



MT. SINAI  
HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

*Legacy*

FOUNDATION NEWS

SPRING 2011

## FOUNDATION FUNDS CONSUMER HEALTH LIBRARY AT METROHEALTH MEDICAL CENTER



**CUTTING THE RIBBON** (from left to right) Leonard M. Calabrese, chairman, Board of Trustees, Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Ribbon cutters Calabrese, Alfred E. Connors, Jr., MD, chief medical officer, MetroHealth Medical Center, Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation President Mitchell Balk, Consumer Health Librarian Susannah Hamm, Cuyahoga County Public Library Executive Director Sari Feldman.

A grant from **The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation** has helped create a new consumer health library at **MetroHealth Medical Center**. The new branch of the **Cuyahoga County Public Library System** will support a consumer health librarian who will assist patients, patient family members, MetroHealth staff, and the public identify patient health information and support patient education.

The new space is a state-of-the-art lending library prominently featured in the entrance of MetroHealth's main campus. In addition to having on-site standard periodicals, books and reference materials available at all library branches, the new MetroHealth branch will provide a specific collection of health-related materials written for a general audience.

These books, pamphlets and handout materials specifically written for the lay person will provide patients with solid, practical advice about their condition in language they can understand. Information will be available regarding diseases, medical procedures, pharmaceuticals, pregnancy, child care and child development, and other related health topics. The library will also be equipped with several computer workstations with internet access and library staff to provide support and guidance.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on February 28, 2011, with representatives from MetroHealth Medical Center, the Cuyahoga County Public Library and The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation.

## OHIO FUNDERS RECEIVE GRANT FROM GRANTMAKERS IN HEALTH AND THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Once the **Affordable Care Act** became law in March 2010, health funders began to discuss ways that they could help states implement health care reform. **Grantmakers in Health (GIH)**, a national association of health grantmakers, created the **GIH State Grant Writing Assistance Fund** with support from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**. Through the collaborative efforts of five Ohio health care funders, **The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation**, serving as the applicant in this funders collaborative, was awarded a \$15,000 matching grant. The purpose of the fund is to provide matching dollars to state and local foundations that offer grant writing support to state agencies to implement various aspects of the **Affordable Care Act**.

Through the Foundation's collaboration with the **George Gund Foundation**, **Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati**, **Kaiser Permanente Foundation** and **Saint Luke's Foundation**, the Ohio group received an award of \$15,000 from GIH to be matched by \$3,000 from each of the five partners. Currently, the Ohio Department of Health ranks 49th of 50 states in federal health grant awards making this grant timely in providing Ohio with the opportunity to vie effectively for the new competitive grants that are part of the **Affordable Care Act**.

## NEW MT. SINAI SCHOLARS CONTRIBUTE TO BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation has supported young, highly promising research stars at the Case School of Medicine through the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation Scholars Programs since 1997. The goal of the Mt. Sinai Scholars Program is to help build the basic science departments at the Case School of Medicine, recognizing that great medical schools like

Case are built upon strong basic science departments. The Foundation's investment in this program has already leveraged millions of dollars in grants from the National Institutes of Health and has funded a total of 18 Scholars. These Scholars have relocated to Cleveland from renowned medical training grounds and made their homes in Cleveland and at Case.

The Foundation takes pride in investing in young researchers who contribute to basic science, to Case School of Medicine, and to the health and well-being of Greater Cleveland.



### MT. SINAI SCHOLARS (left to right)

Vera Moiseenkova-Bell, PhD, Department of Pharmacology  
 John Feng, PhD, Department of Pharmacology  
 Christopher Peter Ford, PhD, Department of Physiology and Biophysics  
 Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD, Dean, School of Medicine  
 Paul Tesar, PhD, Department of Genetics  
 Richard J. Bogomolny, vice chair, Mt. Sinai Board of Directors  
 Derek J. Taylor, PhD, Department of Pharmacology  
 (not pictured) Julian Stelzer, PhD, Department of Physiology and Biophysics

The current class of Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation Scholars gathered prior to a recent meeting of the Foundation's Academic Medicine/Bioscience Committee. The four newest scholars (listed below) bring a wide array of interests and prior research experience to Case School of Medicine.

**Vera Moiseenkova-Bell, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, came to Case from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Her research involves pain, identified as a serious public health issue that affects up to 20% of the human population at any time. The long-term goal of her research is to unravel the structural basis of TRP (transient receptor potential) channel activation to clarify their role in pain sensation.

