The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons is a leading surgical society, representing over 6,000 general and gastrointestinal surgeons throughout North America and the world. This year, the SAGES annual meeting, entitled, “Innovating the Present for the Future” was held in Baltimore from April 17 - 20, 2013.

The LaPierres’ family had a long and painful, multi-generational history of kidney disease and kidney transplant procedures. The family was cared for by the excellent, caring doctors and staff at OHSU for many years. They reported that at least 10 members of the family have been treated for kidney disease, and/or have been a part of kidney transplantation procedures at OHSU.

Because of that excellent care, the LaPierres wanted to say thank you in a tangible way to OHSU. That prompted them to provide a $1 million gift through their estate. That bequest was used to establish the endowed Professorship for Kidney Transplantation to support leadership for the clinical, educational and research programs in kidney transplantation in OHSU’s Department of Surgery.

In July 2012, David Scott, M.D. was appointed the inaugural Thomas and Velda LaPierre Professorship for Kidney Transplantation. Central to Dr. Scott’s concerns are the challenges of how to increase access to transplantation, improve the quality of the program, and find better ways to serve our patients. To this end, and given the reality that there are not enough organs for the ever-increasing number of patients on the list, Dr. Scott strives to implement practices that yield the most from every donation gift; one such strategy includes the scientific use of database studies to identify efficacious practices in the management of organ donors that lead to successful transplantation.

For more information on how you can have your estate plans benefit the Department of Surgery, contact Pete Sommerfeld at 503 220-8328, or sommerfe@ohsu.edu.