



The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to the pursuit of excellence in the areas of intelligence. Funding support comes from American Mensa, Ltd., Mensa International, and

other charitable donations. Donations are deductible in the United States for income tax purposes.

Information on all the Foundation's programs and activities can be found at www.mensafoundation.org.

Making a Difference

by President Dave Remine

As the new President, I am thankful for the solid foundation my predecessors created. As we move forward, the board is working to strengthen our programs while creating some new ones. The Foundation's vision statement—"To recognize, encourage, and communicate excellence in human intelligence"—is our guide as we look to the future.

One goal is, and has been for some years, to have a greater impact on not only the Mensa "family," but also the world in general. We have been very busy this past year, and I'd like to highlight some of our efforts and progress.

Thanks to our Web support team, we have a new Web site with better tracking of visitors and downloads. Our new column in the *Mensa Bulletin* educates and informs the membership about what we do, who we are, and the impact we are having. Two new podcasts were added to the "Conversations with Mensa" collection, bringing the total to 12.

Also new this past year was the *Bright* e-newsletter for kids ages 6–10 and a new Reader Award program; both have proved to be successful and well received by teachers, kids, and parents.

Our award-winning Web site, MensaForKids.org, had more than 99,000 visitors from over 50 countries around the globe. Lesson plans there for K-12 now number 18, with more on the way. Teachers are using these to challenge students in their classrooms. They are also popular with parents who have chosen to homeschool their children. My own niece is using them with her daughter.

Another new idea (from past President Greg Timmers) is a one-day Colloquium in conjunction

with the Annual Gathering; this debuted in Reno, Nev.

The *Mensa Research Journal*, first published in 1969 and our oldest program, has a new Executive Editor, Robin Crawford. It also has more than 1,200 subscribers, with that number continuing to grow.

The Foundation's reach, especially via the web and social media, has expanded around the world with the help of Mensa International supporting our efforts to reach the international community. Check us out on Facebook (2,114 fans already have).

Our awards programs continue to recognize Mensans and members of the public who have made significant contributions to the world. These programs are evaluated regularly so we ensure they stay relevant in a rapidly changing world.

While the Foundation's Board of Trustees and our dedicated staff deserve the credit for sustaining and creating programs, what really makes all this possible is the generosity of our donors. Their donations impact the lives of people. This past year we expended more than 9 percent of our net assets on programs, which is almost twice the IRS-recommended 5 percent.

Your tax-deductible donations to the Foundation have an impact on people's lives. Just ask any of the kids who regularly visit MensaForKids.org, or any of the scholarship winners, Colloquium attendees, or Reader Award recipients. Please help us continue the work by donating and/or making a bequest in your will. You, too, can make a difference.



Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

Lifetime Achievement

Joyce VanTassel-Baska, Ed.D., has been awarded the 2011 **Lifetime Achievement Award** for her vast contributions to the field of gifted education. She is the founding Director of the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.), which has produced important research in the field of talent development, along with 50 doctorates in gifted education.



Phyllis Miller (left) presented the award to Dr. Joyce VanTassel-Baska.

She has served as a state director of gifted programs, a regional director of a gifted service center, coordinator of gifted programs for a school system, and a teacher of gifted high school students as well as a consultant on gifted education in all 50 states and around the globe.

Research

The **Awards for Excellence in Research** are given internationally for outstanding research articles on human intelligence, intellectual giftedness, and related fields.

Senior Researchers

James C. Kaufman, California State University-San Bernardino, "Using creativity to reduce ethnic bias in college admissions," *Review of General Psychology*.

David Lubinski, Vanderbilt University, Tenn., "Exceptional cognitive ability: The phenotype," *Behavior Genetics*.

Anne N. Rinn, University of North Texas, "Examining the relationship between the overexcitabilities and self-concepts of gifted adolescents via multi-variate cluster analysis," *Gifted Child Quarterly*.

Junior Researchers

Scott Barry Kaufman, New York University, "General intelligence predicts reasoning ability even for evolutionary familiar content," *Intelligence*.

