

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO ESTABLISH NEW CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES DIABETES RESEARCH CENTER**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to establish a Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Center within the Carver College of Medicine.

Executive Summary: The purpose of the proposed Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center will be to prevent, treat, and find a cure for diabetes. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. Although creation of the Center does not initially require Board of Regents approval because the Center will not require an annual institutional commitment of \$250,000 or more, as stated in the Board of Regents Policy Manual §6.08, the need for an annual institutional commitment may change during the next few years. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities (2.0) to “provide needed service and promote economic growth” and (3.0) to “discover new knowledge through research, scholarship, and creative activities.”

Background:

- ◇ Activities and objectives. The proposed Center will recruit basic- and clinician-scientists in diabetes, biochemistry, molecular biology, and genetics who will work collaboratively to discover the causes of diabetes and to develop new treatments for the disease.
- ◇ Relationship of proposed Center to University’s strategic plan. As a research university, the University of Iowa is dedicated to the discovery, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge. Faculty, staff, and student research produces new knowledge, innovations, and creative works that improve lives and society. The work of the proposed Center is an example of the kind of research that can be undertaken to benefit society directly.
- ◇ Relationship of proposed Center to existing centers. There is existing infrastructure for conducting research. The University of Iowa recently received a \$33 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support the Iowa Clinical and Translational Research Institute. The University is a national leader in developing core basic research facilities (e.g., microscopy, DNA, nuclear magnetic resonance, and other instrumentation). Access for faculty to state-of-the-art equipment and expertise is incomparable at the University of Iowa.
- ◇ Existence of proposed Center at other Iowa institutions. Similar institutes/centers do not exist elsewhere in Iowa. Other institutions cannot accommodate the required research facilities.
- ◇ Unique role of the University of Iowa to support the proposed Center. The University of Iowa is the ideal location for the proposed Center because of its commitment to diabetes research and the critical mass of tools and talents already in place. The University’s innovative researchers have a proven track record of success. The cooperative culture encourages collaborative research at the boundaries of traditional disciplines where breakthroughs will occur. The University offers exceptional and expanding infrastructure with state-of-the-art laboratory space. The new Institute for Biomedical Discovery was created to support ventures such as the proposed Center.

- ◇ Naming of proposed Center. The University of Iowa proposes to name the Center in honor of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in recognition of their gift of \$25 million.
- ◇ Resources. The University will provide 20,000 square feet of research space for the proposed Center in the Institute for Biomedical Discovery. Additional scientists will be recruited to join those at the University currently focusing on diabetes research. Housing the researchers in the Institute for Biomedical Discovery will multiply the benefits from the team-based approach to research.
- ◇ Expected need. The proposed Center is expected to be in existence for the foreseeable future. Research is expected to continue for many years.
- ◇ Costs and funding sources. The cost of the proposed Center is expected to be \$5 million per year for the next five years. The expected revenues for the proposed Center will be at least \$5 million per year for the next five years from the Fraternal Order of Eagles gift. There are no state costs and revenues associated with the proposed Center.