

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO NAME THE CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH CENTER  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Actions Requested:** Consider the requests by the University of Iowa to (1) waive the Board of Regents Policy §1.11C6 which specifies that “No unit may be named for a current Regent employee” and (2) name the Cardiovascular Research Center as the **François M. Abboud Cardiovascular Research Center**.

**Background:** Dr. Abboud has devoted five decades to developing a world-class center of excellence in cardiovascular research and continues to be employed by the University of Iowa as an internationally recognized research/physician. His involvement is likely to continue for years to come. Naming the Center in his honor will recognize him for his contributions and the Center’s level of excellence.

Dr. Abboud’s career at the University of Iowa has been characterized by an unparalleled commitment to excellence and leadership. He has held a progression of key leadership positions in the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, including director of the cardiovascular division and chief of cardiology in the Department of Internal Medicine; founder and director of the Cardiovascular Research Center (CRC); and for 26 years, professor and head of the Department of Internal Medicine. His work has led to greater understanding and management of cardiovascular disease and stroke, pioneered the use of multidisciplinary teams in cardiovascular research, and significantly advanced the University of Iowa’s national and international reputation for excellence in patient care, research, and education.

Dr. Abboud established the Cardiovascular Research Center in 1974 as the first major collaborative, multidisciplinary, university-wide scientific initiative. He led the submission of the first major National Institutes of Health (NIH) application for CRC research support, which resulted in a five-year, \$25 million award that began an era of unprecedented growth and success that has been sustained for almost four decades. During that time, members of the CRC have received more than \$408 million in federal grant support, with \$113 million attributable to Dr. Abboud’s own research programs. The Center has funded and trained approximately 1,100 postdoctoral trainees, more than half of them through Dr. Abboud’s individual training grant initiatives. Under his leadership, the CRC modeled a culture of collaboration and team research that is emulated across the campus and adopted by most successful academic research institutions.

As one of the university’s premier “scientific ambassadors,” Dr. Abboud’s contributions extend far beyond the university and the state of Iowa. He has served as president of the Association of American Physicians, American Clinical and Climatological Association, American Federation for Clinical Research, Central Society for Clinical Research, and American Heart Association which named him a Distinguished Scientist for 2007. In 2009, he was awarded the foremost award in academic internal medicine, the George M. Kober Medal from the Association of American Physicians.

As a result of Dr. Abboud’s distinguished leadership, the University of Iowa is well positioned to expand the CRC and further strengthen its position as a national and international leader in cardiovascular research. Naming the CRC in his honor represents a unique opportunity to celebrate in perpetuity the legacy of an exceptional leader who has served the university, state, and nation with distinction for more than half a century.