Phil Knight, Nike’s co-founder and chairman, electrified an audience of about 400 supporters at the Cancer Institute’s biennial gala September 20 when he surprised the audience and OHSU leaders with the challenge to raise a cumulative $1 billion in two years to build a next-generation research program that will expand upon its exploration of defeating cancer at its core.

It was this vision for making a difference for cancer patients that inspired the Knights to make an unprecedented pledge of the first $500 million to the Knight Cancer Institute – if OHSU can raise $500 million by December 31, 2015. 

University leaders and OHSU’s pre-eminent cancer researcher Brian Druker, M.D., had been in ongoing talks with the Knight family about the future of the cancer institute, but they did not anticipate how Phil and Penny Knight would turn that conversation into a high-profile challenge to others to join in supporting the Institute’s vision to end cancer as we know it.

To meet the Knight family’s challenge, OHSU will need help from everyone who cares about ending cancer as we know it. Individuals, families, corporations, government agencies and private foundations can help solve the most important problems in cancer today. The clock is ticking, the momentum is building, and the time to act is now.

**Directive: Knight Challenge Touch All of OHSU**

In the flurry of activity resulting from the historic challenge that Phil and Penny Knight generously issued to us a little over three weeks ago, we haven’t had the chance to talk very much about the vision that inspired this unprecedented philanthropic gesture.

It is a vision that offers hope to all of us in the OHSU community and far beyond, who find our lives touched by cancer. At a university that prides itself on tackling big ideas, this one is huge: Find faster, smarter ways to detect and treat cancer – before it becomes deadly.

As Brian Druker would say, when we better understand what drives cancer’s growth, we will be better equipped to catch it early and control it. To achieve this, the Knight Cancer Institute will use the resources generated by the challenge to assemble an incredible team of cancer researchers, adding new recruits to the top talent already at OHSU. Unprecedented research resources will be put behind this effort so we can have a significant impact in as short a time as possible. For those living with cancer, there isn’t a moment to waste.

No one can defeat cancer alone. We already are collaborating with the world’s best universities and scientists, and have industry collaborations with Intel Corporation, FEI, Cepheid and other technology leaders. Our own scientists magnify their effectiveness by working in teams across OHSU. To borrow a sporting analogy: talent wins games; teamwork wins championships. We have both here at OHSU — talent and teamwork.

This is truly an institution-wide effort and it will have results across the institution and beyond. The most important result will be the difference that it will make in the lives of people in our community, across the country and around the globe.

But it will also directly benefit scientists throughout OHSU. We will develop tools and capabilities to improve our early detection technologies and will bring genomic medicine to clinical reality, further accelerating research across OHSU. The infrastructure needed to address the challenge of cancer is applicable to other diseases and scientific themes. It will create a range of capacities that other OHSU researchers in a wide range of areas can leverage and build upon. The science and partnerships advanced by this effort will accelerate OHSU’s ability to prevent and combat other diseases.

The campaign will help OHSU in other ways. The OHSU Foundation will continue to raise funds for other commitments and priorities, and these efforts are likely to be enhanced for two reasons:

First, a successful $1 billion national fundraising campaign will generate momentum, philanthropic interest, new partnerships and national and international visibility that will benefit all of us. This visibility will have a positive impact in other fundraising areas as a new group of donors with wide-ranging passions become aware of OHSU’s excellence across many areas.

Second, the high-energy environment that the Knight Cancer Challenge creates provides an ideal landscape for a broad-based university-wide fundraising campaign. Planning for that effort was already underway, and now will be accelerated. I know that this is a turning point for OHSU. Success here will lead to other success in areas that I can’t predict. As a member of the OHSU community, I am proud that people like Phil and Penny Knight, who created one of the world’s boldest brands, are willing to place a $500 million vote of confidence in us. And I know we have hard work ahead of us to meet the Dec. 31, 2015 challenge deadline, but I am confident we will succeed. The goal is too important; and failure is simply not an option.

This work will benefit all of us and it will take all of our effort. I look forward to the busy days ahead as we work toward this goal. In the meantime, thanks for everything you do for OHSU.

Joseph E. Robertson, Jr., M.D., M.B.A.
OHSU President
Marquam Hill Lectures

Beth Habecker, Ph.D., “Nerve Remodeling After a Heart Attack”, November 21, 2013, 7 p.m., OHSU Auditorium

Lisa Coussens, Ph.D., “Unlocking the Secrets of Cancer Growth”, February 20, 2014, 7 p.m., OHSU Auditorium

James Katancik, D.M.D, Ph.D., “Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body: The Link Between Gum Disease and Diabetes”. April 17, 2014, 7 p.m., OHSU Auditorium

Roger Chou, M.D. and John McConnell, Ph.D. “Fixing What’s Broken: OHSU’s Role in Health Reform and Evidence-based Medicine”, May 29, 2014, 7 p.m., location to be announced.

ARCS Scholars

Nine new ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Scholars were selected for the graduate programs, School of Medicine and School of Nursing this spring. The 2013 first year ARCS Scholars from OHSU are: David Edwards, Brian Jones, Wai Yan Lam, Glynis Brown Mattheisen, Rory Morgan, Ben Rakela, Laura Springgay, Kevin Watanabe-Smith, and Lillian Welch.

This brings the cumulative support for OHSU graduate studies students to 89 students and more than $1.25 million since the founding of the Portland Chapter in 2005. ARCS Foundation is a national women’s group that supports and nurtures American women and men in doctoral programs. Nine of these new Scholars (selected by members of the faculty) are in the School of Medicine and one in the School of Nursing. The Portland Chapter supports students at OHSU and Oregon State University.

SPINOFFS

The Portland Business Journal, September 20, reported on the number of University spinoffs in a variety of areas: Bioscience and Health Care, Energy, Nanotechnology, Water and Software. The article reported that 41 startups were formed at OHSU since 1998; 119 is the total number of patent applications filed by OHSU startups in fiscal 2012; $12.8 million is the total industry-sponsored research income from OHSU startups in fiscal year 2012; and $950K is the total income produced from OHSU startups in fiscal 2012.

HIV/AIDS Vaccine Candidate

In September, researchers at OHSU’s Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute announced that they have developed an HIV/AIDS vaccine candidate that may pave the way for a vaccine that completely clears the AIDS-causing virus from the body.

Louis Picker, M.D. Associate Director of the VGTI explained: “The vaccine candidate is unique because it uses cytomegalovirus, a common persistent virus already carried by a large percentage of the population as a vaccine vector.”

The results of the research were published in the journal Nature and comments by Dr. Picker appeared in a piece in the The Wall Street Journal, October 31.

St. Baldrick’s Foundation Grant

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation, a volunteer-driven and donor-centered charity dedicated to raising money for childhood cancer research has awarded a one-year $100,000 research grant to Peter Kurre, M.D. at Doernbecher Hospital. Dr. Kurre’s research focuses on children with relapsed acute myeloid leukemia.

West Campus Facilities to Close

The portion of the West Campus commonly referred to as the “former OGI campus” is set to close this fall. By December 21 all remaining programs on the property will have moved to Marquam Hill or other locations. A number of programs have already moved to Marquam Hill and those remaining will move soon.

The Institute for Environmental Health will move to three locations on “The Hill”, the Center for Spoken Language Understanding now part of the Institute on Development and Disability, is in Gaines Hall; library stacks are moving to OHSU in October; Mail Order Pharmacy is moving to space in the Nimbus Corporate Center in Beaverton in November; and a ITG data center will move to an expanded facility on the Primate Center portion of the West Campus. The Oregon National Primate Research Center and Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute will not be impacted by this change.

In other real estate news, OHSU has a lease agreement for the 3030 Moody building in the South Waterfront to be occupied by OHSU in phases beginning next spring. Six academic departments working in health policy and outreach are expected to be the first to move in. Eventually OHSU will occupy the entire building to relieve space constraints on Marquam Hill and the Center for Health and Healing.

School of Nursing Received $1.05 million Federal Grant

Getting more diverse students into nursing school and supporting them during their education program is the goal of a $1.05 million Federal grant to the OHSU School of Nursing which began July 1. “We’re working with students who may not have the opportunity to attend nursing school without extra support,” Peggy Wros, Ph.D., R.N., principal investigator and SN Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity, said. “Significant health disparities can be addressed by health professionals who are members of the same ethnic or racial community”.

Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Ph.D., R.N., Dean of the School of Nursing, said “The funding will enhance ongoing efforts in the nursing school in a priority area and create a tested model that I hope can be replicated in other places.”

The grant provides financial help to 44 students annually. Those enrolled at Southern Oregon University in Ashland and Western Oregon University in Monmouth will qualify for stipends and scholarships. Students in community colleges with a two-year associate degree who want to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing will also be eligible for support. Another goal is to enroll more community college students with associate degrees into OHSU’s baccalaureate nursing degree program.
OHSU researchers leading the fight against pancreatic cancer. From left: Brett Sheppard, M.D., Joe Gray, Ph.D., Rosalie Sears, Ph.D., and Lisa Coussens, Ph.D.

In September, OHSU President Joe Robertson, M.D., M.B.A., announced that Norman and Linda Brenden and the Colson Family Foundation have together pledged $25 million to OHSU to launch a clinical and research initiative to combat pancreatic disease while transforming the quality of life for patients. This philanthropic effort ranks among the institution’s top five monetary gifts and is one of the largest in the nation with a primary focus on pancreatic health.

“If the heart of this initiative is a powerful collaboration among four faculty leaders in pancreatic surgery and cancer research that will connect OHSU’s clinical programs with breakthrough research,” Dr. Robertson wrote. “OHSU’s primary pancreatic surgeon, Brett Sheppard, M.D., will link his surgical and research programs with the laboratories of Knight Cancer Institute researchers Lisa Coussens, Ph.D., Hildegard Lamfrom Chair in Basic Science and chair of OHSU’s Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, Joe Gray, Ph.D., the Gordon Moore Chair and Chair of the OHSU Department of Biomedical Engineering; Rosalie Sears, Ph.D., professor of Molecular and Medical Genetics. These experts and their teams will seek to translate basic science breakthroughs into promising therapies for the clinical trials pipeline, while advancing the search for new early detection methods for pancreatic cancer.”

The OHSU School of Nursing announced in July that for the second time, it has been selected as a grant recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation “New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program.” During the 2013-2014 academic year, OHSU School of Nursing will receive $100,000 to support ten students in the School’s accelerated baccalaureate program for students who are pursuing a career switch to nursing through the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program for students who are registered nurses in as little as 12-18 months.

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The OHSU School of Nursing announced in July that for the second time, it has been selected as a grant recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation “New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program.” During the 2013-2014 academic year, OHSU School of Nursing will receive $100,000 to support ten students in the School’s accelerated baccalaureate program for students who are registered nurses in as little as 12-18 months.

RECORD NUMBER OF PATENTS ISSUED

OHSU researchers were issued more U.S. patents in the 2012-2013 fiscal year than ever before while OHSU’s Technology Transfer and Business Development office signed 81 “commercialization” agreements with private industry, another record and evidence of private industry’s interest in OHSU discoveries and technology. The patent and commercialization numbers are among the annual statistics released in September showing OHSU’s growing success in linking its research and scientific discoveries with private industry, private markets and public benefit.

“We believe OHSU is making great gains in moving our research discoveries into startup companies and into the private market ultimately improving people’s overall health,” J. Timothy Stout, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., OHSU Vice President for Technology Transfer and Business Development, said. “We are doing more and more to partner with private industry to help bring about tomorrow’s medical discoveries.”

OHSU School of Dentistry researchers recently received $2.4 million in grants from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, a branch of the NID to study novel materials for longer-lasting dental composites. Principal investigators Carmen Pfeiffer, D.D.S., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biomaterials and Biomechanics and Jack Ferracane, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Restorative Dentistry will receive more than $2.4 million over five years to work independently toward the common goal of doubling the service life of dental composites. Dr. Pfeiffer also recently received a three-year $429,600 NIH grant to study “Thioureas as low-stress modifiers in dental composites.”

