



# AATS GRAHAM FOUNDATION

ADVANCING INNOVATION  
IN GLOBAL CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

## OUR MISSION

Driving leadership in research and education.

## OUR VISION

A dynamic and innovative future of continued excellence in cardiothoracic surgery.

## OUR VALUES

Academic Exchange: It is our past and our future.

Innovation & Collaboration: Working together to advance and achieve our mission.

Fostering Leadership: Maintaining excellence for future generations.

Trusted Stewardship: Honoring our history and safeguarding our future.

Advancing Patient Care: Our cornerstone as physicians.

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# ADVANCING INNOVATION

In the Centennial year of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, there is a natural inclination to remember those that shaped the field of thoracic surgery and enabled us to be where we are today. That is the very sentiment that drives one of the key initiatives of the AATS Graham Foundation — the Honoring our Mentors Fellowship Program.

Since 2013, the Graham Foundation has honored several of the leading surgeons in our specialty through four founding programs: The F. Griffith Pearson Fellowship, the Marc R. de Leval Fellowship, the Denton A. Cooley Fellowship and the Lawrence H. Cohn Clinical Scholar Program. These awards were established by surgeons to honor their mentors' guidance, leadership and dedication. Those that have created these awards are immortalizing their mentors' legacies through these fellowships, as well as helping to cultivate the leaders of tomorrow. The award winners then foster the careers of other young surgeons, thereby continuing the education cycle.

All AATS programs are made possible by the support of individual donors, institutional and foundation contributors, and industry partners. Your contributions to these programs is essential to the education and training of the next generation of leaders, educators, and surgeons. As you read this Annual Report, you will learn about some of the surgeons who previously received fellowships and research scholarships, and how those opportunities influenced their growth into the cardiothoracic surgeons they are today. Then consider where the 2016 award winners will be in 10 or 20 years and how the support they receive now will contribute to their future success, and even the success of others.



David J. Sugarbaker, MD  
President

# OUR PROGRAMS

## OUR PROGRAMS: ENSURING THE FUTURE

AATS Graham Foundation programs are advancing innovation in cardiothoracic surgery around the world. Some have been in effect for decades; others have been added over time.

Dr. Evarts A. Graham would be proud to know that the Foundation that bears his name has been a major force in the field, reaching not just physicians in the United States and North America, but also surgeons from every continent except Antarctica. He would be pleased that AATS Graham Foundation fellowships and research scholarships bring the community of cardiothoracic surgeons together and create bonds that last lifetimes.

## FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS



### Evarts A. Graham Traveling Fellowship

Enhances the training of international academic CT surgeons and increases their international contacts by underwriting one year of study at North American institutions.

### Summer Intern Scholarship

Provides first-and second-year medical students with an eight-week summer internship in an AATS member's CT surgery department.

## ADULT CARDIAC



### Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship

*Sponsored by Medtronic*

Offers surgeons the opportunity to interactively observe valvular heart disease specialists and connect with them about treatment, technical skills, and management of perioperative patients for a minimum period of one month to three months.

### Denton A. Cooley Fellowship

Provides an educational experience for North American thoracic surgeons who are in the final years of their residencies or have completed their residencies within the past two years, to spend four weeks studying at the Texas Heart Institute and Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. The AATS Graham Foundation is proud to recognize this as the third "Honoring Our Mentors Fellowship," program.



### Every Heartbeat Matters Valve Fellowship

*Sponsored by Edwards Lifesciences Foundation*

Supports up to three months of advanced heart valve disease training and education to enhance the knowledge and skills of practicing cardiothoracic surgeons who are already treating or committed to treating underserved patients worldwide.



### Every Heartbeat Matters Travel Awards for the AATS Annual Meeting

*Sponsored by Edwards Lifesciences Foundation*

Gives surgeons from around the world who demonstrate a financial need, and who treat heart valve disease patients in underserved populations, travel awards to the 2017 AATS Centennial Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.



### James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery

*Sponsored by AtriCure Inc.*

Affords newly graduated CT surgeons the opportunity to spend two to four weeks improving their atrial fibrillation techniques at a host institution.



### Lawrence H. Cohn Clinical Scholar Program

Provides young cardiac surgeons in the final year of their residencies or who have recently completed their residencies, an advanced experience in valvular surgery or care. The AATS Graham Foundation is proud to recognize this as the fourth "Honoring Our Mentors Fellowship," program.



### Learn from the Masters: A Clinical Program

Offers cardiac surgeons from around the world who have recently completed their residencies or fellowship an award to spend three or six months at a Mentor's institution either in North America or abroad.

## CONGENITAL

### Marc R. de Leval Fellowship

Provides opportunities for North American trainees and early career congenital heart surgeons to spend four to six weeks obtaining an international surgical experience at an institution in Europe or the United Kingdom as part of their education. The AATS Graham Foundation is proud to recognize this as the second "Honoring Our Mentors Fellowship," program.

## THORACIC



### F. Griffith Pearson Fellowship

Supports surgeons who have finished their residencies in advancing their clinical techniques at a North American host institute in general thoracic surgery. The AATS Graham Foundation is proud to recognize this as the first "Honoring Our Mentors Fellowship," program.



### Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery/AATS Graham Foundation Fellowship

*Sponsored by Medtronic*

Engages Japanese cardiothoracic surgeons in an interactive educational opportunity to observe and have discussions with specialists in the treatment of heart valve disease at select host institutions in North America.



DR. EVARTS A. GRAHAM'S work as a physician, teacher, editor, leader and innovator had a profound effect on thoracic surgery that few others can claim. His clinical work included helping to save thousands of lives during World War I through the recommendations developed for the Empyema Commission. He performed the first successful single-stage pneumonectomy for lung cancer and was the first to statistically tie smoking cigarettes to an increased risk of lung cancer. During his 38-year career as an educator at the Washington University School of Medicine, he is credited with helping to develop expanded thoracic surgical training programs.

He also made significant contributions to the AATS as the Association's 10th president in 1927-28 and as the first editor of what is now known as *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. In 1951, his work was recognized through the creation of the Evarts A. Graham Traveling Fellowship. His leadership and educational legacy also lives on through the AATS Graham Foundation which makes it possible for the next generation to produce surgeons that may impact the specialty as profoundly as Dr. Graham did.

# Dr. Evarts A. Graham



## **North America Clinical Immersion in Advanced Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery Fellowship**

*Sponsored by Medtronic*

Offers young Chinese surgeons the opportunity to spend up to three months obtaining expertise in advanced minimally invasive thoracic surgery, comprehensive care screening and diagnosis at North American institutions.

## **Surgical Robotics Fellowship**

*Sponsored by Intuitive Surgical*

Familiarizes North American general thoracic fellows and their attending surgeons with the Da Vinci robotics system during two days of onsite, advanced training. Awardees who complete the fellowship are eligible to participate in the Advanced Lobectomy Course.



## **Thoracic Surgery Training Fellowship**

*Sponsored by Ethicon China*

Offers young Chinese surgeons the opportunity to spend between one month and one year obtaining advanced thoracic surgery skills at North American institutions.

## **RESEARCH PROGRAMS**



## **AATS Graham Foundation Academic Excellence Award**

Recognizes distinction in scientific presentations at annual meetings of affiliate organizations around the world.

## **AATS Research Scholarship**

Supports North American surgeons with a two-year grant of \$80,000 to pursue research, training and clinical experience.

## **C. Walton Lillehei Forum**

*Sponsored by St. Jude Medical, Inc.*

Enables eight residents to present and compete for a \$5,000 award at the AATS Annual Meeting.

## **Graham Surgical Investigator Program**

Provides up to \$50,000 annually to support innovative clinical or translational research by young CT surgeons for up to two years.

## **ABOUT THE FOUNDATION**

The AATS Graham Foundation plays a key role in the AATS Mission to promote scholarship, innovation and leadership in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery by championing and fostering the careers of future leaders in CT surgery. Founded in 1917 to encourage discussion between physicians dedicated to thoracic surgery, the AATS evolved through the years and subsequent AATS leaders realized that the Association needed to actively support and guide both research and education in the field.

When AATS established a new vision to focus on achieving a dynamic and innovative future of continued excellence for cardiothoracic surgery, the leadership looked to name a foundation that would lead these efforts. With his involvement in major initiatives of the AATS that still exist today, as well as his many contributions to the field and to the training of the next generation of CT surgeons, Dr. Evarts A. Graham was an obvious choice.





# RESEARCH

The AATS Graham Foundation is responsible for funding the research initiatives of the AATS through programs that address the cardiothoracic specialty as a whole. From the introduction of the first traveling fellowship in 1951 to the present day, the AATS and the AATS Graham Foundation have funded more than \$4 million in fellowships and research opportunities.

Nearly half of that amount supports a two-year scholarship program for young faculty pursuing an academic career. Started in 1985, the AATS Research Scholarship honors several of the pioneers in CT surgery and some of the leaders of today were early recipients of the scholarship.

**Thoralf M. Sundt, III, MD**, Robert E. Gross Research Scholar, 1994 – 1996



"The AATS research scholarship was a critical first step in launching my academic career. It confirmed for me the commitment of the AATS to my academic advancement personally, and certainly helped to establish my position within my home institution as a scholarly clinician. This played a critical role in my advancement and ultimately receipt of tenure at Washington University."

**Mark Ferguson**, Edward D. Churchill Research Scholar, 1986 – 1988



"I was privileged to receive the first AATS research scholarship 1986-88, named in honor of Edward D. Churchill. Research funding for young surgeons at that time was difficult to find, and the scholarship was invaluable in allowing me to obtain equipment necessary for my study of vascular endothelial-smooth muscle interactions. The research made possible by this funding was key to my academic development, leading to presentations of my basic science work at several national meetings and subsequent promotion at the earliest possible time interval."

**ONE OF THE NEWEST WAYS** the Foundation supports cutting edge research and the future leaders in the field is through the Graham Surgical Investigator Program. The two-year grant supports young cardiothoracic surgeons in innovative clinical or translational research on topics including outcomes research, robotically assisted surgery, minimally invasive surgery and other applications of new and innovative technologies in cardiothoracic surgery. Thanks to partnerships with Texas Medical Center, Dr. Mehmet Oz, Ethicon, and Intuitive Surgical, 2017 will mark the first Texas Medical Center Surgical Investigator named award and a second year of funding will be available for the Oz Lemole Surgical Investigator Award, Ethicon Surgical Investigator Award, and the Intuitive Surgical Investigator Award.

**Bo Yang, MD**, University of Michigan, Graham Surgical Investigator 2014-2016



"The research kick-started my career goals. I had significant preliminary data to apply for AHA Scientist Development and NIH K08 awards. My application was awarded by the NHLBI from 2016-2020."

The oldest program is the Evarts A. Graham Traveling Fellowship which was established in 1951. It provides support for young surgeons outside the U.S. to come to North America to intensify their training in a program of special interest and to increase their contacts with thoracic surgeons around the world.

# FELLOWSHIPS

**W. G. Ferguson, M.B.**, England, Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellow 1953-1954

"I arrived in New York on the 23rd February 1953 and left on the 11th February 1954, to return to this country. During this time I travelled almost 20,000 miles in the U.S.A., worked for twenty weeks as a resident, attended four national and two state meetings, visited thirty one hospitals and spent some time with twenty thoracic services throughout the country."

1953 - 1954

**TODAY** the fellowship continues, Dr. Konrad Hoetzenecker is the 64th Evart A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellow. Dr. Hoetzenecker's fellowship took place at Toronto General Hospital in Toronto, ON, Canada under the primary sponsorship of Dr. Thomas K. Waddell and will conclude at the 2017 AATS Centennial Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Konrad Hoetzenecker, MD**, Vienna, Austria, Evarts A. Graham Memorial Traveling Fellow 2016-2017



