



Weill Cornell Medical College

DONOR tribute
to the **STAVROS NIARCHOS**
FOUNDATION



thank you

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (www.SNF.org) is an international philanthropic organization, founded by Stavros S. Niarchos to support and promote his vision and interests in education, social welfare, health and medicine, and arts and culture. Since the beginning of its grant-making efforts in 1996, the Foundation has provided more than 1,750 grants to nonprofit organizations in more than 88 countries.

Medical research has always been one of the Foundation's top priorities. That conviction inspired the Foundation's most recent gift to Weill Cornell, which will name the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation Laboratory Research Module on the Cardiovascular Research Floor** in the new Medical Research Building. Laboratory Research Modules are hubs of scientific discovery, where the brightest scientific minds collaborate and gather the experimental data needed to advance health care.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation has a legacy of generosity spanning the Medical College's three Strategic Plans since the 1990s, each of which increased institutional capacity. In Strategic Plan I, which focused on basic research, the Foundation generously funded recruitment of key scientists. In Strategic Plan II, which boosted the College's clinical capacity, the Foundation helped to build the Center for Cardiac Disease Prevention in the award-winning Weill Greenberg Center. And now, in Strategic Plan III, represented by *Discoveries*, the Foundation is helping to synergize basic research and clinical efforts through translational research programs to be based at the Medical Research Building.

Until his death in 1996, Stavros Niarchos, whose name since then has graced the Foundation that carries his legacy, had a 30 year history of giving to the Medical College.

Mr. Niarchos' relationship with Weill Cornell began in the 1970s when Mary Allen Engle, M.D., then director of pediatric cardiology at Weill Cornell, sought to start a program to bring sick children, mostly from Greece, to the Medical Center for heart surgery. To raise the needed funding, Dr. Engle enlisted the help of Isadore Rosenfeld, M.D., the Ida and Theo Rossi Distinguished Professor of Clinical Medicine, who reached out to several Greek industrialists for help. Stavros Niarchos answered his plea. Thanks in large part to Mr. Niarchos' generosity, the program served more than 100 children with heart defects – with a 98 percent cure rate.

A few years after he supported the pediatric heart program, Mr. Niarchos wanted to find a way to honor his growing friendship with Dr. Rosenfeld. The physician suggested three options: a professorship in pediatric cardiology; support for the Division of International Medicine; or renovation of the Medical College's Anatomy Building on York Avenue. Mr. Niarchos couldn't decide which program was more important, so he did something extraordinary: he supported all three. His gift to Weill Cornell was the largest gift made to any medical college by a non-American at the time. Until his death, Mr. Niarchos remained a friend and benefactor of the Medical College, a tradition continued by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

"Stavros Niarchos was a great friend," says Dean Gotto, who met Mr. Niarchos at Baylor College of Medicine in the 1980s. "We are proud to have his name, and that of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, displayed throughout the Weill Cornell campus. His generosity, continued through the Foundation, reminds us that there are people out there who are willing to give whatever is needed to help improve life for others."



Stavros S. Niarchos

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Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.
Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean