THE MELVYN RUBENFIRE PROFESSORSHIP IN PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY

The Melvyn Rubenfire Professorship is part of a vision to foster expansion of the clinical, educational, and research programs in Preventive Cardiology. The vision for the program is to be recognized as one of the five best cardiovascular disease prevention programs in the United States by providing state-of-the-art care for people with heart and vascular disease, or the potential to develop it.

A named professorship is the highest honor the University of Michigan bestows upon a faculty member. In addition to honoring Dr. Rubenfire’s legacy, it will provide ongoing financial support that will allow a U-M faculty member to focus on the development of Preventive Cardiology programs, clinical care, research, and education.

Please join us in honoring Dr. Rubenfire through a gift to the Melvyn Rubenfire Professorship in Preventive Cardiology.

“...The Rubenfire Professorship will allow us to push forward the boundaries of research and education in cardiovascular disease, the developed world’s number one health concern. With the emerging epidemic of childhood obesity, and its related conditions of hypertension and diabetes, there has never been a more important time to focus on this area."  

— Kim Eagle, MD
Chief, Clinical Cardiovascular Medicine
Director, Cardiovascular Center

THE MELVYN RUBENFIRE, M.D.
INNOVATOR OF PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY

1968-1970 Cardiology Fellowship, Henry Ford Hospital
1969-1970 NIH Research Fellowship, Henry Ford Hospital
1970-1973 Chief of Cardiology, Sinai Hospital of Detroit
1971-1976 Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine, Wayne State University
1977-1984 Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, Wayne State University
1984-1991 Chairman, Department of Internal Medicine, Sinai Hospital of Detroit, and Professor of Internal Medicine, Wayne State University
1987-1990 Governor, American College of Cardiology (ACC)
1991-present Professor, Internal Medicine, University of Michigan
1992-present Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation
1995-present Director, Preventive Cardiology and Lipid Management Programs
1998-2004 Preventive Cardiology Committee, ACC
2000 Laureate Award, American College of Physicians, Michigan Chapter
2001-2005 Associate Editor, ACC Current Journal Review
2005-present Senior Associate Editor, ACC Current Journal Review
A CAREER OF PROMISE...

As a child, Dr. Rubenfire’s family taught him that “anything is possible if you have integrity, good ideas, and are willing to work hard.” It is these principles that have been a constant in his 36-year career in cardiology in the State of Michigan, and the last 15 years at the University of Michigan.

“My first medical role models included my father-in-law, Dr. Hyman Mellen, and some of the finest clinical physician internist-educators, who emphasized treating people not diseases,” he remembers.

INNOVATION...

After being one of the first trainees at Henry Ford Hospital to spend an extra year dedicated to cardiac catheterization, Dr. Rubenfire was hired by Detroit’s Sinai Hospital to develop a cardiac catheterization laboratory and cardiac intensive care program. He was part of a cutting-edge team led by Dr. Adrian Kantrowitz, the inventor of the intra-aortic balloon pump. Over the next 20 years, Sinai became nationally recognized for innovation and excellence in cardiovascular care, research, and education.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rubenfire has helped to implement numerous nationally recognized novel clinical and research programs. He is a highly published writer and national leader in preventive cardiology, clinical lipidology, and the American College of Cardiology. During his tenure at U-M, he has developed many unique patient-care and research efforts:

• Preventive Cardiology Services which incorporate stress reduction, meditation, nutrition, and exercise into the medical model of care
• Patient Support and Education Programs: the Cardiovascular Executive Program and the Life Style Enhancement Program, each designed to assess risks and optimize life style and medical treatments to prevent cardiovascular disease; Psych Cards: a joint program between psychiatry and cardiology; and Family Heart Disease: a joint program between pediatric and adult cardiology
• Pulmonary Hypertension Program: a multidisciplinary effort to diagnose and treat pulmonary hypertension
• The Vascular Endothelial Function Research Laboratory

AND COLLABORATION

In addition to the roles of clinician and researcher, Dr. Rubenfire has also been a well-regarded teacher. He has mentored and inspired a long line of internists and cardiologists who have gone on to distinguished careers of their own.

Despite his many outstanding achievements, individual successes have not been the driving force in Dr. Rubenfire’s career. Much of his work has been dedicated to cultivating multidisciplinary teamwork. For Dr. Rubenfire, the success of the program/institution and ultimately improved patient care has always been the goal.

A professorship that builds upon Dr. Rubenfire’s work in Preventive Cardiology ensures the enduring attributes of his long career of promise, innovation, and collaboration.

“Dr. Rubenfire has been visionary in developing a preventive cardiology program which considers the mind, body, and spirit. He assembled a team of exercise physiologists, dieticians, psychiatrists, diabetologists, pediatricians, and nurses who treat the whole patient and their family. His goal has been not only to prevent coronary heart disease, but to provide care that promotes the humanity and dignity of every individual. This professorship will be an enduring legacy to his vision.”

– David Pinsky, MD
Chief, Cardiovascular Medicine
Director, Cardiovascular Center