You’ve committed your professional career to a lifetime of caring for patients’ lung health. Now we want to recognize you for a lifetime of giving to the CHEST Foundation and our mission of championing lung health.

The CHEST Foundation Founders Society acknowledges those who have given $50K or more in their lifetime through gifts to the Beyond Our Walls capital campaign, special appeals, fundraising events, endowment campaigns, gifts of honoraria, and gifts to the Annual Fund.

Through the CHEST Foundation Founders Society, you will:

- Join a distinguished group of passionate healthcare professionals and their families, who are major donors to CHEST Foundation.
- Enjoy special benefits that allow you to get connected and socialize with other members of the Founders Society.
- Attend inclusive Founders Society receptions and other CHEST Foundation recognition events that keep you connected with peers.
- Choose to have your name included in all Founders Society recognition materials and locations, honoring your significant contribution.
- Show your ongoing commitment by continuing a lifetime of giving, supporting our effort to grow our endowment and become a self-sustaining foundation.
CHEST’s 19,000+ members engage in clinical research, participate in community service, and deliver patient education, advancing the lung health of millions of patients in local communities around the world.

What makes us unique?

In 1935, Murray Kornfeld’s vision of patients and clinicians working together to advance global lung health inspired the founding of the American College of Chest Physicians. Celebrating more than 20 years as the charitable foundation of the American College of Chest Physicians, the CHEST Foundation embraces that same vision. Through CHEST Foundation-supported programs, CHEST’s 19,000+ members engage in clinical research, participate in community service, and deliver patient education, advancing the lung health of millions of patients in local communities around the world.
What is our value to the community?

**CLINICAL RESEARCH**

Since 1996, the CHEST Foundation has provided over $10 million in funding for clinical research grants and community service projects, with a reach that spans from Texas to Tanzania. We are an important go-to resource for young investigators seeking research funding, as well as humanitarian efforts that advance education for both clinicians and patients. During the CHEST Annual Meeting, we award an average of a half-million dollars each year in grants for projects that advance lung health.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The CHEST Foundation engages CHEST members and local communities in a variety of lung health community outreach efforts, from providing screenings at Champions for Lung Health events to participating in grassroots efforts like local lung health walks and tobacco education programs. We offer chest medicine professionals a way to give back and to participate as champions for lung health.
The CHEST Foundation creates trusted patient education resources and disease awareness campaigns that empower patients to engage in managing their health. Chest medicine professionals develop clinically relevant content. The CHEST Foundation partners with patient-facing organizations like the American Lung Association and the Allergy & Asthma Network, to expand our reach. Available in print, on the web, and for mobile devices, CHEST Foundation patient education tools help patients easily understand complex lung health conditions and procedures.

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What do we plan to do with new Founders Society contributions?

Contributions to the CHEST Foundation endowment will be invested to build the foundation’s reserves, ensuring the foundation’s continued funding of clinical research grants, community service projects, and patient education programs.

New planned and major gifts from Founders Society members to the CHEST Foundation endowment will secure the foundation’s future.

Patients and clinicians around the world benefit from the CHEST Foundation’s community service awards. Imagine a hospital serving 8 million people in sub-Saharan Africa that has a single antiquated spirometer, no bronchoscopes, and no physicians trained to diagnose and treat patients with critical respiratory diseases. This was the reality at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Through a CHEST Foundation Community Service Grant Honoring D. Robert McCaffree, MD, Master FCCP, CHEST Member Peter Moschovis, MD, received funding to help develop a curriculum in pulmonary medicine for medical residents and staff at the hospital and enabled US physicians to mentor Ugandan internists with a special interest in pulmonary medicine. Besides building local expertise in lung disease, this funding helped provide the hospital with basic equipment for diagnosis and treatment of lung disease, as well.
Why do we need planned and major gifts?

New planned and major gifts from Founders Society members to the CHEST Foundation endowment will secure the foundation’s future. Becoming a self-sustaining foundation by growing our endowment helps ensure that critical programs—including clinical research, community service, and patient education—can continue to have a significant impact on lung health well into the future.

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More than 18 million adults and nearly 7 million children in the United States suffer from asthma. Despite many advances in healthcare, ten Americans die every day from asthma and asthma-related complications. These deaths can be prevented with continued education of both patients and providers. The CHEST Foundation joined forces with Allergy & Asthma Network to launch the “Asthma: Take action. Take Control.” disease awareness campaign to raise the understanding of asthma across the country, especially in urban areas where the illness is most severe. Focused on patients suffering from persistent, difficult-to-control asthma, the campaign educates patients, caregivers, families, community members, and healthcare providers about the most current treatment options for asthma, highlights the importance of referral to specialists to improve patient outcomes, and brings to light the role of the entire healthcare team and loved ones in the care of a patient with asthma. The campaign also seeks to increase patients’ understanding of their condition through education, ensuring both patients and providers are working better together to alleviate symptoms.

I have contributed to the CHEST Foundation Annual Fund and to the Beyond Our Walls campaign. How is this opportunity different?

Major and planned gifts from Founders Society members will increases the CHEST Foundation’s endowment, helping the foundation advance towards its goal of becoming a self-sustaining foundation. The Annual Fund helps support annual programs of the CHEST Foundation. In fact, 95 cents of every dollar raised through Annual Fund appeals go directly towards our programs and services. Pledges made to the Beyond Our Walls capital campaign helped fund the new CHEST Innovation, Simulation, and Training Center, a state-of-the-art facility that opened in 2014 to deliver hands-on clinical medical education for chest medicine professionals.
Does the Founders Society count all current pledges to the CHEST Foundation, or just dollars that I have already contributed?

The Founders Society recognizes donors for their cumulative lifetime giving, based on funds received to date by the CHEST Foundation. Actual contributions to pay off pledges to the Annual Fund or Beyond Our Walls campaign are included, while dollars pledged but not yet paid will not be counted until they are received by the foundation as pledge payments.

I still have an outstanding pledge towards the Annual Fund or Beyond our Walls; can I wait to make a new Founders Society gift after these pledges have been paid off?

Your future payments of any outstanding pledges will count towards your cumulative lifetime giving to the CHEST Foundation, which—when paid—determines your eligibility for levels in the Founders Society. While you may choose to wait to make a new gift, you also may choose to make an additional financial contribution at this time—via a new major or planned gift to the CHEST Foundation endowment, which would help advance your cumulative giving recognized by the Founders Society.

“After succeeding professionally and launching my children into college, I yearned for a meaningful opportunity to become involved in community service. The CHEST Foundation was a natural vehicle to support lung health with a deep level of involvement. My efforts have focused on the subcommittee that reviews and selects grant recipients for exciting community service projects. I have been inspired working with many of my CHEST colleagues to help the foundation grow exponentially.”

—Edward J. Diamond, MD, MBA, FCCP, CHEST Foundation Trustee
Clinical research grants from the CHEST Foundation assist young investigators like CHEST member Kerri Johannson, MD, MPH, in gaining research and project management skills, while advancing their careers. “Being awarded a grant is validation that somebody else believes in your idea and that your project could be fruitful and contribute meaningfully to the field,” states Dr. Johannson. With support from Genentech, the CHEST Foundation’s Clinical Research Grant in Pulmonary Fibrosis funded Dr. Johannson’s research, focused on analyzing air pollution exposures and short-term variability in lung function for patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). Dr. Johannson’s patients were given home breathing machines so they could administer breathing tests at home to show how their lung function fluctuates over shorter periods of time. Dr. Johannson explained, “No one had ever looked at it before. It’s usually a long-term study, but it turns out there is actually a large portion of patients with a lot of short-term variability, and that has an impact for clinical trial outcomes and measures.”

My spouse has made contributions to the CHEST Foundation, in addition to my own donations. Can our cumulative lifetime giving amounts be combined?

Yes, the contributions made by members of the same household can be combined, and families may become part of the Founders Society through their combined cumulative lifetime giving.

I have completed a pledge of $25,000 to the Annual Fund, becoming a “Life Member” in the CHEST Foundation Champions Circle. Do I have to continue giving to the Annual Fund at that same level, indefinitely, to remain a Life Member?

Once you achieve “Life Member” status in the CHEST Foundation Champions Circle, by contributing $25,000 over five years, you remain a “Life Member” for life. This does not, however, prohibit you from making future contributions to the Annual Fund or to advancing into the Founders Society through additional major or planned gifts to the CHEST Foundation endowment. All gifts to the CHEST Foundation, once received, count towards your cumulative lifetime giving total, determining your eligibility for additional recognition among colleagues in the Founders Society.