Kimberley Ferriman Robertson, Vanderbilt University, Tenn., "Beyond the threshold hypoth-

esis: Even among the gifted and top math/science graduate students, cognitive abilities, vocational interests, and lifestyle preferences matter for career choice, performance, and persistence," *Current Directions in Psychological Science*.

Jonathan Wai, Duke University, N.C., "Accomplishment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and its relation to STEM educational dose: A 25-year longitudinal study," *Journal of Educational Psychology*.

Teaching

Patrick Coffey of Wauwatosa, Wis., received the 2011 **Distinguished Teacher Award** after being nominated by his student, Mensa member Melinda Mastel.

In an essay titled "International Coffey Brews Inspiration," 14-year-old Melinda writes: "Mr. Coffey's approach to international relations classes has sparked my interest in world cultures, mobilized my volunteerism, and set my future career path."

Because of Coffey's encouragement, Melinda is considering a career in international relations, political science, or public health because she wants to make a difference in the world.



Mensa of Wisconsin President Ellen Voie congratulates Patrick Coffey.

Service

The Foundation is proud to recognize the following individuals as recipients of the 2011 **Trustee Awards**:

- **Björn Liljevist**, past Chairman of Mensa Sweden, for his international work in promoting the Mensa Foundation and the core principles of Mensa.
- **Mervyn Mayer**, for his longstanding service as a Regional Scholarship Chair.
- **Gordon Walton**, for his considerable contributions to the 2011 and 2012 Colloquiums as well as a "Conversations with Mensa" podcast.

Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

Intellectual Benefit

Dr. Raymond G. Taylor of Pemaquid, Maine, received the 2011 **Intellectual Benefit to Society Award** for his creation of the first integrated planning system for schools and communities. The program was created to forecast public school enrollments, find optimal locations for new school buildings, and



set distance-minimized boundaries for all schools to avoid overcrowding and meet racial balance guidelines.

Foundation President Greg Timmers (right) presented the award to Dr. Raymond G. Taylor.

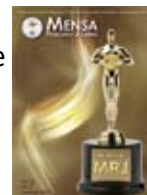
Mensa Research Journal

Understanding Our Intelligence

In cooperation with Mensa International, Ltd., the *Mensa Research Journal (MRJ)* is published three times a year to recognize and highlight the latest and best research into all aspects of intelligence and giftedness.

Themes for 2011–2012 included “Augmenting Human Cognition, Part 1: Non-Invasive Cognitive Training”; “Augmenting Human Cognition, Part 2: TMS and tDCS”; and “Lifetime Achievement Award Winners: Simon Baron-Cohen, Ph.D., and Joyce VanTassel-Baska, Ed.D.”

Online summaries of articles along with the table of contents for each issue are available at www.mensafoundation.org. Past issues (such as the “Best of the *MRJ*” issue shown to the right) may be purchased individually.



Robin Crawford has been appointed as the new Executive Editor of the *Mensa Research Journal*. Her first issue in that role was published in Summer 2012 with a theme of “Math and Science for Gifted Youth.”

Conversations with Mensa

Interviews on Relevant Topics



The latest addition to the Mensa Foundation’s award-winning podcast series is **The Gaming Evolution**, with two presenters from the February 2011 Colloquium, “Electronic Gaming and Its Impact on Society.”

This conversation explores the evolution of social games as well as the people who play them. Mensa member **Gordon Walton** (above left), VP and Executive Producer at Playdom Austin, joins **Dr. Mia Consalvo** (right), Visiting Associate Professor of

Comparative Studies at MIT, to discuss her research with regard to the development of social interaction and communities via online gaming. Consalvo teaches courses in digital-game theory, digital games and global culture, cultural and critical theory, and textual analysis. One of her specific areas of expertise is gender and identity in electronic gaming.



All the podcasts can be downloaded from the Foundation’s Web site or from iTunes.

