

July 1, 2008

**The Barbra Streisand Women's Cardiovascular Research
and Education Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**

Executive Summary

Overview

The Barbra Streisand Women's Cardiovascular Research and Education Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is an endowment that was established by Ms. Streisand as a bold new resource for women's heart health.

The Scope of Heart Disease in Women

- ❖ Cardiovascular disease is the leading killer of women. It kills nearly 500,000 women in the U.S. each year, more than all cancers combined
- ❖ Heart disease kills more women than men
- ❖ 40% of women do not survive their first heart attack
- ❖ For every woman who dies from breast cancer, ten will die from heart disease
- ❖ The medical system has failed to recognize female-pattern heart attack symptoms; current testing and treatments are geared toward male physiology

What will the Endowment do?

- ❖ Support the work of the Women's Heart Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center under the direction of C. Noel Bairey Merz., MD.
- ❖ Improve treatment options for women at risk or with heart disease by providing permanent funding to: expand current and future research efforts and create advanced diagnostics, treatments and technologies; and facilitate better understanding of sex and gender differences in heart disease
- ❖ Provide permanent funding for education which will empower women with vital information about female cardiovascular disease and raise awareness of the disease within the medical community; enable this type of program to be expanded to other medical centers, locally, nationally and internationally
- ❖ Support sex-specific cardiovascular research and education for generations to come
- ❖ Serve as the cornerstone of the Women's Heart Center under the central umbrella of the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute

Noel Bairey Merz, MD

- ❖ Nationally recognized leader in preventive cardiology, diagnostic cardiological testing, women's health, and heart disease in women
- ❖ Director of the Women's Heart Center, which provides risk assessment, diagnosis and heart disease care which is specifically tailored to women
- ❖ Primary area of research involves the development and prevention of heart disease in women, including the role of nutrition, exercise and stress, with an emphasis on gender and sex-specific differences
- ❖ Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; currently teaches at the graduate and undergraduate level and is a frequent invited speaker nationally and internationally
- ❖ Mentors and supervises the research of many junior faculty and trainees; created a program whereby faculty cardiologists mentor and provide career counsel to young women coming up in the field
- ❖ Chair of the National Institute of Health (NIH) – National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) sponsored multi-center study, the Women's Ischemic Syndrome Evaluation (WISE), which is investigating the potential for more effective diagnostic, evaluation and treatment methods for ischemic heart disease in women
- ❖ Has received numerous investigational grants from organizations such as the NIH and private foundations
- ❖ Has received numerous awards and honors, and has appeared frequently in the media, recognized as an authority on the subject of heart disease and stress, heart disease in women and preventive cardiology

Cedars-Sinai: A Leader in Cardiac Research and Care

- ❖ The Heart Institute's international reputation for outstanding heart care is built upon decades of innovation and leading-edge research
- ❖ The Heart Institute is known for excellence in sex-specific care, medical reversal of heart disease, cardiac interventions, minimally invasive surgery, heart transplantation, cardiac imaging, and training of the heart specialists of tomorrow
- ❖ Pioneering breakthroughs include the world's first Cardiac Care Unit, techniques to dissolve blood clots and dilate blood vessels, the Swan-Ganz catheter, which triggered a revolution in critical cardiac care, reversal of heart disease plaque using novel therapies, and identification of microvascular coronary disease which primarily impacts women
- ❖ Regenerative and stem cell approaches to heart disease are a major emphasis of inquiry with clinical trials being started, with specific emphasis on sex-specific cell treatments