

CHARITABLE GIVING AND FUNDRAISING

The government and, through it, society make a considerable effort to enable the university to fulfil as many of its objectives as possible. But the university's ambitions almost always extend beyond the financial means available to it. The *Leuven University Fund* (LUF) plays a genuine role in bridging the gap between budget and ambition. With LUF support, our researchers can explore new fields not supported by conventional funding.

The percentage of sponsor-based research funding rose in 2010 to 2.2% of total research spending.

Charitable giving can take many forms. *Scholarships* provide opportunities for promising students. The *Roger Dillemans Fund* awards excellence grants to students in specialised degree programmes.



Honorary Rector Roger Dillemans (forth from right) with the 2011 laureates of the fund that bears his name. Third from left is LUF director Isabel Penne.

Unifos awards scholarships with the aim of contributing to the development of the capabilities of universities in developing countries.

A *memorial gift* is a financial contribution made by the estate of a deceased donor.

Endowed funds, many of which carry the name of their donor, support specific activities within the university. The *Arne Loosveldt Fund*, for instance, provides funding for K.U.Leuven students to participate in national and international mathematics competitions. The *Stefanie's Roses Fund* supports research on mediastinal gray zone lymphoma, a particularly aggressive form of lymphoma.

Since 1982, K.U.Leuven has established *endowed chairs* bearing the name of the chair's benefactor. They are an excellent way to mark the commitment of individuals, associations and businesses to the university's research and teaching activities. Some examples from K.U.Leuven's more than 90 endowed chairs include:

- The *Merck Chair in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery*, which finances research in various areas of reproductive medicine and surgery.
- The *AstraZeneca Chair in Respiratory Pathophysiology*, which promotes research into respiratory muscle function.
- The *Essencia Chair in Safety Engineering*, which focuses on all safety aspects of process system engineering, especially in the chemical and life sciences sector.



Professor De Strooper with Greet Ruelens and Lieve Van Gorp

20 September 2010 | For the first time ever in Belgium, a private-sector partner and a university research institute collaborate to establish a research fund for the study of a disease. The Belgian fashion designer Lieve Van Gorp and Greet Ruelens donated one million euros to brain researcher Bart De Strooper to carry out research on the neurological disorder dystonia. The Flemish Institute for Biotechnology matched the one-million-euro gift.



The James E. Kearney Memorial Fund is the first endowed fund financed by capital from the United States. The fund, a gift from the Kearney Family, supports the research of Professor Stefaan Van Gool (second from right) and his team. His research focuses on immunotherapy as a treatment for brain tumours.