WALLACE CLINIC EXPANSION

In August, former Interim Dean, School of Dentistry, Gary Chiodo, D.M.D., said that talks are continuing with staff from the Wallace Clinic in Gresham about an on-site dental clinic. Architectural drawings for a new dental building are “on the table,” and include an increased number of operators and a potential dental hygiene partner in Mt. Hood Community College.

“Thioureas as low-stress modifiers in dental composites.”

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Jeffrey Cain, M.D., a 1985 graduate of the School of Medicine, President of the American Academy of Family Physicians, has been named by Modern Healthcare as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare for 2013. Dr. Cain is a family physician at the AF Williams Family Medicine Center, Chief of Family Medicine at Children’s Hospital Colorado in Denver and Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Dr. Cain's brother Mark, also a graduate of the School of Medicine, '87, is a Professor of Urology, at Indiana University. Their father, Jim Cain, D.M.D. is a School of Dentistry graduate, '70 who recently retired from an extensive dental practice in Tigard.

The Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) has selected Mary Anna Demen, M.D., Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, as an APGO Scholar for 2014-2015. Purpose of the program is an initiative of APGO is to enhance education in obstetrics and gynecology through a rigorous 15-month curriculum.

Albert Starr, M.D., who co-invented and successfully implanted the first artificial heart valve, was honored by the Oregon Bioscience Association in September with its Founders Award in recognition of “Outstanding achievements in resident education."

Isabelle Baconguis, Ph.D., 13, graduate of the SM Neuroscience Graduate Program, was selected as one of 15 recipients of an Early Independence Award which allows exceptional junior scientists to bypass the traditional postdoctoral training and move into an independent research position. Dr. Baconguis is a Vollum scientist.

In July Brian Druker, M.D, was named by OncLive one of twelve 2013 "Giants of Cancer Care" selected by oncology industry peers for their remarkable achievements in research and/or clinical practice. Dr. Druker is Director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Associate Dean for Oncology in the School of Medicine, JELD-Wen Chair of Leukemia Research at OHSU and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

Gary Laustsen, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Professor of Nursing and Interim Director, Family Nurse Practitioner program, LaGrande campus, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in June.

Fourth-year medical student Andy Dworkin has been awarded the AMA Foundation’s Johnson E. Hammond, M.D., Physicians of Tomorrow Award. He is one of two medical students in the country selected to receive the $10,000 scholarship in the category of medical journalism.

Casey Eye Institute’s Andreas (Andy) Lauer, M.D., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, has been named the recipient of the prestigious Stratsma Award for Excellence in Residence Education for 2013. The annual honor, given by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, is in recognition of his outstanding achievements in resident education.

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Mary Cato Ed.D., M.S.N., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, is in recognition of his outstanding achievements in resident education.

Several gifts from OHSU faculty, staff, alumni and friends helped the Knight Cancer Institute reach its fundraising goal of $2.5 million to establish the endowed chair in honor of John Barry, M.D. R73, Professor of Surgery and a pioneer in renal transplant, for his significant contributions to the field of urology.

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Mary Cato Ed.D., M.S.N., Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, recently completed a dissertation that was one of two papers receiving an Honorable Mention from the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate.

The Wilderness Medical Society selected Thomas DeLoughery, M.D., Professor of Medicine, SM, for its Founders Award in recognition of “Outstanding contributions to the principles and objectives of Wilderness Medicine”. Wilderness medicine topics include expedition and disaster medicine, dive medicine, search and rescue, altitude illness, cold- and heat-related illness, wilderness trauma and wild animal attacks.

Karen Adams, M.D., Associate Professor, Residency Program Director and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been named to a six-year appointment to the Residency Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Abhijet Danve, M.D., second year OHSU rheumatology fellow has been awarded the Marshall J. Schiff MD Memorial Fellow Research Award by ACR-Rheumatology Research Foundation. The award recognizes outstanding scholarship in the field of rheumatology.

Christopher Amling, M.D., ’85, Chair and Professor of Urology and a leader in the Knight Cancer Institute, has been appointed the first John Barry Endowed Chair of Urology. The endowed chair is named in honor of John Barry, M.D. R73, Professor of Surgery and a pioneer in renal transplant, for his significant contributions to the field of urology.