2016 - 2017

# HONORING

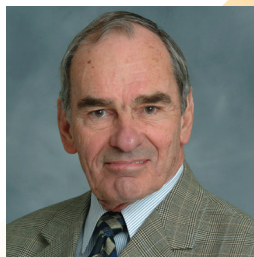
## HONORING OUR MENTORS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

There is an important cycle in thoracic surgery. Young surgeons who receive funding and mentorship grow into future leaders, who then mentor others and foster the careers of other young surgeons. Surgeons who received funding years ago are now in a position to be mentors to the best and brightest of the next generation. Several of those mentors are being recognized with awards named for them, ensuring that their longstanding leadership and dedication to the surgical specialty and their trainees over the course of their careers will now benefit promising surgeons who are looking to learn from new mentors.

Funding young surgeons today, enables them to develop into the leaders of tomorrow. The awards given out in 2016 continued the Foundation's focus on funding groundbreaking research that enhances educational opportunities for physicians, surgical techniques and patient care.

Every awardee could be the one that revolutionizes the field, serves as a future leader or becomes the mentor for another surgeon with potential. The awardees have received valuable funding that will contribute to their future success and we look forward to seeing what they accomplish over the coming years and decades.

In 2017, the AATS Graham Foundation is proud to include the Jack A. Roth Fellowship in Thoracic Surgical Oncology, the Honoring Our Cleveland Clinic Mentors Program (Drs. Floyd D. Loop, Delos M. Cosgrove, and Bruce W. Lytle) and two new programs to honor Dr. Timothy J. Gardner and Dr. Aldo R. Castaneda in this program portfolio. Your support of these upcoming programs is essential to promote our specialty for the next generation of leaders, educators, and surgeons.



F. GRIFFITH PEARSON FELLOWSHIP



LAWRENCE H. COHN  
CLINICAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM



DENTON A. COOLEY FELLOWSHIP



MARC R. DE LEVAL FELLOWSHIP

## OUR CLEVELAND CLINIC MENTORS





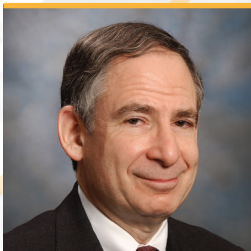
# OUR MENTORS

**TIMOTHY J. GARDNER, MD**



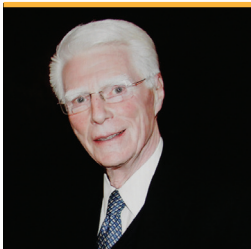
This nationally noted heart surgeon and leader in cardiovascular medicine, is not only seen as a great teacher of residents and fellows, but has been very helpful to young staff surgeons. From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Gardner served as a councilor, vice president, then 82nd president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, and in 2015, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the AATS.

**JACK A. ROTH, MD**

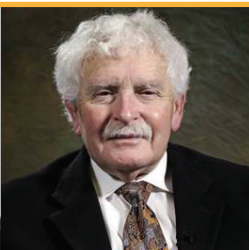


During 22 years at MD Anderson, Jack A. Roth, MD, has made prodigious clinical research contributions to improve multidisciplinary therapy for lung cancer. In addition to being an international leader in developing gene therapy for lung and other cancers, he has trained a new generation of outstanding surgical oncologists and laboratory researchers who are applying his philosophy of excellence throughout the world.

**ALDO R. CASTANEDA, MD**



Dr. Aldo R. Castaneda's spirit and drive have been infused throughout the field of congenital heart surgery. He is most noted for three major contributions to the field: neonatal and early corrective surgery for complex congenital heart disease; a programmatic approach to the care of patients with congenital heart disease; and, his legacy, a fully functional and independent congenital heart surgery program in Guatemala. He once stated, "All our actions must be directed, first and foremost, to the relief of human suffering."



Through academic leadership Drs. Floyd D. Loop, Delos M. Cosgrove and Bruce W. Lytle were three great mentors, teachers, and friends at the Cleveland Clinic. They emphasized and taught their mentees how to become superb surgeons accountable for their patients thus leaving a legacy of excellence in cardiothoracic surgery that will be preserved for generations.

