Steele Center Director Given UAF Fundraising Excellence Award

Steele Children's Research Center
October 2017

Fayez K. Ghishan, director of the Steele Children's Research Center [1], is the recipient of the 2017 Eugene G. Sander Endowed Faculty Fundraising Award.

The award, given by the UA Foundation Board of Trustees, recognizes those who demonstrate a commitment to excellence in fundraising and development.

Ghishan, an internationally acclaimed physician-scientist in the field of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition, has led the Steele Center since 1995.

John-Paul Roczniak, president and CEO of the UA Foundation [2], estimated that Ghishan's impact in fundraising since joining the Steele Center is about $34 million. Moreover, 2017 has been a record-breaking year, with about $8.5 million raised [3].

"Dr. Ghishan is a shining example of a fundraiser, a physician and a University leader," Roczniak said. "All of us at the UA Foundation are thrilled to recognize his efforts, knowing his success stems from a deep dedication to pediatric medicine."

"Fayez has done so much for children's health," said Maxine Henig, UA Foundation trustee and former Steele Center advisory board chair. "Through research, he helps children and adults throughout the world. In addition to being brilliant, he is warm and caring. We are blessed to have Fayez at the UA as our champion for children's health."

In addition to Ghishan's scientific contributions over his more than 40-year career, his passion for children's health and the benefits of scientific research have inspired countless individuals, volunteer groups, philanthropic organizations and others to support research and programs at the Steele Center.

"Dr. Ghishan's drive to heal children, discover cures and share knowledge is inspirational to the Arizona Elks," said Jimm Krausman, executive director of Arizona Elks Major Projects. "His message strikes a benevolent chord in the Arizona Elks that makes them want to dig deeper and do more. His expressions of gratitude warm the hearts of every supporter of the Arizona Elks Major Projects."

Ghishan also has inspired members of People Acting Now Discover Answers, or PANDA.

"His significant accomplishments motivate us to work even harder to help him and the scientists at the Steele Center. We know it could be any one of our loved ones who need help? either now or tomorrow. We want to guarantee he has the funds for 'tomorrow,'" said Robyn DeBell, one of the founding members of PANDA.
"This award is truly an honor and I'm so grateful for this recognition," said Ghishan, who accepted the award on Oct. 12. "I'm profoundly moved and inspired by our generous supporters, who share my passion to help children through medical research."

"Dr. Ghishan is an extraordinary leader," said Charles B. Cairns, dean of the College of Medicine – Tucson. "In addition to his internationally renowned research and clinical effort, he has a passion for philanthropic efforts on behalf of the University."

The UA Foundation established the award in 2008 in honor of Eugene G. Sander, who served as vice provost and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He planned to retire in 2011 but instead served as UA president on an interim basis while a search for a new president was conducted. While at the UA, Sander was recognized as an advocate and leader of faculty involvement in philanthropy.

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