Several gifts from OHSU faculty, staff, alumni and friends helped the Knight Cancer Institute reach its fundraising goal of $2.5 million to establish the endowed chair. "Our entire family is inspired by the Department of Urology at OHSU and Dr. Ambling's commitment to excellent care, innovative research and education," Mark Goodman of the Doug and Lila Goodman Family Foundation, one of the fund's top donors, said. “We chose to support the John Barry Chair for Urology because we want to see the great strides being made in urologic oncology continue and are thrilled to be a part of helping to build a program that is well on its way to becoming one of the top ten in the country."
The head of pediatric neurosurgery in Doernbecher Children's Hospital has been named President-Elect of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the largest professional and educational organization in the world. Nathan Selden, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.P., will serve as the 65th president of the CNS for one year beginning October, 2014.

Matt Lattal, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, has received the 2013 Pavlovian Research Award from the Pavlovian Society, which is dedicated to the scientific study of behavior and promotion of interdisciplinary scientific contribution. Dr. Lattal was recognized specifically for his contributions to understanding of learning and memory at both basic theoretical and neuroscientific levels. Dr. Lattal is also President – Elect of the Society.

Jeffrey Gold, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, was one of two recipients to receive the AAMC and The Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation 2013 funding opportunity. The award was based on competitive peer review. The funding opportunity, according to the AAMC, asked researchers to develop proposals focused on priority health improvement topics that actively engage their health system and educational enterprise.

Molly Osborne, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Dean of Student Affairs, SM, was selected by the AAMC Group on Student Affairs to receive the group's Exemplary Service Award on November 1. The Award honors significant and sustained leadership, expertise and/or creativity in addressing issues of importance to the Group on Student Affairs.

“VISIONING” AT SD FACULTY RETREAT

At their annual September retreat, School of Dentistry faculty talked about the future and ways to position the dental school as a national leader.

“The purpose of the visioning retreat was to engage the faculty in thinking about and planning for the practice of dentistry and dental education in the next decades,” Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., PhD., said. “We wanted faculty to consider how to position the School as a change leader in participating and creating the future, rather than reacting to what happens in the future, because it is the faculty who will be enacting any changes we might make. Also, the ideas of a group are stronger than one individual.”

CLASS of 2017, SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Seventy- four new dental students began their education in the School of Dentistry this fall with 51 from Oregon, 7 from WICHE sites, and 17 from out-of-state. The average age is 25 with 47 males and 27 females and an overall GPA 3.65. All of the students have bachelor's degrees, three have master's and several either double-major or earned a second bachelor's degree. Eleven from the class have either fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles or cousins who are SD alumni.

CLASS of 2017, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

In an August 16 ceremony, 132 future physicians (selected from more than 5,225 applicants) in the Class of 2017 received their time-honored white coat, a traditional symbol of medicine, before family members, friends and SM faculty. The 2017 class is made up of 67 females and 65 males, with 114 holding a bachelor's degree, 17 with master's degrees, and 1 with a doctorate. Oregon residents or those with an Oregon heritage number 112 and the mean age of the class is 26.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM GRADUATES 36

The OHSU Physician Assistant program graduated its 17th class August 10, of 36 students. The incoming class of 40 new students is made up of 28 males and 19 of the total are Oregonians.

It was a three-day, 773 mile trip this summer by School of Medicine Dean, Mark Richardson, M.D., M.B.A., Senior Associate Dean for Education, George Mejicano, M.D., and OHSU Vice President for Clinical Outreach Mark O’Hollaren, M.D. that took these three on the first “Listening Tour” associated with the M.D. Curriculum Transformation Initiative. Focusing on central and eastern Oregon visited LaGrande, Union/Elgin, Baker City, John Day, Bend, Prineville and Warm Springs. On the trip, the team met with more than 100 educational partners, clinicians, hospital administrators, tribal leaders, community and health care advocates and others – and toured rural clinic sites and hospitals.

