

UC San Diego to Expand Shiley Eye Center Complex Due to Patient Demand

\$8.1 Million Project Funded by Private Support, Including a Leadership Gift of \$5 Million from Donald and Darlene Shiley

January 9, 2006

Judy Piercey

The Donald P. and Darlene V. Shiley Eye Center, located on the University of California, San Diego Medical Center-La Jolla campus, houses the Department of Ophthalmology and its activities including broad based clinical care, world-class research, teaching and community outreach programs. The Shiley Eye Center has produced significant contributions in the areas of the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of all eye diseases as well as groundbreaking outreach programs such as the first macular degeneration outreach program and the mobile children's eye unit.

Because patient demand and burgeoning research activities are impacting clinical space at the center, UCSD today announced that it has secured commitments of \$8.1 million in private support for a much-needed expansion at the Shiley Eye Center and at the Anne F. and Abraham Ratner Children's Eye Center. The Shiley Eye Center, which has grown steadily since the department was founded just 20 years ago, had over 55,000 patient visits in 2004.

The expansion project, which is fully funded, will increase the existing clinical space by more than 50 percent and will include additional examination rooms, a registration area and a new waiting room on the first floor to offer added convenience to patients setting appointments and accessing the facilities. The second floor will contain space for new faculty and future research needs. The Ratner Children's Eye Center, part of the Shiley Eye Center complex, will also add several new examination rooms essentially doubling its clinical examination space. The total project will add approximately 13,000 square feet, at a total cost of \$8.1 million, funded by private support.

The center is named after longtime UCSD benefactors Donald Shiley, an engineer and inventor of the Shiley heart valve, and his wife, Darlene. The Shileys, who contributed funding to establish the Center, have provided an additional leadership gift of \$5 million for the expansion.

Through the years, the couple has committed more than \$13 million to support research and academic units of the university, including earlier gifts to the Shiley Eye Center, as well as support of the UCSD Alzheimer research unit.

"Ever since we met Dr. Stuart Brown and learned of the wonderful work being done and the patients he's been able to help, we realized this center would become something remarkable," said Darlene Shiley. "During the past 15 years, we have seen the Shiley Eye Center become an important clinic for eye care and research, benefiting patients worldwide. It has also been wonderful to see other community members support the center and the work underway. With broad community support, the center can continue to serve as a leader in both care and research."

Several other community members have contributed to the project, including gifts from both Anne F. Ratner and Marc Paskin. Gifts for the expansion project contribute to The Campaign for UCSD: *Imagine What's Next*, a \$1 billion fundraising initiative.

"When I first learned of Dr. Brown's dream to create a center that would deal exclusively with children's eye problems, I knew I wanted to become involved. I am so proud of the work being done and honored to play a role in helping children keep their sight," said Anne F. Ratner, naming patron of the Anne F. and Abraham Ratner Children's Eye Center, the only dedicated eye facility in the region designed to meet the very special vision needs of children. Ratner also has funded the Anne F. Ratner Endowed Chair of Pediatric Ophthalmology, held by Dr. David B. Granet, and has helped finance an eye mobile that is a critical part of UCSD's outreach to children in the underserved communities of San Diego County.

The world-renowned Shiley Eye Center is a complex of buildings on the UCSD Medical Center campus featuring state-of-the-art clinical and surgical space for adults and children, laboratories, and offices for the extensive education and community outreach programs.

The Shiley Eye Center Complex is made up of the Shiley Eye Center main facility, the Anne F. and Abraham Ratner Children's Eye Center, the Hamilton Glaucoma Center and the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Retina Center, all of which were funded entirely through private support. The complex houses major ophthalmological programs that are paving the way for advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the major blinding disorders affecting patients today.

"We have outgrown our facilities faster than imagined, and must again plan for further expansion," said Stuart I. Brown, M.D., chairman of the university's Ophthalmology Department and Director of the Shiley Eye Center. "With additional space, concerns associated with appointment availability and waiting room comfort for our patients, as well as opportunities to expand our research and community outreach programming, will diminish. This is indeed an urgent need, critical to maintaining the optimal community benefit of the Shiley Eye Center."

The Shiley Eye Center receives only about five percent of its budget directly from the State of California. The remaining funds must come from clinic income, research grants and fundraising efforts. Patients come from San Diego and around the world to take advantage of the broad range of facilities available at the center.

Media contacts: Judy Piercey, Development Communications, (858) 534-6128, Eileen Callahan, Health Sciences Communications, (619) 543-6163.