# INDIVIDUAL GIVING

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE

The AATS Graham Foundation has been driving leadership in research and education since 1973. Many of today's leaders in the field received funding from the AATS Graham Foundation and the support they received early in their careers helped them to make significant contributions to the specialty.

Those fellowships and research scholarships were made possible by the generosity of AATS Graham Foundation donors. With the incidence of cardiovascular disease continuing to grow as the world population ages, and the demand for cardiothoracic surgeons increasing, this support is more important than ever.

There are a number of opportunities for donors who want to help current and future cardiothoracic surgeons have the same opportunities to perform vital research that will lead to new treatments and cutting-edge technologies. Not only will your gift benefit some of the most promising cardiothoracic surgeons in the world, 100 percent of your individual investment goes to the AATS Graham Foundation programs due to the American Association for Thoracic Surgery generously underwriting the Foundation's operational expenses.

## INDIVIDUAL GIVING

### Direct Gifts

Donate to our Annual Campaign, which allows the Graham Foundation's many programs and activities to expand and grow

*Special donor opportunities include:*

### Tribute/Memorial Gifts

Honor or remember a loved one or friend. The honoree or his/her family will receive a card acknowledging your gift.

### Honoring Our Mentors Fellowship

Create, fund or donate to a fellowship in honor of a mentor of your choice,

### Graham Surgical Investigator Program

Create and fund a named award to support a Surgical Investigator.

### Stock

Give a gift of appreciated securities, which can reduce your capital gains tax exposure.

### Donated Honoraria

Transfer an honorarium to the Foundation in your name and the gift will be counted toward your cumulative giving total.

### Planned Gifts

When planning your estate, consider a gift to the Foundation. Please let us know when you have made a decision to include the AATS Graham Foundation in your estate plan.

*Options include:*

### Make a Provision/Bequests

Allocate a percent or a specific dollar value to the Foundation in your will. Donors are able to designate their bequests toward particular areas of the Foundation and can create a permanent endowment fund if the underlying assets are sufficient.

### Charitable Remainder Trust

Name the Foundation as beneficiary of this individually managed trust, providing income for life. It can be funded with cash, appreciated securities or real estate. This option not only provides U.S. tax benefits, but also reduces probate and estate costs.

### Life Insurance

Make the Foundation the beneficiary of an existing or new policy. Insurance can also replace assets earmarked for a charitable gift.

### Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

Gift your IRA subject to US tax regulation.

These charitable contributions are all tax deductible to the full extent of US law.

Visit [www.AATSGrahamFoundation.org](http://www.AATSGrahamFoundation.org) to make a donation or to learn more.

# CORPORATE / ORGANIZATIONAL GIVING

The AATS Graham Foundation partners with corporations to fund select educational programs. It also accepts organizational gifts.

Help advance patient care and ensure excellence in cardiothoracic surgery by becoming one of our distinguished partners. The AATS Graham Foundation Development Office will work closely with your staff to create a mutually beneficial relationship.

## Current projects supported by corporate sponsors include:

**AtriCure®**

James L. Cox Fellowship in Atrial Fibrillation Surgery



Every Heartbeat Matters Valve Fellowship  
Cardiovascular Valve Symposium (CVS) Brazil  
CVS Travel Awards Brazil  
Lawrence H. Cohn Scholar Clinical Program

**ETHICON**  
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Taking surgical precision beyond the limits of the human hand

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Advanced Valve Disease Educational Fellowship  
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<b>Graham Circle</b>	<b>\$5,000 - \$9,999</b>
<b>Scholars' Circle</b>	<b>\$1,000 - \$4,999</b>
<b>Founders' Circle</b>	<b>Up to \$999</b>

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# 2016 NUMBERS

At the end of our fiscal year (December 31, 2016), the AATS Graham Foundation continued to expand its education and research opportunities with new programs such as the Lawrence H. Cohn Clinical Scholar Program and the Learn from the Masters Clinical Program.

The Graham Foundation was able to maintain 2015 program funding levels, despite a reduction in total revenue of \$339,907.

