 Leaders in Pharmacy Require Leaders in Philanthropy

The college has achieved its highest ranking ever, and philanthropy is playing a key role.

This year, the College of Pharmacy improved from its previous third place ranking to second place in the nation by U.S. News & World Report's ranking of pharmacy programs. The second place ranking is the highest the college has ever ranked and also makes the college the top-ranked school at the University of Minnesota.

"We are very proud to be recognized as one of the best pharmacy schools in the country," said Dean Marilyn Speedie. "The national ranking and our recent full re-accreditation showed we are strong in all three missions — research, education and service — and private gifts have played a critical role in supporting our work in these areas."

"We are leading the way, but society asks that we do so much more," she added, from serving the great unmet needs in healthcare for the medically underserved, to developing new and improved life-saving medicines.

Philanthropy is key to the college achieving new and even higher levels of excellence, according to Speedie. "Leaders in pharmacy require leaders in philanthropy," she said.

Along with its high national ranking, the college has also achieved the number one endowment among the top tier research pharmacy schools. According to Speedie, this is important because there is a direct correlation between the endowment and the ranking of pharmacy schools. For instance, the top five endowed research pharmacy schools — including the University of Minnesota — are also the top five ranked pharmacy schools by U.S. News.

A strong endowment is especially important at a time in which the college's state support is declining. Annual gift and endowment support is approaching annual state support.

"Our growing gifts and endowment is a key to our college's continued margin of excellence," said Bob Busch, director of development.

"Private giving has even greater impact because gifts are often targeted to address pharmacy’s grand challenges," Speedie added. "Private gifts help make it possible for the college to lead the way on pharmacy’s big issues, from new-era pharmacist practices and our leadership curriculum, to developing new and better medicines."

For more information on making a gift to the college, contact the development office toll-free at 866-437-0012.
Philanthropic Gifts key to Pharmacy’s Grand Challenges

A Message from the Development Office

The U of M new medicines pipeline is Minnesota’s number one life-saver over the past two decades. The college has a proven track record, more than 10 million life-years saved since the year 2000. While we’re very proud of that accomplishment, there is so much more to do. Our scientists are working tirelessly in this area, and we now have new drug development opportunities, from pancreatic cancer and Alzheimer’s, to glaucoma and anti-seizure medicines.

Support from donors has enabled the college to expand its drug development efforts through hiring additional research staff, purchasing much-needed equipment and providing infrastructure to support the U of M’s new-medicines pipeline.

By investing in drug development, our donors are helping the college lead the way in the development of new medicines for many diseases, from neurological disorders and cancers, to cardiovascular conditions and infectious diseases.

The college’s new-medicines pipeline has also helped place the U among the top patent universities in the nation. Recent activity includes over a dozen patents licensed-out or spun-off, or in active commercialization.

Patent revenues from drug discovery research performed in the college have generated millions for the University. While the U’s most known patent may currently be the Honeycrisp apple, new medicines account for more than 90 percent of the U’s patent revenues over the past 20 years. That’s a remarkable return on investment. It’s also a testament to how important drug development is not just to patients, but to the University and the people of Minnesota as well.

For more information on the new medicines pipeline, contact Bob Busch at busch110@umn.edu or call toll-free 866-437-0012.