



## NEOMED Education and Wellness (NEW) Center Prepares for Grand Opening

As construction continues on the NEOMED campus, the University readies for the opening of the NEOMED Education and Wellness (NEW) Center, which will be unveiled to the community this October during the culmination of the University's 40th anniversary celebration. The 177,000-square-foot facility is a major step in shifting the overall culture of health and wellness for the campus and surrounding community. Through collaboration with Signet Development and Integrated Wellness Partners, the NEW Center will provide health, wellness and medical education alongside a state-of-the-art fitness environment with physicians' offices, pharmacy, conference and event space and more.

As a medical university, education will play a large part in the overall use of the NEW Center. A state-of-the-art lecture hall will be used for student education and community events, and the third floor of the facility will be dedicated to Bio-Med Science Academy, the public STEM+M high school on NEOMED's campus. The Conference and Event Center can host formal and informal events for up to 500 guests and will be utilized for professional and community meetings, lectures and presentations about medical field advancements, as well as personal events such as weddings, services and other private gatherings. Catering from the Conference and Event Center will also be available to provide fresh, delicious options for meals, ensuring that the whole conference experience is focused on wellness from every respect. Healthy eating options extend into the facility's two new eateries - the Bistro and Erie Island Coffee Shop.

In August, the first area of the center to open was Sequoia Wellness. Integrated Wellness Partners has overseen all of the operations at Sequoia Wellness, from hiring degreed wellness professionals, nutritionists and medical experts to ensuring personalized wellness plans for each member. These wellness experts provide each member with a multi-dimensional health assessment that analyzes overall muscular strength, endurance, body composition, flexibility, sleep quality, life satisfaction and more. Unlike traditional gyms, Sequoia Wellness features overall wellness programming such as wellness education, nutrition services and cooking demonstrations as an additional element at its fitness facility. Sequoia Wellness enrollment is open for community members. For more information about Sequoia Wellness visit [www.sequoia-wellness.com/neomed](http://www.sequoia-wellness.com/neomed) or call 330.578.9030.

A special community open house will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. to celebrate the NEOMED Education and Wellness (NEW) Center. The event is open to the public (no RSVP necessary) and will feature self-guided tours of the entire facility.

### UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS

(see [neomed.edu/calendar](http://neomed.edu/calendar) or call 330.325.6264 for details)

10/1	4 p.m.	Farmer's Market
10/4	10 a.m.	NEW Center Community Open House
10/8	4 p.m.	Farmer's Market
10/8	5 p.m.	Movie Night with the Q Club
10/15	4 p.m.	Farmer's Market – Last Outdoor Market
10/17	12 p.m.	Arts & Culture on Campus: Akron Art Museum
10/17-19		Reunion Weekend and 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala
10/23	5 p.m.	Diwali Celebration
10/29	12 p.m.	LGBT Patient Communication Skills
11/6		Blood Drive
11/7	12 p.m.	Arts & Culture on Campus: Cleveland Play House
11/11		Veterans Day – University Closed
11/14	5 p.m.	Multicultural Festival
11/19	6 p.m.	Bio-Med Science Academy Info Session
11/27-28		Thanksgiving Holiday – University Closed
12/6	10 a.m.	Bio-Med Science Academy Info Session
12/15	6 p.m.	Bio-Med Science Academy Info Session
12/22-1/2		Winter Break – University Closed
1/8	6 p.m.	Bio-Med Science Academy Info Session
1/15		Blood Drive
1/16	7 p.m.	Movie Night
1/17	10 a.m.	Brain Bee
1/19		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – University Closed
1/23	7 p.m.	Movie Night
1/30	7 p.m.	Movie Night

**Ongoing: First Monday of Every Month**  
Community Campus Tour



## Registration Open for Inaugural NEOMED Brain Bee

### NEOMED Foundation Reports Successful Year, Welcomes New Board Members and Officers

The NEOMED Foundation continues to demonstrate success in its efforts to strengthen the financial capacity of the University, announcing a banner fundraising year and welcoming new members and officers to its 26-member volunteer Board of Directors.