Broadly, the goal of the M.D. Curriculum Transformation Initiative is to prepare physicians to be leaders in a health care delivery and discovery environment that is rapidly changing – and likely to continue evolving under any future scenario. The new curriculum will build on and expand the strengths of OHSU’s current curriculum, enhance the current commitment to Oregon’s rural and underserved communities, and ensure OHSU continues to educate and graduate the types of physicians most needed in Oregon.

At most stops, a mix of clinicians were represented: physicians, physician assistants, advance practice nurses, dentists, residents and students. The first year of the new curriculum began in August and will be phased in over four years. New and enhanced clinic-based learning experiences will be implemented in January 2016.

SCHOLARS FOR A HEALTHY OREGON INITIATIVE

The Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative was established in 2013 by the State of Oregon to address two critical challenges that exist when educating health providers for the state of Oregon: the high cost of tuition for students and the mal-distribution of providers throughout the state.

The Oregon Legislature allocated $2,500,000 to be used to cover tuition and fees for a limited number of eligible students entering specific clinical degree programs during the 2014-15 academic year. These students would then be required to practice as a health care practitioner in an OHSU approved rural Oregon designated service site for one year longer than the number of years for which the student received funding. The Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative funding is awarded annually, effective for one academic year with annual renewal if the student maintains good academic standing.

MORE KUDOS

OHSU Hospital ranks No. 1 in the Portland metro area, as well as statewide, according to U.S. News Best Hospitals, 2013-2014. The annual U.S. News rankings, now in their 24th year, recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients.

“OHSU’s health care is recognized nationally because of the dedication of our faculty and staff, who work collaboratively to deliver excellence, respect and results to our patients each and every day,” Peter Rapp, OHSU’s Executive Vice President and Executive Director of OHSU Healthcare.

In addition, five OHSU specialties were ranked among the nation’s top 50: Cancer, Diabetes & Endocrinology, Geriatrics, Gynecology and ENT. Additionally, the Hospital’s adult specialties ranked as “high-performing” are: Cardiology & Heart Surgery, Gastroenterology, Nephrology, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pulmonology and Urology.

U.S. News also announced that Doernbecher Children’s Hospital ranks among the nation’s top 50 children’s hospitals in eight of 10 pediatric specialties for 2013-2014.
School of Nursing ‘Nursing Connections’ as well as reports in the local print media.

SCHOOL OF NURSING PARTNERSHIPS
The OHSU School of Nursing partners with many groups, schools and individuals, allowing it to impact global, national and local health care conversations with the goal to assist the advancement of nursing in any way possible. The OHSU-VA Consortium is one of six sites funded by the Veterans Administration nationally. The new partnership will enable at least 20 Portland and Ashland undergraduate students to be admitted as VA Scholars. They will experience enhanced classroom and clinical learning opportunities through VA sites in Portland, Roseburg and White Center.

The School of Nursing is working closely with St. Luke’s Health System, Treasure Valley, and OHSU Health Systems to design and deliver advanced practice registered nursing education. In 2002 the School helped create the Oregon Consortium of Nursing Education, a partnership of Oregon Community Colleges and the five campuses of the School of Nursing with a shared curriculum taught on all of the consortium campuses. Students who graduate from an OCNE community college may transition to OHSU to complete the final year of the curriculum and graduate with a B.S. from OHSU.

IPE???? WHAT IS IT?
OHSU’s new Interprofessional Education (IPE) curriculum was unveiled in August for the incoming students. As part of the new curriculum, dental, medical, nursing, nutrition, physician assistant, and radiation therapy students will attend IPE sessions. The goal is to enhance OHSU’s culture of collaboration and to support Oregon’s rapidly evolving health care environment. The IPE curriculum for first year students is part of the University’s Interprofessional Initiative, launched last November by OHSU Provost Jeanette Mladenovic, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.C.P. Interprofessional education occurs when students from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaborations and improved health outcomes.

There are four learning objectives in OHSU’s IPE curriculum: communication, professionalism and ethics, interprofessional teamwork, and safety and quality improvements. Four IPE sessions are scheduled for the current academic year.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTHERN OREGON
OHSU’s School of Nursing in collaboration with the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, School of Dentistry and Global Health Center, has created a new model to improve health outcomes for disadvantaged communities in southern Oregon and across the state. The Interprofessional Care Access Network (I-CAN) Project is funded by a three-year Health Resources and Services Administration grant. It will expand partnerships among OHSU, neighborhood clinics and community health agencies statewide to design a more coordinated approach to addressing community health concerns.

OHSU’s interprofessional student care teams will partner with La Clinica West Medford Health Center, the Family Nursing Center and St. Vincent de Paul, and the clients they serve in southern Oregon. Students will work with community service providers to help clients navigate the health system and address barriers that may prevent clients from achieving a healthy lifestyle or accessing health care.

NIH GRANT/ALZHEIMER’S BIOMARKERS
Researchers at OHSU have been awarded a NIH grant worth up to $1.9 million to explore ways to find “biomarkers” within human cerebral spinal fluid that might predict the onset of Alzheimer’s disease.

The OHSU research will be part of a new group of NIH-funded research projects across the country, announced in August that will be exploring a novel area of research. The research will look at how certain newly identified molecules – termed extracellular RNA – move genetic material from one cell to another and serve as a new way of communicating between cells. The exRNA are already thought to play a part in cell regulation and biological processes, and also to underlie a number of diseases and disorders.

The OHSU research will look at the levels of exRNA in cerebral spinal fluid to determine whether they could give a biological hint to the early development of Alzheimer’s disease. Julie Sangstad, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, is lead investigator of the OHSU study.

ART ON THE HILL
Copies of the highly regarded book, ”Art on the Hill”, published by the Marquam Hill Art Committee with private funds, are available through the OHSU Foundation (Art on the Hill). According to Mary Beebe, Director of the Stuart Collection, University of California, San Diego, “Carefully and thoughtfully assembled by volunteers the last 25 years, OHSU’s collection represents an important and vast group of works, by mostly Northwest artists, that needs to be more widely.” Also, examples from the collection will be available on the OHSU website coming December of 2013.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY GRADUATION
On June 14, 83 graduates of the OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy received their Pharm.D.degrees and heard from Jeanette Mladenovic, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.C.P., OHSU Provost and Dr. Edward Ray, OSU President. Dr. Mladenovic spoke about the evolving changes in health care and pharmacy graduates are needed to help patients navigate the changes when it comes to medication management. President Ray echoed Dr. Mladenovic’s thoughts saying that in the future the work of graduates will be doing “will be dramatically different”.

OHSU TUITION PROMISE
In June the OHSU Board of Directors approved a $2.2 billion operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. One of the key initiatives included in the budget was a “tuition” promise – students enrolled in clinical programs will see no increase in tuition during the duration of their program. The promise covers 1,730 students including current enrollees as well as those admitted to OHSU this year.

Rising tuition places an extraordinary burden on students seeking degrees as health care professionals. As an institution, OHSU is committed to our students and sensitive to this burden.

“By freezing tuition for students in the majority of our programs beginning in fall 2013, the tuition promise helps lessen an already high debt load that students in health professional programs face upon graduation. We are excited to be able to offer this to students to ensure tuition stability for them during the course of their degree program at OHSU”, Jeanette Mladenovic, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.C.P., OHSU Provost, said.
PHILANTHROPY RECOGNIZES OHSU EXCELLENCE

In August, OHSU President Joe Roberts, M.D., M.B.A., wrote in “Directline” that “The final results are in, and we can now report that private gifts and pledges to OHSU topped $197 million last fiscal year. That makes FY 13 OHSU’s most successful fundraising year ever. Contributions last year came from grateful patients, alumni, community members, foundations and corporations from all 509 U.S. states and 11 countries, reflecting our national and international profile.

OHSU attracted one of the largest gifts in the nation – and the largest in OHSU history -- a $125 million pledge from Phil and Penny Knight to establish the OHSU Knight Cardiovascular Institute (before the September $500 million challenge); 19 individual gifts of $1 million more, up from 13 last year; we grew our endowment by 7%, finishing the fiscal year at $464 million; 7 new endowed positions were established; support for programs and research accounted for nearly 80% of total contributions with other contributions primarily supporting faculty, students and capital projects; support for students nearly doubled from last and support from alumni continued to increase.

