PROFESSORSHIPS AND NAMINGS
MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
JUNE 10, 2005
PROFESSORSHIPS AND NAMINGS MEETING

Friday, June 10, 2005
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Dome Room, The Rotunda

AGENDA

I.   ACTION ITEMS (Mr. Casteen)  
A.  Establishment of the George A. Beller, M.D./Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., Distinguished Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine
B.  Establishment of the Andrew P. Somlyo Distinguished Professorship in Molecular Physiology

II.  REPORT ON NAMINGS (Mr. Casteen)
• Robert M. Berne Cardiovascular Research Center
• W. Norman Thornton, Jr., Gynecologic-Oncology Service
THE GEORGE A. BELLER, M.D./BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB MEDICAL IMAGING, INC., DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

BACKGROUND: George Beller is one of the University’s most distinguished citizens. An alumnus of the Medical School, he returned to Charlottesville in 1977 to join the faculty of the School of Medicine as Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in the Department of Medicine, a position he held until last year when he returned to full time research and clinical practice.

When Dr. Beller joined the Division, he was the seventh cardiology faculty member; there was a limited specialty fellowship training program in cardiology and the total research support for the entire Division was $75,000. Under his leadership, the Division grew to 33 clinical faculty members who have many sub-specialties. There are currently 24 clinical fellows. There are also over 55 research faculty members and research support staff and in 2004, grant funding for the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine exceeded $5.5 million, with the expectation that it will go over $6 million in the current fiscal year.

Dr. Beller is a leader in the field of noninvasive cardiology and is in demand around the world as a lecturer. Recently, he became Editor of the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology and he has served on the board of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology since the Society was organized. He was a major advocate for nuclear cardiology when he was President of the American College of Cardiology in 2000-2001.

Bristol Myers-Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., and George Beller have collaborated since the mid-70s: he has served on Squibb scientific advisory committees and the company has supported Dr. Beller and his colleagues in their research, particular in nuclear imaging related to cardiology.
To honor Dr. Beller and his work, particularly in nuclear cardiology, Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., has pledged $1 million to establish a chair. The professorship is to be called the George A. Beller, M.D./Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., Distinguished Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine. The chair will be held in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine of the Department of Medicine.

DISCUSSION: The President will propose the establishment of the George A. Beller, M.D./Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., Distinguished Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Board of Visitors

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GEORGE A. BELLER, M.D./BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB MEDICAL IMAGING, INC., DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

WHEREAS, George A. Beller took his M.D. from the University of Virginia in 1966 and returned to the School of Medicine in 1977 as Chief of the Cardiovascular Division of the Department of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 there were seven clinical faculty members in the Division, a number which grew to 33 under Dr. Beller’s leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Division has become a national, and indeed international center for research and teaching in cardiology under Dr. Beller; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Beller in 2004 returned to full time research and clinical practice; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Beller and Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., have collaborated in research for many years; and

WHEREAS, Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., has made a generous gift for a professorship to honor Dr. Beller and his contributions to cardiology, particularly nuclear cardiology;
RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the George A. Beller, MD/Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., Distinguished Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine, to be held in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine of the Department of Medicine in the School of Medicine. The Board thanks Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging, Inc., for its support and generosity and thanks, too, Dr. Beller for his distinguished service to the University of Virginia.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: June 10, 2005

COMMITTEE: Professorships and Namings

AGENDA ITEM: I.B. Establishment of Professorship:
Approval to establish a Distinguished Professorship in Molecular Physiology

THE ANDREW P. SOMLYO DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN MOLECULAR PHYSIOLOGY

BACKGROUND: Dr. Andrew P. Somlyo, who died in January, 2004, took his B.S., his M.S. (in pathology) and his M.D. from the University of Illinois and his M.S. in Bioengineering from the Drexel University of Technology. He came to the University from the University of Pennsylvania and from 1988 until his death, he was Chairman of the Department of Molecular Physiology and the Charles Slaughter Professor in Physiology.

Under Dr. Somlyo’s leadership the Department of Molecular Physiology became one of the top ranked - by the National Institutes of Health - physiology departments in the country. He was a rigorous scholar and researcher and he expected no less of his colleagues. A result was international recognition of his faculty and important and very influential publications. He started the Center for Structural Biology at the University to focus on research in cardiovascular physiology, membrane proteins, and signal transduction in normal and cancer cells.

