



THE HERITAGE CIRCLE MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY



GIVING FOR THE FUTURE

Michael J. Blend, Ph.D., D.O., Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (CCOM), Class of 1979, and his wife, Lesly, have enjoyed balancing work and commitments with adventures such as cruise vacations and day trips to the Colorado Mountains.

When Dr. Blend reflects on his years at CCOM and his post-graduate training, one word that comes to mind is “thankful.” He is thankful to have attended CCOM, which provided him an exceptional education in osteopathic medicine. “I am very fortunate to have had a career I enjoyed every day,” he shared.

Born into a family of medical professionals, Dr. Blend is honored to carry on the tradition. “Two of my cousins were physicians, and two of my aunts were nurses. One of my cousins helped me through a difficult illness when I was in college.” This experience inspired Dr. Blend to choose a career that allowed him to help others.

“People have always come to him with their medical questions.” Lesly said. “Even now, friends and family members seek his opinion about anything having to do with medicine.”

Dr. Blend graduated from the University of Scranton with a B.S. in Biology in 1965. He earned an M.S. in Animal Physiology

from the University of Nebraska in 1967 and then earned a Ph.D. in Physiology and Radiation Biology at Cornell University in 1970. While serving as a graduate assistant in a physiology course at Cornell, he met his wife, Lesly, who was earning a master’s degree at the College of International Nutrition. They married in 1970 on the Ithaca Campus and have enjoyed 51 years together.

While teaching and running a laboratory at Detroit’s Mt. Carmel Hospital, Dr. Blend met many impressive radiologists and internists. One of the radiology residents was a D.O. who also graduated from CCOM. Dr. Blend was intrigued with this young doctor and his relationship to his patients in the Radiology Department, and Dr. Blend chose to apply to CCOM. “Anyone who is considering osteopathic medicine as a career, go for it! There are many people at CCOM who will help you.”

Dr. Blend attended CCOM from 1975 to 1979 and followed up with an internal medicine residency. He next completed a fellowship at Michael Reese in Nuclear Medicine. Following his fellowship, he practiced at the University of Illinois Chicago, where he became a tenured professor of Nuclear Medicine and Radiology and served as the Director of the UIC PET/CT Center.

SPRING 2022



*Michael J. Blend, Ph.D., D.O. '79
and Lesly Blend*

“I am very fortunate to have had a career I enjoyed every day.”

—Dr. Michael Blend

*To learn more, please visit
our gift planning website:
midwestern.givingplan.net*

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WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE BEHIND?



We all know how important it is to take care of our loved ones when we are no longer here.

But have you ever thought about what your legacy will be? After providing for loved ones, most of us also want to make a difference in our communities and the causes, organizations, and institutions we care about.

Leaving a legacy to tomorrow's healthcare teams can be easier than you think. One of the simplest ways to accomplish this goal is to make gifts in your will to Midwestern University.

Midwestern University can be named in your will or living trust in the same way that you can include your spouse,

children, grandchildren, and other loved ones. You can choose to leave a specific amount, or you could decide a charitable gift should be made only after your other beneficiaries have received their gifts.

Your continued support of Midwestern University will make a difference in our ability to train tomorrow's healthcare teams and will ensure we maintain the highest standards of academic excellence to meet the educational needs of the healthcare community.

In the following pages, learn about ways to leave your legacy with Midwestern University as we continue to educate our healthcare professionals for the challenges of tomorrow. ■

PLEASE JOIN THE HERITAGE CIRCLE



The Heritage Circle recognizes donors who have included Midwestern University in their will or other estate plans, such as a trust, gift annuity, or beneficiary designation of their retirement plans, like IRAs, 401(k) plans, or life insurance policies.

Currently, we have nearly 90 Heritage Circle members. Membership entitles you to receive special invitations to donor events as well as mentions—only with your consent—in Midwestern annual reports and publications.

If you are not a member, we would like to invite you to become a member of the Heritage Circle and join this philanthropic group of individuals who are helping ensure the future of Midwestern University. Through your generosity, you can make a difference for Midwestern University students, who will then make a difference in every community where they provide excellent healthcare to their patients.

For more information, please return the enclosed card or contact Staci Glass, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 623-572-3286.

BODY DONATION PROGRAM

THERE IS A PROFOUND JOY that comes from understanding the whole person. Good healthcare demands intellectual creativity, nourished by a hands-on respect for the whole body, mind, and soul. This is the essence of Midwestern University's Body Donation Program, transforming students into lifelong healthcare professionals. We established the Body Donation Program because we consider the detailed study of human structure to be foundational for the education of healthcare professionals. This integral knowledge can best be learned and appreciated through the study of the whole human body.

Whole body donation trains healthcare professionals for tomorrow, introduces anatomy from a whole person perspective, and offers opportunities to participate in medical and surgical techniques and procedures. In addition, it provides financial benefits to families. We recognize the thoughtful consideration that goes into the decision to donate to our program and wish to acknowledge and express our gratitude to those individuals who generously choose to invest in the future of healthcare by making this donation.

For information, please contact Sandra Inouye, Ph.D., the Director of the Midwestern University Body Donation Program, at 623-806-7990, or visit www.midwestern.edu/bodydonation. ■

While a student at CCOM, Dr. Blend was inspired by the many devoted professors. He fondly recalls Dr. Ward Perrin and his course on the history of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Blend also said that as a student he frequently went on rounds with Dr. George Caleel, another professor, and shared that all of the students found him to be very inspiring. “Dr. Caleel was an excellent teacher and very engaging with his patients.”

