

GRATEFUL PATIENT MAKES GIFT THROUGH FAMILY FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT HEAD AND NECK CANCER

California and longtime Laguna Beach resident, Vicki Gumm, knows just how important it is to give back to organizations that enrich the community – for herself, her loved ones and her neighbors. As a member of the Kling Family Foundation, Gumm says it is an honor to carry on her family's philanthropic legacy to improve her community and create a better tomorrow – especially when it comes to health and wellness. That's why Gumm recently made a transformational gift of \$500,000 through her family's foundation to support the life-changing research performed by the UCI Health head and neck surgery and cancer team.

"UCI Health is a cornerstone of the community that you can count on when you need it," she says.

Gumm first became acquainted with the world-class, leading-edge care from UCI Health in 2013 when she was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinomas, malignant growths that begin in the cells forming the inner lining of the head and neck. She was quickly referred to one of the best specialists in the nation: Dr. William Armstrong, UCI Health board-certified oncologist and head and neck surgeon who utilizes robotics and minimally invasive diagnostic and surgical treatments to preserve the voice, swallowing ability and appearance of head and neck cancer patients.

"Dr. Armstrong is my hero. I wouldn't be here today had it not been for him. I'm able to enjoy a full life because of him and his surgical expertise, compassion and care. I am so grateful," she said.

"For me to make a gift to support Dr. Armstrong's research needs in the UCI Health head and neck cancer team was seamless."

"I signed a simple agreement and just wrote a check," Gumm said. "UCI's Advancement and Planned Giving staff were wonderful and handled the rest."

"Giving back gives you joy. It's rewarding to help others, to watch other people grow and learn, and to help other people get better through the trauma. I owe my life to UCI Health and feel like it's my duty to give back so these programs continue to thrive. I hope others will join me in supporting this vital work."



A gift from your family foundation, or another entity such as a donor advised fund, can be used to create a lasting impact by supporting education, healthcare, research or an area of your choosing at UCI. You can recommend a single grant to make an immediate impact or use your foundation or fund as a tool for continuous charitable giving. You may also create a family tradition of philanthropy as your successors may continue recommending grants to charitable organizations like UCI.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 1972 ALUMNI ENDOW COMMUNITY HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP

Drs. Geraldine Taplin and John Morrison, who met during medical school and have been together for 48 years, are part of the Class of 1972, the very first UCI School of Medicine graduates.

After medical school, Taplin completed an infectious disease fellowship at UCI and Morrison taught in the Pulmonary Division of the UCI Department of Medicine for three and a half years. The couple then moved to Monterey County, where they both practiced medicine for over four decades.

Last year, Taplin was instrumental in the committee that organized the Class of 1972's 50th reunion. Because the reunion took place in the wake of the pandemic, they focused on public health messaging and education. The MD Class of 1972 presented the School of Medicine an endowed scholarship in support of future students in the MD/Master in Public Health dual-degree program. Taplin and Morrison kickstarted the fundraising and classmates joined in.

"Unfortunately, the pandemic politicized science and further divided the nation," says Morrison. "So we felt strongly that the class gift might help. We want to support people going into the public health subspecialty with a science background — a physician as opposed to a politician — involved in health communications to the public."



During the reunion festivities, Taplin and Morrison reconnected with the university, toured new facilities and talked with current medical students. They were delighted with the changes they observed, especially the medical school's progressive instruction and ability to offer students early hands-on clinical experiences. The couple, who have five UC degrees between them conferred by UC Berkeley, Davis and Irvine, planned to leave a large portion of their estate to the University of California.

But now they've decided that their final gift, like the '72 class gift, will be devoted specifically to UCI School of Medicine scholarship endowments that focus on alleviating the financial burden that might prevent some medical students from pursuing public health. The gift expresses what they truly want to change in the world.

"The health of populations is what medicine should be about — not just caring for individuals who have enough money to get insured," says Taplin.

A bequest is one of the easiest and most tangible ways to have a lasting impact on the people and projects that mean the most to you at UCI. With our sample bequest language and the help of an advisor, you can include verbiage in your will or living trust, specifying a charitable bequest to support an area of your choosing. Making a bequest through your will or living trust offers flexibility and gives you the immediate fulfillment of creating a lasting legacy that ensures the future of UCI.

If you are interested in learning about tax-efficient ways to support our mission while leaving a lasting legacy, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (949) 824-8134 or giftplan@uci.edu.