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Knights Give \$100 Million to OHSU Cancer Institute: Questions & Answers

Who made this gift?

The gift was pledged by Nike Chairman Phil Knight and his wife Penny. It is a personal gift from the Knights and not a corporate gift from Nike or the Nike Foundation.

Why did the Knights make this gift to OHSU?

Phil and Penny Knight said this gift is an expression of their great confidence in Brian Druker, M.D., director of the OHSU Cancer Institute, based on his and OHSU's successful track record of achievement in cancer research and care. They believe that Dr. Druker and the cancer institute have what it takes to lead in the search for discoveries that target cancer at its cause, to lower the state's cancer death rate and establish a model of cancer prevention and care that other states can follow.

Will this gift name the OHSU Cancer Institute?

Yes. The transformational nature of this gift has inspired OHSU to rename its world-class cancer center the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute.

What will this gift be used for?

The first \$2 million of the gift will complete the build-out of the OHSU Center for Cancer Cell-Signaling, located in the Biomedical Research Building. This \$10 million center is at the heart of OHSU's search for new cancer treatments and cures based on a better understanding of the biochemical processes cells use to communicate with one another. This research strategy was behind Gleevec, developed under Dr. Druker's leadership as the first targeted therapeutic to treat a form of cancer by altering the body's cell-signaling system. This portion of the gift will name a suite of laboratories in memory of Linda Conant. The remaining \$98 million will be deposited in the OHSU Cancer Institute Knight Fund – a "current-use" fund for use at the discretion of the director of the institute. Current-use funds are designated for spending as needs arise, as opposed to an endowed fund which is invested to provide a perpetual source of spendable earnings.



How specifically will this gift help the Cancer Institute achieve its goals? What are the most important goals?

Dr. Druker has indicated that his top priority is to recruit and retain outstanding faculty members. Extraordinary people with exceptional resources will find new cures and save lives. In a highly competitive academic job market, established cancer researchers are highly sought after by the top institutions in the world. This gift will help OHSU to attract great people and keep them here. It will enable OHSU to bring all the resources together in one place to beat cancers that affect people everywhere. Oregonians will benefit by having access to many of these breakthroughs first.

Why is it important for a cancer center to earn a National Cancer Institute designation?

Only 64 cancer centers nationwide have earned the designation of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). NCI-designated cancer centers are characterized by scientific excellence and the capability to integrate a diversity of research approaches to focus on the problem of cancer. They play a vital role in advancing NCI's goal of reducing morbidity and mortality from cancer. NCI cancer centers are a major source of discovery of the nature of cancer and the development of more effective approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis and therapy. They also deliver medical advances to patients and their families, educate healthcare professionals and the public, and reach out to underserved populations. They are characterized by strong organizational capabilities, institutional commitment and transdisciplinary cancer-focused science; experienced scientific and administrative leadership; and state of the art cancer research and patient-care facilities. (*Adapted from National Cancer Institute web site*)