The Foundation reported a one year 248 percent increase in overall contributions, raising \$2.95 million for the University during the 2014 fiscal year. This substantial increase resulted from major gifts for student scholarships, research focus areas and capital needs. Among these major gifts was a \$1 million commitment from two local donors in support of NEOMED's Parkinson's disease research, which attracted additional attention and funding from the national Michael J. Fox Foundation.

In addition to major gifts, the University's annual Blue Fund campaign raised \$328,000 toward the year-end results with both alumni and employee participation more than doubling.

Continuing to enhance its efforts, the NEOMED Foundation Board of Directors recently welcomed several new members, approved a new slate of officers and thanked its outgoing chair for his significant leadership and service.

Effective July 1, 2014, the Foundation announced the addition of six new members: Myah Moore Irick, M.B.A.; Venera F. Izant, CRPC, CSNA; Cindy S. Johnson, CPA, CIT; Richard Nicely; Ian S. Oppenheim, J.D., CELA; and, Munir P. Shah, M.D.

New officers include Albert J. Cook II, M.D. ('90), chair; Judith E. Barnes Lancaster, Esq., vice chair; Nicholas R. Sucic, CPA, treasurer; and, Ann M. Klein, R.Ph., secretary.

James E. Merklin, CPA, CFF, CFE, M.Acc., partner at Bober Markey Fedorovich and outgoing Foundation Board of Directors chair, was honored for his service to the Board and presented with a gift of appreciation. Merklin served as chair from July 2012 to July 2014 after having served as a member of the Board for seven years.

Founded in 1978, the volunteer Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Medical University Foundation comprises health care, community and business leaders. The Foundation aims to strengthen the financial capacity of the University and to broaden access to high quality medicine and pharmacy education.

Local students ages 14 through 18 have the opportunity to participate in NEOMED's inaugural Brain Bee, a competition that will test their knowledge of neuroscience.

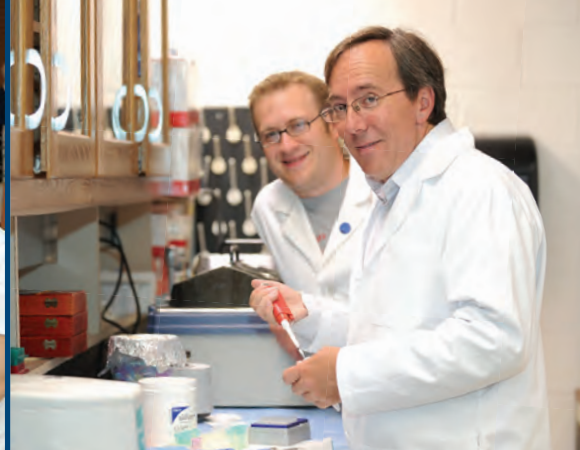
The Brain Bee will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, at NEOMED. The overall winner of the competition will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the National Brain Bee Competition in Baltimore, Md., for themselves and their support team.

The International Brain Bee was founded in 1999 and is the worldwide neuroscience competition for high school students. The competition motivates students to learn about the brain and inspires them to pursue neuroscience careers to help treat and find cures for neurological and psychological disorders. Brain Bees test student's knowledge of the human brain including such topics as intelligence, emotions, memory, sleep, vision, hearing, sensations, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, schizophrenia, epilepsy, depression, addictions and brain research.

Monthly Saturday tutoring sessions are available to help students prepare for the Brain Bee. Tutoring sessions will occur from 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 25, Nov. 22 and Jan. 10 at NEOMED.

Students may register at [www.neomed.edu/admissions/programs/brain-bee](http://www.neomed.edu/admissions/programs/brain-bee). For more information about the Brain Bee, please contact Dana Peterson, Ph.D., M.Ed., assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology at 330.325.6476 or [dpeterson@neomed.edu](mailto:dpeterson@neomed.edu).





## Researcher Makes Breakthrough in Regenerative Therapy for Those Suffering Heart Failure

NEOMED researcher Marc Penn, M.D., Ph.D., FACC has a novel approach to regenerative medicine focused on inducing the body's own stem cells to repair tissue, rather than injecting stem cells, and his recent clinical trial with patients who have experienced advanced heart failure is showing significant results.

