

Board Meeting
July 23, 2015

NAME THE CLESS FAMILY OPHTHALMIC SURGERY TRAINING AND
SIMULATION CENTER, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, CHICAGO

Action: Name the Cless Family Ophthalmic Surgery Training and Simulation Center, College of Medicine

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois, recommends the naming of the Ophthalmic Surgery Training and Simulation Center at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary building, 1855 West Taylor Street, in recognition of Gerhard and Ruth Cless. The Cless family has made gifts to the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences totaling \$2.2 million over the last 15 years. Two-hundred-thousand dollars of this total has supported the build-out and technology infrastructure of the Ophthalmic Surgery Training and Simulation Center.

The expansion and development of the Ophthalmic Surgery Training and Simulation Center not only deepens the specialized knowledge and skill of the department's residents and fellows, but also further extends the Department's ability to expose the local and global ophthalmologic community to the expertise and knowledge housed at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The Center, which began operation in June 2015, is the only dedicated and extensive ophthalmologic surgical training center in Chicago and is unique to the

Midwest region. Incorporation of advanced technology provides an environment for training locally and for broadcasting seminars and simulated training exercises to existing training partners in Brazil, Spain, and Japan.

The Center provides a state-of-the-art environment at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. Exposure to the precise refinement of surgical techniques in this new facility significantly increases trainees' abilities and confidence as they first enter a live operating room. This active learning environment allows for a virtual reality simulation experience where attention to the finest details such as the careful orchestration of hand and foot instrument manipulation can be perfected. The experience allows the ophthalmologists of tomorrow to be fully-prepared as they enter a delicate surgical environment.

Since 2000, Gerhard and Ruth Cless have funded an array of projects and needs for the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences including vision research and education programs, support for acquisitions of advanced microscopy, recruitment of retina faculty, clinical studies in the diseases of the retina and macula, as well as, support for a retina fellowship. Prior gifts also established the Gerhard Cless Endowed Lecture in 2003, the Cless Best of the Best Award in 2008, and the Cless Family Professorship in Ophthalmology in 2013.

Currently serving as Executive Vice President and Director, Gerhard Cless has devoted much of his career to Zebra Technologies Corporation, a company he co-founded in 1969. From its early beginnings, Zebra Technologies Corporation has sought

to bring on-demand barcode printing to the commercial market place and now has developed into a global company providing visibility solutions to improve productivity and real-time operational intelligence to organizations in more than 100 countries.

Prior to co-founding Zebra Technologies, Mr. Cless was a research and development engineer in Teletype Corporation's printer division. Mr. Cless received a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree from Esslingen, Germany, and attended the Illinois Institute of Technology. The Cless Technology Center, Zebra's product development and research facility, is named in honor of Mr. Cless.

In 1991, Mr. Gerhard and Mrs. Ruth Cless founded the Karl Cless Foundation (currently known as the Cless Family Foundation) in honor of his father and to support important philanthropic causes to their family.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs.