

ACTIVITIES REPORT, 2010-2011

ILC USA

Legal Transition to Columbia Completed

A few years ago Dr. Butler and his Board at ILC USA initiated a transfer of the center to his alma mater, Columbia University. On March 6, 2011, nine months after his passing on July 4, 2010, the legal transition of ILC USA to Columbia was completed. The university's announcement states "honoring the wishes of the late Dr. Butler and in keeping with his longstanding commitment and generosity to the University, the mission, work, and the assets of the ILC will become the foundation for an interdisciplinary center on aging at Columbia, anchored at the Mailman School of Public Health." Linda Fried, MD, MPH, the Dean of the Mailman School and Jon (Jack) Rowe, MD, Chairman of the Mailman School's Board of Overseers serve as interim co-directors of the center.

The new center is expected to grow to serve as a research and educational hub for exploring issues in science and practice related to healthy aging, training a new generation of thought leaders in these issues, while also developing knowledge to inform aging-related public health policy in New York City, the U.S., and globally.

ILC's Leading Role at Columbia Envisioned

Columbia is a University that cares deeply about the future of society and about the role of knowledge in creating the best future. With the Mailman School of Public Health leading, the ILC at Columbia provides a potent opportunity to identify the successful strategies for an aging society. With the establishment and growth of this new center, Columbia is seizing the opportunity to enhance its own capabilities and increase its capacity to impact positive societal growth and promote improved health for all segments of society here in the United States and abroad.

In short, with the ILC at Columbia as an orchestra conductor across the University, Columbia faculty can contribute to a visionary agenda of research, leadership, and education initiatives for an aging society and world.

Endowment Campaign Launched

William Zabel, a former board member of ILC, and Nancy Turrett, who each worked with Dr. Butler over several decades on aging issues, are both members of the Mailman School's Board of

Overseers. They have stepped forward to co-chair a campaign to raise the funds needed to fuel this new engine of leadership, education and scholarly innovation. Once the way forward is secured, the intention is to propose to the University's trustees that the center be named in honor of Robert N. Butler who worked so tirelessly to shape the future of an aging society for the benefit of all generations.

Search for a New Director

An international search is underway to identify a new director for the ILC at Columbia who can chart an ambitious research agenda, provide curriculum leadership to educate the scholars of tomorrow, and catalyze a robust network of interdisciplinary engagement across the University campus on an array of urgent issues confronting our aging world. The search committee is currently interviewing candidates.

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