NURSES ARE A CORNERSTONE OF THIS COUNTRY’S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, PROVIDING quality patient care and positive health outcomes for individuals and families. Today, the shortage of professionally active nurses is of serious concern, jeopardizing the effectiveness of the health care system.

In response to a call for action by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) through its Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future (PIN) national initiative, The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, as designated grantee, and its philanthropic and community partners came together to develop the North East Ohio Nursing Faculty Corps. The goal of this project is to increase nursing faculty, thus enabling schools to increase the number of qualified students enrolled in area schools of nursing. While RWJF developed PIN, it designated the Northwest Health Foundation of Portland, OR, to lead this initiative.

With a generous matching grant from the PIN program, the Foundation and its partners – the M.E. and F.J. Callahan Foundation, North East Ohio Nursing Initiative (NEONI)/Center for Health Affairs, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing/Case Western Reserve University and Mt. Sinai Skills & Simulation Center – have developed the North East Ohio Nursing Faculty Corps. The chart presented here shows the components of this local effort.

North East Ohio (NEO) Nursing Faculty Corps

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation; M.E. and F.J. Callahan Foundation; North East Ohio Nursing Initiative (NEONI)/Center for Health Affairs; Case Western Reserve University/ Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing & Mt. Sinai Skills and Simulation Center

Background
This project grew out of the community’s recognition that the nursing workforce shortage in Northeast Ohio will not be dealt with adequately until the current and impending nursing faculty shortage is addressed.

Goals and Objectives
1. Increase the supply of new nurse educators;
2. Increase the capacity of new and existing nurse educators in the use of simulation, experiential learning methods, and emerging information technologies;
3. Increase the number of certified nurse educators (CNE) among academic nurse educators in Northeast Ohio.

Exploring Nursing Education
Hour long sessions held at healthcare institutions throughout Northeast Ohio introducing various nurse educator roles and opportunities to explore these roles.

Shadowing and Mentoring
Provides the opportunity for nurses interested in exploring various nurse educator roles to spend time with experienced nurse educators in the classroom, in clinical supervision, and in staff education.

Large Group Interventions
In order to increase community involvement and commitment to sustaining regional initiatives to recruit and develop nurse educators, large group interventions (LGIs) using Open Space Technology and Future Search approaches were held in May and September 2008, with the next session planned for January 2009.

Oversight Committee
An Oversight Committee was created for ongoing evaluation and continuous quality improvement as the project is implemented. Members include: The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation Board chair, Board member, president, and program officer; M.E. & F.J. Callahan Foundation vice-president; CWRU faculty/lead evaluator, and MSSSC faculty director; Center for Health Affairs vice-president, and NEONI chairperson.

The M.E. and F.J. Callahan Foundation
The Board of Directors takes pleasure in announcing its December 2008/March 2009 grants:

**HEALTH OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**

**Council Gardens**
$20,000 for the Urban Farm pilot project for residents to grow and eat fresh produce.

**Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation**
Up to $58,555 for a bone marrow donor drive in the Cleveland Jewish Community.

**Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland**
$59,000 for medical advocacy for Holocaust Survivors.

**SEGULA**
$10,000 for general support.

**Siegal College of Judaic Studies**
$6,750 for The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation Lecture: *In the Beginning: A Jewish Bioethics Exploration of Reproductive Technologies and their Implications*.

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**HEALTH POLICY**

**ideastream WVIZ/PBS & 90.3/WCPN**
$25,000 for a feasibility study to launch a television health channel.

**LEAP (Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential)**
$100,000 over two years in support of the Center for Public Policy for advocacy for persons with disabilities.

**NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio**
$21,866 for an investigative study of crisis pregnancy centers.

**Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund**
$40,000 for the Cleveland Air Pollution Prevention Campaign.

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**HEALTH OF THE URBAN COMMUNITY**

**American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland**
$50,000 bridge funding for the Nurse Assistant Training Program.

**Community Assessment and Treatment Services (CATS)**
$25,000 to introduce a holistic health program for its clients.

**Joseph’s Home**
$67,333 over two years for administrative expansion of transitional residence for acutely ill homeless men.

**NAMI Greater Cleveland**
$29,000 for its Mental Health Multicultural Outreach Program.

**Scenarios USA**
$40,000 for Year II of the school-based Cleveland Responsible Sexuality Project.

**Senior Transportation Connection of Cuyahoga County (STC)**
$75,000 for the expanding countywide senior transportation system in which The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation has figured very prominently.

**ACADEMIC MEDICINE & BIOSCIENCE**

**The Cleveland Clinic Foundation**
$75,000 in support of the Mathile and Morton J. Stone Chair and Professorship.

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**MT. SINAI CO-SPONSORS BIOETHICS LECTURE**

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation Lecture, *In the Beginning: A Jewish Bioethics Exploration of Reproductive Technologies and their Implications*, was held at Siegal College of Judaic Studies on March 17, 2009.