**Paul Tesar, PhD**, assistant professor, PhD training faculty in the Department of Genetics, graduated with a BS in biology from Case Western Reserve University and earned his PhD from the University of Oxford as a recipient of the prestigious NIH-Oxford Biomedical Research Scholarship. He returned to Case from the NIH where he continued his training as a postdoctoral fellow. His research addresses the question in biology of how a single cell, the fertilized egg, generates all the diverse cell types of the body. His laboratory is primarily interested in the molecular mechanisms by which cells acquire specific identities during development and maintain those identities as adults. He and his colleagues use stem cells to understand mammalian development and associated diseases.

**Derek J. Taylor, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, received his PhD from the University of California, San Diego, and served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and as a visiting scientist at the University of Colorado, Boulder. His research focuses on the regulation and deregulation of gene expression, which are critical events for every process within the cell. His lab specializes in electron microscopy (EM) techniques that are used to investigate the role of macromolecular complexes in regulating critical functions in cell biology.

**Christopher Peter Ford, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, received his PhD from the University of Alberta in Edmonton and came to Case from a postdoctoral fellowship at Oregon Health and Sciences University. His research focuses on the regulation of synaptic transmission in the dopamine system. This research is very important in understanding a variety of disorders that range from schizophrenia to drug addiction to Parkinson's disease. The goal is to understand the neural circuitry that controls the dopamine system and to understand the role of dopamine in normal and diseased brain function.

## CHILDSIGHT® EXPANDS TO HEBREW ACADEMY OF CLEVELAND

Thanks to the Foundation's ongoing support of Helen Keller International's ChildSight® program, students at the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland are receiving free vision-screening and, when necessary, free quality eyeglasses as part of a pilot program. The Foundation brought ChildSight® to Cleveland in 1999 and established Cleveland as its first Midwest site. Since the project began twelve years ago, ChildSight® Cleveland has grown to reach every middle school student in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the East Cleveland City Schools. The program is now being expanded to include Jewish Day Schools with documented need, as well as urban charter schools.

The goals of ChildSight® are to increase access to eye health services, to improve the vision and academic potential of youth, and to raise parent, teacher, and community awareness of eye health issues. Following the vision screening, those students needing glasses will receive them free of charge and have the opportunity to select an appealing pair of frames for the new prescription. The ChildSight® program focuses on children ages 9-15, when eyes are changing in puberty, and seeks to identify near-sightedness, far-sightedness, and astigmatism. Treatment referrals are also made for more complex issues. The first pilot screenings were carried out at the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland in early March.



Hebrew Academy of Cleveland fifth grader Rasia Busel choosing her new frames from a large selection on-site, right in the school library.

## “JUMP TO IT: A HAPPY, HEALTHY ME” – A PILOT PROJECT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION

Much attention has focused on childhood obesity since the rates of childhood obesity have tripled since the 1980’s. Childhood obesity carries risks of disease and increased need for medical services even before adulthood. Data indicate that obese children are at significantly increased risk for diabetes, asthma, chronic illness, and poor mental health compared with their healthy-weight peers. Obese children tend to become obese adults. The graphic shown below illustrates the extent of the problem in Ohio.

To help address this critical issue, the Foundation funded a pilot study call *Jump To It: A Happy, Healthy Me*. This early childhood obesity prevention program is being carried out in collaboration with three partners – Cleveland Metropolitan School District, University Hospitals’ Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, and The Children’s Museum of Cleveland. This joint effort, still in the pilot phase, hopes to develop and implement an innovative, effective program to promote a healthy lifestyle for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children and their families that is incorporated within the existing pre-K and K curriculum. Through the

current pilot, a scientifically sound, evidence-based, and culturally sensitive program has been designed with the goal of developing sustained attitudes and habits that promote healthy lifestyle and prevent obesity. An important component of the program is a companion series of parent sessions.

Partners in this pilot project discovered that few programs aim to prevent early childhood obesity even though many 2–5-year-olds are already overweight/obese. There is a real need for a comprehensive obesity prevention program that embeds lessons on nutrition, physical activity, and healthy behaviors into the curriculum for pre-K and kindergarten children. It is possible that Cleveland’s *Jump To It* curriculum may become the model for a school-based prevention of childhood obesity.

Built into the *Jump To It* program is a goal to change the school environment to improve the nutritional value of school meals and increase physical activity. The pilot program is being lead by a multidisciplinary team of educators, a physician, dietitian, exercise physiologist, child psychologist, and public health and policy experts.