"Please join me in offering profound thanks to every donor who made a contribution this year, every community volunteer who advocated on our behalf, and every OHSU employee whose passion and productivity helped inspire these terrific results."

WHITE COAT CEREMONIES

Although the White Coat ceremony traditionally has been associated with incoming medical students, the assumption is no longer true. In October, the OSU/ OHSU College of Pharmacy celebrated its 13th annual White Coat Ceremony for 83 students, 70% of whom are Oregonians in a class of 47 women and 36 men with an average age of 25. Earlier in July, 75 second-year dental students received their personalized white coats, signifying increasing responsibility for patient care. The School of Medicine’s White Coat ceremony for its 126th class, 132 incoming medical students, was held in August.

OHSU EXCEEDS BUDGET TARGETS

In September the OHSU Board of Directors heard preliminary FY 2013 financial results that exceeded budget targets thanks to actions taken during the fiscal year. Unaudited results show FY 13 operating income of $96 million ahead of budget. These earnings represent revenues above expenses but are not ‘profits’ as they are often described. OHSU is a public corporation, and earnings are reinvested in OHSU’s missions. Operating income at or above budget targets is vital to fund important capital projects such as information technology, building upgrades and other infrastructure investments, and to fund new programs.

A declining trend line in the first half of the year led to a hiring freeze, scrutiny over expenses and other belt-tightening measures. As a result of these actions and OHSU’s competitive position in the healthcare marketplace, OHSU saw a strong second half recovery. Higher revenues -- $40 million ahead of budget -- were driven largely by greater patient complexity while administrative, support and interest expenses were all held well below budget. With an A+ credit rating, OHSU was able to restructure debt to achieve lower interest rates.

RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

In August teams of faculty researchers representing 15 areas of neuroscience joined senior research and OHSU Foundation leaders and key staff to begin the process of developing a neuroscience portfolio that will clearly define areas of research strength and distinction. The goal of these Research Portfolio workshops is to enhance faculty capacity to convey a compelling research vision to OHSU leadership, the public, potential funders and future partners. “NIH funding has been declining for years and we think it may change the approximately 75% of our current research funding portfolio to 50%,” Mary Stenzel-Pouer, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Research, SM, said. “We have to fill that gap in order to continue to grow and support an environment where great science and research can take place.”

SUMMER INTERNS PRESENT WORK

Twenty-two high school and college students participated in a “poster” session in the summer under the tutelage of 44 faculty, post-docs and other research staff participated in the program. Each of the 22 students spent 8-10 weeks in an OHSU lab interning with a mentor on a research project. The poster session was a capstone to their participation in OHSU’s annual Summer Equity Research Program (for college undergraduates) and the Ted R. Lilley Cancer Continuing Umbrella of Research Education Internship Program (for high school students).

The program, led by OHSU’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion and supported by the Knight Cancer Institute, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, Community Dentistry, OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital and other departments/divisions, give younger students from diverse, underrepresented backgrounds the opportunity to experience working in a research setting as well as one-on-one academic advising and clinical shadowing opportunities. Interns also attend weekly seminars and lectures and participate in additional enrichment opportunities.

PRESIDENT’S FUND - DIVERSITY GRANT-IN-AID FUNDING

Better health outcomes are achieved when patients visit healthcare providers with similar backgrounds. To ensure that OHSU graduates students to help address the healthcare needs of Oregon, the region and the US, the President’s Fund was established to provide grant in aid to qualified students from disadvantaged backgrounds to become health professionals. Grant in aid will be provided to selected students admitted to MD, DMD, PA and selected Nursing programs totaling approximately 1.2 million during the academic years of 13’-14’ and anticipate approximately 1.5 million during the academic year of 14’-15’.

SAVE THE DATE

The second Annual Women’s Leadership Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Vey Conference Center, Doernbecher Hospital. The conference is sponsored by the Center for Diversity & Inclusion, Fund for Advancement of Women’s Leadership and the Center for Women’s Health. Registration will be required and additional details forthcoming.