



# CASE *for* SUPPORT STATEMENT





## MISSION STATEMENT

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. The Laboratory's primary mission is to conduct high quality basic and clinical research aimed at generating knowledge and information necessary for development of the medical cures and treatments of tomorrow. The Laboratory is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease.

## VISION STATEMENT

To be regarded as a world leader in medical research, dedicated to generating the knowledge necessary to develop innovative solutions to medical challenges facing society and providing a creative environment for the education and training of the innovators of tomorrow.



## CASE FOR SUPPORT STATEMENT

### IT'S TIME TO MAKE CARDIAC RESEARCH FUNDING A PRIORITY

Tragedy and illness can occur at anytime, to anyone, at any age. If not for the scientist at the lab bench, where every treatment and potential cure originates, physicians would not have the knowledge, skills, techniques or equipment available to save a life or restore the quality of life. For many, medical research into such problems as Atrial Fibrillation, Cardiac Arrhythmias, Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), is an intangible until it is needed.

Whether in your physician's office, local hospital or home, you or a loved one have most likely benefited tangibly from developments in cardiac research that originated at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL). You can share in the achievements of the MMRL and help to improve the health and quality of life for you and your loved ones by making a contribution in support of MMRL's quest to find new life-saving treatments and cures.

With secure financial resources, the MMRL's continuum of medical research, prevention, treatment and training programs will be able to meaningfully respond to the health care challenges that affect our society.

### ACHIEVING A REALISTIC ENDOWMENT

The MMRL is seeking to perpetuate and advance its mission of medical research and education by achieving a realistic endowment of \$50 million or more. The MMRL's current endowment is a permanently restricted fund that generates annual interest income through investment. Earned income provides a perpetual and predictable stream of annual financial support. Since the principle of the fund is never used, the endowment remains intact in perpetuity.

Endowed gifts help to secure the Laboratory's mission and enable the institution to achieve its full potential in medical research and education, ultimately benefiting patient care. An increased endowment will provide the income needed to attract and retain



the most talented investigators, fellows and students, as well as to sustain a high level of innovative advances that will enhance the MMRL's international reputation and prospects for garnering extramural funding.



## A \$50 MILLION ENDOWMENT WILL ALLOW THE MMRL TO MEET THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES

### CONTINUITY OF THE MMRL'S MISSION

The MMRL will be able to continue its nearly 50 year tradition of medical research, education and service to humanity. An endowment would help to underwrite research in its essential first stage, enabling MMRL scientists to conduct studies to explore areas not yet funded by major organizations. The preliminary data often leads to the development of full-scale research grant proposals, which are better positioned to compete for National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants. The MMRL has ranked in the top 10 to 20% in competition for NIH grants and an adequate endowment will permit the institute to maintain that laudable tradition.

For its size, there is no other laboratory whose cutting-edge research is as productive and influential in the field of experimental cardiology. The MMRL is leading the way in genetic screening of cardiac disease as well as in the development of innovative and effective pharmacologic treatment for Atrial Fibrillation, one of the greatest unmet medical needs in our society. Atrial Fibrillation afflicts nearly one in five individuals who are age 80 and older. Its prevalence is increasing to frightening levels as Americans age.

### SUSTAINING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The MMRL can plan its research studies over the long-term with less concern for year-to-year fluctuations in the availability of grant funds. A larger endowment would advance the MMRL's mission to conduct basic and clinical research and provide

*MMRL recruits and mentors  
the finest scientific talent*







education and training to tomorrow's scientists, researchers and physicians.

## RECRUITMENT AND RETAINMENT OF ESTABLISHED INVESTIGATORS

The MMRL will be able to attract, recruit and retain strong scientific talent. Recruitment of high quality investigators to the Utica area is a challenge, as institutions compete for the MMRL's well-established investigators. To bring the scientific staff to full capacity, the MMRL will require the recruitment of an additional six to eight highly qualified investigators.

The lack of a sufficient endowment has prevented the MMRL from offering any form of tenure, an essential component of successful recruiting. In addition to providing a competitive salary, funds are required to set up a laboratory to meet the research needs of its investigators. The cost of equipping an average electrophysiology or molecular biology laboratory is estimated at \$250,000.

## UPDATING AND MAINTAINING STATE-OF-THE-ART SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

The MMRL will be able to purchase critically needed state-of-the-art scientific equipment. A tight budgetary policy sometimes hinders the ability to acquire needed scientific equipment. A special fund has been established to address this need; however, the MMRL would be better served to have the security of an endowment for future needs.

## IMPROVING THE INFRASTRUCTURE

A realistic endowment will underwrite the renovations and improvements to the medical research facility that are needed to conduct state-of-the-art scientific research. A modernized facility improves productivity and stimulates creativity.



## IMPACT OF MMRL RESEARCH

MMRL research benefits everyone. Many of the most important findings of the past couple of decades in the field of experimental cardiology have been developed at the MMRL. Findings have contributed to the research necessary for implementation of the automatic external defibrillator (AED), implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), pacemaker, heart medications and catheter ablation therapy. Within the last five years, the MMRL has received 10 international scientific medical research awards; an unprecedented achievement for an institute of our size. MMRL research is published in the most prestigious medical journals in the world.

