

Creating the Infectious Diseases Endowed Fellowship Fund to Improve the ID Fellowship

Money can be tight for UW Medicine's infectious diseases fellows. Training grant salaries haven't kept pace with inflation, leaving fellows struggling to pay rent and raise their children. Many fellows are so cash-poor that they moonlight to fill the gap — an activity that reduces the value of the fellowship for the fellow and the program.

I'm asking for your help to build the foundation for an endowed fund, one that will help supplement our fellows' income and encourage them to pursue careers in academic medicine. And the University of Washington is offering an incentive: it will match faculty, staff, and retiree gifts (up to \$10,000) to this fellowship fund.

There's no better way to help our fellows and to keep our program — one of the top infectious diseases training programs in the world — moving forward in the years to come.

Academia vs. economics

Most of our fellows are supported in their second and third years by training grants from the National Institutes of Health, a sign of our program's excellence. Unfortunately, the training grants alone don't provide enough money to make the Seattle area — a very expensive area — easy to live in.

We don't want fellows to find other jobs to meet their financial needs. Rather, we want them to concentrate on the goals of the fellowship: research, grant-writing, and learning from their mentors and peers. We also want to offer more attractive financial packages, so the best fellows will continue to come to Seattle.

The plan

Eventually, we hope to create a large endowment, one that will meet the \$130,000 gap between what our fellows receive from their training grants and what they actually need. Annual funding at this level would require an endowment totaling approximately \$3 million.

At this point, we want to create the foundation for this larger endowment. We're asking our faculty, staff, and retirees to come together and take advantage of the University of Washington's Faculty-Staff-Retiree Campaign, a matching gift program that will allow us to help our fellows. However, we need to act quickly.

Your gift, your match

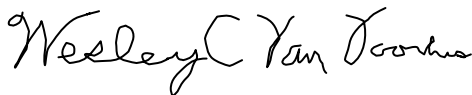
When you make a gift of \$5,000 or more, you will create a small fellowship endowment for the infectious diseases program. The Faculty-Staff-Retiree Campaign will match your gift, up to \$10,000. Once these individual funds are created, we will link them together to benefit our fellows. Debra and I have already created our \$10,000 ID Fellows Endowment fund.

In order to get a match, we must receive your commitment by **December 31, 2008**, when the campaign expires. But your commitment can be pledged over a period of up to five years. Or you can make your gift in one lump sum.

Enclosed are the two forms you'll need to set up your gift — a pledge form and an endowment agreement. Please name your endowment something unique in the underlined space before "Infectious Diseases Endowed Fellowship". If you're interested in using a payroll deduction plan, please fill out that sheet, too. All the forms must be signed.

When you're done with the forms, please pass them along to Marcea Kato, our administrator, at Campus Box 356523, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-6523. And if you have any questions about the program, please contact Assistant Vice President for Development Sarah Nicholson at (206) 616-6464 or sgn@u.washington.edu.

Thank you very much for helping our fellows — and helping ensure the success of our training programs.



Wesley C. Van Voorhis, M.D., Head
Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Department of Medicine, University of Washington

Enclosures: 3 forms, pledge form, endowment agreement, payroll deduction form