



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Friends,

The arrival of spring has spirits high at the University of Louisville. Activity never slows here, but it has seemed to reach a fever pitch with final exams and commencement right around the corner. I have to admit I'm also eagerly anticipating my first Kentucky Derby and experiencing all it means to our community.

High among our priorities this semester is the ongoing strategic planning process. Teams of faculty, staff and students are currently hard at work, working to develop and crystallize our vision into workable tools and tactics around the themes of learn, work and invest. This is a highly collaborative process, and I'm so proud to see how the campus community has come together to provide energy and input.

I'm not a fan of long, 10- or 15-year strategic plans. I believe they are too easy to dismiss and put on a shelf where they are ignored. To ensure accountability, we are developing two, three-year plans—one that will cover 2019-2022 and another for 2022-2025. The goal is to present our plan to the Board of Trustees for approval this summer and implement it soon thereafter. Many thanks to all participating in this important process.

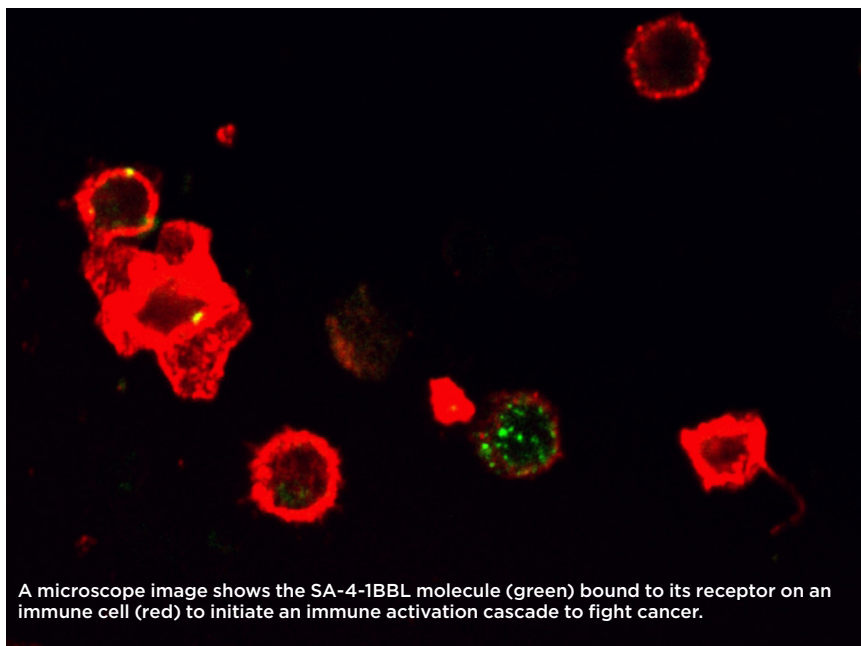
Much time and effort also continues to be expended as we seek a partner to help us acquire KentuckyOne Health's Louisville assets and advance our academic and research health care missions. This remains a work in progress, and I should stress once again that our ultimate decision will be the best one for both the university and our medical staff and programs and the larger community that we help serve. These are complex negotiations, but all involved realize the importance of maintaining the quality care and programming that are hallmarks of the university's health care operations.

The university—particularly our advancement team—has celebrated several successes in recent weeks as we've seen donors who stayed on the sidelines for a while returning to show their support and their love for UofL. An unrestricted, \$2 million gift from the Gheens Foundation is helping us boost security on our campuses and will help fund future initiatives that grow out of the strategic planning process.

In addition, United Parcel Service has pledged \$5 million, which, in part, will establish the UPS Leadership Academy to help student-athletes hone leadership skills. The academy also will create more high-level internships for our student-athletes. The renewed confidence that many in the donor community are feeling for the university is extremely satisfying and should lead to more substantial gifts in the near future.

I feel it's important to always remind the community that we have lofty goals at the university, and we need everyone on board to get where we want to go. Your support is always so welcome, and we at UofL should never forget to say thank you for being with us as we move this great university forward. Never doubt that you are appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on campus. Go Cards!

Neeli Bendapudi
President, University of Louisville



A microscope image shows the SA-4-IBBL molecule (green) bound to its receptor on an immune cell (red) to initiate an immune activation cascade to fight cancer.

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER MOLECULE SHOWN TO PREVENT CANCER

A research team at the University of Louisville has discovered that an immune checkpoint molecule they developed for cancer immunotherapy also protects against future development of cancer when administered by itself.

The recombinant protein molecule SA-4-IBBL has been used successfully to enhance the therapeutic efficacy of cancer vaccines in pre-clinical animal models. Surprisingly, when the researchers treated normal healthy mice with SA-4-IBBL alone, the mice were protected when the researchers later exposed them to different types of tumor cells.

"The novelty we are reporting is the ability of this molecule to generate an immune response that patrols the body for the presence of rare tumor cells and to eliminate cancer before it takes

hold in the body," said Haval Shirwan, professor in the department of microbiology and immunology and the UofL Institute for Cellular Therapeutics.

The researchers determined the molecule generates a tumor immune surveillance system by activating certain cells that protect the mice against various types of cancer.

"We are very excited about the cancer immunoprevention possibilities of this molecule," said Esma Yolcu, associate professor and co-author of the study.

Drugs to block the action of immune checkpoint inhibitors already have shown therapeutic efficacy for several cancer types in the clinic and are approved by the Food and Drug Administration. According to Shirwan, the focus now is on immune checkpoint stimulators.

UPS commits \$5 million to UofL Athletics

UPS announced a \$5 million commitment to University of Louisville Athletics in February to extend naming rights at Cardinal Stadium and establish a leadership academy for students.

The gift retains the "UPS Flight Deck"—an upper deck at the football stadium—for

another 13 years and creates a leadership program that targets sophomore student-athletes.

The UPS Leadership Academy will include internships, networking opportunities, keynote speakers and workshops focused on leadership styles and roles.

GIFT FROM GHEENS FOUNDATION SHOWS SUPPORT FOR UofL DIRECTION, LEADERSHIP

A \$2 million gift from the Gheens Foundation Inc. marks the philanthropic organization's second largest gift to the University of Louisville and shows support for the institution's direction and leadership.

The unrestricted gift allows the university to allocate the funds toward areas of greatest need.

"Once again, the Gheens Foundation has stepped up to support the University of Louisville. Now it is up to us to use this funding in ways that clearly will benefit our students and the community," said President Neeli Bendapudi.

Bendapudi said \$500,000 will be directed toward safety and security through enhanced staffing and technology on the Belknap and Health Sciences Center campuses. The remaining \$1.5 million will fund strategic initiatives identified through the university's strategic planning process.

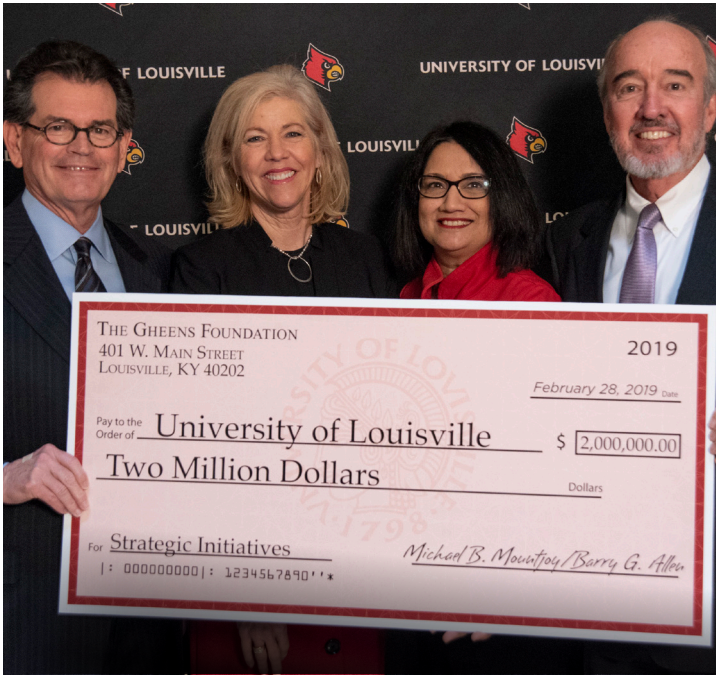
Gheens has given more than \$12 million to UofL over five decades, including funding for the Cardiovascular Innovation Institute, Gheens Science Hall and Rauch Planetarium and the Gheens Foundation Inc. Chair in Aging Research. The largest gift was a \$2.5 million grant in 2013 for health-related medical research.

"I am confident that our founders, Edwin and Mary Jo Gheens, would be most pleased with the trustees' decision to make this grant," said Gheens President Barry Allen. It recognizes the vital importance of the university's mission and is an affirmation of Dr. Bendapudi's fresh and strengthening leadership."

Mike Mountjoy, chair and CEO of the Foundation said, "The University of Louisville is critical to this city. We felt like it was time for us to step up."

Since Bendapudi assumed the UofL helm, major gifts include \$5 million from the Owsley Brown II Family Foundation, \$2.5 million

from retired Churchill Downs Inc. Chairperson Carl F. Pollard and a substantial gift from Republic Bank Foundation and the Trager Family Foundation in support of optimal aging research.



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MARCH MADNESS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

UofL medical students Brooks Richardson, Amorkor Sogbodjor and Mallika Sabharwal are all smiles after opening their "Match Day" envelopes. Match Day is an annual tradition where fourth-year medical students throughout the U.S. receive details on where they will live and work during their residency training. The event is always held precisely at noon on the third Friday in March. There are nearly 150 fourth-year medical students at UofL.

GOOD MOVES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Those who took part in the student-organized raiseRED Dance Marathon Feb. 22 did more than show off their best dance moves. They also raised over \$680,000 for pediatric cancer and blood disorders. About 1,000 dancers took part in the 18-hour marathon that has become one of the best-attended and most memorable campus events during the spring semester. In addition to lots and lots of dancing, this year's program featured patient testimonials, a talent show and special guests.

raiseRED is a nationally recognized, student-led philanthropic campaign. The funds from the dance marathon, as well as other events throughout the year, go to the university's department of pediatric oncology and hematology.

