THANK YOU, GLORIA BERKOWITZ

A heartfelt thanks to Gloria Berkowitz for four terrific years as president of the Papanicolaou Corps for Cancer Research. Berkowitz is succeeded by Barbara Pessel, the former president of the Boca Friends Unit. Under Berkowitz’s insightful and exemplary leadership, the Pap Corps reached new heights, growing to 17,000 members in 47 units and contributing nearly $11 million toward cancer research at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

This year alone was a record-breaking one. Under her leadership, the Pap Corps raised $3.325 million—making 2006 the most memorable for the Pap Corps and Berkowitz. The gift brings the total raised by the Pap Corps over the past four years to nearly $11 million, which exceeds their initial five-year pledge made in 2003 of $10 million.

The all volunteer, grassroots fundraising organization has supported cancer research at UM/Sylvester for 54 years. From golf tournaments and walk-a-thons to special projects and “giving from their own pockets,” the Pap Corps has raised millions of dollars and created new hope in the fight against cancer.

Through her unwavering dedication, initiative, and perseverance, Berkowitz became one of the Pap Corps most notable leaders by creating a legacy that will last for years to come. To you, Gloria, and all of the Pap Corps members, we at UM/Sylvester (including physicians, scientists, staff, and patients) offer our sincerest gratitude for your tireless commitment and generosity.

NEW PAP CORPS PRESIDENT IS NAMED

Barbara Pessel has been named president of the Papanicolaou Corps for Cancer Research. She succeeds Gloria Berkowitz who served as Pap Corps president for the last four years.

Officially in the position for just a few weeks, Pessel is already making news. In a speech she gave on June 1, which was her first act as president, she increased the Pap Corps commitment to UM/Sylvester from $10 million to $14 million over six years. “I am honored to serve as president of this wonderful organization. I look forward to working with our ever-growing membership and finding new and successful ways to raise funds for cancer research,” Pessel says.

“Barbara brings a lot of initiative and dedication to the Pap Corps,” adds W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., F.A.C.S., director, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. “And her experience within this great organization, especially with the Boca Friends Unit, will be very helpful. We wish her the best of luck.”

Pessel founded the Pap Corps Boca Friends Unit seven years ago and served as president of the unit for four years. It is considered an “open unit”—which means that anyone can join and the individual does not have to live in a particular community. For the past five years, Pessel has been a member of the Pap Corps executive committee as well as the recently formed marketing committee.

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—W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Director, UM/Sylvester