Resolution

Approving Conversion of the Parkinson Association of Alabama Scholar in Neurology Endowed Support Fund to the Parkinson Association of Alabama Endowed Professorship

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2015, The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama accepted generous gifts from the Parkinson Association of Alabama, Inc. (PAA), and approved the establishment of the Parkinson Association of Alabama Scholar in Neurology Endowed Support Fund within the School of Medicine at The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB); and

WHEREAS, the Parkinson Association of Alabama, Inc., has generously given additional gifts for the purpose of converting the Parkinson Association of Alabama Scholar in Neurology Endowed Support Fund to the Parkinson Association of Alabama Endowed Professorship; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the PAA that the Parkinson Association of Alabama Endowed Professorship be used to assist with the recruitment and retention of a talented Parkinson's disease scholar to strengthen and grow UAB's Division of Movement Disorders in the Department of Neurology and to promote research and education focusing on Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this endowment be named the Parkinson Association of Alabama Endowed Professorship to pay tribute to the PAA and its exemplary commitment to research and education, to the Department of Neurology, and to UAB as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the PAA, founded in 1978, is committed to providing support, encouraging action, increasing awareness, and supporting research to lead to new and improved treatments for Parkinson's disease that will ultimately lead to a cure, and because of the goals shared, the PAA is a longtime supporter of UAB's Department of Neurology; and

WHEREAS, the PAA has played a most vital role in the growth and development of the Department at UAB, and through the support of the PAA, the Department has made substantial progress in the research of Parkinson's disease and the development of innovative treatments and therapies for those afflicted by the disorder; and

WHEREAS, the PAA seeks to educate patients, caregivers, and the general public about Parkinson's disease, and many of the founders of PAA were Parkinson's patients themselves or family members of patients, along with professionals from the medical community; and

WHEREAS, the PAA is the only organization that represents all Parkinson's patients in the state, and the Board of Directors remains current on the latest legislative and research information in order to do the most good for the majority of persons affected by Parkinson's disease, regardless of their location in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the PAA provides monetary support exclusively to promising and innovative research at several research facilities in Alabama, and local support groups are assisted by the PAA through referrals, funding, organization, and education; and

WHEREAS, as the field of neuroscience expands, UAB's physicians and researchers are poised to gain greater understanding of brain function and to develop innovative treatments not only for Parkinson's disease, but also other neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and brain cancer; and

WHEREAS, this knowledge will be invaluable in light of an aging population and the likeliness of the prevalence of Parkinson's disease to increase in coming decades, making research like UAB's critical to discovering the next generation of safe and effective therapies for Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, this endowment will have an enduring effect on the work performed by the holder, on the education of future generations of physician-scientists, and on the countless patients whose lives are bettered through their care and, therefore, on the Department of Neurology, the School of Medicine, and the University as a whole;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that it herewith approves establishment of the Parkinson Association of Alabama Endowed Professorship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the permanent minutes of this Board and that copies or any parts of it be sent to Ms. Bibby Bailey, Executive Director of Parkinson Association of Alabama, Inc.; to David G. Standaert, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology; to Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., F.A.C.S., Senior Vice President and Dean of the School of Medicine; and to other appropriate officials of The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The foregoing was adopted by The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama at its meeting held September 17, 2021.

Finis E. St. John IV, Chancellor The University of Alabama System

Ray L. Watts, M.D., President

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Mark D. Foley, Jr., Secretary

The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama