

UCSD Cancer Center receives major gift from Ben D. and Sheri L. Kelts

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UCSD CANCER CENTER RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT

Ben D. and Sheri L. Kelts have contributed a \$5 million gift to establish a charitable remainder trust fund in support of the University of California, San Diego Cancer Center.

"This generous gift comes at a pivotal time for the UCSD Cancer Center, and will contribute significantly to the continuing development of the basic research and clinical programs for which the UCSD Cancer Center has become nationally known," said UCSD Chancellor Richard Atkinson. "Because the UCSD Cancer Center is a regional resource for patients and physicians, and the Center's research programs have a far-reaching impact on the diagnosis and treatment of malignancies, the Kelts' gift will be appreciated far beyond the university community."

"My wife and I are pleased to be part of the important work taking place at the UCSD Cancer Center, and we hope our support will help expand this vital resource and contribute to the fight against the scourge of cancer," said Ben Kelts.

The UCSD Cancer Center is one of 40 federally designated and supported clinical and research cancer centers in the United States, and the only one in San Diego, Orange and Imperial counties. The Center provides conventional and experimental treatments for all forms of malignancy, with between 50 and 75 experimental trials taking place at any given time. Approximately 150 physicians and scientists from the UCSD faculty are affiliated with the Cancer Center, providing the latest approaches to diagnosing and treating cancer, as well as conducting basic research to advance the understanding of improved treatments.

Ben Kelts, a member of the UCSD Cancer Foundation Board, is a venture capitalist specializing in the field of high-technology. Trained as an electrical engineer at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, he went on to pioneer the development of lease-financing as an important marketing tool. He founded Chandler Leasing Corporation in 1958, which merged with Pepsico in 1968. At that time he became a major shareholder in Pepsico and served as a consultant for their international leasing operations. He founded Omnilease Corporation in San Diego in 1971, acquired later by Equitable Life Leasing.

Sheri Kelts is a graduate of UCSD's anthropology department, where she worked as a research assistant following graduation. She is involved in a number of local charitable organizations, and is one of the founders of the "Producers Circle," a group of women who produce plays for the San Diego Repertory Theater.

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