

Campaign to raise \$2.3 million toward construction of cancer center and medical library at UC San Diego Medical Center

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A capital gift campaign to raise \$2.3 million toward the construction of a major cancer center and medical library to be located at the UC San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest was announced today (Tuesday, Feb. 28) by University of California, San Diego Chancellor William McElroy.

In announcing the campaign, McElroy said that three major gifts totaling \$725,000 have already been received.

San Diego businessman George Gildred, president of the Gildred Building Company, has agreed to serve as general chairman of the campaign. Serving with Gildred on the campaign steering committee are O. Morris Sievert, president of Solar Turbines International, and Richard Levi, president of the Richard C. Levi Insurance Company, along with officials of UC San Diego.

McElroy said the campaign will be conducted in two stages. Sievert, Frank Hope, Jr., president of Frank L. Hope and Associates, and Walter Zable, chairman of the board of Cubic Corporation, will serve as division heads in the leadership gifts category of the campaign which begins today. Some 15 volunteers will take part in the leadership gifts category which is expected to be concluded in two to three months. A special gifts campaign is scheduled to begin in the spring with the entire campaign to be concluded by July.

A four-story building has been designed for the cancer center with space for an interdisciplinary cancer outpatient clinic, research and clinical laboratories, offices and a classroom. The library is planned as a two-story building adjacent to the center with room for book stacks, study area and staff work.

According to Dr. John Mendelsohn, associate professor of medicine at the UCSD School of Medicine and director of the cancer center, the new center will provide an outstanding clinical resource for cancer patients cared for at the university affiliated hospitals and clinics as well as in the San Diego community. In addition, Mendelsohn said, the center will greatly strengthen teaching and research activities at UC San Diego targeted at understanding and counteracting the mechanisms that lead to the development of cancer.

McElroy said the money raised through the campaign will be used to complete the funding of the \$6 million project. A federal grant from the National Institutes of Health is anticipated to cover \$3.1 million of the cost and the governor has requested that \$517,000 be appropriated for the library by the state.

The three major gifts include a \$500,000 matching gift for construction of the center from the Maxine Gildred Foundation of San Diego, and a \$100,000 gift from the Ahmanson Foundation of Los Angeles. A \$125,000 gift from the Parker Foundation (Gerald and Inez Parker Foundation) of La Jolla has been earmarked for construction of an environmental carcinogenesis laboratory in the center.

According to McElroy, the decision to conduct the campaign came as the result of a study conducted by the university last spring in which community leaders were asked their views on the university in general and the medical center in particular. The generally favorable response to questions concerning the institution and

agreement on the importance of such a cancer center in the San Diego area led to the decision to ask the community for help in funding its construction, McElroy said.

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