to fulfill its potential to improve the lives of those who live in our city and to impact health care beyond the Western New York region.

Michael E. Cain, MD
Dean, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences