Visiting Professor Program – Named Lectureships



John B. Flege, Jr., M.D.

A graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Dr. Flege has a long and distinguished career as a scholar and innovator in the field of cardiac surgery. He has trained numerous fellows who have gone on to significant academic careers, he has contributed continually to the surgical literature, and he has been actively engaged in the teaching of medical students and residents. Dr. Flege is one of the pioneers of cardiac surgery in the city of Cincinnati and was instrumental in revitalizing the cardiac program at the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Flege was Director of Cardiac Surgical Services at The Jewish Hospital and The Christ Hospital, and Director of the Division of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Cincinnati between 1982 and 1987. He trained numerous fellows and made great contributions to cardiac surgery, having authored over 50 original articles. Many of his publications have dealt with innovative new operative techniques.

Dr. Flege is a member of numerous prestigious national and international medical societies including the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American College of Cardiology, American College of Chest Physicians, American College of Surgeons, European Society for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and the International Cardiovascular Society. Dr. Flege continues as the Associate Editor of the journal INNOVATIONS in Cardiothoracic Surgery, which is the official journal of the International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery.

Dr. Flege contributed to the development of minimally invasive techniques in cardiac surgery. In October 2001, following the departure of University Hospital's cardiac surgeons and suspension of the cardiac transplant program, Dr. Flege returned to University Hospital and almost single-handedly continued the cardiac surgery service and reactivated the cardiac transplant program which otherwise would have been permanently closed by the regulatory authority after one year of inactivity. He served as Interim Director of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Cincinnati and rejoined the Department of Surgery on a full-time basis in 2002. Dr. Flege also was instrumental in the search for new leadership in the Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Cincinnati in 2001-2002. To make the post more attractive, he endowed the John B. Flege, Jr. MD Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Flege attended the University of Cincinnati College of Law, receiving his J.D. degree in 1992, and was admitted to the bar in 1993. He offers legal advice to his colleagues in the area of medical litigation and other concerns. Dr. Flege continues to play an active role in the Department of Surgery, chairing the Promotions Committee, actively practicing cardiac surgery, as well as teaching medical students and residents. He has also served as Director of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine's "Summer Surgery Experience at UC," a two-week program that teaches undergraduates from various colleges the art of surgery and has inspired some to pursue medical school and surgery as a career.

Dr. Flege received the first Distinguished Surgeon Award from the Cincinnati Surgical Society on December 1, 2004, for his longstanding commitment to patient care, building strong relationships with community physicians, and educating medical students and residents. He also received the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cincinnati Business Courier, unanimously selected by a committee of community leaders to join an elite group of Tristate individuals who have made major contributions to medicine.

Dr. Flege has been an exceptional individual in the field of surgery throughout his long career.