Dr. Penn recently shared the results of his Phase II study that evaluates the safety and efficacy of a gene therapy approach in patients with a type of heart disease called symptomatic ischemic cardiomyopathy at the European Society of Cardiology-Heart Failure Congress in Athens, Greece. The study showed that the gene therapy approach which is under development by Juventas Therapeutics (Cleveland, Ohio) is safe and improved cardiac function in patients with advanced heart failure, who on average had their last heart attacks more than a decade ago.

A heart attack results in a weakening of the heart muscle, causing the heart to increase in size, which actually decreases the level of blood being pumped through the body. Ultimately patients can develop fatigue and have difficulties performing the activities of daily living. Dr. Penn's recent clinical trial, STOP-HF, enrolled patients who were on average 65 years old, had symptomatic heart failure and had experienced a heart attack approximately 11 years prior. JVS-100 (a piece of DNA that makes a protein called SDF-1) was injected into the heart tissue of some of the patients. The result of the trial showed that JVS-100 reduced the size of the heart by over 30 ml compared to patients who received placebo.

## Public Outreach Campaign Earns College of Pharmacy Students and Faculty National Recognition in Washington

A committee of students and faculty in the College of Pharmacy were recently selected as the winners of the Media and Communications Outreach Award for the 2014 National Consumer League's (NCL) Script Your Future Medication Adherence Team Challenge. This award, being presented in Washington, D.C., recognizes the team's ability to reach the community through public health events while obtaining a state-wide governor proclamation, and support from area legislators as well as regional media coverage.

The students' "Take Your Medications Day" public events, hosted in February 2014, served to educate the region about medication adherence and related serious health concerns. To support this initiative, the committee gained support from Governor Kasich, through an official proclamation that declared Feb. 15, 2014, as "Remember to Take Your Medicines Day." Obtaining backing from the governor helped to further validate the importance of this serious health concern and obtain additional recognition from area legislators and media throughout the region.

Specifically, their efforts gained support from State Sen. John Eklund and State Rep. Kathleen Clyde, garnered media attention from The Akron Beacon Journal, The Canton Repository, The Independent (Massillon), MedCity News, WAKR-AM 1590 and attracted more than 310 participants.

It is estimated that the committee's teamwork and collaboration, supported by several volunteer pharmacy, medicine and podiatry students and faculty from area universities, allowed them to reach more than 3,000 patients through campaign activities.

Sue Fosnight, R.Ph., BCPS, CGP, committee faculty advisor, associate professor of pharmacy practice at NEOMED and clinical lead pharmacist at Summa Health System, will represent the team in Washington, D.C. this fall to accept the award certificate during a national Script Your Future event. In addition, the committee will be granted a gift of \$800 to use toward further advancing community outreach in medication adherence.



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## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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**e:** [mkerrigan@neomed.edu](mailto:mkerrigan@neomed.edu)

## NEOMED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[www.neomed.edu/employment](http://www.neomed.edu/employment)



## College of Pharmacy Receives More than \$1.3M in Private Funding for Parkinson's Disease Research

NEOMED recently surpassed the million dollar mark in fundraising for Parkinson's disease (PD) research. A grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) Target Validation Program helped to push the University's PD research funds to more than \$1.3 million in private funding.

Starting with an initial gift of \$50,000 from Stark Community Foundation in 2009, researchers in the College of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at NEOMED caught the attention of individuals, foundations and organizations throughout Northeast Ohio. To-date, the University's PD research, led by Werner Geldenhuys, B.Pharm., Ph.D., and Richard Carroll, Ph.D., has been primarily supported by its surrounding communities in Akron, Canton and Youngstown, Ohio.

The MJFF Target Validation program supports PD research, such as that underway at NEOMED, that is seeking to determine if manipulating a novel biological target has impact in a PD-relevant clinical model—an essential early step to the development of potentially promising therapies. The \$122,435 grant presented to Dr. Geldenhuys and Dr. Carroll in May 2014 will help them further develop their research focused on developing compounds which can restore mitochondrial function, specifically via the mitochondrial protein mitoNEET (CISD1).

"Having the support of the communities we serve is crucial and continues to be a core component of the University's mission, vision and values," said Charles Taylor, Pharm.D., dean of the College of Pharmacy. "Our research stands strong on its own, and receiving validation from The Michael J. Fox Foundation is a great accomplishment that will open doors to even more opportunities."