

All Heart - GW Friend, Benefactor Urges Support

Dr. Cyrus and Mrs. Myrtle Katzen initiated a challenge gift for the Cheney Cardiovascular Institute in an effort to pump up research, education and outreach programs at the Institute. The \$150,000 Katzen

Challenge aims to double gifts made following as a result of the February 12 challenge launch.

"We are truly indebted to the Katzens for their generosity," said Richard Katz, MD, director of the Institute, director of the Division of Cardiology and Bloedorn Professor of Cardiology. Dr. Katz noted that the Katzens' gift marked a significant moment for the Cheney Institute and a celebration of Heart Month.

Established in 2006, the Cheney Cardiovascular Institute at GW promotes clinical research, education, patient care and community service



Dr. and Mrs. Cyrus Katzen, center, ignited support for the Cheney Cardiovascular Institute through a generous challenge gift. From left, are Jack Rasmussen, Mrs. Myrtle Katzen, Dr. Cyrus Katzen, Dr. Richard

with the aim of accelerating the pace of scientific discovery, reducing mortality and improving the quality of life through a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach among clinicians, researchers, educators and community leaders.

Held at the Katzen Arts Center, named for Dr. and Mrs. Katzen, the challenge launch included a discussion by Jack Rasmussen, director and curator, of the varied works on display at the American University Museum. For information on the Institute, visit www.cheneycardioinstitute.org.

HIV Forum Receives Gates Contract to Explore HIV Interventions

The Forum for Collaborative HIV Research, housed in the School of Public Health and Health Services' (SPHHS) Department of Prevention and Community Health, recently received a contract from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for more than \$1.2 million. As part of this new undertaking, the Forum will focus on a three-part project that looks at the implementation of biomedical interventions, the research behind prevention and HIV treatment issues.

"The Forum will provide the backdrop for the global prevention research agenda," says Veronica Miller, PhD, executive director of the Forum and SPHHS research professor. The Forum provides a neutral and independent meeting ground for all stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS research community to come together and work on this issue.

Most recently, The World Bank, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the French National Agency for AIDS Research (ANRS) and the Clinton Foundation joined the Forum's Executive Committee.

GW Bariatric Surgery Program Tapped as Center of Excellence

The GW Medical Faculty Associates (MFA) Division of Bariatric Surgery has been named an American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Center of Excellence. The ASMBS Center of Excellence designation recognizes surgical programs with a demonstrated track record of favorable outcomes in bariatric surgery.

According to a report released in 2007 by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the number of bariatric surgeries has increased from 16,000 procedures performed in 1992 to 170,000 performed in 2005. These procedures must meet certain clinical standards to ensure patient safety and service quality. To earn a Center of Excellence designation, the MFA Division of

Bariatric Surgery underwent a series of site inspections during which all aspects of the program's surgical processes were closely examined and data on health outcomes was collected.

"Due to the increasing prevalence of morbid obesity and the inherent risks and the opportunities available to greatly improve the health of this patient population, we recognize the need to implement a systematic approach to improving quality," said Dr. Paul Lin, vice chair of the MFA's Department of Surgery and chief and program director of the Division of General Surgery.

"We believe that the ASMBS Centers of Excellence program will

serve as a catalyst to make strong programs even better," said Dr. Frederick Brody, associate professor of Surgery and director of Minimally Invasive Surgery.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 66 percent of all U.S. adults are overweight or obese. Morbid obesity is closely correlated with a number of serious conditions that severely undermine the health of overweight patients, including heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. Currently, bariatric surgery or weight loss surgery can resolve obesity and correct other illnesses affected by the overweight conditions.