Scholarships

Opening Doors of Opportunity

Scholarships are awarded at the local, regional, national, and international level, ranging from \$300 to \$1,000 each. The international and national awards are listed here. Last year, scholarships totaling \$77,800 were awarded to 170 individuals.

International Award (\$1,000)

- **Harsh Karthik Tumuluru**, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

National Scholarship Awards (\$1,000)

- *J.F. Schirmer*: **Daniel R. Cleary**, Portland, Ore.
- *J.F. Schirmer*: **Sarah Courbis**, Portland, Ore.
- *J.F. Schirmer*: **Hellbaum McKenzie**, Wheatland, Wyo.
- *J.F. Schirmer*: **Lauren Vaccaro Malenke**, Fort Collins, Colo.
- *Margot Seitelman Memorial Scholarship*: **Jasmine Lief**, Falls Church, Va.
- *David Mann Memorial Scholarship*: **Candice Irene Kaplan**, Arlington, Va.

Mensa Member Awards (\$1,000)

- *David Felt Scholarship*: **Logan Mark Skelley**, Joplin, Mo.
- *Stacey Kirsch Scholarship*: **Whitney Hopkins**, Warren, Mich.
- *J. Gail McGrew Scholarship*: **Eric Powers**, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
- *Caroline Mossip Scholarship*: **Ellen Susan Duncan**, Irvine, Calif.
- *Harry Ringermacher Scholarship*: **Reshma Stafford (Javeri)**, Princeton Junction, N.J.

National Awards (\$600)

- *Jerry Salny Memorial Scholarship*: **Lauren Kayda**, Seattle, Wash.
- *Rita Levine Memorial Scholarship*: **Tracy Crawford**, Scottsdale, Ariz. (for a female returning to school after an absence of seven or more years).
- *The Sylvia Scholarship*: **Duligur Ibeling**, Maple Grove, Minn. (study or career in education).
- *Harper Fowley-Isolated M Award*: **Alyssa Caplan**, San Mateo, Calif. (study for an undergraduate liberal arts degree).
- *Margie Mandelblatt Award*: **Nicholas R. Dumont**, Lebanon, Maine (study in journalism).

- *Grace Harrington Wilson Scholarship*: **Alyssa C. Frey**, Clarence Center, N.Y. (for a female student with a focus in journalism).
- *Lester London Award*: **Michelle Sammartino**, Hollywood, Fla. (must be enrolled as a graduate student in history when applying).
- *Rosemary Greathouse Scholarship*: **Daphne Serendipity Mir**, Laguna Niguel, Calif. (for a student pursuing a degree in the arts, including creative writing and journalism).
- *Helen Kupper Scholarship*: **Denna Good-Mojab**, Lynnwood, Wash. (for a student pursuing a degree in the fine arts).
- *Joe Zanca Scholarship*: **Michael J. Ogez**, Longmont, Colo.
- *Walt and Mary McGrew Scholarship for Veterans*: **Christopher Notarnicola**, Pompano Beach, Fla.

Who's Who

Each year, the Mensa member scholarships are named for specific people, who have served and provided support to Mensa and the Foundation. This year's scholarships were named for:

David Felt—Foundation trustee, 1998 Margot Award, 1996 Distinguished Service Award, past AMC Chair, Mensa volunteer extraordinaire.

Stacey Kirsch—2011 Chairman's Service Award recipient, produced Foundation's 40th anniversary presentation, 2008 Distinguished Service Award, past AMC member.

J. Gail McGrew—Long-time Foundation donor, personally funded one national and two regional scholarships.

Caroline Mossip—Past Foundation Trustee, past chair of Foundation's Awards for Excellence in Research program, served many years as a Foundation committee chair.

Harry Ringermacher—Co-chair of 2006 Colloquium, 2003 and 2007 Copper Black Award winner, current Copper Black Award committee chair.

Gifted Youth Programs

Nurturing the Future

The Mensa Foundation has a strong commitment to supporting educational outreach and social stimulation for gifted young people everywhere. Several new resources debuted last year.

New Programs on Mensa For Kids

Two new programs were launched on the Mensa For Kids Web site (www.MensaForKids.org). The **Year of Living Poetically** coincided with National Poetry Month (April) and includes 12 poetic selections with explications and memorization activities. The **Excellence in Reading Award**, with a reading list divided by grade levels, encourages kids to read quality books and receive a certificate and T-shirt.

More Lesson Plans

The following **new lesson plans** have been added to the Mensa For Kids Web site: "Hurricanes" (4th grade); "Probably Probability" and "Peas in a Pod: Mendelian Genetics" (6th grade); "Understanding the Influence of the Media" (8th grade); and "I Need a Hero" (high-school).

Lesson plans are now available for grades K through 12. Since these plans are designed to be completed with minimal supervision, they serve as independent coursework either in the traditional classroom or outside it. Course materials can be viewed online or downloaded.

Educational Activity Programs

New items in the Parent/Teacher Resources section of Mensa for Kids include the **Summer Fun activity** with simple yet intriguing activities that can be done with common household items. In recognition of **National Watermelon Day**, another program features several ways to celebrate this tasty melon.



Mensa for Kids Site is Grand

The Mensa For Kids Web site received a 2011 **APEX Grand Award** in the category of Electronic & Video Publications (Nonprofit/Small Office subcategory). Specifically, the award was given for the site's online activity and lesson plans. According to the judges' comments, they were impressed by the "brilliant lesson plans—wonderfully written and illustrated, and crafted to get students involved." The international competition recognizes outstanding communications activities in all media. Of more than 3,300 entries to this year's competition, just 100 Grand Award winners were selected.

In the past year, the Mensa For Kids site logged 99,622 new and recurring visitors from more than 50 countries.

Bright Reading

Bright is a new **monthly e-newsletter** for kids ages 6–10. Every issue is full of games, puzzles, activities, and factoids specially selected to encourage children to learn, explore, and think outside the box. Current Mensa members can subscribe at www.us.mensa.org/enewsletters; non-members can visit www.MensaForKids.org/bright.



Youth Programs at the AG

The **youth programs at the 2011 Annual Gathering** got a special boost with Foundation support. A multiple-day program track for children ages 4–12 included the Mini Ms and the Junior Ms. Supervised by teachers and aides, the program featured a summer-camp-type mix of cerebral and kinesthetic activities, providing variety, challenge, and the opportunity to develop peer relationships and build skills. The program also included a mix of family-friendly activities. The Foundation also sponsored a dedicated room for American Mensa's TeenSIG.

The kindergarten class (at left) from Omega, Okla., completed the Excellence in Reading Award challenge as a group. They are wearing their award T-shirts. From their teacher Cherie Ingram: "Thank you for promoting literacy by encouraging students to choose classic literature as well as more contemporary works....students' listening levels and vocabularies have increased dramatically."

Foundation News

Glimpses of the Last Year

Trustee Appointment

Don Pendley was appointed as a Foundation Trustee to complete the term of a Trustee who resigned. Pendley has been a member of Mensa for 30 years and has served in many areas including finance, development, and Internet services.

Board Officers Elected

Three new officers were elected in November 2011: **Dave Remine**, President; **Marie Mayer**, Vice President; and **Joanna Soper**, Secretary.

Dave Remine has been a member of American Mensa for 42 years. He is the only member to have held the three highest leadership positions in Mensa, having also served as the Chair for both American Mensa and Mensa International. He has been a Foundation Trustee since 1999.

Marie Mayer has been a member of Mensa for 33 years and has held various leadership positions within the organization on both national and local levels. She has been a Foundation Trustee since 2002 and was most recently the Secretary for the board.

Joanna Soper, also with experience as a leader on local and national levels, has been a member of Mensa for 12 years and a Foundation Trustee since 2006.

Dr. Michael Jacobson continues as Treasurer, an office he has held since 2002.

