



Defining the Future

today

The Gunnar Esiason Adult Cystic Fibrosis and Lung Program Opens at CUMC

In June of 2007, The Boomer Esiason Foundation made a generous commitment to the College of Physicians and Surgeons to establish and endow the Gunnar Esiason Adult Cystic Fibrosis and Lung Program in the Department of Medicine. On March 26th, CUMC and The Boomer Esiason Foundation celebrated the grand opening of the state-of-the-art facility, offering family-based care to adult cystic fibrosis patients; the first-of-its-kind in the New York metropolitan area.

Cystic Fibrosis is an inherited disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of children and adults. Though not yet curable, research advances and improved care hold promise for further extending survival and, ultimately, curing the disease. In 1970, only 10% of people with cystic fibrosis were over the age of 18; today, almost half of patients treated for cystic fibrosis are adults.

"Boomer Esiason and his family have not wavered in their tremendous effort to promote and fund research to find a cure for cystic fibrosis, and this new program marks a vital advancement in Columbia's care for adult patients with cystic fibrosis," said Lee Goldman, M.D., executive vice president for Health and Biomedical Sciences and dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine.

"Boomer Esiason is known for many great moments leading his football teams to remarkable victories. Through his foundation's generous support, he is now a most valuable player on Columbia's team of physician-scientists as we work together to tackle cystic fibrosis." The former Cincinnati Bengal and New York Jets quarterback and current national television and radio sports broad-



Neil Schluger, M.D., Gunnar Esiason, Boomer Esiason, Cheryl Esiason, Emily DiMango, M.D., Lee Goldman, M.D.

caster, formed The Boomer Esiason Foundation after his young son, Gunnar, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis in 1993. His commitment to supporting critical research to discover a cure remains strong.

"The Esiason family and the Boomer Esiason Foundation have devoted countless hours to improving the lives of patients with cystic fibrosis," said Emily DiMango, M.D., the program's director. "With the opening of The Gunnar Esiason Adult Cystic Fibrosis and Lung Program, Columbia is home to the premier site for adult cystic fibrosis care and research in the New York Metropolitan area. We collaborate with specialists in almost every discipline at Columbia to develop

individualized treatment plans for our adult patients."

In keeping with the mission of the Medical Center, the Program will simultaneously pursue innovative clinical and basic research, train future experts in the care and study of adult CF, and provide patient education and outreach programs. Clinical trials underway include a phase three study of a new inhaled antibiotic, a study of a new compound that shows promise in improving hydration of airway secretions and reducing infections, and a study aimed at identifying genes that may modify a patient's disease progression. The Program was recently selected as a site of the National CF Therapeutics Development Network for studying novel drugs for cystic fibrosis.

For information on supporting the Gunnar Esiason Adult Cystic Fibrosis and Lung Program, contact Director of Development Carol Bullen at 212-342-0198.

New Professorship in the Division of Cardiology Honors Jerry Gliklich, M.D.

In early 2008, several of his friends, patients, and colleagues joined together in an effort to fund a professorship that would be named the Jerry I. Gliklich, M.D., Professorship of Cardiology. The professorship, to be created upon Dr. Gliklich's retirement, will honor his exemplary career at Columbia and inspire future holders of the professorship to emulate his talents as a humanitarian clinician, a first-rate investigator, and a gifted mentor.

In a relatively short time, a number of major commitments were made, including pledges by the Sol and Margaret Berger Foundation and Lynn Shostack, as well as gifts from Robert Horgan, Budd Levinson, and

Richard Stock, M.D., among others. To complete the fundraising effort, Dawn M. Greene, president of the Jerome L. Greene Foundation, a major Columbia University benefactor, made the lead commitment, allowing Columbia to reach the goal.

"Dr. Gliklich has a genuine humanitarian concern for his patients, as well as a keen scientific curiosity," said Dawn M. Greene. "It is a great pleasure to help establish this professorship which will perpetuate Jerry's legacy and will contribute to such an important incentive in recruiting and retaining talented physician-scientists."

Dr. Gliklich's career has been devoted almost entirely to Columbia

University. A graduate of Columbia College, ('69), he continued his studies at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, ('75), where he was in the first class of the Medical Scientist Training Program, the precursor to the MD/PhD Program. During his tenure at Columbia, he has been a cardiology fellow, an attending physician, and was serially promoted, reaching the academic rank of professor. He is the head of Chief of Service Rounds in cardiology, and preceptor for medical school students, and teacher to countless interns, residents, and fellows. He sits on several university committees, including the Faculty Council of the Medical School, and is a fellow of the American College of

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Jerry Gliklich, M.D.