

Board Meeting  
November 14, 2019

NAME THE BLAZER FOUNDATION OF ROCKFORD NANOMEDICINE  
LABORATORY, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Name the Blazer Foundation of Rockford Nanomedicine Laboratory

**Funding:** Gift Funds

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois recommends approval of the naming of the Nanomedicine Laboratory in the College of Medicine at Rockford in recognition of the Blazer Foundation's \$500,000 commitment and their historical giving total of more than \$3.0 million. The proposed name is the Blazer Foundation of Rockford Nanomedicine Laboratory. The gift will support research, personnel salaries, equipment, materials and supplies, and other related expenses for two years.

The Nanomedicine Laboratory is located in the UIC Health Sciences Campus-Rockford building at 1601 Parkview Avenue, Rockford. This new lab is an outgrowth of the college's Regenerative Medicine and Disability Research Laboratory, which opened in 2016 and followed a previous \$3.0 million Blazer Foundation gift. The new space, formerly used by the College of Pharmacy, will be re-purposed as the new Nanomedicine Laboratory, will require minimal renovation and cosmetic work, and will open in December 2019. The mission of the Nanomedicine Laboratory is to use

nanotechnology to find alternative treatments and cures for disabling diseases including: the investigations for treatments of vision loss from diabetes and the disabling side effects of some joint implants.

Established in 1986 and named after Rockford native, U.S. Army veteran, and prominent businessman, Cedric W. Blazer, the Blazer Foundation pledged \$3.0 million over six years in 2012 to the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford to develop a Regenerative Medicine and Disability Research Laboratory (RMDRL). The gift was matched by the College of Medicine at Rockford to establish the Cedric W. Blazer Endowed Professorship in Biomedical Sciences and the Michael A. Werckle, M.D., Endowed Professorship in Biomedical Sciences. Of the \$5.5 million in unrestricted funding for the new Regenerative Medicine and Disability Research Laboratory, nearly \$2.5 million of this unrestricted research support remains to support the ongoing needs of the lab.

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.