Margot Award to Former Trustee

Dr. Francis A. Cartier, former Foundation Trustee, received the Margot Award, American Mensa's highest award "for the rendering of exceptional service to Mensa for a number of years."

Foundation Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Mensa Foundation benefactors, volunteers, and enthusiasts celebrated the **Foundation's 40th anniversary** at the Annual Gathering in Portland, Ore., and honored those who contribute to Mensa's philanthropic Foundation by donating time and money.

Past Presidents of the Foundation—Sander Rubin, Stuart Friedman, Francis Cartier, and Michael Jacobson—were on hand to take part in the festivities and were recognized and awarded a plaque for their years of service.

Foundation Web Site Redesigned

After gathering input from donors, Mensa members and officers, and the Foundation Trustees, the Foundation's Web team redesigned the site at **www.mensafoundation.org** to better personalize and profile the Foundation's mission to encourage excellence in intelligence around the world through its education, research, and recognition programs. The 255 pages on the new site highlight the Foundation's programs, the impact on individuals, and how people can help the Foundation achieve its goals.

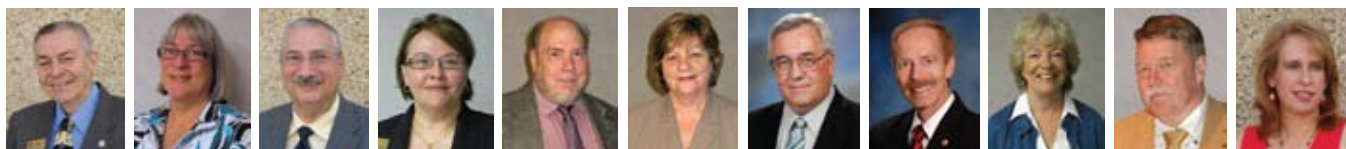


In Memory

The Mensa Foundation is saddened at the passing of **Dorothy Bloom Cumley**, an Honorary Trustee of the Foundation and a life member of Mensa. She held various positions on the Foundation board including Trustee, First Vice President, and Acting President.

Leadership

Board and Staff 2011–2012

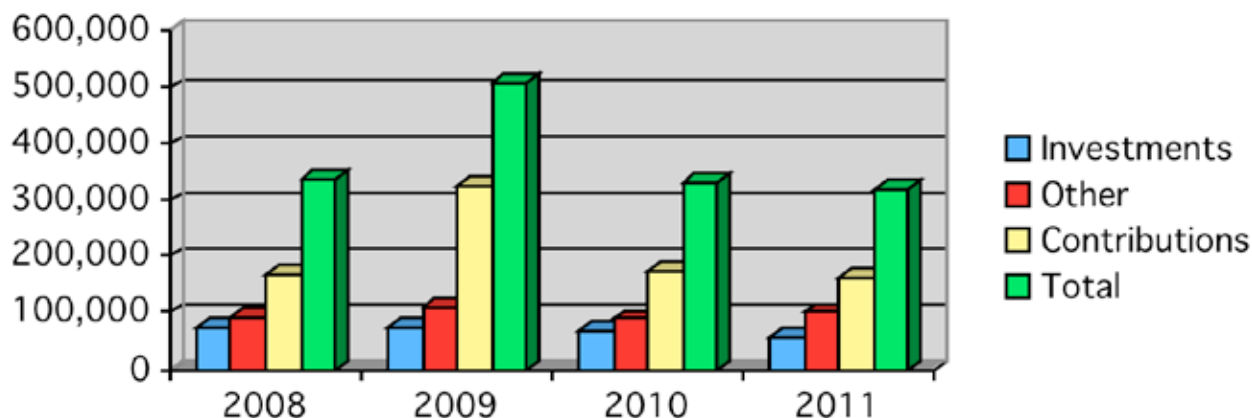


Left to right: **Dave Remine**, President, Trustee; **Marie Mayer**, Vice President, Trustee; **Michael Jacobson**, Treasurer, Trustee; **Joanna Soper**, Secretary, Trustee; **David Felt**, Trustee; **Phyllis Miller**, Trustee; **Don Pendley**, Trustee; **Gregory Timmers**, Trustee; **Elissa Rudolph**, American Mensa Committee Chair; **Willem Bouwens**, Mensa International Chair; **Jill Beckham**, Foundation Director.

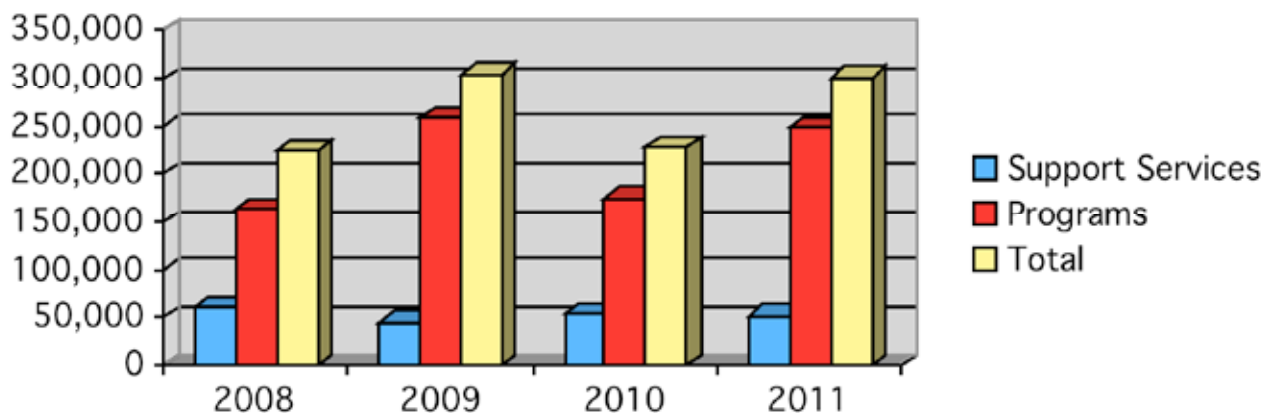
Financials in Brief

Five-Year Perspective

Revenue Sources (in dollars)



Expenditures (in dollars)



Items of Interest

- Assets of the Foundation totaled \$2.8 million as of March 31, 2012.
- Foundation assets represent 28 percent of the consolidated assets of American Mensa.
- Net assets of the Foundation for fiscal year 2011–2012 were designated as follows:
 - \$1,329,890 (~48%) restricted for scholarship awards.
 - \$359,119 (~15%) restricted for gifted youth.
 - \$954,666 (~37%) unrestricted/board designated.
- The Foundation's investment policy includes fixed income debt securities of the U.S. Treasury and/or Federal Agencies; insured general obligation AA rated or better municipal bonds; and insured certificates of deposit.
- Rate of return on conservative investment portfolio was 2.5 percent.
- 74 percent of total expenditures (\$321,380) were for Foundation programs.
- American Mensa grant of \$58,100 covered management and general expenses.
- Annual expenditures on programs totaled more than 9 percent of net assets, exceeding IRS target of 5 percent.
- All Mensa Foundation trustees are donors to the Foundation.

Thank You to Our Donors

Our Work Depends on You

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our 956 donors during the last year who have enabled the Mensa Foundation to continue its work and enhance its programs. In addition to those listed here, many others have contributed support for the year's successes. Our thanks . . . we couldn't do it without you.

Platinum Level (\$2,500+)

American Mensa Ltd.
Willem Bouwens
Greater Phoenix Mensa
J. Gail McGrew
Russell Francis Taptich

Gold Level (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Stuart W. Friedman
Greater Los Angeles Mensa
Linda Hathaway
Oregon Mensa
Dave Remine
Dr. Abbie F. Salny
Gregory D. Timmers

Silver Level (\$500–\$999)

LaRae Bakerink
Denver Mensa
Patsy M. Graham
Cynthia Willis Kuyper
Minnesota Mensa
Northern Michigan Mensa
Don Pendley
Dr. Laura Jean Peralta
Redwood Empire Mensa
Sean D. S. Sebastian
Paul and Joanna Soper
Deborah V. Traskell
Shirley Ann Trotter

Bronze Level (\$250–\$499)

Robert E. Berend, Esq.
Bertha Lilley Clarke
D. Douglas Dorman
Gen X SIG
Bart John Geraci
Greater New York Mensa
Nancy M. Griggs

Bronze Level (cont.)

Mary L. Hughes
Marion R. Kramer, M.D.
Dr. Kishor M. Kulkarni
Marc Lederman
Marie Hope Mayer
Ronald J. Norris Jr.
Linda L. Olson
Gene Riccoboni
Eldon C. Romney
Henry W. Seitz
John Anthony Sivo
Eddie B. Truelove
Kirsten R. Udd
Western Pennsylvania
Mensa
Bonnie Wilpon
World Affairs Council

Foundation Level (\$100–\$249)

American Mensa Staff
Anonymous
Edgar David Aronson
L. Michael Aschoff
Fred H. Baer
Karen A. Barrett
Dr. Marci Watzman
Bartolotta
Dr. Jean K. Becker
Jill Beckham
Wendy A. Birchmire
John M. Blinke
Anne B. Bomford
Donna J. Bonzagni
Boston Mensa
Mary Lynn Hubbard
Boylan
Willem Britz
Carson Brooks
Jaime Calica
Steven P. Collier
George Arnold Cooper
Robert Scott Cross, M.D.

Foundation Level (cont.)

William S. Curry
Anthony Diaco
Cecile Dobson
Pam Donahoo
Howard S. Edelstein
Ronald E. Edelstein
Monte R. Evans
Elizabeth A. Farnum
Leon Feingold
David D. Felt
June Lee Fitzgerald
Michael S. Francisco
R. Bruce Gardner
Dr. John Gorman
Col. Burt Grosselfinger
Bruce Michael Harrington
James Hawkins
Micaela Hawn
Andrew W. Heffernan
Thomas J. Herman
Melissa Hershcopf
Joan Vitek Hiller, Ph.D.
Rick Hodges
James M. Howson
Dr. Michael H. Jacobson
Ira V. Kabalkin
Akiko Kimura
Rosanne C. Krone
Karen Bublitz Kunz
Daniel Lautman
Dwight Henry Lillie
Cate Macier
Mark Madden
Charles Anthony Marciano
Rosalind Marcotte
Betsy Yvonne Mark
Harold Mc Auley
Martin S. Merado
Patricia L. Merk
John Mertes
Douglas L. Miller
Phyllis Kaden Miller
Claire Musserian
Mary Nalbandian

Foundation Level (cont.)

Michael Natrella
Suzanne Niedzielska
Robert W. Nock
Doyle V. Perry
Marian Mccamy Phillips
Andrea P. Plitch
Karen Lee Plourde
W. Harry Probert
Harry M. Reasoner Jr., Esq.
Robert John Reinbolt
Laurel Gray Richardson
Catherine Roha
Denise Ross
Rashmi Rubdi
Elissa Rudolph
Leonard J. Sainato
William Thomas Santner
Debra M. Saryan
William B. Schoonmaker
Col. Frederick A. Schrader
Anthony J. Scriffignano
Susan Lynn Siegfried, M.D.
Alice Lois Silver
Kenneth A. Silver
Dr. Stephen Loren Slavin
Pat McKeown Soderbeck
Walter J. Sperko
Leta Langsam
Speyer, Ph.D.
Deborah L. Stone
Anne D. Taft
Robert W. Templeton
Thomas George Thomas
Daniel R. Tobias
Steve and Lisa Van Gemert
Frederic Vereecken
William Walton
Dorothy White
Lou Ann Williams
Deanna J. Willoughby
Jeffrey D. Woods
Carla Young
William S. Zanca