In 1993, Dr. Blend was invited to join the Midwestern University Board of Trustees, which he says has been one of the greatest experiences in his life. He says that it has been an honor and a privilege to be part of the decision-making process that helped to shape the university over the years. He continues to be an active member of the board.

Dr. Blend retired from UIC in 2013. He volunteers at the Marian House Homeless Clinic run by Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs and has worked in various leadership roles at hospitals,

universities, as a physician volunteer, and through serving on the Midwestern University Board of Trustees since 1993.

The Blends enjoy exploring Colorado’s national parks, and they have cruised the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and the San Juan Islands in Puget Sound. Their most recent trip was a river cruise from Portland, Oregon, to Idaho.

Their son, Jeffrey, who works as an economist for the state of Montana, has helped them with their estate planning. Throughout his career, Dr. Blend has enjoyed helping others, which is why he and Lesly have included Midwestern University in their wills. Dr. Blend’s gratitude for CCOM and the excellent education he received is why he and his family chose to give back. The Blends know that Midwestern University will continue to support education, help the community, and put these funds to good use for future generations. ■

PHARMACOMETRICS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PAIRS INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND MENTORSHIP

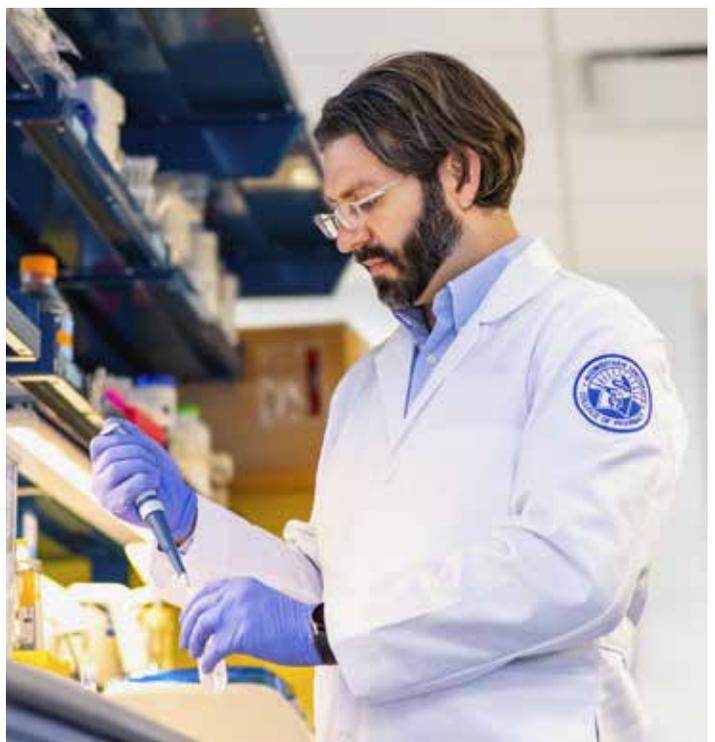
The Midwestern University Pharmacometrics Center of Excellence opened on the Downers Grove Campus in the summer of 2018. Since then, the Center has increased the number of funded extramural research grants, published peer-reviewed research, trained Midwestern students to uphold rigorous research standards, and mentored Postdoctoral fellows who will become future career scientists and leaders.

The Center is led by Marc Scheetz, Pharm.D., M.Sc., BCPS, Professor of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, and is comprised of a team of pharmacologists, translational scientists, synthetic chemists, and clinicians.

The Center focuses on pharmacometrics, which involves the quantitative study of medication effects on both humans and animals. In-silico methods such as computer modeling and computer simulation are used to improve and refine approaches from preclinical studies through the clinical environment. The Center also helps foster collaborative approaches that pair clinicians and scientists committed to improving the health of people and animals utilizing the principles of One Health.

The approved mission of the Center is to design innovative strategies that maximize safe and effective pharmacotherapy for patients and develop the next generation of translational clinicians and scientists through advanced pharmacometric education. The future goals of the Center include continuing to advance educational

opportunities at Midwestern University and enhancing the University’s reputation for scientific excellence. “We are excited to continue our work with our MWU students to make current drugs safer for patients by innovating delivery approaches and developing new therapeutics,” Dr. Scheetz said. ■



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Gaye Zinni

* Deceased

HAVE YOU ALREADY MADE YOUR WILL?

If you have, great job! But does your will need to be revised? There are many factors that can render your will obsolete. Ask yourself these questions to ensure your will is up to date:

1. Is my executor still appropriate and willing to serve? YES NO
2. Does my will still meet my family's needs, given any births, changes in marital status, or deaths that have occurred? YES NO
3. Does my will address the needs of my children, parents, or other loved ones who would require care in my absence? YES NO
4. Do I live in the same state as when I last updated my will and/or other plans? YES NO
5. Are my retirement plans and/or insurance beneficiary designations up to date? YES NO
6. Are my financial records easily accessible and clear? YES NO
7. Has my attorney reviewed my will in recent years so that my plans reflect current tax laws? YES NO
8. Does my estate plan provide for charitable organizations I wish to support, such as Midwestern University? YES NO

HOW DID YOU DO?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, you may wish to review your plans and revise them to serve you as well as possible. We would be happy to provide you or your advisors with more information about including Midwestern University in your plans. ■



MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Educating Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

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