

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to announce the completion of the Thomas and Mary Cesario Endowed Chair for Medicine. This is a \$1 Million Endowed Administrative Chair that will be held by the Chair of Medicine. Last month to honor the completion of funding/approval and the start of the Thomas and Mary Cesario Endowed Chair of Medicine, Dean Clayman and the SOM held an investiture ceremony honoring our donors, Dr. and Mrs. Cesario and our Department of Medicine faculty/staff/trainees.

Endowed Chairs are associated with the best Universities around the world. It is amongst the most important gifts to higher education. Philanthropic endowments have been known since ancient times dated back to the Greek Philosopher Plato bequeathed valuable land to his disciples so they could maintain his Academy. The earliest "endowed chairs" were those established by the Roman Emperor and Stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius in Athens in AD 176. The practice was adapted to the modern university system beginning in England in 1502, when Lady Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and grandmother to the future king Henry VIII, created the first endowed chairs in divinity at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Dr. Tom Cesario is Professor Emeritus and an Infectious Disease specialist in the UCI Department of Medicine. He was the 3rd Chairman of the UCI Department of Medicine from 1990 to 1994, following which he became the longest reigning Dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Cesario's impact on the vision and growth of the UCI School of Medicine has been tremendous and has helped shape UCI Health for a quarter of a century through his leadership and passion. Mary Cesario has volunteered countless hours for UCI School of Medicine and our University at large, not only in supporting all the efforts of Dr. Cesario, but also having served as President of Hospital Associates and Research Associates.

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Cesario and to you all as faculty/staff/trainees of the Department of Medicine for achieving this

important and significant milestone.

Sincerely,

Alpesh

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