Subject: Building Naming

Action Requested: Authorization to name the Cardiovascular Center in honor of Samuel and Jean Frankel

Background:

The late Samuel and Jean (BA '36) Frankel were both students in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and have been exceptionally loyal and generous supporters of the University of Michigan. As parents, they infused their strong belief in the power of philanthropy in their children.

An early gift to the Center for Judaic Studies resulted in the naming of the center as the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. The center has thrived as an interdisciplinary endeavor, drawing diverse faculty, educating undergraduate and graduate students, and engaging the community. In 2004 they made a subsequent gift, at the time the largest gift ever to the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, to create the Frankel Institute of Advanced Judaic Studies. Because of their commitment, the University of Michigan became the only public university in the United States to house such a program.

In 2007, Jean and Samuel Frankel made a anonymous gift of $25 million from the Samuel and Jean Frankel Foundation in support of the Cardiovascular Center. The gift guaranteed a new way of approaching the diagnosis and treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease. The model, never before attempted by a health care institution, emphasized patient- and family-centered care, cooperation, excellence, and results in all areas of the center’s operations: clinical care, research and education. The original gift agreement contained the possibility of an additional $25 million gift if the Cardiovascular Center met certain goals agreed upon by the donor and leaders of the center. Pleased with the success in meeting those goals, the family has committed the second $25 million. With this gift, Samuel and Jean Frankel are among the most generous donors to the advancement of health care at the University of Michigan, and the Frankel family has now agreed to reveal their names as the donors.

In recognition of Samuel and Jean Frankel’s exceptional generosity to the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center, and their legacy of philanthropy to the University of Michigan, we recommend that the Board of Regents formally designate the Cardiovascular Center as the Samuel and Jean Frankel Cardiovascular Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Ora H. Pescovitz
Executive Vice President
for Medical Affairs

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