The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation approved two grants totaling $3 million to the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine at the June board meeting that includes $2 million for the continuation of the Mt. Sinai Scholars Program in the basic sciences and a $1 million challenge grant to establish the Dean’s Catalytic Fund.

The Mt. Sinai Scholars program (see related article below) has already recruited 12 young basic science research stars to Case Western Reserve to initiate research careers here and to grow Cleveland’s bioscience community. The new $2 million grant will provide start-up funds to recruit an additional six scholars over the next three years. The Foundation’s initial $3 million investment in the Scholars program has already leveraged more than $12 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health. These scholars have relocated to Cleveland from renowned medical training grounds such as Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, Washington University, and the University of Washington, Seattle.

According to Foundation President Mitchell Balk, the Dean’s Catalytic Fund grant will allow new Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Dean Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD, to implement her vision for the School by investing in faculty recruitment and retention, shared equipment and special educational programs. “By structuring this as a matching grant, both Mt. Sinai and Case hope to energize the School’s donor base to join in the effort to strengthen our medical school,” said Mr. Balk. “It is vital to our future that Cleveland continues to have a top tier medical school.”

**MT. SINAI SCHOLAR RECEIVES INNOVATOR AWARD FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently announced that Brian A. Cobb, PhD, assistant professor of pathology at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, is a 2008 NIH Director’s New Innovator Award Recipient. As one of only 31 grant awardees in the nation, Cobb will receive a grant of $2.35 million over five years for his research program.

The NIH Director's New Innovator Award enables recipients to pursue exceptionally innovative approaches that could transform biomedical or behavioral science. Dr. Cobb is developing new tools to study how the immune system recognizes carbohydrate molecules and how they may be used in vaccine development. In accepting the award, Dr. Cobb said that this award “…will have a transformative effect on my research. By linking immune responses against carbohydrates to the emerging field of glycomics, I hope to establish new pathways to fight infectious disease, cancer, autoimmunity, and other immune-mediated disorders.”

Dr. Cobb was named a Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation Scholar in 2005 after being recruited from Harvard University.
Roberto Fernandez Galan, PhD, an assistant professor of neurosciences at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has used mathematics and a computer model of brain activity to prove a direct link between activity in the cortex and the microscopic structure of this neuronal network. In his words, Dr. Galan states, “In a nutshell, the paper shows with a computer model of the brain's cortex, how brain activity is shaped by the connections between neurons and, reciprocally, how the wiring of neurons in the brain determines the repertoire of activity patterns that the brain displays. The knowledge of the relationship between brain activity and neuronal connections is crucial to understand pathologies like epilepsy, where some connections are altered, leading to unstable brain activity.”

Dr. Galan joined the faculty at the CWRU School of Medicine in February 2008, following postdoctoral work at Carnegie Mellon University and the Center for Neural Basis in Cognition in Pittsburgh. Shortly after his arrival, he was named the twelfth scholar in The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation Scholars program. This research was recently published in the scientific journal PLoSOne.
The Board of Directors takes pleasure in announcing its June and September 2008 grants:

**HEALTH OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**

- **Jewish Community Federation**  
  $1,525,000 for the 2009 Campaign for Jewish Needs for local health services.

- **Menorah Park Center for Senior Living**  
  $12,000 in bridge funding for the music therapy program.

- **Hebrew Shelter Home**  
  Up to $182,940 over two years for infrastructure to expand safety-net services.

- **Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA)**  
  $68,976 in bridge funding for kosher home delivered meals program.

**HEALTH OF THE URBAN COMMUNITY**

- **Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry**  
  $114,810 over three years for expansion of the training program of the Services to Adult Care Homes (SACH) program serving low-income and special needs seniors residing in private homes in the community.

- **Neighborhood Family Practice**  
  $38,000 to improve quality of care in accordance with Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHCO) standards.

- **Old Stone Foundation**  
  $16,000 for health literacy education for vulnerable families attending the Old Stone Center for Education.

- **YMCA of Greater Cleveland**  
  $162,075 over three years in support of the “We Run This City” Youth Marathon Program for students in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

- **Greater Cleveland Health Education and Service Council (GCHESC)**  
  Up to $325,494 for Mt. Sinai-initiated minority health promotion agency.

- **Helen Keller International**  
  $300,000 over two years for ChildSight Cleveland to provide free vision screenings and quality eyeglasses in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

- **Jennings Center for Older Adults**  
  $65,761 to offer health and supportive services in low-income housing.

- **Towards Employment**  
  $105,424 over two years to train direct care workers in urban nursing homes.

- **Vocational Guidance Services**  
  $25,065 to train workers to prepare healthy meals for Cleveland school children.

**ACADEMIC MEDICINE & BIOSCIENCE**

- **Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine**  
  $1,000,000 challenge grant over three years to establish the Dean’s Catalytic Fund.

