

The Renal Disease Biomarker Center of Economic Excellence Naming Opportunities

The goal of the Renal Disease Biomarkers Center of Economic Excellence is to identify biomarkers that will allow identification of new therapies for both acute and chronic kidney diseases. Once biomarkers are identified, the center will use them to evaluate new treatment strategies in patients with kidney disease.

MUSC is in a unique position to establish a program that can rapidly and effectively identify and validate renal biomarkers and test their ability to guide new therapies. In order to reach this goal, we must raise \$5 million dollars which will be matched by the state's \$5 million dollars to develop the center of economic excellence. The following is a listing of the specific fund raising goals and the respective naming opportunities.

- Endowed Chairs are one of the highest academic tributes a university can bestow, enabling the university to recruit and retain outstanding clinicians and investigators. The Renal Disease Biomarkers Center of Economic Excellence will establish two endowed chairs to expand the research base in the University in renal biomarker research. Each chair will have a value of \$2 million. The holder of the chairs will be distinguished investigators with National/International reputations for excellence. The endowed chair holders, along with the director of the Renal Biomarker Center of Excellence, will comprise the senior leadership of the Center of Excellence. The chair holders will be collaborative investigators that have National funding, a track record of successful mentoring of junior faculty and trainees, and an understanding of and motivation to generate patents, licenses, commercial collaborations and other pathways to make discoveries more widely available. The two chairs to be established are the **Endowed Chair in Renal Biomarkers** and the **Endowed Chair in Clinical and Translational Renal Research**. Each chair will be funded by **\$1 million** of philanthropic gifts and a \$1 million match from the State of South Carolina through the South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence.
- The **Kidney Disease Consortium fund** will help support the establishment and management of the kidney disease consortium. This consortium will consist of primary care physicians and nephrologists throughout the Southeast. The consortium will collect clinical information and samples from patients that agree to participate. The consortium will provide unique linked clinical and biological information that is not currently available. Studies using this information will dramatically improve the ability to diagnose and treat kidney disease. Patients with both acute and chronic kidney disease will be included. The large number of patients enrolled in the consortium will facilitate studies of more common diseases such as acute kidney injury, diabetes, polycystic kidney disease and FSGS as well as less common renal diseases such as Fabry's disease and Alport's syndrome. The consortium has costs that are difficult to fund through other sources. Examples of these costs are salaries of study coordinators and data managers, sample handling and storage and data management software. A gift of **\$1 million** will provide a permanent endowment and will be used to support the kidney disease consortium fund.
- The **Renal Biomarkers Technology Fund** will be used to buy, upgrade and maintain the major equipment and technologies necessary to perform high-throughput discovery research. Gifts of **\$500,000** can be directed to the Technology Fund. Mass spectrometers, chromatography equipment, computer workstations and other types of discovery equipment are complex and evolving rapidly but are necessary to perform state-of-the-art research in the discovery of biomarkers.
- Funds for an **Endowed Laboratory in Renal Biomarkers** will provide money for equipment, supplies, biological reagents and personnel needed to conduct state-of-the-art research. Each fund of **\$250,000** will enable a laboratory to conduct cutting edge research into markers and treatments for kidney disease.

- Pilot Projects facilitate the discovery process. Scientists often have good ideas that they are unable to explore because of a lack of money to purchase supplies and other needed resources to perform preliminary experiments. Without preliminary data, even groundbreaking projects are generally not approved by granting agencies. The **Renal Biomarker Pilot Project Fund** provides support for outstanding peer-reviewed projects to acquire preliminary information that will lead to National funding. A gift of **\$250,000** can be used to support the Renal Biomarker Pilot Project Fund.
- An **Endowed lectureship** will provide funding for an annual lecture by a noted visiting scientist with expertise in the field of kidney disease. Visiting professors will lecture and critically evaluate ongoing research within the Renal Disease Biomarkers Center of Excellence. A gift of **\$100,000 to \$250,000** is required to establish an annual named lectureship. The interest earned by the endowment fund will be used to support an annual visiting lecturer, while the principal remains untouched.
- The **Renal Biomarker Research Fund** provides support for many of the activities of the Renal Disease Biomarkers Center of Excellence including those that are also supported by the technology fund, the biomarker fund and the consortium fund. The specific use of the funds will be decided by a panel of senior scientists from the renal disease biomarkers center of excellence. Donations to this fund will permit the center to target resources to areas where they can be most beneficial. A gift of **\$50,000** can be used to support the Renal Biomarker Research Fund.
- The **Renal Biomarker Post-Doctoral Fellow Fund** will be used to hire and support the work of post-doctoral and Nephrology Research fellows doing kidney disease research. Post-doctoral fellows are a fundamental part of medical research. The post-doctoral period allows young scientists who have already earned an advanced degree to receive further training in the sciences necessary for future advances in kidney disease research. The post-doctoral period allows these scientists to transition from junior scientists to productive and successful independent investigators. A gift of **\$10,000-\$25,000** will partially support a postdoctoral fellow for one year.
- The **Renal Biomarker Trainee Research Presentation Fund** is used to support the presentation of scientific results from kidney disease research at scientific meetings. Undergraduate, medical and graduate students as well as medical residents, nephrology fellows and postdoctoral fellows will use money from this fund to present kidney disease research at scientific meetings. A gift of **\$1500** will help support travel of trainees to scientific meetings.
- **Unrestricted gifts** that are not specifically designated for one of the funds will be used for **programmatic support** of the Renal Disease Biomarkers Center of Excellence. This programmatic support allows the center to target available resources to areas where they can have the most benefit. Decisions about the appropriate use of these funds will be made by senior scientists involved in kidney disease research in the Renal Disease Biomarkers Center of Excellence.

We hope you will agree to partner with us in our effort to build this Renal Disease Biomarkers Center of Economic Excellence. The research enabled by your support will help the millions of people with acute and chronic kidney diseases. If you have questions about the MUSC Renal Disease Biomarkers Center of Economic Excellence or any of these giving opportunities, please call Jane McCullough at (843) 792-4280 or toll-free at (800) 810-6872 (MUSC) or email Jane McCullough at mcculloj@musc.edu. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.