

December 2020

Greetings from the [Colby](#) Foundation!

We hope this finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe during this extraordinary year of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has impacted all levels of education including medical schools where the Colby Foundation has and continues to maintain a commitment to educating medical students regarding organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Starla was able to travel to Pittsburgh in March 2020 for the 5<sup>th</sup> and final biennial Colby Cassani Endowed lectureship series (CCELS) presentation at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine-Seton Hill. As always, the student's attentiveness and questions regarding organ transplantation is exciting to see. The CCELS continues to consist of three speakers; (1) a physician involved in organ transplantation, (2) the local organ procurement organization and (3) Starla's presentation from a donor family's perspective. Occasionally, local recipient families speak as well.

Through John's relationship with Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine medical students at St. Peter's Health in Helena, MT, Starla was scheduled to begin a new ten year CCELS commitment in April, 2020 in Yakima, WA. That was unfortunately suspended until 2021 due to COVID-19. Another planned CCELS with a brand new MD school scheduled to open in Sacramento this year was also delayed indefinitely until they understand what the future holds for their medical school educative process.

The annual University of Nevada medical school CCELS scheduled to take place in November 2020 was also suspended until the fall of 2021. As medical schools have converted many of their first and second year classes to virtual education, Starla and I felt the impact of CCELS would best be delayed into 2021 until we can continue with the conventional in person presentation. We are confident that a global vaccine will restore all of our lives to a new normalcy and allow the Colby Foundation to return to on site presentations.

We made some updates to the [ColbyFoundation.org](#) website in 2020 and will continue to work on creating a refreshed look to the website.

We wish to thank you so much for your past support of the Colby Foundation. It is with this amazing commitment that we are able to continue to touch so many young medical students who will continue with a new found understanding of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. The combination of physician speakers together with members of the organ procurement organization, organ recipients and Starla Cassani's powerful donor family presentation creates a powerful impact that repeatedly changes how these young future physicians think and feel about organ donation.

Your contribution makes this continued great work possible as it directly supports the [Colby](#) Cassani Endowed Lectureship Series (CCELS) in medical schools across the country.

Your contributions enable future physicians to gain knowledge about organ, eye, and tissue donation and insight into the experiences of organ donors, transplant recipients, and their families.

Your contribution most importantly promotes compassion in these young minds and brings the humanism of medicine front and center.

Thus far, over 9500 students have had the opportunity to attend a CCELS. Many thanks to the generosity of contributors like you! We take pride in hearing its impact on attendees.

#### **How our endowment works**

By invitation, medical schools apply for the **Colby Cassani Endowed Lectureship Series (CCELS)** to fund education about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Awarded schools commit to presenting the CCELS to medical students at least twice in each student's four years of study.

They also bring information to the wider communities.

#### **The Colby Foundation presents \$4000**

every other year to fund the CCELS for a fixed term.

The schools practice prudent fiscal management, the endowment grows over time, and the school continues to present the CCELS indefinitely

It is with your commitment that we will continue to accomplish the **Colby** Foundation's mission to increase awareness of organ and tissue donation. Together we will ensure future healthcare professionals approach their patients and families with knowledge, understanding and kindness. We urge you to be as generous\* as you can and thank you for your consideration.

We wish you a healthy, safe and prosperous 2021 and a very enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,  
John and Starla Cassani  
Founders and Trustees

a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation  
EIN # 88-0445730

#### *Trustees:*

John Cassani, DO, MBA  
Starla Cassani

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To donate online and use your credit card, you may go to ColbyFoundation.org or you may mail a check payable to:

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