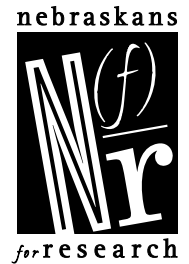


findings



The Newsletter of Nebraskans For Research

Volume 2 • Issue 1

NFR Salutes Durham

On Monday, April 8, Nebraskans For Research saluted Charles W. “Chuck” Durham, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Durham Resources, for his contributions to advancing medical research in Nebraska. Nearly 240 guests gathered for the award luncheon held at Happy Hollow Club.

With a generous gift of \$10,000, John “Bud” and Gretchen Velde were the presenting sponsors for the luncheon.

“Durham’s contributions to medical research embody the spirit of a community working together to improve the lives of those who suffer and the health of the entire community,” said Carol Russell, NFR president.

Russell and Sanford Goodman, executive director, presented Durham with the first award. Nebraskans For Research plans to present this award annually.

“Charles Durham is a true pioneer,” said Harold M. Maurer, M.D., Chancellor of UNMC, who offered remarks at the luncheon. “He is the one who is moving the frontiers.”

Dr. Maurer credited Durham with changing the skylines across the world while serving as chairman and CEO of Henningson, Durham & Richardson, an architectural and engineering firm based in Omaha. The firm is known for its work on health care facilities. In the field of research, Durham’s generosity has helped move the frontiers of research in Nebraska.

“What Durham has done is make the unthinkable possible,” Dr. Maurer said.

At UNMC, Durham and his late wife Margre established the Charles W. and Margre H. Durham Excellence in Medicine fund supporting research in three key areas, prostate and breast cancer, arthritis and minimally invasive surgery. An additional gift made it possible for UNMC to become the eighth medical center in the country to acquire the daVinci™ Surgi-

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Sandy Goodman, center, announces the results of the statewide poll at a July 24 press conference. Participating in the press conference were (from left): Bob Meadow, President of Decision Research; Rosalee Yeaworth, caregiver of a family member with a form of Alzheimer’s Disease, Gary Scritsmier, a Broken Bow attorney who has Parkinson’s Disease; and Carol Russell, NFR president.

NFR Poll Shows Majority of Nebraskans Support Fetal Cell Research at UNMC

Findings of a statewide poll released July 24 shows more than two-thirds (70%) of Nebraska registered voters support fetal cell research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Nearly three-quarters of the registered voters contacted also indicated support for embryonic stem cell research should it be conducted in the future at the University of Nebraska. The poll was commissioned by Nebraskans for Research (NFR).

“After two-and-a-half years of public debate, voters in Nebraska have reached a consensus on this research — they support it overwhelmingly,” said Sanford M. Goodman, Volunteer Executive Director, NFR, “and they favor a continued state role in it.”

“This poll was scientifically designed and executed to obtain the most accurate

and realistic assessment possible of Nebraska voters’ support of fetal cell research,” Goodman said. Responding to criticism of the poll by opponents of fetal cell research, he continued, “It comes as no surprise that opponents of fetal cell research are attacking the poll’s findings. We did not invest our resources in this survey in order to fool ourselves or the public, but to learn the true state of public opinion on the issue through the use of broadly-accepted scientific methods.”

Goodman explained that the survey reveals that voters’ views are firmly fixed and suggests that additional public debate is unlikely to change those views.

After being asked their level of support of or opposition to fetal cell research, respondents were asked to consider argu-

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Gruntorad Honored With Finegan Award

Dale E. Gruntorad, former president of the Lincoln Medical Education Foundation, received the *John C. Finegan Award* at the Lincoln Family Practice Program graduation ceremony on June 27, 2002.

The award, named for the founding director of the Lincoln Family Practice Program (LFP), recognizes leaders who have provided extraordinary dedication and service to the Lincoln Medical Education foundation (LMEF), specifically to its LFP. This program has resulted in 140 graduates successfully setting up their practices.

Joining 36 former honorees, Gruntorad will be presented with a plaque bearing his name on the Finegan Wall of Honor.

Gruntorad's lifelong dedication to education and community service are trademarks of his professional and personal life. Serving as interim president of LMEF from 1997 to 1999, he left retirement to lead the non-profit institution toward the 21st century, and he graciously continues to provide support and guidance to its current administration.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Lincoln's National Business Institute, Gruntorad is a certified public accountant and a certified valuations analyst who managed his own public accounting firm in Lincoln from 1974 to 1993.

Gruntorad served as president of the Nebraska Society of CPAs and the CPA foundation, the Lincoln Estate Planning Council and the Nebraska Tax Research council.

For eight years he brought a common sense and fiscally sound approach to the LMEF Board of Directors.

Gruntorad also played a key role in creating Nebraskans For Research and serves on the UNMC Board of Governors.

In recognition of his history of dedicated leadership, Gruntorad was designated the 2002 recipient of the *John C. Finegan Award*, forever documenting his humor, energy and rare ability to effect positive change.



Charles Durham, left, receives NFR first annual Tribute award from Carol Russell, NFR president, and Sandy Goodman, NFR Executive Director.

Durham Honored for Contributions to Research

Continued From Page 1

cal System, a computer-assisted surgical system that has fondly been dubbed "Chuck" in Durham's honor.

Most recently, Durham made the largest single gift in UNMC's history to help fund the construction of the \$77 million, 284,000-square-foot Research Center of Excellence on the UNMC Campus. When completed, the facility will enable Nebraska to continue to attract the nation's most talented scientists and lead the way in many areas of research.

Mr. and Mrs. Durham have been a major force in Nebraska. They leave a legacy that includes generous financial contributions and tremendous volunteer contributions to organizations throughout the city and state.

In addition to the NFR award, Durham received the prestigious Horatio Alger Award, which is bestowed on Americans who are dedicated community leaders. That award was presented in Washington, D.C. He was also honored by the Omaha Press Club with the "Face on the Bar Room Floor."

"We'd like to thank the many corporations and individuals who were sponsors and advertisers and the many others who purchased tables to make this luncheon a success," Goodman said.

Sponsors for the event included: (*Presenting*) John "Bud" and Gretchen Velde;

(*Tribute Program Advertisers*) Jack and Judy Baker; Nebraska Furniture Mart; Nebraska Health System; Ted and Adele

Hazer; Delice European Bakery and Café; Broadmoor Market; America First; First National Bank; Borsheim's; Security National Bank; Hawkins Construction Company; McGrath North Mullin Kratz, P.C.; Juvenile Diabetes Research Fdn. International; Wells Fargo; Univ. of Nebraska at Omaha; US Bank; SilverStone Group; and Univ. of Nebraska Medical Center.

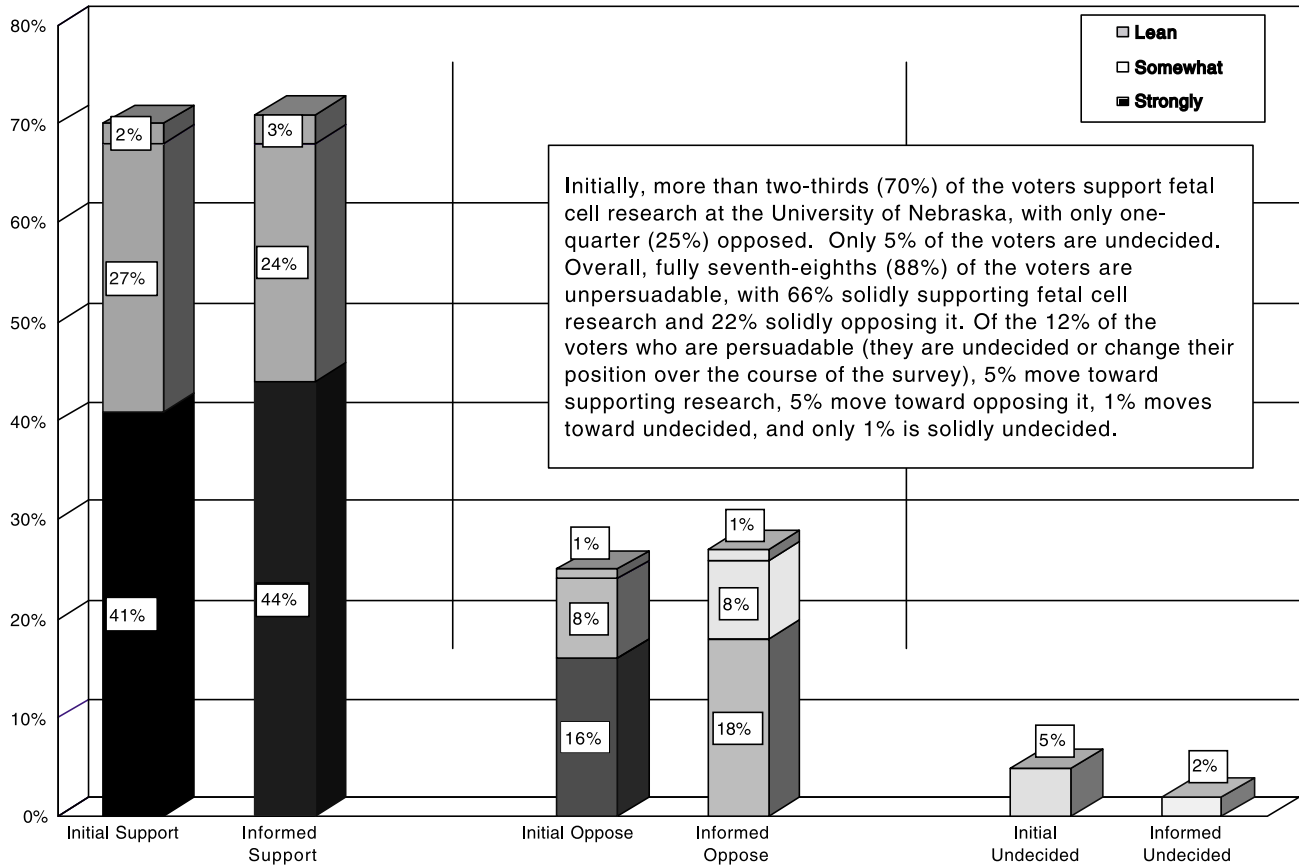
(*Gold*) Roger Bendet, Lexus of Omaha; Richard and Shannon Bonness; Dr. Linda Ford and Joe Dennis; and the University of Nebraska Medical Center Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation.

(*Silver*) Dr. Charles Enke; Ted and Adele Hazer; and Harlan & Nancy Noddle.

(*Bronze*) Jack and Mary Barnhart; Dr. Robert and Virginia Grissom; Terry D. and Deanna Hexum; Dian Moore; Scott Moore; and Lenore Polack.

(*Table Sponsors*) Borsheim Jewelry Co. Inc.; Bridges Investment Counsel, Inc.; First National Bank; HDR Inc.; Jefferson Pilot Financial; Millard Lumber; Sorrell Family; University of Nebraska Central Administration University of Nebraska at Omaha; University of Nebraska Foundation; University of Nebraska Medical Center; University of Nebraska Medical Center's Chancellor's Office; University of Nebraska Medical Center Department of Internal Medicine; University of Nebraska Medical Center Department of Pathology and Microbiology; University of Nebraska Medical Center Department of Surgery; and US Bank.

INITIAL AND INFORMED POSITIONS ON FETAL CELL RESEARCH



NFR Poll Shows Nebraskans Favor Research

Continued From Page 1

ments against and for the research, which are commonly used by supporters and opponents. Next, they were asked their level of support of or opposition to the research again, using the same question wording as before.

The primary change was that undecided respondents went from 5 percent to 2 percent, with a net 1 percent increase in support to 71 percent and 2 percent increase in opposition to 27 percent.

Overall, 88 percent of respondents were unpersuadable, with 66 percent of the 800 people surveyed firmly in support and 22 percent firmly opposed, a ratio of three-to-one.

Dr. Robert Meadow, President of Decision Research, Inc., which conducted the poll noted that “the lack of movement of opinion after people are exposed to fair arguments on both sides of the issue reflects how deeply held voters’ views are on the topic. The data suggest strongly the debate is over and it is time to move on.”

An extensive report of the poll results, including the actual format of the questionnaire used in the survey is available at the web site of Nebraskans for Research (<http://www.nebraskansforresearch.org>).

The poll, conducted from June 20-23 of this year by Decision Research, Inc., also found that 66 percent of voters think the Unicameral should continue to allow fetal cell research to be conducted at state facilities using state funds. Only one-quarter of the voters would support a ban on such research and resulting treatments.

“If opponents of fetal cell research had any reliable and unbiased data on the topic to support their contentions regarding the level of voter opposition, I am sure they would have shared them with the public. The fact is the public supports the research as an important step towards finding cures for debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and others,” Goodman said.

“Clearly it is time for Nebraskans to move forward together in support of this

important research and our state’s premier medical research institution,” he concluded.

Fetal Cell Research Helps Save Lives

Fetal cell research has been ongoing for over 60 years and has led to the development of important vaccines, such as those for polio and chicken pox, and has provided knowledge that has helped reduce the incidence of sudden infant death syndrome by over 30 percent.

Fetal cell research is now providing important advancements in the search for cures to Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, multiple sclerosis, juvenile diabetes and other debilitating diseases.

“I was only 45 when I learned that I had Parkinson’s disease,” said Gary Scritsmier, an attorney from Broken Bow. “This research is the major factor in giving me hope for the future. I am looking forward to better treatments of Parkinson’s disease symptoms and trust that someday

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Poll Demonstrates Nebraskan's Support for Fetal Cell Research

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they will find a cure and a way to prevent this disease altogether, so others don't have to suffer."

"Caring for a husband who has an Alzheimer's related condition makes me passionate about the importance of continuing this research," said Rosalee Yeaworth, a retired Omaha health care professional. "What we're learning about Alzheimer's disease may come too late to help my husband. But the work that's being done now at UNMC could someday save others from the same fate."

Nebraska Leading the Way

According to the poll, almost 90 percent of registered voters consider it important for Nebraska to lead the way in medical research. A majority (55 percent) of the voters considered this to be "very important."

"Nebraskans are rightfully proud of the work that's being done at the University of Nebraska Medical Center to advance the search for cures for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other diseases," said William F. Hickey, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, N.H.

"As I travel around the country, and the world, it is clear that the medical research conducted at UNMC is making a positive difference to the health and lives of many people," he added.

Dr. Hickey, former professor and chairman of the department of pathology at Dartmouth Medical School, is chairman and has been a member of the External Board of Advisors for UNMC's Center for Neurovirology and Neurodegenerative Disorders since its founding in 1997.

In addition to the strong support for fetal cell research, the NFR poll also shows that nearly three-quarters of voters (73 percent) would support embryonic stem cell research were it to be conducted at the University of Nebraska.

Only one-eighth (13 percent) of reg-

istered voters would oppose embryonic stem cell research.

Nebraskans Are United in Support

Nebraskans support fetal cell research across virtually every demographic category. Support was strong from both men (73 percent) and women (69 percent), among Democrats (78 percent), Republicans (66 percent) and Independents (69 percent) and in all three Congressional districts (CD 1, 74 percent; CD 2, 70 percent; CD 3, 68 percent).

Support crossed religious categories, as well, with 72 percent of Protestants, 62 percent of Catholics and over 80 percent of those of other or no religious affiliation expressing support. In addition, support across age groups ranged from 68 percent to 72 percent (the latter for voters 50 and older) and across last year of education (65 percent to 76 percent).

Those identifying themselves as Pro-choice showed 94 percent support for fetal cell research and those choosing not to identify their position on abortion showed 80 percent support, while those who identified themselves as Pro-life were evenly split (47 percent support and oppose).

"I am without question, opposed to abortion," says William M. Schoenfeld of Omaha, a 53-year old pastoral assistant in music, worship and Christian education, and choral composer who is afflicted with Parkinson's disease.

"From both a Biblical and theological perspective, I would not want a fetus terminated to harvest cells to improve, or even cure me of Parkinson's," he adds. "If a fetus were terminated for reasons that have nothing to do with research or financial gain, however, then I think we would be foolish to dispose of it instead of harvesting cell samples to advance the on-going regenerative medical research for cures of not only Parkinson's, but Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig's disease, spinal cord injuries and other debilitating illnesses."

"The future comes one day at a time."

– Old Saying

NFR Mourns the Death of Dr. Jerald Schenken

Nebraskans For Research lost one of its founding members this year. In December 2001, Dr. Jerald R. Schenken, a respected and loved pathologist died after a long battle with cancer.

Dr. Schenken was a driving force in the Omaha medical community and a champion of medical research.

The group will miss him.

"It's a very short time. While alive, live."

– Malcolm Forbes

Legislative Update: LB 462

During the 2002 legislative session, the bill to ban fetal cell research failed for the third consecutive year. The motion for cloture (to end debate) of LB 462 failed with a vote of 29-18 with two senators abstaining. Thirty-three votes are needed to close debate on a bill.

The following senators have been supportive of fetal cell research and opposed to LB 462, the bill that would ban such research in Nebraska. At this time, the bill has been indefinitely postponed.

Senators supporting fetal cell research: Senators Patrick Bourne, Chris Beutler, Curt Bromm, Pam Brown, Dennis Byars, Ernie Chambers, Matt Connealy, George Coordsen, Carol Hudkins, Ray Janssen, Lowen Kruse, Dave Landis, Don Pederson, Marian Price, Ron Raikes, Jennie Robak, DiAnna Schimek, Deborah Suttle, Nancy Thompson and Roger Wehrbein.

Lincoln Residents Learn About Research Advances at Feb. 19 Forum

Lincoln area residents had an opportunity to meet four nationally known researchers and hear about advances being made in lung, genetic and neurosciences research and minimally invasive/computer assisted surgery at an educational forum sponsored by Nebraskans For Research. The forum was held Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Dmitry Oleynikov, M.D., Assistant Professor and Director of Training, Minimally Invasive and Computer-Assisted Surgery, gave participants a look into the future for surgery.

He showed how technology has made it possible to do surgery using more sophisticated laproscopic instruments and computer-assisted surgical devices, such as the daVinci™ system.

These advancements require small incisions and mean a faster recovery and healing time for patients.

Debra Romberger, M.D. Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, Pulmonary, reviewed some of the recent advances in lung research that are helping Nebraskans, particularly those who have developed breathing problems related to their work in agricultural or on farms.

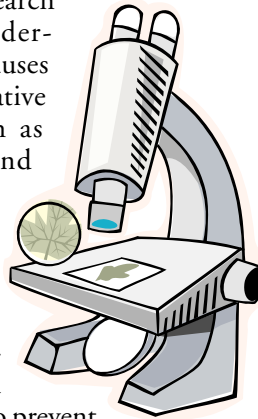
Shelley Smith, Ph.D., Interim Director, Center for Human Molecular Genetics at UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute, shared information about the work Munroe-Meyer clinicians and researchers are doing in the area of genetics.

MMI provides the latest research diagnosis and treatment to Nebraskans across the state to diagnose individuals with special needs.

Genetics research conducted by Dr. Smith and others at MMI plays an important role in the ability to appropriately diagnose many of these conditions. Her own research focuses on uncovering the genetic basis for reading disabilities and ADHD, two disorders that are difficult to diagnose and afflict many children across the state.

Howard Gendelman, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, and Director of the Center for Neurovirology and Neurodegenerative Diseases, talked about the research efforts to understand what causes neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Once the underlying causes of these diseases are understood, researchers can develop ways to prevent them and find better treatments.



Sanford Goodman, executive director of Nebraskans For Research, said the group held a similar program in Omaha last year and is planning other programs in communities across the state.

"We believe that Nebraskans need to be better informed about the tremendous resource they have," he said. "Treatments that are now the standard of care throughout the world have been pioneered by researchers right here in Nebraska."

He added, "We owe it to ourselves to find out more about what Nebraska researchers are doing. These educational sessions are an easy way to do it."

Goodman also believes that the evening program gives participants an opportunity to meet these researchers in a more informal setting.

"These speakers are known nationally for their expertise in their respective areas. It's a great opportunity to get to know them and their work better," Goodman said.

The educational programs are free and open to the public.

For more information about upcoming educational forums, contact Nebraskans For Research at 397-9295 or visit the Nebraskans For Research web site at www.nebraskansforresearch.org.

Support Research Through NFR Cards

Tribute Cards are now available for purchase from Nebraskans For Research. Use the greeting cards to send messages of congratulations, sympathy or to acknowledge any special occasion.

When you purchase and use NFR Tribute Cards, you are supporting Nebraskans For Research.

Packets of five cards are \$25. Contact Marilyn Konigsberg at (402) 392-2546.

You may also want to consider a memorial to Nebraskans For Research in honor of a loved one's death. There is no better way to recognize them than with a "gift that keeps on giving" by supporting a statewide group that advocates medical research.

Make your memorial donations payable to: Nebraskans For Research and send them to: *Nebraskans For Research, PO Box 81901, Lincoln, NE 68501-1901.*

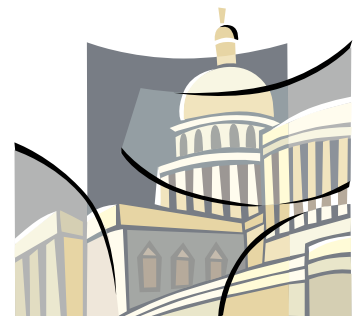
A letter acknowledging your gift will be sent to you and to the family of the person memorialized.

Candidate Forum Slated for Fall

Nebraskans For Research and the League of Women Voters are planning a candidate forum this fall at Westside High School.

The forum will provide an opportunity for Omahans to meet candidates for the Board of Regents and Omaha-area legislative races and hear their opinions on a variety of issues important to Nebraska and the University.

Watch for more information about this event in our upcoming newsletter.



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The Newsletter of
Nebraskans For Research

P.O. Box 81901
Lincoln, NE 68501-1901

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Membership Drive Begins in August: Join or Renew Today!

Nebraskans For Research is holding its annual membership drive. Your membership contributions support the educational activities and programs that Nebraskans For Research conduct each year in support of medical research.

Please renew your membership today and encourage your neighbors, friends and colleagues to join in this important effort.

To learn more about NFR, visit our web site: *www.nebraskansforresearch.org*. Or call Janie Murow at 498-8789, Sandy Goodman at 397-9295 or Carol Russell at 895-6589.

*If you are already a member, renew your membership by completing the form below.
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