**Contribution receipts** totaled approximately \$2.1 million (\$2,069,431), reflecting a decrease of 22 percent from 2015 due to fewer Surgical Investigator awards sponsored in 2016 as well as the transfer of AATS sponsored programs to AATS to administer and fund.

**Individual Contributions & Industry Partner support:** Individual contributions, including foundations and institutions, and support from our industry partners totaled \$1,489,887, reflecting a reduction of approximately 17 percent from 2015. This fluctuation is due to the fact that 2015 revenue included major gifts for the funding of Surgical Investigator awards at levels that were not repeated in 2016.

**AATS support** of several programs and administrative costs of \$579,543 compared with \$861,772 in 2015.

**Total expenditures** amount to over \$1.75 million (see charts on the right), breaking down as follows:

**Grants & contributions:** \$1,364,595 (compared to \$1,335,327 in 2015)

**General & administrative expenses:** \$323,003 (compared to \$346,635 in 2015)

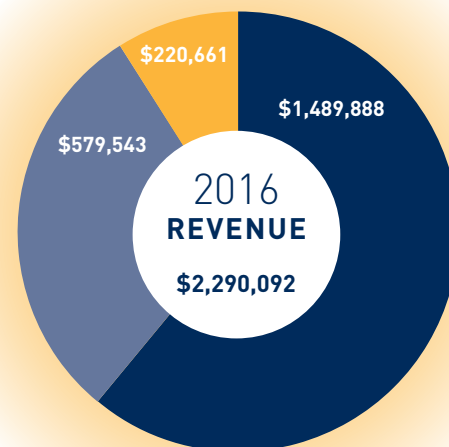
**Development costs:** \$38,721 (compared to \$33,862 in 2015)

**Committee costs:** \$20,781 (compared to \$38,181 in 2015)

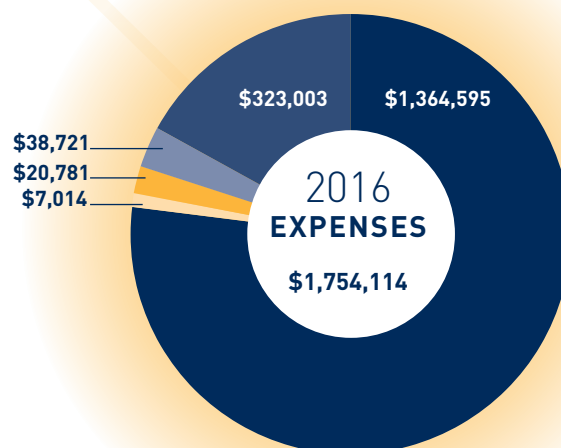
**Meetings & Education costs:** \$7,014 (compared to \$27,331 in 2015)

We ended the fiscal year with Unrestricted Net Assets of \$3,386,116 and currently have \$1,401,633 in Restricted Funds on-hand to support existing programs in 2017 and beyond. Total net assets increased by \$535,978 from \$4,251,772 in 2015 to \$4,787,749 in 2016 due to improved investment activities and timing of program expenditures.

Our financial position remains strong.



- Grants & Contributions
- AATS Grant
- Investment Income



- Grants & Contributions
- General & Administrative
- Development
- Committee
- Meetings & Education

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2016	2016 (Unaudited)	2015 (Audited)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$1,392,210	\$1,571,621
Investments	\$3,338,990	\$2,547,998
Accounts Receivable	\$1,112	\$1,700
Pledge Receivable	\$946,596	\$755,890
Prepaid Asset	-	\$616
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,678,908</b>	<b>\$4,877,825</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$3,554	\$3,398
Grants Payable	\$887,605	\$622,655
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$891,159</b>	<b>\$626,053</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	\$3,386,116	\$2,364,276
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,401,633	\$1,887,496
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$4,787,749</b>	<b>\$4,251,772</b>
<b>Total Net Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>\$5,678,908</b>	<b>\$4,877,825</b>

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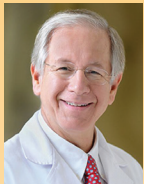
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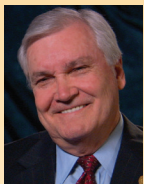
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