Dr. Somlyo’s widow, Avril Somlyo, is a faculty member of the Department of Molecular Physiology, and their son, Andrew Paul Somlyo, Jr., is an alumnus of the School of Medicine.

In Dr. Somlyo’s honor, the School of Medicine proposes the creation of the Andrew P. Somlyo Distinguished Professorship in Molecular Physiology, to be held in the Department of Molecular Physiology in the Medical School.

DISCUSSION: The President will propose the establishment of the Andrew P. Somlyo Distinguished Professorship in Molecular Physiology.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Board of Visitors
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANDREW P. SOMLYO DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN MOLECULAR PHYSIOLOGY

WHEREAS, Andrew P. Somlyo, M.D., was Chairman of the Department of Molecular Physiology and Charles Slaughter Professor in Physiology in the School of Medicine of the University of Virginia from 1988 until his death in 2004; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Somlyo's direction and leadership, the Department of Molecular Physiology became one of the best physiology departments in the country; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Somlyo founded the Center for Structural Biology at the University;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Andrew P. Somlyo Distinguished Professorship in Molecular Physiology, to be held in the Department of Molecular Physiology in the School of Medicine. In so doing, the Board honors the distinguished contributions Dr. Somlyo made to his discipline and to the University of Virginia.
NAMINGS – The Board of Visitors approves the naming of buildings, streets, and the like, but not rooms or other portions of buildings; the naming of the latter is based on recommendations made by the University Committee on Names and then approved by the President. These namings are then reported to the Board as a matter of record.

There are two such namings to be reported to the Board at this meeting, the Robert M. Berne Cardiovascular Research Center and the W. Norman Thornton, Jr., Gynecologic-Oncology Service.

THE ROBERT M. BERNE CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH CENTER

The Cardiovascular Research Center in the School of Medicine is being named in honor of the late Robert M. Berne, M.D., for many years the Chair of the Department of Physiology and himself a leader in cardiovascular research.

The Board honored Dr. Berne in 1992 with the establishment of the Robert M. Berne Professorship in Cardiovascular Research.

Dr. Berne joined the faculty of the Medical School in 1966 as Chair of Physiology. He was the Charles M. Slaughter Professor of Physiology for 22 years until his retirement and election as emeritus in 1994. He died in 2001.

Dr. Berne had an extremely distinguished career as a teacher and researcher. He was the President of the American Physiological Society in 1972 and was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science in 1979 and to the National Academy itself in 1988. He and a colleague developed the medication Adenocard for the treatment of cardiac arrhythmia, and he was able to direct most of the royalties from their patent to establish and endow the Cardiovascular Research Center and to help support the Berne Professorship.
Dr. Berne trained dozens of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, many of whom are now senior professors and chairs of departments. He built his department and its research programs and he was unstinting in his support of his colleagues and students.

The Cardiovascular Research Center that is being named for him - the naming was recommended by the President and approved by the University Names Committee - literally would not have existed without his initiative and support.

THE W. NORMAN THORNTON, JR., GYNECOLOGIC-ONCOLOGY SERVICE

Dr. William Norman Thornton, Jr. trained several generations of obstetricians and gynecologists. An alumnus of the College (1933) and of the School of Medicine (1936), he joined the faculty after military service in the Second World War. He was Chair of Ob/Gyn for 29 years, retiring from that position in 1979 and from the faculty in 1983, when he was elected emeritus. He died in 1999.

Dr. Thornton published extensively and he was president of numerous professional societies during his career. He was instrumental in creating gynecological oncology as a formally recognized specialty on the national level, which was a measure of the esteem in which he was held by colleagues across the nation.

Dr. Thornton was so well liked in the Medical School that a chair was established in his honor with gifts from colleagues and former students. There is also a Medical School scholarship in his name and alumni have provided funds for the annual Thornton Symposium, which is held in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Thornton gave back to the University and established two nursing scholarships named for his wife and daughter.

The School of Medicine, with the approval of the President and the University Names Committee, has proposed that the Gynecologic-Oncology Service in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology be named for Dr. Thornton. The official name will be the W. Norman Thornton, Jr., Gynecologic-Oncology Service.