



A FUTURE WITH PROMISE

Support Encourages Exploration of Dementia

For Peter T. Nelson, the work is personal. A neuropathologist and professor in the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and University of Kentucky College of Medicine, he studies human brains, looking for answers. He wants to better understand dementia-inducing and age-related diseases, including Alzheimer's, a disease that affected his grandmother.

“What I am doing is not abstract,” Nelson said. “My mother’s mother had Alzheimer’s, and she saw how devastating the disease could be. I am privileged to work every single day to find a cure for a disease that haunts my own mother.”

Through his research, Nelson helped spearhead a large team that described a common brain disease that mimics Alzheimer’s in causing a lack of memory and difficulty thinking. It was originally thought to be a part of Alzheimer’s but is actually different and probably will require its own therapeutic strategies.

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Peter T. Nelson

- R.C. Durr Foundation Chair in Alzheimer’s Disease
- Director of the Neuropathology Division of the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Department
- Professor in the College of Medicine
- Researcher in the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging



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“You can’t treat something if you don’t know it exists,” Nelson said. “We are now characterizing it so that research can be done on it and future cures can be developed. This will also greatly assist finding therapies for Alzheimer’s disease itself, because clinical trials can integrate this new knowledge.”

To make these discoveries, researchers need the funding and flexibility to pursue new leads, Nelson said. Science occurs at the edges, and typical grants, which are awarded for a specific project or purpose, don’t give researchers freedom to innovate and explore new ideas.

Endowed positions do. The R.C. Durr Foundation Chair in Alzheimer’s was established in 1998 to further dementia research. Though Durr died in 2007, his legacy lives on through his foundation, funded by his estate.

Holding the Durr position since 2012, Nelson uses the endowed funds to do research that is not “cookbook.” It

allows him to explore new ground and be more innovative in his research.

“The endowed chair has been a tremendously helpful resource,” Nelson said. “Overall, it allows us to be better researchers, which gets us closer to our goal—curing dementia-inducing diseases and being the best at doing it. We want to be the best, the leaders in curing this disease, but to do so, we need the best talent as a part of our team. Endowed positions like mine allow UK to get the best people and to keep the best people here, all working together to find a cure.

“I am grateful to have the resources to do this innovative work, and I want donors to know that we make the most efficient use of their funds so that we can have the greatest impact and the best chance of curing diseases that affect people throughout the world,” Nelson said.



You Can Encourage the Next Big Breakthrough

Future support to the University of Kentucky helps researchers like Peter T. Nelson pursue cures to diseases and solutions to issues in a variety of fields. Contact us at 859-257-7886 or giftandestate@uky.edu to learn about your giving options.

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When you create a will, you gain peace of mind knowing that you're protecting the important people in your life. You can also use your will to invest in the causes that are close to your heart and create a permanent testament to the values that are important to you.

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3. Once your gift is in place, let us know. It would be our honor to thank you for your foresight and ensure that your gift is used as you intend.



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KENTUCKY CAN.



A Game Changer

Joe Halcomb came to the University of Kentucky in 1969 with a big idea. He wanted to put medicine and engineering together.

With the help of UK faculty, Joe embarked on a course of study that prepared him for a remarkable career in the medical device and biotechnology industries over the past three and a half decades.

Now, through innovative philanthropy, Joe and Joani Halcomb are assisting UK graduate students in the colleges of Engineering and Medicine who have a similar interest in interdisciplinary study. They provided an endowed chair and graduate fellowships to attract top researchers and students to UK. In their honor, the College of Engineering named the Department of Biomedical Engineering the F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Their \$7 million gift changed the way people looked at giving, showing how supporting interdisciplinary research could create solutions to global problems. It also was innovative in combining outright gifts with planned giving strategies.

“Using planned giving techniques, we learned we could give more and make a bigger impact at UK without diminishing our other goals and interests,” Joe said.

“I encourage all alumni and friends to take advantage of available planning options through UK Philanthropy.”

The Halcombs’ gift is leaving a significant mark on UK, fueling groundbreaking research, improving healthcare and



supporting student and faculty members’ success, all goals of *Kentucky Can: The 21st Century Campaign*. Through the campaign, UK wants to show that Kentucky can lead the way in solving problems facing Kentuckians and communities worldwide.



Contact us to learn how you can put a planned gift to work so that Kentucky can work harder, reach higher and dream bigger for the future of our institution, our students and our state.



University of Kentucky
Office of Philanthropy
Sturgill Philanthropy Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0015

Tom Barker
Senior Executive Director, Gift & Estate Planning
859-257-7886 | giftandestate@uky.edu
plannedgiving.uky.edu

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