Obesity is considered by many the top public health threat facing the U.S. Due to its high morbidity, today’s obesity is considered likely to erase the hard-won gains in population health resulting from declines in tobacco use. Recent data indicate that obesity costs more than \$140 billion per year.

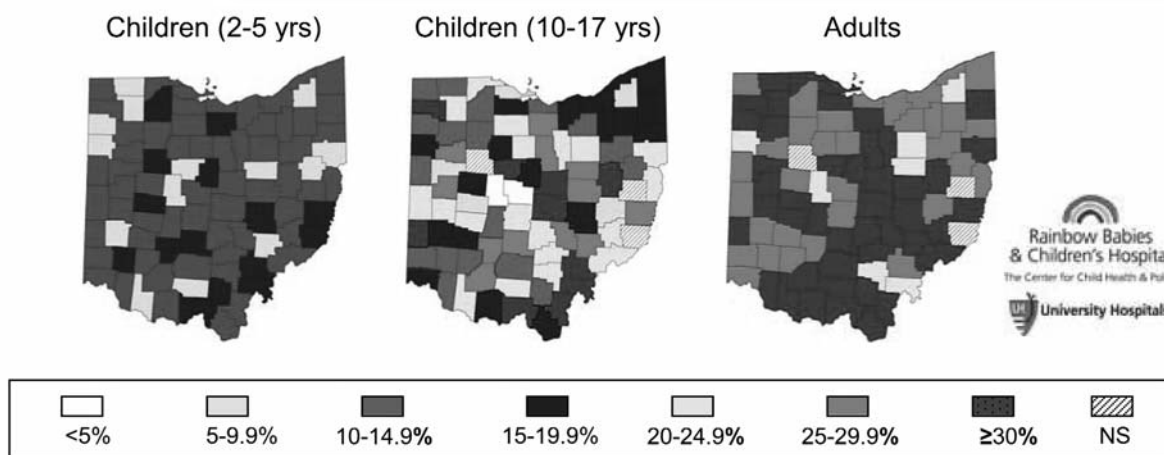


Figure 4 Obesity in Ohio across the lifespan



Note: The data for each county are point estimates. Caution should be used in interpretation as sample size varies by county. To view the entire Ohio Family Health Survey go to: [https://ckm.osu.edu/sitetool/sites/ofhspublic/documents/OFHSReport\\_Cuttler.pdf](https://ckm.osu.edu/sitetool/sites/ofhspublic/documents/OFHSReport_Cuttler.pdf)



Thomas W. Adler

Foundation Director **Thomas W. Adler** was honored as the 2010 **Volunteer of the Year** by **United Way of Greater Cleveland**. This award is presented to an outstanding volunteer whose long-term commitment to United Way is a legacy of caring for the community.

Foundation Treasurer **Keith Libman** received the **David N. Myers Award** from **Menorah Park Center for Senior Living**. The award, considered Menorah Park’s highest award, recognizes an individual for his or her work at Menorah Park and in the general community. The award is not automatically given every year but only when the Menorah Park Board Leadership and Nominating Committee deem someone deserving of it.



Keith Libman

Foundation President **Mitchell Balk** has been appointed to the Visiting Committee of the Cleveland State University School of Social Work.

## RECENT GRANT AWARDS

Grant Awards for September 2010, December 2010 and March 2011.

### HEALTH OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

#### **Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau**

\$166,664 for a pilot residential program for young adults with autism spectrum disorders.

#### **Jewish Federation of Cleveland**

\$1,525,000 for the 2011 Campaign for Jewish Needs for health services, plus an additional \$50,000 one-time grant.

#### **Bikur Cholim of Cleveland**

Up to \$150,000 for its hospitality room program at four area hospitals.

### ACADEMIC MEDICINE & BIOSCIENCE

#### **The Cleveland Foundation**

\$10,000 over two years for the PIN Grant: Expanding the Number of Non-Traditional Nurse Educators Through Online Education.

#### **The Cleveland Clinic Foundation**

\$75,000 for the Mathile and Morton J. Stone Chair and Professorship.

### HEALTH POLICY

#### **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center**

\$25,000 for the Sexual Assault Public Policy Project

#### **Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO)**

\$20,000 for its presidential search and leadership transition.

#### **The Center for Community Solutions**

\$50,000 for membership in the AIDS Funding Collaborative.

#### **ideastream®**

\$25,000 in support of the Keeping Kids Fit program.

#### **LEAP**

**(Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential)**

\$60,000 over two years for its public policy center.

#### **UHCAN Ohio**

**(Universal Health Care Access Network)**

\$70,000 over two years to represent the consumer voice in health reform.

