

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Center Name Change

Action

Requested: Authorization to change name of U-M Depression Center

Proposed

Name: Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg and Family Depression Center

Background:

In November 2001, the Board of Regents approved the establishment of the nation's first Depression Center, which has grown to include more than 350 faculty members from 17 U-M schools, colleges and institutes. It also led the creation of a National Network of Depression Centers in 2008 that now involves 25 other institutions. Since the center's founding, many donors have helped U-M's center raise awareness and foster numerous advances aimed at improving the lives of people with mood disorders.

Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg, along with their family, have led the way in philanthropic gifts to advance science and scholarship at the U-M Depression Center. With a total commitment of \$30 million to depression research and scholarship at the University, including a \$10.75 million gift in 2016, the Eisenbergs are making a transformational impact that will help bring hope and promise of better lives to millions who live with depression, bipolar illnesses, and related mood disorders.

This investment in scientific research, discovery and evidence-based care could not be timelier. Over the past two decades, unlike most other leading causes of death and disability in the U.S., the negative impact of depression has increased substantially. More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the mental health of individuals in many parts of society has further increased the urgency to develop solutions.

The Eisenbergs' transformational support to advance research and improve lives through the U-M Depression Center includes the Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg Professorship in Depression and Neurosciences; the Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg Research Prize, awarded annually to world-renowned scientists; multiple research funds to support emerging leaders and promising projects; and broad support for the Center's mission for generations to come. The gift will catalyze collaboration among scientists and clinicians from different fields in order to harness data science, neuroscience and technology and make even more rapid strides.

The Eisenberg family has a history of generous support and volunteer leadership at the University of Michigan. Kenneth and Frances Eisenberg are both U-M alumni and active volunteers throughout the university. Both Kenneth and Frances served on the steering committee of U-M's Victors for Michigan campaign. The Eisenberg Family Depression Center's National Advisory Board includes two members of their family: son Stephen and Kenneth's

sister Sue Ellen Eisenberg, both of whom hold bachelor degrees from U-M; Sue Ellen also holds a JD from U-M School of Law.

Kenneth Eisenberg serves on the Michigan Medicine Advisory Group, the LSA Dean's Advisory Council and the Taubman Medical Research Institute Advisory Board; Frances serves on the School of Education's National Advisory Board. The Eisenbergs' two sons, Stephen and Brian, and their families give generously of their time and resources to a range of U-M concerns. Stephen and his wife, Nicole, served on U-M's Greater Detroit Campaign Leadership Council and currently serve on the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital Advisory Council.

The Eisenbergs have also supported the university with gifts to the Taubman Medical Research Institute and other areas of Michigan Medicine, to the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies in the College of Literature, Science & the Arts (LSA), and contributions to the School of Education and TeachingWorks, School of Social Work, Department of Athletics and University Musical Society.

In honor of the family's extraordinary commitment to the University of Michigan, and in recognition for their generous gift to advance research, care, and advocacy for mood disorders, we recommend that the Board of Regents approve the renaming of the U-M Depression Center to the Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg and Family Depression Center, effective immediately.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 2021