  $2,000,000 over three years for renewal of The Mt. Sinai Scholars Program in the basic sciences.

**FOUNDATION NEWS IN BRIEF**

- Foundation Director **Marcia W. Levine** received the NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio 2008 Champions of Choice award as an honored philanthropist on September 20, 2008.

- Phyllis and Foundation Director **Avrun I. Froimson, MD**, were honored by the State of Israel Bonds and Park Synagogue on September 21, 2008.

- Foundation Director **Jeffrey L. Ponsky, MD**, was the recipient of the Magen David Adom Humanitarian Award which was presented to him on November 9, 2008.

- Foundation Director **Renee Chelm** served as co-chair of the International Lion of Judah Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel from November 12-16, 2008.

- A special Grantmaker Focus on The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation was featured in the semi-monthly GIH Bulletin published by Grantmakers in Health. The Foundation was also featured in the Grantmakers in Aging bulletin.
THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSED THE FUTURE OF NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Foundation looked ahead to the presidential election and the role of health care in the minds of U.S. voters. Americans rank health care and the cost of health coverage among their top concerns, and the candidates heard the message. Health policy decisions are not made in a vacuum and certainly the nation’s next chief executive will set the tone for the extent to which the health policy debate is translated into meaningful action. William D. Hayes, PhD, president of The Health Policy Institute of Ohio, made an insightful presentation titled Health Reform or Health Transformation—Challenges for the Next President and for Ohio.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting was the presentation of the 2008 Maurice Saltzman Award to Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, Saltzman Award Recipient Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, Jeffrey L. Ponsky, MD, and Nancy G. Wolf, MD, PhD.

Foundation President Mitchell Balk and Foundation Chair vic gelb.

Annual Meeting Speaker William D. Hayes, PhD, president, Health Policy Institute of Ohio.

CWRU School of Medicine Dean Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD, Saltzman Award Recipient Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, Jeffrey L. Ponsky, MD, and Nancy G. Wolf, MD, PhD.

Seymour Kopelowitz, executive director of the Jewish Education Center, Erika Rudin-Luria, director of community planning and allocations of the Jewish Community Federation, and Michael Hyman, executive director of the Mandel Jewish Community Center.

THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008, AT SEVERANCE HALL IN REINBERGER CHAMBER HALL.

Hedy Milgrom, assistant vice president of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, and Julian Kassen, MD, former Foundation director.

Leslie D. Dunn, Foundation life director and Larry Pollock, Foundation director.

CWRU School of Dental Medicine Dean Jerold S. Goldberg, DDS, and CWRU School of Medicine Vice Dean Dan Ornt, MD.

Foundation Director Tom Adler with Foundation Life Director S. Lee Kohrman.

CWRU President Barbara R. Snyder, CWRU School of Medicine Dean Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD, Kathleen R. Rosen, MD, faculty director of the Mt. Sinai Skills and Simulation Center, and Richard J. Bogomolny, Foundation director and chair of the Academic Medicine/Bioscience Strategic Grantmaking Committee.

Janice Dzigiel, executive director of the Senior Transportation Connection, Erika Rudin-Luria, director of community planning and allocations for the Jewish Community Federation, and Susan Bichsel, PhD, president and CEO of Jewish Family Service Association.
The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation presented its prestigious Maurice Saltzman Award to Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, a dedicated physician, an outstanding teacher, and an internationally known and respected researcher.

In presenting the award to Dr. Markowitz, Nancy G. Wolf, MD, PhD, Foundation director and chair of the 2008 Saltzman Award Committee, noted that the 2008 Maurice Saltzman Award continues the wonderful tradition begun in 1983 with the establishment of this most appropriate tribute to Maury Saltzman. As Dr. Wolf stated, “Maury’s commitment and achievements on behalf of the health needs of people everywhere provide the benchmark against which each award recipient is measured. This . . . presentation of the award in his honor allows us the opportunity to step back and reflect on and acknowledge the continuing benefits that are a legacy of the foresight of this great friend of the Cleveland community.” The Saltzman Award is presented each year to a Greater Cleveland person or persons who, in the judgment of the selection committee, have in the recent past projected and achieved some piece of work of significant value or merit to the health care interests of our community.

Dr. Markowitz continues this very proud tradition. As the recipient of the 2008 Saltzman Award, Dr. Sanford Markowitz exemplifies all that is best in medicine. Dr. Markowitz developed an internationally recognized research program to identify genes that cause colon cancer, to elucidate the genetic pathways causing cancer, and to develop tests to identify individuals at risk for colon cancer. Dr. Markowitz is the Francis Wragg Ingalls Professor of Cancer Genetics in the Department of Medicine (Hematology-Oncology) and the Ireland Cancer Center at Case Western Reserve University. He holds a co-appointment in the Department of Molecular Biology at CWRU School of Medicine.