### HEALTH OF THE URBAN COMMUNITY

#### **Beech Brook**

\$25,118 for the STEPS Parenting Program for caregivers of children 0-5 years of age in Cleveland's Central neighborhood.

#### **Cleveland Metropolitan School District**

\$200,000 to implement the PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) childhood behavioral health curriculum.

#### **MOTTEP**

**(Minority Organ & Tissue Transplant Education Program)**

\$67,500 to complete preparations to qualify for additional federal support by implementing federal electronic health records criteria.

#### **Recovery Resources**

\$67,500 to complete preparations to qualify for additional federal support by implementing federal electronic health records criteria.

#### **Bridgeway, Inc.**

\$15,000 for Medicaid certification for Primary Health Care Services.

#### **Environmental Health Watch**

\$20,000 for Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health (NLEH).

#### **Senior Transportation Connection of Cuyahoga County**

Up to \$175,000 for operations support.

#### **Stella Maris**

\$30,000 for a case manager for supportive housing.

#### **Asian Services in Action, Inc.**

\$51,044 for its Asian Health Access Initiative (AHAI).

#### **Connections**

\$52,000 for development of a universal intake packet for behavioral health agencies.

#### **The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland**

\$90,000 for the provision of medical services.

#### **United Way of Greater Cleveland**

\$75,000 to support health programs in the urban community.

#### **University Hospitals Health System**

Up to \$203,296 over two years for breastfeeding support for high-risk mothers.

#### **University Hospitals Health System**

\$32,025 for *Jump To It* – an early childhood obesity prevention pilot project in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation seeks to assist Greater Cleveland's organizations and leaders to improve the health and well-being of the Jewish and general communities now and for generations to come.

For further information, contact the Foundation office at 216-421-5500 or visit the Foundation's website at [www.MtSinaiFoundation.org](http://www.MtSinaiFoundation.org).

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## COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Contributions received between August 16, 2010, and February 28, 2011.

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.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

#### Dr. Mortimer L. Siegel Memorial Fund

In Memory of *Dr. Julian Kassen*

Lynn and Jeffrey Snyder

#### The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation General Fund

In Memory of *Anita Brown and Esther Vinocur*

Andraea and Jonathan Vinocur

In Memory of *Dr. Julian Kassen*

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Babbush

Christopher Fye and Eileen Anderson-Fye

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Galvin

Lynn and Thomas Goldberg

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Marla & Joseph Shafran Foundation

Mr. Stanley E. and Dr. Sally H. Wertheim

#### Dr. William Herman Pediatric Lectureship Fund

In Memory of *Dr. William Herman*

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Weinberger

#### Victor Vertes Chair & Professorship Fund

In Honor of *Dr. and Mrs. Victor Vertes*

Marilyn and Marshall Bedol

### ESTATE GIFTS

### *Trusts*

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

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Lewis Miller Memorial Fund of  
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**HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE OF OHIO (HPIO)  
ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT**

Amy Rohling McGee has been named president of the **Health Policy Institute of Ohio**. Ms. McGee has many years of experience creating, analyzing, researching and implementing public policy, including health policy. Most recently she served as an executive assistant for Health and Human Services Policy in the Ohio Governor’s Office, focusing on opportunities to improve access to high quality health care and decrease the cost of health services. As the Interim Director of Ohio’s Executive Medicaid Management Administration since December 2009, she also worked to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Medicaid program. Previously, she was the executive director of the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, representing clinics that primarily use volunteers to serve the uninsured.



**Amy Rohling McGee**  
HPIO President

“The Health Policy Institute of Ohio is Ohio’s primary source for independent information on health policy issues, and I am honored to be selected to serve as HPIO’s leader,” McGee said. “In the six years since its founding, I believe that HPIO has developed an excellent reputation as a convener and catalyst, and I am thrilled with the opportunity to move the organization forward at a pivotal time.”

Founded by health-focused Ohio foundations, The Health Policy Institute of Ohio is an independent, nonpartisan organization that forecasts health trends, analyzes key health issues, and communicates current research to Ohio policymakers, legislators, and others. Foundation President **Mitchell Balk** served as founding board chair. For more information on the Institute, go to [www.healthpolicyohio.org](http://www.healthpolicyohio.org).

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**2011 ANNUAL MEETING • WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22nd • 5:15 PM**  
**SEVERANCE HALL • REINBERGER CHAMBER HALL**

**“Improving the Health Status of the Jewish Community”**  
**Presentation of the 2011 Maurice Saltzman Award • Election of Officers and Directors**