### DISCOVERIES BY MMRL SCIENTISTS INCLUDE:

- Treatment for three forms of Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD), that tragically takes the lives of infants, young children and adults at the prime of their lives
- First gene responsible for Sudden Cardiac Death
- Evidence linking Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) to abnormal heart rhythms
- A new clinical entity associated with Sudden Cardiac Death
- Mechanisms of abnormal heart rhythms including Atrial and Ventricular Fibrillation
- A new cell type (M cell) in the ventricles of the heart, which is responsible for many forms of congenital and acquired forms of Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) that develop following administration of some medications
- Cellular basis of the electrocardiogram (ECG)

Physicians and researchers worldwide collaborate with the MMRL in its molecular genetic and molecular biology programs to provide identification of genes responsible for cardiac disease. Renowned for its ability to serve as a bridge between basic and



clinical research, the MMRL works closely with clinical centers in the United States, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and other parts of the world to identify the mechanisms of disease and appropriate therapies.



As a result of these collaborations, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory has become a referral center for international and national pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that seek assistance with drugs under development for a variety of diseases. MMRL scientists also serve as consultants to biotechnology companies, assisting with their approach to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

## MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) is a not-for-profit medical research and educational institute, proudly sponsored by Freemasonry and supported largely by Federal and organizational grants as well as the general public. The MMRL's primary focus is on basic and clinical medical research in the fields of experimental cardiology, molecular biology and molecular genetics.

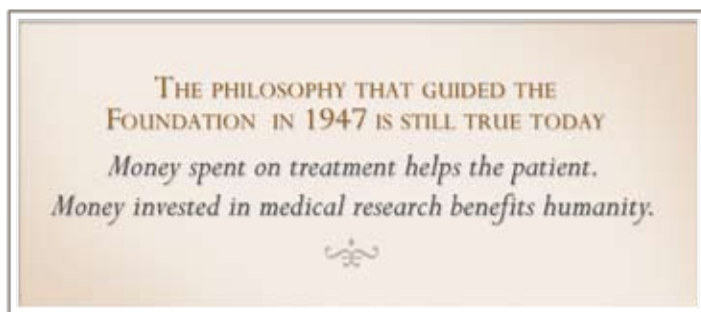
Founded as the Masonic Foundation for Medical Research and Human Welfare in 1947 by the Grand Lodge of New York, the institution originally was dedicated to the elimination of rheumatic fever. Encouraged by its significant contribution to the eradication of Rheumatic Fever, the Foundation built a medical research laboratory in Utica, New York, which opened in June 1958. Now, nearly 50 years later, a distinguished scientific staff works to provide the scientific knowledge necessary for the development of treatments and cures for a variety of heart diseases that will benefit society.

Education and training also are very important functions of the MMRL. To help facilitate these programs, the MMRL continues to maintain close and effective education and training relationships with many institutions of higher learning.

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to biotechnology companies*







## ENSURING THE FUTURE

Our health tomorrow depends upon the discoveries that emanate from medical research today. Only through a sustained investment in basic medical research will scientists have the capability to design better and more rational medical treatments and cures in the 21st century.



The success of the MMRL's mission and the remarkable achievements of its scientists are critically dependent on the financial support of its family of friends and those who are concerned about the future of medical research. The MMRL is supported by voluntary contributions, bequests, trusts and legacies, extramural granting agencies and corporations. Extramural grants are received from government agencies, organizations, corporations and foundations. A significant portion of the research conducted at the Laboratory is funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a Federal agency, and organizations like the American Heart Association.

Federal support for basic science research is diminishing. After more than doubling from 1998 to 2003, the NIH's overall budget has been flat for several years, leading to progressive erosion in our nation's investment in medical research. Heart disease, the #1 killer of men and women, now receives less funding per fatality than many less prevalent diseases. Amazingly, fewer than 9 to 12 percent of all funding requests submitted to the NIH are now funded, down from some 30-plus percent just a few years ago. The number of

grant proposals judged to have scientific merit worthy of support, but which go unfunded has reached unprecedented levels.

The great dependence on Federal grant support continues to be a source of great anxiety to research centers nationwide. The need for establishing a larger endowment to meet what appears to be an inevitable and perhaps drastic further decline in the availability of extramural funds in this country is undeniable.



## MAKE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

*Help the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory reach its \$50 million goal by its 50th anniversary in 2008. Your gift will advance the impressive progress that the MMRL has made in medical research and education. Your tax-deductible contribution to the **Campaign for Discovery** will help to ensure a healthier tomorrow for each of us, our children and for future generations.*

## PLEASE JOIN US





*Scientific and medical advances are being realized at the  
Masonic Medical Research Laboratory thanks to caring individuals  
and organizations who recognize that only through an investment in  
medical research can we look forward to a healthier tomorrow.*



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Not-for-profit corporation  
Tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code  
Incorporated in NY in October, 1947, as Masonic Foundation for  
Medical Research and Human Welfare  
Federal Tax ID Number: 13-5648611  
New York State Charities Registration Number: 037227