



Ira G. Ross Eye Institute

State funding completes successful campaign

BY
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A \$1 MILLION LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE from New York State Senator Dale M. Volker has allowed the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to successfully complete its \$9 million campaign for the Ira G. Ross Eye Institute.

Volker announced the funding on November 4, 2006, at the Lion's Club District 20-N cabinet meeting held in the Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted, M.D. Center for the Visually Impaired. Among those in attendance at the event was UB President John B. Simpson.

"The Ross Eye Institute will be one of the finest ophthalmology research and teaching facilities in the entire nation," said Volker.

"With this infusion of state resources, the Ira G. Ross Eye Institute can build upon its success and international prominence, which will directly translate into better procedures and protocols for faculty, students, researchers, and most importantly, the patients who come here from around the globe seeking medical care.

"Our vision is one of our most precious gifts," Volker added, "and the Ross Eye Institute's mission is to address, prevent and mitigate the myriad of diseases that can take away our eyesight. It is such an important mission, one which we all should join together in tackling."

In 2003, ophthalmologist Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted Ross, MD '39, extended a challenge grant of \$3 million to establish a center of excellence devoted to vision research, education

and clinical care and named in honor of her late husband. The School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences met the challenge with gifts from foundations, corporations, and individuals. Olmsted Ross then issued another \$1 million challenge grant, which the school matched through additional fund-raising efforts. Volker's initiative brings the campaign to a successful conclusion of \$9 million.

The campaign has attracted several major donations, in addition to Volker's \$1 million legislative initiative. Significant donors have included the John R. Oishei Foundation (\$1.2 million), the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation (\$225,000), Research to Prevent Blindness (\$220,000) and, most recently, the James H. Cummings Foundation (\$150,000).

"I'm delighted that the campaign has reached a successful conclusion," said Olmsted Ross, who attended the luncheon. "My thanks go to the corporations and foundations that joined me in supporting vision research and clinical care in the Western New York community."

UB President John B. Simpson praised Olmsted and the other donors to the campaign.

"When you take a moment to consider the path that has brought the Ross Eye Institute campaign to its successful conclusion," he said, "it is truly a vivid illustration of the university-community partnerships that our region's future depends upon."

He continued, "The university and our medical school have relied on many partners in the community to help us realize this vision—from our distinguished and dedicated alumna, Dr. Olmsted Ross, who spearheaded the campaign, to the individuals and groups who rose to meet her challenge, to the legislative leadership represented by Senator Volker's announcement today. The Ira G. Ross Eye Institute will be a shining example of what we can achieve when we work together to build a bright future for Western New York."

The center will diagnose and treat eye diseases, as well as provide prevention and rehabilitation services. It also will operate educational programs for physicians and members of the Western New York community.

UB's Department of Ophthalmology has designed the institute as a collaborative enterprise with the Olmsted Center. It will consist of a free-standing clinical care complex at 1176 Main Street—within the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus—and next to the Olmsted Center, and research facilities on UB's South (Main Street) Campus.

The institute's Main Street site will be the primary teaching facility for the UB Ophthalmology Department's resi-

dency program, bringing senior medical students, postdoctoral researchers and physicians onto the medical campus.

Groundbreaking for the Main Street site was held last fall, and the Ross Eye Institute is slated to open in 2007.

Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, noted that the institute "will serve an ethnically and economically diverse population, both as employer and health-care provider. Its highly accessible location on Main Street is

ideally located to provide care for Buffalo's underserved population."

James D. Reynolds, MD, professor and chair of the UB Department of Ophthalmology, will head the institute. "We plan to fulfill the classic mission of a medical school department, which includes research, education and clinical care, in a nationally unique way," he explained. "We believe this is one of the first true collaborations between a medical school department and a social service agency."

The late Ira G. Ross was an innovative scientist and engineer responsible for establishing aerodynamic and in-flight simulation techniques that still are used in testing commercial and military aircraft. He was head of one of the nation's largest applied research organizations in Western New York, Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, which became Calspan and is now Veridian. He was a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. **BP**



Spring Clinical Day

Featuring Michael Roizen, MD, author of *RealAge*



THE MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS Spring Clinical Day on Saturday, May 5, 2007, at the Adam's Mark Hotel. The new program format, which is sponsored by the Harrington Lecture Endowment and held in conjunction with Reunion Weekend, features a keynote speaker followed by lunch.

This year's speaker is Michael Roizen, MD, whose first general-audience book, titled *RealAge: Are You as Young as You Can Be?* (HarperCollins Publishers), became a *New York Times* number-one bestseller and was awarded the Best Wellness Book of 1999 by the Books for a Better Life Awards. *RealAge* has been translated into more than 20 languages and was a top seller in four other countries. His three subsequent books have also been bestsellers.

Roizen completed his residency in internal medicine at Harvard's Beth Israel Hospital, after which he served a tour of duty in the Public Health Service at the National Institutes of Health, working in the laboratory of Irv Kopin and Nobel Prize winner Julius Axelrod. He is certified by both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Anesthesiology.

He is past chair of a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee and a former editor for six medical journals. He has published more than 155 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 100 textbook chapters, 30 editorials, and 4 medical books, including a medical bestseller. He has also received 12 U.S. patents and several foreign patents.

Currently, Roizen serves as chair of the Division of Anesthesiology, Critical Care Management, and Comprehensive Pain Management at the Cleveland Clinic.

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