



CASE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DIETRICH DIABETES
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



DIABETES
ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER
CLEVELAND

*fighting the diabetes epidemic
right here at home*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2005

CONTACTS: Tracy Cordes: (216) 591-0800, tcordes@dagc.org
George Stamatidis: (216) 368-3635, george.stamatidis@case.edu

DIABETES RESEARCH RETREAT TO HIGHLIGHT PLANS FOR JOINT DIABETES CENTER IN CLEVELAND

Diabetes Research Impacts Regional Economic Growth

CLEVELAND – Continuing the promotion of cross-institutional collaboration, Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland's Dietrich Diabetes Research Institute (DDRI) and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine present the second Diabetes Research Retreat, Friday, November 18, 2005, at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven. More than 250 diabetes researchers from northeast Ohio's major medical institutions and universities are expected to participate in the event, focusing on "The Genetics of Diabetes" and the creation of a citywide diabetes center.

This gathering of diabetes research professionals represents millions of dollars in funding from the public and private sectors that is brought to Cleveland each year for diabetes-related research. The diabetes center will have an economic impact on northeast Ohio through job creation and the infusion of more research dollars that results from a national presence.

Saul Genuth, MD, Professor of Medicine at Case School of Medicine and Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Case School of Medicine's Diabetes Center Task Force, will update retreat participants on the status of the planning process to establish a diabetes center in Cleveland. "This cross-institutional, cross-discipline retreat will once again bring together the diverse Cleveland biomedical institutions and pool regional resources to bolster diabetes research," says Michael Weiss, MD, PhD, Cowan-Blum Professor of Biochemistry and Medicine, Chairman, Department of Biochemistry and Co-Chair of Case School of Medicine's Diabetes Center Task Force.

"This retreat has great significance for Cleveland's coordinated movement to develop a centralized diabetes center," says Patrick M. Catalano, MD, Professor and Chair, Reproductive Biology, Case Western Reserve University at MetroHealth Medical Center and Chair of the Dietrich Diabetes Research Institute (DDRI) Task Force. "This diabetes center has the potential for a significant academic as well as economic impact on northeast Ohio by attracting new investigators and keeping the best of the best. The ultimate goal of such a center is to address the public health crisis by providing state-of-the-art care for people with diabetes in northeast Ohio."

According to Byron Hoogwerf, MD, staff physician and researcher from the Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, "Clinicians and investigators in the Cleveland area already have a track record of collaboration as demonstrated by such ventures as staffing of Camp Ho Mito Koda [for children with diabetes] and the Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) clinical trial. There are many other cross-institutional activities. The joint Diabetes Center will not only help to nurture established collaborative research,

educational and clinical activities, but will also certainly help to foster new ideas and efforts in each of these arenas."

"Capitalizing on Cleveland's strengths in diabetes research, we intend to aim high for the best possible Center," Catalano continues. "With a coordinated community-wide commitment led by Ralph I. Horwitz, MD, Dean of Case School of Medicine, its partner hospitals, and the Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland's DDRI, we are confident that this can be achieved."

Horwitz says, "With rising rates of obesity and an aging population, the incidence of diabetes will affect a greater percentage of our population. We have an excellent base for diabetes research and care in Cleveland on which we can build a major center to advance our understanding of this disease on a number of levels to better control and treat it."

Nationally-renown experts in the areas of genetics, insulin resistance, and the metabolic syndrome will address retreat participants. **Jeffrey S. Flier, MD**, the George C. Reisman Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Chief Academic Officer and Harvard Faculty Dean for Academic Programs at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and 2005 recipient of the American Diabetes Association's Banting Medal for Scientific Achievement, will deliver the keynote address. Plenary speakers include:

- **Domenico Accili, MD**, Director of the Columbia Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center;
- **Joseph H. Nadeau, PhD**, James H. Jewel Professor and Chair of Genetics Department at Case School of Medicine, Co-Director for the Center for Computational Genomics and Systems Biology; and
- **Gordon C. Weir, MD**, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center at the Joslin Diabetes Center.

"The retreat will bring us closer to realizing our vision of northeast Ohio as a center of excellence in diabetes research to provide the best possible care for the 1 in 16 people with diabetes that we serve. DDRI is proud to sponsor this follow-up to the groundbreaking, standing room only 2004 Retreat," states Jacquie Dickinson, President & CEO of the Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland (DAGC), northeast Ohio's only local and independent resource for diabetes services and information.

For more information about the Diabetes Research Retreat, visit www.ddri.org/retreat.asp. To attend as a media guest, please contact Tracy Cordes or George Stamatis (contact information above).

Faculty Biographies

Domenico Accili, MD – Plenary Speaker

Domenico Accili, MD is currently the Director of the Columbia Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center. A Professor of Medicine at Columbia University, Dr. Accili also leads a Diabetes Research Unit at the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center. Dr. Accili's research focuses on the pathogenesis of insulin resistance and its role in type 2 diabetes, with the development of "designer" mice with mutations affecting insulin action and pancreatic development and a specific interest in the identification of islet stem cells for use in beta cell replacement therapies.

Jeffrey S. Flier, MD – Keynote Speaker

Jeffrey S. Flier, MD is currently Chief Academic Officer and Harvard Faculty Dean for Academic Programs at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the George C. Reisman Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Flier is a preeminent thought leader in the areas of obesity, insulin resistance, and the metabolic syndrome. These closely related problems have reached epidemic proportions in Western society as well as other parts of the world. Because of Dr. Flier's originality, his scientific contributions, and his leadership in the obesity and diabetes research communities, we understand more about the pathogenesis of obesity, which is critical to developing more effective prevention and treatment strategies for type 2 diabetes.

Saul Genuth, MD – Moderator

Saul Genuth, MD received his undergraduate degree in biochemical sciences from Harvard College in 1953 and his medical degree from what is now the CWRU School of Medicine in 1957. His internal medicine residency training was at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Cleveland and at the Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina. His endocrinology training was at the endocrinology branch of the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute and at Duke. Dr. Genuth returned to Cleveland in 1964 to a full-time position at Mt. Sinai Medical Center, where he became director of the Saltzman Institute for Clinical Investigation and chief of endocrinology. He joined the Case School of Medicine faculty at that time and was promoted to professor of medicine in 1978.

Joseph H. Nadeau, PhD

Joseph H. Nadeau, PhD is currently James H. Jewel Professor and Chair of Genetics Department at Case School of Medicine, Co-Director for the Center for Computational Genomics and Systems Biology, and Director of the Ohio Colon Cancer Consortium. Dr. Nadeau was a founding member of the International Mammalian Genome Society and a founding editor of Mammalian Genome. He was also founder and director of the Mouse Genome Informatics Project (1989-1994) and founder of the Mouse Gene Expression Database Project (1992-1994). He has served on review panels and advisory groups at the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Human Genome Database.

Gordon C. Weir, MD

Gordon C. Weir, MD is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation Chair at the Joslin Diabetes Center. As the Director of the Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Center (DERC) at the Joslin Diabetes Center, he is responsible for the overall direction, planning, and setting of priorities for the DERC. Dr. Weir also heads Joslin's Section on Islet Transplantation and Cell Biology. Dr. Weir is the recipient of numerous honors and has served on the editorial boards of several prestigious journals, including the American Journal of Physiology and Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. He was recently Editor-in-chief of the journal Diabetes.

About the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Founded in 1843, the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine is the largest medical research institution in Ohio and 18th largest among the nation's medical schools for research funding from the National Institutes of Health. Eleven Nobel Laureates have been affiliated with the school. The School of Medicine is recognized throughout the international medical community for outstanding achievements in teaching. In 2002, it became only the third medical school in history to receive the best review possible from the national body responsible for accrediting the nation's medical schools. Case is affiliated with University Hospitals of Cleveland, MetroHealth Medical Center, the Louis

Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, with which it opened the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University this year. <http://casemed.case.edu>

About the Dietrich Diabetes Research Institute

Established in 2003 at the Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland by Nancy and Richard Dietrich, the Dietrich Diabetes Research Institute is an independent, regional diabetes research clearinghouse whose mission is to: (1) To strengthen the diabetes research presence in Northeast Ohio by facilitating collaborative efforts in diabetes research, (2) Serve as a diabetes research information clearinghouse to help enhance the overall quality of clinical care for patients with diabetes in northeast Ohio, and (3) Help people with diabetes understand new research and its effect on their medical care. For more information about DDRI, visit www.ddri.org or call 216-591-0800.

###