

THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES
DIABETES RESEARCH CENTER

Annual Report 2014

We did it!

Celebrating the Center's New Home

WHAT AN AMAZING YEAR IT HAS BEEN FOR THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES DIABETES RESEARCH CENTER (FOEDRC) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA! Not only did the 800,000 F.O.E. and Auxiliary members finalize their unparalleled \$25 million gift toward the Center, but the University of Iowa also opened the doors to the Pappajohn Biomedical Discovery Building (PBDB) — our new permanent home!

On August 22nd and 23rd, the UI and FOEDRC staff gathered to welcome more than 300 Eagles and Auxiliary members back to Iowa City. They toured the PBDB, where one-and-a-half floors will be occupied by 16 of the 100 diabetes research groups. The presence of nearly 400 people made for a powerfully emotional weekend.

During a celebratory program, several supporters expressed their thanks for the Eagles' contribution to diabetes research. This included a surprise video message from former UI student Tom Brokaw (read more inside).

The endearing Tony Orlando attended the event, noting that his mother succumbed to a stroke, an all-too-common risk of diabetes, two years ago. To him, the partnership between the Eagles and Hawkeyes creates the perfect vision and focus required to cure diabetes.

"I really believe that someday when I return here, with this great staff and their brilliant medical minds and what I saw on the tour, that there will be a cure that comes out of this very building," Tony said. "What a day and what a miracle that will be!"

Tony said he looks forward to continuing to enlighten people around the world about the activities of the Center.

Comedian and Eagle Tom Parks spoke about the breakthroughs in diabetes treatment over the last 93 years. Tom's diabetic father was born in 1921, the same year insulin was discovered. He received his diagnosis in 1954, and over the years, the syringes progressed from glass to disposable, while blood glucose monitoring became standard. In lieu of injections, Tom wears an automatic insulin pump.

"The advances are terrific, but the next big miracle is going to be the cure, and it's going to change the world," Tom said. "Thanks to the Eagles and everybody who's involved, you have the real possibility of bringing about a cure. We wish you Godspeed."

Dr. E. Dale Abel, Director of the FOEDRC, spoke of the Eagles' amazing demonstration of commitment and how that enhances recruitment. He acknowledged the hard work of his Eagle brothers and sisters and made a vow to move forward with the same determination.

"Something very special is happening here," Dr. Abel said. "As we celebrate this morning, we want to recognize that we shall move forward with strength. Just as you rolled up your sleeves to bring us to this point, we will roll up our sleeves and bring you to the next point... [when hopefully,] we can stand and say, 'We've cured it. We have beaten it. We have won it!'"

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—E. Dale Abel, M.D., Ph.D.

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