As an associate investigator at Howard Hughes Medical Institute and then a full investigator, the impact of Dr. Markowitz’s work within the field of cancer research and patient care has been felt beyond his specific focus on colon cancer. He has demonstrated a deep understanding of tumor development and of the development of new drugs and diagnostic tools.

The selection process is always challenging. Members of the 2008 Saltzman Award Selection Committee were Chair Nancy G. Wolf, MD, PhD, Foundation Directors Richard J. Bogomolny, Dr. Jeffrey L. Ponsky, and Susan Ratner, Foundation Board Chair Vic Gelb, Foundation President Mitchell Balk, Dr. Pamela Davis, dean of the CWRU School of Medicine, Ronn Richard, president of The Cleveland Foundation, and Harley I. Gross, representing the Jewish Community Federation. The Saltzman Award has become one of the most recognized honors in Cleveland. Please note that all of the past recipients are listed below and each has contributed to making Cleveland a center of medical excellence.
THE MT. SINAI HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION expresses its sincere appreciation to its friends and supporters for their many generous contributions. In addition to honoring or remembering loved ones, gifts to the various funds help to improve the health status of the Greater Cleveland community through the Foundation's grantmaking program. The following contributions were received between April 1, 2008, and October 31, 2008.

SPECIAL GIFTS

Dr. William Herman Pediatric Lectureship Fund
In Honor of Dr. Jack and Eva Horwitz
Mitchell S. and Marilyn H. Ross

CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Jerome S. Frankel Memorial Fund
In Memory of Harold Frankel
  Dr. and Mrs. Richard Erickson
  Jane Frankel
  Dr. and Mrs. Merle Frankel
  Dr. and Mrs. Ira Levinsky
  Lonnie Marshall
  Steve, Ellen, Brandon and Justin Potter
  Judy and Gary Rand
  Dr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Ritter
  Eleanor Skall

Roger S. Landers Research Fund
In Honor of Stephanie and Art Axner, Sandra and Robert Densey, Marissa Persky
In Memory of Sarah Axelrod, Larry Berzon, Ida Winer
For Recovery of Leila Winer
  Irwin and Ruth Isroff

Edgar & Roslyn Freedman Medical Teaching Fund
In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. John Biskind
  Edgar W. Freedman
In Memory of Irwin Apple
  Irwin and Ruth Isroff
In Memory of best friend of Debbie Smith Boyle, Mango Roach's daughter
  Barbara Stanuszek-Freedman

ESTATE GIFTS

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation is pleased to acknowledge that the following bequests and distributions were recently received:

Dr. Hans J. and Betty Rubin Trust

For further information, call the Foundation office or visit the Foundation’s web site.

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SENIOR TRANSPORTATION MOVES AHEAD

Seniors in Cuyahoga County have consistently ranked transportation as their number one unmet need, and the Foundation has consistently worked to help address that need. Starting in 1998 with the formation of TC3 on the east side of Cleveland, The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation has been committed to developing a countywide transportation system that would help seniors remain in their homes and live independently in the community.

Thanks to the cooperation of United Way’s Senior Success Vision Council, the County Planning Commission, and the Foundation’s “sister” health care conversion foundations, these efforts led to the creation of the Senior Transportation Connection (STC) of Cuyahoga County.

STC was incorporated in 2005 and is designed to be the centralized coordinating unit for senior transportation services in Cuyahoga County. Through a central call center, STC can streamline the coordination of trip scheduling and dispatch for the county. The goal of a strong countywide senior transportation system is to enable seniors to get to medical appointments and other necessary trips to ensure health and well-being and to help enhance their quality of life. Thanks to foundation funding as well as financial support through the Federal Transit Administration budget, STC functions with four primary objectives:

- To provide senior consumers with a higher level of management, customer service and passenger assistance by standardizing driver training, vehicle maintenance, service eligibility guidelines, service cost structures, and registration requirements through the expansion of service days and hours
- To employ a “Family of Services” concept that ensures that a full range of service options is available to senior consumers by providing on-demand van services, curb-to-curb supplemental paratransit services and specialized medical services in coordination with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority’s fixed route, rail, community circulators and ADA paratransit system
- To consolidate and manage multiple funding sources
- To advocate for senior mobility.

Since the beginning of full operations in 2006, the STC has handled over 197,000 calls, representing 183,606 trips. STC now provides transportation services through fee-for-service contracts with municipal governments and nonprofit organizations. There were a 40% increase in calls between 2006 and 2007 and a 22% increase in the number of trips during that time period.

STC is working to maximize efficiency of transportation operations for its partners by monitoring the number of passengers per vehicle trip, trip distance, and on-time performance. The high cost of fuel has made efficiency a very high priority for STC. While improving operations, STC has taken significant steps to transition itself from a philanthropic model to an earned income model, providing direct transportation services for a host of paying customers. It currently has a long list of fee-for-service contracts and scheduling and dispatch contracts and is continuously working to add to the list.