

ONE B.C. LEADER PAYS TRIBUTE TO ANOTHER



L-R: Brandt Louie, Victor Gomel

Brandt Louie, chair of British Columbia's second largest retailer, London Drugs, is the first to support a professorship to honour the legacy of **Victor Gomel**, the pioneering head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Louie's gift of \$100,000 to the Faculty of Medicine initiated fund-raising for the Dr. Victor Gomel Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Gifts totalling \$3 million are needed to establish the endowed professorship.

Dr. Gomel's visionary leadership from 1978 to 1993 underpinned the department's most notable accomplishments: launching Canada's only PhD program in reproductive and developmental

sciences; establishing the In Vitro Fertilization Program in Vancouver, which resulted in Canada's first IVF baby in 1983; and initiating the BC Women's Health Centre, the first tertiary centre dedicated to women, newborns and their families in North America.

"Exceptional training and innovation are critical to high-quality obstetrical and gynaecological care," Louie says. "I encourage all those who know Victor or care about women's health to contribute to the professorship, too."

"The professorship will inspire new directions and new collaborations to take full advantage of our province's wealth of talent and expertise," says **Geoffrey Cundiff**, Professor and Head, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. "Our goal is to continue making truly meaningful contributions to the lives of women and families in B.C. and around the world."

To support the Dr. Victor Gomel Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, please contact Stephanie Huehn at 604-218-0275.

A FAMILY FOCUS ON AN OBSCURE DISORDER

Not long after **Dan and Tina Priest's** five-year-old son, **Stephen**, was diagnosed with a rare hereditary bone disease known as Morquio B, the Richmond family began fund-raising to support UBC research into this neglected disease.

In 2012, the Priests directed \$51,589 in proceeds from their fund-raising efforts to the Faculty of Medicine.

Stephen's physician and principal investigator, **Sylvia Stockler**, Professor and Head of the Division of Biochemical Diseases in the Department of Pediatrics, also successfully secured a \$50,000 grant from the Priests through the MPS Society, which funds research into mucopolysaccharidoses, a group of disorders caused by malfunctioning or missing lysosomal enzymes.



L-R: Sylvia Stockler, Tina and Dan Priest

"As a prerequisite to developing a treatment for this ultra-rare condition, we need to understand the natural history and pathophysiology," Dr. Stockler says. "So our first goal is to lay critical groundwork by establishing an international Morquio B disease patient registry. The Priests are driving our progress forward.

This comes at the right time, because other researchers have experimental data that support the feasibility of developing a treatment."

To support the Priest Family Fund for Morquio B, please contact Leanne Denis at 604-822-2207.

A NEW TECHNOLOGY TO EXPLORE THE LOWER INTESTINE

When **Joan Clarke** needed single balloon enteroscopy to diagnose the bleeding in her small bowel, she and her husband **Larry** discovered that the procedure, which is the standard of care across Canada, was not available in British Columbia.

In response to this need, the Vancouver couple donated \$75,000 to the Faculty of Medicine to purchase a single balloon enteroscope to enhance both gastroenterology care and research in their home province.

"The Clarkes' gift provides opportunities in treatment and clinical research at UBC where none existed before," says **Eric Yoshida**, Professor and Head, Division of Gastroenterology. "We expect to do 20 single balloon procedures each year, which facilitates therapeutic intervention and may reduce the need for surgery."

To support gastroenterology research, please contact Stephanie Huehn at 604-218-0275.