OSU, Cleveland Clinic

By David Lore
Dispatch Special Projects Editor

Ohio's two premiere medical centers are moving toward an affiliation that could give the state more clout in the national competition for medical talent and research dollars.

Officials at The Ohio State University and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation announced yesterday that a joint task force is being formed to work out cooperative programs in medical education and research.

Dr. Manuel Tzagournis, OSU medical vice president, said he expects the first exchanges to begin by January.

"Most of it has to be worked out," said Tzagournis. "And we don’t know how close the affiliation will be."

One question is whether doctors at Cleveland Clinic would get faculty rank at Ohio State, as is the case with some doctors at Children's Hospital in Columbus.

The affiliation could combine the strengths of Ohio's two most prestigious medical centers.

OSU is the hub for medical education and research in Ohio, while Cleveland Clinic offers a 1,000-bed hospital, a large outpatient service and strong programs in research and postgraduate doctor training.

OSU and clinic officials said affiliation could mean:

- OSU medical and science students would train in Cleveland, benefiting from the clinic's top-ranked medical staff and the large population of outpatients.

With more patients spending less time in hospitals and thus being less available to students, Tzagournis said OSU is "hungry for good clinical facilities."

- Collaborative research programs in specialties as diverse as cancer, biotechnology, heart disease and public health.

By combining the talents of both institutions, it's hoped that Ohio will attract more research grants and medical talent. Annual grants from outside funding agencies total $30 million at OSU, $22 million at Cleveland Clinic.

OSU has affiliation agreements with five hospitals in Columbus as well as hospitals in Canton and Zanesville, Ohio. Tzagournis said a few OSU students have studied at Cleveland Clinic in the past under informal arrangements.

Cleveland Clinic has limited affiliation agreements with several universities but is looking for a "much more formal relationship," said Dr. Bernadine Healy, chairman of the clinic's research institute.

Healy said officials at Cleveland Clinic have debated whether they need a medical school ever since the center was founded in 1921. Today, she said, "an affiliation makes more sense."

"We explored a number of possibilities," she said. "Ohio State just seemed to be the best fit."

Some 500 students from 50 medical schools visit Cleveland Clinic each year under short-term or informal arrangements, she said. The hope now, she said, is to "establish a more formalized campus at Cleveland Clinic," possibly using independent, computer-based study techniques pioneered at OSU.

Elaine Hairston, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, predicted good things from the relationship, although "it's hard to say the level at which this kind of affiliation might take place."

It's the medical equivalent, she said, of what is happening in engineering at the Ohio Aerospace Institute in Cleveland and in scientific computing at the Ohio Supercomputer Center in Columbus.

"One of the things we've been seeing in Ohio in the last couple of years are a growing number of collaborations of this sort," she said.
Medical facilities unite to form task force

By Robert L. Reed
Lantern staff writer

The Ohio State University and Cleveland Clinic Foundation will form a task force later this month to work out details of a affiliation that would enable them to attract more research dollars and medical talent.

A joint task force of 10 people, five from Cleveland Clinic and five from Ohio State, will meet to start combining resources to create opportunities for the medical facilities to work together, said Dr. Ronald St. Pierre, assistant vice president for health services and academic affairs at Ohio State.

"We all are very excited about the affiliation between the two facilities because of its potential to explore medicine, biomedical research and utilize each other's principles, medical techniques, practice and procedures," said St. Pierre.

St. Pierre said both institutions would gain tremendous strength through sharing of information and learning of techniques.

Cleveland Clinic would benefit from Ohio State in academic faculty, medical resident referrals and research. Ohio State would benefit from Cleveland Clinic in medical research, staff and data, St. Pierre said.

The Cleveland Clinic is not an academic degree granting institution but rather a research facility with 650 research projects funded by outside agencies. The Cleveland Clinic has more than 1000 beds and offers outpatient service and programs in postgraduate doctor training, according to a written statement.

Ohio State is one of the leading research facilities in the country and has an outstanding educational reputation in its medical degree program, said David Crawford, coordinator of public relations for the University Hospitals. Ohio State receives $30 million annually from outside agencies and operates an outpatient service. Ohio State is also affiliated with other Columbus hospitals and has a 900 bed facility, he said.

St. Pierre said the collaboration would gain in attracting research dollars and medical talent, as well as making Ohio one of the premier medical spots in the country.

The affiliation would open the door for Ohio to attract new and larger national research dollars from institutes such as The National Institutes of Health, St. Pierre said.

Don Robaski, a spokesperson for The National Institutes of Health said, "Medicine is an envy of the world. OSU and Cleveland Clinic affiliation would be a valuable one." Ohio State and Cleveland Clinic have strong affiliations through Dr. Bernadine Healy, cardiologist and chairman of the Cleveland Clinic's research institute and a director at Ohio State University Hospitals. Dr. Healy has become a leader and advocate in the affiliation between the two institutions.

In a written statement Dr. Healy said the partnership between the two would support further research development and facilitate both institutions as academic centers and focal points for medicine and emerging high technology.
Clinic may join health partnership

Trustees of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Ohio State have announced formation of a joint task force to investigate potential for a partnership in the health sciences.

As envisioned, such a relationship would create a number of opportunities to work together in research and teaching that would enhance both institutions and their respective local communities.

"This relationship would broaden the scope of our institution as one of the premier health resources in the world," said Bernadine Healy, speaking on behalf of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. She is chairperson of the Cleveland Clinic Research Institute.

"A Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Ohio State University partnership would strengthen both institutions as fully integrated centers for research, teaching and medical care.

"At the same time, such a partnership would support further development of Cleveland as an academic center, as a focal point for medicine and as an emerging force in high technology. All of that would be accomplished, while simultaneously providing an attractive, local, low-cost alternative for education in medicine and the allied health sciences."

President Gee commented: "This is a fantastic opportunity for Ohio State to develop a strong tie with an internationally respected medical center. Our complementary strengths and resources should enable both institutions to enhance their contributions to the medical profession and to their overall role in the care of the citizens of Ohio."

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation is a national referral center and an international health resource. Its physicians and research scientists are involved in more than 650 research projects that have received over $22 million of external funding.

The foundation includes a hospital with 1,008 registered beds, an outpatient clinic, a Division of Education, a Research Institute and allied health training and nursing school programs. Nearly 500 physicians and 8,500 employees serve the medical needs of 31,000 inpatients and 760,000 outpatient visits annually.

Earlier this year, a survey published in U.S. News & World Report identified the Cleveland Clinic as one of 11 hospitals nationwide that represent "the cream of America's medical institutions."

The Cleveland Clinic Educational Foundation sponsors the country's largest free-standing post-graduate training program for physicians. It meets the needs of 600 residents and fellows and the continuing educational requirements of an additional 100 professionals who have already received their Ph. D. degrees. Approximately 500 medical students receive training annually, as well as Ph. D. candidates in basic biology and medicine.

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and its associated Cleveland Clinic Educational Foundation publish the Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine.

Ohio State's longstanding emphasis on interdisciplinary research is reflected in its BioMedical Engineering Center, Biotechnology Center, Campus Instrumentation Center, Neurosciences Research Laboratory and the new Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, the only federally designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Ohio.

Ohio State's faculty performs more than $154 million in research annually, attracting varied outside federal, state, foundation and other grant support. The University's medical college is the fourth largest in the country and has a long tradition of educating students.
Board authorizes pact with Cleveland Clinic

Partnership to enhance research and teaching

By Steve Sterrett

The Board of Trustees has approved an academic partnership between the University and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation that will enhance research and teaching opportunities for both institutions.

Feb. 1, trustees authorized the University administration to implement the partnership consistent with general principles outlined in a draft agreement developed by a joint task force.

The task force to investigate a partnership grew from an agreement announced by the trustees of both institutions last September. The draft agreement is being reviewed by the Cleveland Clinic Foundation (CCF).

Under the draft agreement, Ohio State and CCF would establish the Cleveland Clinic Foundation Health Sciences Center in Cleveland. Ohio State would be responsible for academic programs carried out in the center, while CCF would manage the center.

The center would provide research opportunities for Ohio State faculty and students, as well as education and clinical training for students in the health sciences. CCF would nominate its staff members for appointments as auxiliary faculty members in the appropriate colleges at Ohio State. The colleges would review and approve the appointments.

Ronald L. St. Pierre, associate vice president for health services and academic affairs at Ohio State, says the partnership will "substantially strengthen existing Ohio State research, graduate studies and educational programs in health care through the close association with the outstanding people and facilities in Cleveland."

"This partnership will create at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation a total biomedical and health sciences complex," St. Pierre says.
OSU, Cleveland Clinic to join forces in research, education

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

The Ohio State University and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation are entering an affiliation to bolster medical research and education at the state's two leading medical centers.

The OSU Board of Trustees recently approved an agreement with the foundation to establish an academic partnership. The foundation's board is expected to approve the agreement Monday.

The agreement is the product of a task force formed last fall between OSU, a state leader in medical education and research, and the Cleveland Clinic, which has a 1,000-bed hospital, research programs and postgraduate doctor training.

"The president and the provost have been authorized to implement the partnership, and we are moving forward with that," said Dr. Ronald L. St. Pierre, OSU's associate vice president of health services and co-chairman of the task force.

Under the agreement, OSU medical and science students will work in Cleveland with clinic staff members. Clinic doctors who teach the students will receive OSU faculty rank.

"The quality of the staff, the quality of facilities and the first-rate research equipment and expertise would extend the opportunities of our students," St. Pierre said.

Medical staffs at both centers are to develop educational programs and collaborate on research.

The most likely areas of joint research are biomedical engineering, biotechnology, neurosciences and cancer. OSU receives about $30 million in grants from outside funding agencies.

Officials at the Cleveland Clinic refused to comment on the agreement until after it is approved by the foundation board.

The Cleveland Clinic has an educational foundation that offers programs in allied medical professions, taking students from institutions and letting them work "in the clinic.

The clinic also has a research institute with about 100 biomedical researchers. The researchers are involved in a number of projects similar to projects at OSU, including research on the cardiovascular system and the brain. The clinic receives about $22 million a year in grants from outside agencies.

OSU and the clinic soon will begin developing specific programs for the partnership. Exchanges of students and faculty are at least four months away, officials said.
Grants held up to prod scientists into cooperating

BY DOUG LEFTON
PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

The Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland's largest philanthropic organization, has clamped a moratorium on grants to the city's four largest medical research institutions, saying Cleveland's research efforts are uncoordinated and fragmented.

The lack of cooperation has hit in fewer research dollars flowing to Cleveland and may reflect the economic growth of the city, foundation officials said.

The foundation has asked the Cleveland Clinic to delay its plans to affiliate with Ohio State University until a foundation study commission can recommend how Cleveland's medical researchers can work together better, foundation officials said.

The moratorium is the foundation's first in its 77-year history and will affect at least $2.5 million in proposals. Grants already approved are not affected.

"It's clearly a signal as to how seriously the Cleveland Foundation feels about this issue," said Steven A. Minter, the foundation's executive director.

The four institutions the foundation says do not cooperate efficiently are the clinic, University Hospitals, MetroHealth Medical Center and Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine.

Foundation officials acknowledged some joint projects between the four institutions. But for the most part, a lack of cooperation has hurt Cleveland's ability to attract medical research dollars and top-flight scientists, they said.

Foundation officials tied the city's economic future to the ability of the four to work together.

"If there is one industry that has the potential to grow in Cleveland, it's health care. I don't see new steel mills or machine-tool companies coming back," said John J. Dwyer, the foundation's chairman and retired president of the Oglebay Norton Co.

The moratorium is not likely to hurt any of the institutions financially, but it may carry great moral force. Last week, representatives from all four institutions had to say they welcomed the opportunity to study how they might collaborate better.

"We don't want to be viewed as uncooperative," said Dr. John Clough, a spokesman for the clinic.

Foundation officials say the moratorium will last six to nine months, until the study commission has reviewed how Cleveland might better pool its research capabilities. The commission's nine members, still to be chosen by the foundation, will include five nationally known research experts from outside Cleveland and several Cleveland community leaders, Minter said.

"The grant moratorium apparently was sparked by the clinic's plans to affiliate with OSU instead of CWRU's medical school, according to several sources.

Although it is the city's largest hospital, with a sizable research department, the clinic has never affiliated with Cleveland's sole medical school. Discussions between the two have been held for years but have been fruitless.

Dr. Neil S. Cherniack, the medical school's dean since July 1990, said those efforts continued as late as last November. "We've made a lot of different offers they somehow felt were unsatisfactory."

Clough said the clinic would ignore the foundation's request to defer its affiliation plans with OSU. Those plans were announced last September.

"We've tried for many years to forge a meaningful relationship with CWRU," he said. "There's just not a lot of trust" between the clinic and the medical school.

"We think we can have a good relationship with Ohio State," he said. "We're not sure we can do that with Case."

Observers say one of the stumbling blocks has been the historic rivalry — and competition for patients — between University Hospitals and the clinic. University Hospitals is the major affiliate of CWRU's medical school, and all the clinical department chairmen at the medical school head departments at University Hospitals.

The foundation also said the moratorium was motivated by what it called the uncoordinated construction of research facilities. The medical school is building a $63 million research building, and MetroHealth Medical Center will break ground in September for a $30-million research building. The clinic has nearly completed a $17-million research center and plans to raise $150 million over the next five years for further research and educational facilities.

"No coordination of purpose or use appears to exist among the three institutions for this more than a quarter billion square feet of new research capacity," says a foundation position paper.

The position paper says the past pattern of local competition for research dollars and talented researchers must be replaced by a plan for combining and coordinating efforts.

Leaders at the four institutions were divided on whether cooperation could really increase research dollars to Cleveland.

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"Everybody doesn't have to build the same thing," he said.

But Dr. James Block, president of University Hospitals, said he wasn't sure more cooperation would bring more grant money to Cleveland.

"A lot of the grants are to individual scientists," he said.

The clinic's Clough also was skeptical. "It's an idea that hasn't been tried. I would view it as an experimental thing we ought to support."

Among the grant applications put on hold is a $1.1 million request from the clinic for cardiovascular research and a $700,000 application from CWRU's medical school for its Institute for Urban Health. The latter application is for a project to fight cocaine addiction.
Cleveland Clinic sticks by OSU deal

Foundation worries pact will foster unhealthy competition

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

The Cleveland Clinic will honor an affiliation agreement with The Ohio State University despite a request by Cleveland's largest philanthropic organization.

The clinic and OSU signed an agreement earlier this year to bolster medical research and education at the state's two leading medical centers.

The Cleveland Foundation has asked the clinic to delay its affiliation with OSU, saying it fosters a competitive, rather than cooperative, atmosphere among the leading medical research institutions in Cleveland.

The clinic will not honor the foundation's request, said Holli Birrer, a spokeswoman for the clinic.

"We are absolutely moving ahead with the agreement with OSU," she said.

"We were too far along in the process to turn back."

Under the agreement, OSU medical and science students will work in Cleveland with clinic staff members. Clinic doctors who teach the students will receive OSU faculty rank. Medical staffs at both centers are to develop educational programs and collaborate on research.

The agreement is the product of a task force formed last fall between OSU, a state leader in medical education and research, and the clinic, which has a 1,000-bed hospital, research programs and postgraduate doctor training.

The foundation awards about $32 million a year in grants, with an average of about $500,000 a year going to the clinic. It is an important source of seed money for the clinic.

The foundation had hoped the clinic would delay the affiliation until an independent national panel of medical experts completes a study to find ways for the clinic and three other medical research institutions in Cleveland to better work together.

"If this is a wonderful thing, then we wholeheartedly support it," said Robert Eckhardt, senior program officer for health at the foundation. "We just worry that institutions pursuing their own interests lose sight of the broader concern for the community."

The foundation is dissatisfied with the lack of cooperation among the clinic, Case Western Reserve University medical school, University Hospitals of Cleveland and MetroHealth Medical Center. As a result, the foundation has placed a moratorium on grants to the four facilities.

The OSU agreement is not directly responsible for the moratorium, but "it is a symbol of what we think is wrong. You get locked into positions where there is more competition than cooperation," Eckhardt said.

At least $2.5 million in grant proposals could be affected by the moratorium, which is expected to last up to 9 months, Eckhardt said. The clinic has submitted a proposal for a $1.1 million grant to be used for cardiovascular research, which would indirectly involve the OSU-clinic affiliation, he said.
Spokesmen for both institutions said the affiliation will:

- Meld the research resources of both institutions, allowing for collaborative biomedical research projects. Such projects may have a better chance of getting government funding, which raises the possibility of more research money coming to Cleveland.
- Establish a branch of OSU's medical school at the clinic. The branch would compete for students with Cleveland's sole medical school at Case Western Reserve University.
- Allow some clinic doctors to become OSU faculty and monitor and advise students, but not be paid by the university.

The regents will not review the affiliation, but must approve the plan to put as many as 100 OSU medical students at the clinic. Approval is expected next spring, a board source said.

Fredrick Cornhill, director of the biomedical engineering center at OSU, said scientists there "are terribly excited because they see new applications for their engineering skills in medicine."

The OSU engineers are particularly interested in helping with the clinic's artificial heart project, he said.

Electrical engineers can work to design the heart's motor, materials engineers can work to design a surface that won't produce blood clots and OSU's supercomputer can simulate blood flow through the mechanical device, he said.

OSU plans to start 15 medical students at the clinic in the fall of 1992. The class size may be expanded to 25 in later years, meaning that the clinic would host as many as 100 OSU medical students in the four-year program. OSU's medical school, the fourth largest in the nation, has more than 800 students.

The program will compete with CWRU's medical school because tuition will be far less, said Ronald L. St. Pierre, OSU's associate vice president for health services and academic affairs.

OSU's medical school tuition for in-state students is $6,400 a year; CWRU medical students pay $17,100. But spokesmen say CWRU's medical school have been in the past that they were not threatened by the prospect of a second medical school in Cleveland because so many people apply to CWRU.
Researchers from OSU, Cleveland Clinic talk shop

By Tim Doulin  
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

Researchers at The Ohio State University and Cleveland Clinic met yesterday in Cleveland to swap ideas about joint research projects.

The affiliation of the state's two leading medical centers is expected to bolster medical research and education.

Under the affiliation, some clinic staff members will be made OSU faculty members, and some OSU students will be sent to the clinic for training and research.

"This is the first time we have gotten the grass-roots people, the doctors and the engineers, together," said J. Fredrick Cornhill, director of OSU's biomedical engineering center. He also will oversee the clinic's department of biomedical engineering and applied therapeutics, and he will split his time between Columbus and Cleveland.

The affiliation will emphasize biomedical engineering, Cornhill said.

"The reason it makes sense is, the strengths of the two departments are the same — cardiovascular and orthopedic. We plan to parallel work at both sites," he said.

A total of 50 surgeons, general internists, molecular biologists and an assortment of engineers from OSU and the clinic spent yesterday reviewing areas of research at the two sites that could be expanded into joint research projects.

An artificial heart program developed at the clinic could receive assistance from OSU's College of Engineering, Cornhill said. Orthopedic joint replacement is another area of possible collaboration.

The clinic plans to hire five biomedical engineers for its department, Cornhill said. That could help OSU accept more students in its biomedical engineering program, which receives about 250 applications a year for 15 positions, he said.

Up to 10 biomedical engineering graduate students will conduct research at the clinic after completing course work at OSU. The first students could begin work at the clinic in July, Cornhill said.

In addition, up to 20 students of each first-year medical school class at OSU are expected to opt for training at the clinic, starting in fall 1992. During the first two years, a student would be enrolled in an independent study program at the clinic. A student would perform third- and fourth-year hospital rotations at the clinic.

In the clinic, OSU has found a hospital that excels in outpatient training for doctors, complementing OSU's inpatient teaching service, said Dr. Manuel Tzagournis, vice president for health services and dean of the OSU College of Medicine.

OSU's medical school is the fourth largest in the country, with about 800 students, but has a poor faculty-student ratio, Tzagournis said. The problem could be alleviated by adding clinic staff members to the faculty.

"It gives our students the opportunity not only to work with our full-time professors in the research lab but to go work with researchers in Cleveland who might be doing research a little different way or maybe even a little different project," Tzagournis told the Ohio Board of Regents last week.

The clinic is one of the largest free-standing graduate education institutions in the country, but most of the clinic's post-doctoral training programs are not affiliated with a medical school.

"With a medical school affiliation, there might be some help for us recruiting medical students to a variety of our programs," said Dr. William Michener, chairman of the Division of Education at the clinic.

OSU and clinic officials are optimistic that pooled efforts will allow them to land larger research grants.
Cleveland Clinic opens doors to OSU researchers, faculty

By Hope Spangler
Lantern staff writer

A new door to research and training is open to OSU faculty and students at the Cleveland Clinic.

The two institutions have developed a formal affiliation to aid in the sharing of personnel, ideas and technology.

The partnership will benefit Ohio State researchers and students by providing them with the opportunity to train and work with outstanding scientists from the clinic, said Ronald St. Pierre, associate vice president of Health Services and Academic Affairs and chairman of the Ohio State Task Force for the Cleveland Clinic.

“It simply gives us the opportunity to use one of the premiere ambulatory sites in this part of the country.”

— Ronald St. Pierre, associate vice president, Health Services and Academic Affairs, chairman, Ohio State Task Force for Cleveland Clinic

It simply gives us the opportunity to use one of the premiere ambulatory sites in this part of the country.”

— Ronald St. Pierre, associate vice president, Health Services and Academic Affairs, chairman, Ohio State Task Force for Cleveland Clinic

The agreement will give students in many disciplines throughout the university the opportunity to conduct independent research at the clinic and also to work with the clinic staff, he said.

The affiliation between the two institutions increases the number of quality laboratories students can go to for training. It also allows the two institutions to pool their strengths in the areas of cardiovascular and orthopedics research, said J. Frederick Cornhill, director of the Biomedical Engineering Center.

There were 250 applications for the 15 available spaces for research and training at the clinic for graduate level students. “The first one will be working at the Cleveland Clinic in biomedical engineering and applied therapeutics this summer,” Cornhill said.

Tim Pelkowski, a graduate student in biomedical engineering, will be the first Ohio State student to conduct research and receive training at the clinic.

Pelkowski will be working on the design of a new wheelchair seat using pressure sensors. His individually designed seats will distribute the pressure from the wheelchair user’s body weight more evenly to prevent pressure sores.

“There’s more opportunity at the Cleveland Clinic,” Pelkowski said, “They (OSU) will gain more professors to work with and more available projects.”

Some of the clinic staff will become non-paid Ohio State faculty and will instruct and advise students at the clinic, Cornhill said.

Training and research at the clinic will not be limited to medical faculty and students. St. Pierre said plans are currently being made for participants from the colleges of Medicine, Biological Sciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Pharmacy and the Biotechnology Center.

St. Pierre said the opportunity for students to work at the clinic could provide them with valuable experience in an ambulatory care setting. This is because of the trend toward shorter hospital stays and more frequent use of outpatient procedures by medical facilities across the country.

Manuel Tzagournis, dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for Health Services, said the Cleveland Clinic is well suited to this training because it is largely an ambulatory institution.

Students will be able to take elective courses at the clinic for credit toward their degrees.

“Medical students welcome the opportunity of having an elective rotation,” Tzagournis said.

Courses at the clinic may be available to students as early as this summer, he said.
OSU gets no dowry, regents tell Clinic

By VINDU P. GOEL

COLUMBUS — The Ohio Board of Regents blessed a partnership between the Cleveland Clinic and Ohio State University yesterday, but it stressed that the institutions should expect no extra money under the arrangement.

The research and education affiliation between the clinic and OSU's College of Medicine offers the possibility of increased federal grants and better hands-on training for OSU medical students at the clinic, said a report presented by the regents staff.

But the report warned that the board must be on guard against attempts by OSU and the clinic to siphon more state funds by shifting overhead and construction costs to OSU, which is subsidized by the state.

Although no immediate demands for money have been made, the report said: "The staff is deeply concerned that, as costs in the health care sector continue to spiral upward, the higher-education capital budget will become an attractive option for hospitals that enjoy academic partnerships and desire to shift the costs of services currently borne on their own budget to that of the state."

Both OSU and the clinic said they had no intention of seeking more state funding.

"We have no intent to apply to the state of Ohio for any money concerning this affiliation," said clinic spokeswoman Holli Birrer.

Dr. Ronald St. Pierre, OSU's associate vice president for health services and academic affairs, was even more emphatic. "OSU and the Cleveland Clinic will not ask for nor need any additional funds," he said.

But William F. Boyle, the only member of the nine-person Board of Regents to vote against adopting the report, said that by getting involved now, the regents were tacitly encouraging OSU and the clinic to ask for state money.

"What we're doing is giving approval to something that might lead down the road to a grab at state funds," Boyle said.

Alva T. (Ted) Bonda, chairman of the board, categorically ruled out any additional money for the affiliates.

"This is probably one of the best-financed research groups put together," Bonda said.

The affiliation, which was announced earlier this year, stirred up controversy in Cleveland's medical education community because the clinic chose not to affiliate with Case Western Reserve University after years of intermittent negotiations.

Dr. Neil S. Cherniack, dean of CWRU's School of Medicine, said he was disappointed by the affiliation but hoped to forge other ties with the clinic. "I certainly would rather have seen the affiliation here," Cherniack said.

However, the OSU agreement does not preclude other, more limited partnerships between CWRU and the clinic, Cherniack said.

The Cleveland Foundation, the city's largest philanthropic organization, is also not entirely pleased by the arrangement.

In March, the foundation suspended all new grants to Cleveland's four largest medical research institutions, including the clinic and CWRU. The foundation said Cleveland's medical researchers needed to coordinate research and spending better to win more federal dollars.

The foundation asked all the institutions to delay affiliations until a special commission can study the situation, but the clinic said it had already agreed to the OSU deal.

"We didn't see the need for such speed," said Robert E. Eckhardt, the foundation's senior program officer for health.
OSU joins Cleveland Clinic on heart pump

The motorized pump is the first major collaboration of the institutions.

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

CLEVELAND — Cleveland Clinic Ingenuity combined with Ohio State University know-how may produce a motorized blood pump someday to help patients with weakened hearts.

The pump is the first major joint project between the clinic and OSU since the two medical institutions signed an affiliation agreement earlier this year.

"This project really initiates our collaboration," OSU Provost Frederick E. Hutchinson told a group of OSU and clinic researchers during a visit to the clinic last week.

OSU's medical school, which has more than 800 students, is the fourth-largest in the country. The clinic is one of the largest free-standing graduate education institutions in the country.

One of the goals of the affiliation is for the two institutions to collaborate on ground-breaking research, thus attracting more federal research money to the state.

The institutions are well on their way to doing just that, said J. Fredrick Cornhill, director of the biomedical engineering center at OSU and director of applied therapeutic and biomedical engineering at the clinic.

"We are clearly laying the groundwork for building strong, long-term research collaboration in orthopedics and cardiovascular areas between Ohio State and the Cleveland Clinic," said Cornhill, who works in both Columbus and Cleveland. "Both institutions are very strong in both those areas, and the development of these joint relationships are going to put us in a much more competitive position in research activity and research funding."

The first example of collaboration may be the non-pulsatile, or continuous flow, blood pump — a lightweight, pyramid-shaped object small enough to fit in the chest cavity.

"The pump's job is to assist a failing ventricle — the heart's major pumping chamber — in moving blood to the aorta."

Potentially, the device could be implanted in patients after bypass surgery with the motor-driven auxiliary pump taking over while the heart muscle heals. The pump also could be used to supplement the failing ventricle permanently or until a heart transplant is made.

"We are not proposing taking out the ventricle," Cornhill said. "But the motor pump would serve as a booster to put out the remaining blood." The clinic developed the concept for a non-pulsatile blood pump but needs help perfecting it.

"There are major hurdles to overcome in the areas of materials, motors, fluid mechanics and manufacturing. It is a concept, now we have to make it work," Cornhill said.

Normally, the clinic would seek the help of a private company. Instead, OSU will lend a hand.

OSU electrical engineering researchers are assisting in developing the pump's motor. Mechanical engineers at the university are studying flow patterns of the pump. OSU's industrial systems engineers are helping answer manufacturing questions.

Cornhill cautioned that the pump is in the early stages of development, and clinical trials aren't expected to begin until about the turn of the century.

But he is encouraged by the collaboration between OSU and the clinic.
Med center idea growing

Academic links may give rise to 2nd alliance

By DELLA DE LA FUENTE

The proposal to create one citywide academic medical center apparently was such a good idea that the group pushing the plan now says the city should have two such research entities.

That's the gist of a formal recommendation issued last week by a Cleveland Foundation study commission on medical research and education, and it's a different tune than the study commission was whistling just two months ago.

At the May 11 annual meeting of the Cleveland Foundation, the city's largest philanthropic organization, the commission had floated a preliminary proposal that teaching and research hospitals citywide should form a unified academic medical center which would help coordinate local research efforts and win lucrative research dollars.

The plan in May called for Case Western Reserve University and its affiliated hospitals to form an academic medical center in which University Hospitals of Cleveland would be the lead hospital.

The commission at that time recommended that the center help "foster collaboration" among local teaching and research hospitals plus the Case Clinic and Ohio State University, which last year inked an affiliation agreement.

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The commission now proposes that the Clinic and OSU also form an academic medical center. The two centers would cooperate in technology research, recruitment, library and information services and joint clinical care efforts, according to the final proposal.

Robert E. Eckhardt, the Cleveland Foundation's senior program officer for health, said the idea for the second center emerged following the foundation's annual meeting. Margaret M. Caldwell, the foundation's communications director, said talks about two academic medical centers "have been continuous (since the annual meeting) and shouldn't have come as a surprise to anyone."

The commission's final recommendation was largely "an acknowledgment that the Clinic and OSU have moved a significant way in a short time," Ms. Caldwell said. She said the commission recognized that the Clinic's agreement with OSU extends beyond the university's medical school to programs such as its biomedical engineering department.

When asked whether the recommendation for two academic medical centers was made because the commission found it hard to bring together two Cleveland medical power houses, Ms. Caldwell said the commission "thought it was important to acknowledge two strong programs rather than force a marriage."

The Cleveland Foundation set up its commission last year after it placed a moratorium on medical research grants because of a lack of cooperation among local medical and research centers. The embargo on dollars for medical research was lifted May 11 at the foundation's annual meeting.

University Hospitals and CWRU didn't waste any time acting on the preliminary proposal. On May 12, they entered into a formal affiliation agreement, which was seen as the first step in creating an academic medical center.

However, it's unclear whether CWRU and its affiliated hospitals were aware that two academic medical centers were under study by the commission.

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CWRU attempted to contact CWRU medical school dean Neil S. Cherniak and University Hospitals' president and chief executive officer Farah Walters, but both were attending out-of-town meetings last week and weren't available for comment, according to spokespeople for both institutions.

At the Clinic, the commission's final recommendation wasn't a surprise. "It was what we recommended," said Dr. John Clough, the Clinic's health affairs chairman. "We think it's the most rational approach."

As for the Clinic's relationship with CWRU, Dr. Clough said: "It's better than it's ever been." He noted that the Clinic and CWRU medical school faculty already participate in a variety of joint projects which are largely informal.

"There's much more work being done jointly than what people realize or give us credit for," he said.

Dr. Clough said the Clinic is developing its academic medical center with OSU and its first effort will involve the start of the Clinic's residency program with OSU. About 30 OSU medical school students begin training at the giant hospital in the fall.
Trustees discuss partnership

By Maria Rosario B. Tordil
Lantern staff writer

The OSU Board of Trustees met on Friday at the Cleveland Clinic and discussed a three-year partnership between Ohio State and the Clinic’s Health Sciences Center.

The partnership was the first of its kind between a private, non-profit academic medical center and a state university when it was created in 1991.

A report said the Clinic Foundation’s Health Sciences Center and Ohio State have unlimited opportunities for growth, creativity and discovery. The partnership will strengthen the research and academic programs of the two institutions as well as broaden the options for medical student’s clinical training.

OSU President E. Gordon Gee said the level of goodwill between the two organizations is high.

"I look forward to the many opportunities presented to us to collaborate in the development of future generations of clinicians and scientists," Gee said.

In other business, Manuel Tzagournis, vice president for health services at Ohio State, presented a proposal for the university to join the Ohio Medical Schools Consortium.

Tzagournis said the consortium presents an opportunity for the medical colleges in the state to provide a role in Ohio health care reform.

The consortium will also improve the quality and cost effectiveness of patient care, Tzagournis said.

The board unanimously approved the proposal to join.

LeRoy Pernell was appointed vice provost of Minority Affairs by the board. The appointment is retroactive to Sept. 1.

Pernell will be responsible for the Office of Minority Affairs, the Young Scholars Program and the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center. He will also be responsible for minority student recruitment and retention, affirmative action plans and the Faculty Hiring Assistance Program.

The Office of Minority Affairs has an annual budget of more than $4.5 million and a staff of 65. Pernell’s salary is listed in a Trustee’s report as $110,616 a year.

The board also appointed Daniel L. Jensen, a professor in the Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems, to hold the Delloitte and Touche Accounting Professorship in the Max M. Fisher College of Business.

Jensen, who received his doctorate from Ohio State, has taught at the University of Illinois, Purdue University and Indiana University.

Jensen’s salary will be $98,244 a year.

The board also approved a proposal to name the park at Ninth Avenue and Cannon Drive (next to Dodd Hall) The Ernest W. Johnson Park.

The park, which is wheelchair accessible, was designed to enhance rehabilitation and improve the quality of life for patients in Dodd Hall. The park contains vegetable and flower gardens, wide-graded paths, a rubberized-asphalt basketball court and playfield and a rubberized, two-lane wheelchair relay track.

Although there is a requirement in the bylaws that prohibits buildings and structures from being named for university employees until three years after they have retired, the board waived this requirement in order to reflect Johnson’s role as an advocate for the physically challenged.

Johnson is an associate dean in the College of Medicine at Ohio State. During his tenure, Johnson trained most of the doctors who specialized in physical medicine in central Ohio as well as 160 other physiatrists throughout the nation.

In other business, chairman and chairwomen were named in the following departments:

* New department combining Industrial and Systems Engineering and Welding Engineering - Richard A. Miller, through June 1998
* Educational Policy and Leadership - Beverly M. Gordon, through September 1995
* New department combining Civil Engineering and Engineering Graphics - Keith W. Bedford, through June 1998