

Winter 2007 Impact

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Institute Trustee Stephen Kay endows professorship with \$3.3 million campaign gift

For a quarter of a century, Institute Trustee Stephen Kay has helped to govern Dana-Farber, playing a critical part in its landmark achievements and helping to establish its stellar reputation. Now, as the Institute embarks on its comprehensive capital campaign, *Mission Possible*:



Institute Trustee Stephen Kay (right) celebrates the appointment of longtime friend Robert Mayer, MD, director of DFCI's Center for Gastrointestinal Oncology, as the first Stephen B. Kay Family Professor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and DFCI.

The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer, he has further strengthened that commitment by making a gift of \$3.3 million to create and endow the Stephen B. Kay Family Professorship in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and DFCI.

"I think it is incumbent upon people who have been around a long time and have been deeply involved in the Institute to set an example," said Kay. "If we don't make a gift early, why should those on the periphery?"

Kay, a retired senior director of Goldman, Sachs & Co., has been an Institute trustee since 1981, was treasurer of the board of trustees for eight years, now chairs the Investment Committee, and serves on four additional trustee committees, including the Executive and Capital Campaign Committees. In addition to his longstanding support for several Institute initiatives, he has hosted a chamber music concert in his home for the past six years as a fundraiser for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge.

Kay sees the campaign as essential to Dana-Farber's future. "Without it, we will not be competitive with other frontline cancer centers around the country," he said. "Dana-Farber

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can't earn these funds like a company can. They have to come from philanthropy."

A Harvard alumnus and former overseer of the university, Kay is delighted that his family's name will be linked to a professorship at the medical school. And he is thrilled that his longtime friend Robert Mayer, MD, director of DFCI's Center for Gastrointestinal Oncology, has been chosen as the first Kay Professor.

"He is a very close friend, and he was wonderful to my late wife," said Kay. Nan Bennett Kay passed away in 2001 from breast cancer. Her primary physician was Eric Winer, MD, director of DFCI's Breast Oncology Center, and Kay recalls not only Winer's compassion, but also the warmth Mayer showed Nan during her illness. "He's an old-fashioned doctor in the way he cares about patients," said Kay.

The award of an endowed chair is another milestone in Mayer's long career dedicated to patients, research, and educating young oncologists. He is vice chair for academic affairs in the Department of Medical Oncology at Dana-Farber and has directed the Institute's fellowship training program since 1975. He heads the Institute's third-largest patient care center, and, as a leader in his field, helps guide national gastrointestinal cancer research policies. In addition, he has published extensively on the disease's possible causes, treatments, and prevention efforts.

"It is my great privilege to serve as the first Stephen B. Kay Family Professor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School," said Mayer. "I have long admired Steve and am so very honored by the generosity that he and his family have shown in creating this endowed position." ■