This lecture, featuring Rabbi Leonard Sharzer, MD, Senior Fellow in Bioethics at The Jewish Theological Seminary, was a joint effort of the Foundation, Siegal College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Pictured (from left) are Foundation Director Sally Wertheim, PhD, Rabbi Sharzer, Siegal College Provost Brian Amkraut, PhD, Foundation President Mitchell Balk, and Foundation Director Avrum Froimson, MD.
Of all institutional investors, foundations are perhaps the most likely to take a long-term approach to investment strategy. This is due in large part because the majority of foundations are established to live in perpetuity and because foundations generally don’t need to “cash out” at any point to meet expenses or grantmaking obligations. This is true for The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, where operating expenses are well below the benchmark of the Council on Foundations of .005 to .01 percent of assets, and because the Foundation can typically cover its grantmaking obligations with interest income from investments.

To this scenario now comes the downturn in the equity markets that have brought institutional assets of all kinds to historic lows. While Mt. Sinai, like other public charity grantmakers, follows a spending policy that is based on a 12-quarter average of assets in order to smooth out bumps in the market, what happens when a bump or dip turns out to be akin to the elevator ride down at the Empire State Building? Without a significant market recovery, spending will be severely impacted when the asset base from down quarters start getting averaged in. To address this issue, some foundations have suspended their spending policies and have reduced grantmaking to levels far below what the policies would allow in order to align current grantmaking with current (reduced) assets. At the Mt. Sinai Foundation, the Board has taken the approach that our non-profit grantmaking partners need our help more than ever and now is not the time for Mt. Sinai to close its doors to new proposals even though it worries about meeting existing commitments.

In good years, the Foundation hopes to invest a portion of its philanthropic capital to improve health status while at the same time grow the assets for future needs. 2009 will be a period of meeting such needs. Like its namesake health care provider of 90 plus years, The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation strives to assist individuals and the community weather difficult times and live to see a healthier tomorrow. In these tough times, may we always continue to be worthy to bear the name Mt. Sinai.
FOUNDATION NEWS

HEALTH POLICY GRANTMAKING: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When the Foundation revised its areas of grantmaking in 2005, the Board included health policy grantmaking as a key strategy for improving health and well-being in Greater Cleveland. Although philanthropy and government have often been viewed as unrelated sectors with differing approaches to solving social problems, the evidence in Northeast Ohio suggests that a healthy synergy between philanthropy and government can be extremely effective in addressing the health needs of society’s most vulnerable citizens, including children, the elderly, and the poor.

Through a commitment to strategic initiatives and collaboratives in the area of health policy, the Foundation has supported projects and organizations that are helping to maximize the effectiveness of government in meeting its “safety net” obligations. The Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) is one of the most effective resources for educating policymakers with non-partisan data to enable them to make decisions about challenging issues in these times of complex funding streams and term limits. The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation is one of the founding foundations and ongoing supporters of HPIO.

The Foundation supports numerous other organizations that address health policy issues. Through the work of the Foundation’s Strategic Grantmaking Advisory Committee on Health Policy chaired by Keith Libman, the Board has recently approved making operating grants to health policy organizations. “As we have gotten to know these organizations, we recognize that ‘windows of opportunity’ are sometimes unpredictable and to take advantage of them we must ensure that there are strong, stable advocacy organizations ready to seize the opportunity,” said Mr. Libman. “Strong organizations must be in place and ready to act when the timing is right,” he added.

Several such organizations, lead by energetic, dynamic and committed advocates, have helped the Foundation make a difference in improving the health of individual community members and of the community itself.

Mental Health Advocacy Coalition (MHAC), founded in 2003, is made up of organizations representing mental health providers serving both adults and children, health and human service agencies, major medical institutions, philanthropy, and non-profit, for-profit, religious, educational and government organizations. Today, MHAC has over 70 members who provide a unified voice to address the continuous challenges to the mental health system in Northeast Ohio. Under the careful direction of lay leaders and professionals, these efforts are driven by MHAC’s mission to foster “education and awareness of mental health issues while advocating for public policies and strategies that provide an effective, well-funded county mental health system that serves those in need, resulting in a stronger community.” Thanks to the efforts of MHAC and others, Ohio has achieved mental health parity.

Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund (OCAEF) is the research and public education affiliate of Ohio Citizen Action, the State’s largest grassroots environmental organization with 60,000 members. With over 30 years of experience in the field, OCAEF works to protect public health and the environment by preventing toxic chemical pollution. OCAEF is known for the development of the first local toxic chemical right-to-know laws in the country and for using the information from these laws to support innovative campaigns on the environment and public health. For OCAEF, advocacy encompasses engagement and education of community residents; local and national media; local, state and national legislators; and the companies identified as the sources of pollution.

Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio (PPNEO) While many organizations that work in the area of health policy and health advocacy were established for this single purpose, PPNEO has several paths of service with one being a focus on health policy. PPNEO encourages women to take control of their health through advocacy, education, and health care, and to that end it is working in partnership with 30 other organizations across the State on The Prevention First Initiative to ensure that all Ohioans have access to high-quality, affordable family planning and preventive reproductive health care services, which has the potential to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and the need for pregnancy termination. The creation of the Coalition for Family Health is an example of what can happen when local and statewide member organizations come together around a common cause. This common ground approach of education of the public, the media, and the State legislature has brought together groups that have historically been on opposite sides of health policy issues.

Voices for Ohio’s Children (Voices) is a non-partisan voice of nearly 3 million Ohio children. Formed in 1996 by the Board of Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, Voices has transitioned from a county-based to statewide multi-issue child advocacy organization that has developed considerable expertise in education and advocacy for children’s health care. Voices was instrumental in securing the recently approved bi-partisan health expansion to cover nearly 50,000 more Ohio children. Comprised of over 100 public policy partners which include child-services agencies, health care institutions, physicians, corporations and individuals who care about improving the well-being of children, Voices has gained a place at the table of many child and health care groups seeking to improve physical and mental health, child safety, and early care and education.

groundWork™ was formed in 2004 as a statewide coalition of early care and education professionals, advocates, parents, and other stakeholders who together promote state investments and policies that will address the educational, physical, and social/emotional needs of Ohio’s youngest children. As a result of the efforts of groundWork™, the past two State of Ohio biennial budgets increased funding for early care and education by $200 million and $270 million, respectively.

Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN) Ohio works throughout Ohio for high quality accessible, affordable and publicly accountable health care for all Ohioans through education, empowerment of people and organizations, and through participation in the political process. UHCAN Ohio works tirelessly to build coalitions and to educate consumer health advocates to play a role in improving the quality, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of health delivery in Ohio. In addition to support from The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation and other foundations, UHCAN Ohio is a recipient of a three-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Consumer Voices for Coverage Initiative.

SeniorVoice! is a non-partisan coalition of people and organizations concerned with issues affecting seniors and retirees. Primarily a volunteer-based organization, SeniorVoice! works to educate seniors about changes in Medicare and Social Security to ensure that they understand the system and are able to utilize the benefits provided.
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 November 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Jerome S. Frankel Memorial Fund
In Memory of Harold Frankel
Margo and Yoram Cohen and family
Cary E. Feibleman, M.D.
Daniel Freireich
Dr. William R. Nemeth
Members of the Pathology/Laboratory Department,
Inter-Community Medical Center (Corvina, CA)
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Silver

Dr. William Herman Pediatric Lectureship Fund
In Memory of Dr. William Herman
Sarah Dick

Roger S. Landers Research Fund
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In Memory of Jerry Berger
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ESTATE GIFTS

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Mt. Sinai Scholar Roberto Fernandez Galan, PhD, assistant professor of neurosciences at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has been selected as a 2009 Alfred P. Sloan Fellow. The Sloan Research Fellowships support the work of exceptional young researchers early in their academic careers and often at pivotal stages in their work. One hundred eighteen (118) researchers from 61 colleges and universities received the 2009 fellowships that support early career scientists, mathematicians and economists. Dr. Galan investigates how neurons cooperate together to generate brain rhythms and other forms of coordinated activity that emerge in neuronal networks. According to Dr. Galan, this coordinated effort ultimately accounts for our behavior or at least for cognitive processes such as attention, awareness, learning and memory.

John Feng, PhD, the newest Mt. Sinai Scholar, joined the Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University in January 2008. Dr. Feng focuses on dissecting the genetic mechanisms of Parkinson’s Disease (PD), a major neurodegenerative disease, and conducts in vivo screening for potential therapeutic drugs to treat PD. Dr. Feng received his PhD in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from SUNY Upstate Medical University, worked as a postdoctoral fellow at La Jolla Interfaces in Science, and did research at Life Science Institute at the University of Michigan. Dr. Feng has published primary research papers in many prestigious journals.

Mt. Sinai Director Henry J. Goodman received an honorary doctorate from Cleveland State University where he previously served as Board Chair.

Mt. Sinai Director Sally H. Wertheim, PhD, received the 2009 Charles Eisenman Award, the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland’s highest honor.

Mt. Sinai Director J. David Heller has been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Mt. Sinai Director Marc C. Krantz has been appointed to the Board of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Port Authority.