


# THE FOUNDATION'S OUTLOOK

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## Countess honors son's memory by helping children around the world

**T**he story is now legendary. When the Countess Albina du Boisrouvray met James Oleske, MD, of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), it was like a scene from a movie. In fact, it was really a television docudrama on the life and work of Dr. Oleske in pediatric HIV/AIDS research that led the Countess to his doorstep at UMDNJ one rainy night in 1989. It turned out to be a fortuitous meeting for both the Countess and the University.

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Since that time, the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) has been a generous supporter and good friend to Dr. Oleske and UMDNJ. For more than a decade, the Association has contributed millions of dollars to fund UMDNJ programs to improve the lives of children with HIV/AIDS.

With a desire to honor the memory of her son, François-Xavier Bagnoud, who was tragically killed at the age of 24 in a helicopter crash, the Countess initially founded the Association in 1989 with funds raised from the sale of her family's real estate investments, heirlooms, jewels and artwork as well as her own production company. A successful journalist and film producer, the Countess now focuses her life and her Association on creating innovative policies and projects to help children,

of the Association. To help the world's most precious residents, its children, is a responsibility I take seriously. The research and efforts that UMDNJ and Drs. Oleske and Boland put into making life better for children and their families suffering from HIV and AIDS is commendable. I feel we have selected the most worthy institution and people to which to lend support in this crusade for effective treatments and cures. I know my son would be proud to know his name is associated with such good works," said Countess du Boisrouvray.

The Association has also pledged more than \$4 million to UMDNJ's FXB Center in support of the International Training Program, established in 1991. This program trains doctors, nurses, nutritionists and social workers from developing countries in Asia and

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particularly orphans, infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Association has endowed two chairs at UMDNJ: in 1991, the François-Xavier Bagnoud Chair in Pediatric AIDS Research held by Dr. Oleske at New Jersey Medical School, and in 1995, the François-Xavier Bagnoud Chair in Nursing at the School of Nursing, a vision of the Countess', held by Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN.

In addition, the Countess' leadership and pioneering vision helped to establish The François-Xavier Bagnoud Center, which has become an internationally recognized model for the care of mother to child transmitted HIV disease. The program's mission is to deliver comprehensive and coordinated care that is community based, child centered and family focused. In addition to direct medical and social service, the program conducts investigative drug trials and laboratory research and supports the National Pediatric and Family HIV Resource Center, which educates and trains health care providers.

"I am very proud of the work and accomplishments

Africa on best practices and new treatment protocols for children with HIV/AIDS. The training is all the more important since most of the countries represented have extremely limited resources, making advice and knowledge valuable to improving the quality of life for these children and their families.

"The support we have received from the Countess and her Association is priceless. Dr. Boland and I have seen her generosity first hand and her belief in helping sick children through our visits to countries benefiting from the advances UMDNJ has made in HIV/AIDS treatments. She cared about AIDS-orphaned children when no one else did. Her commitment is inspiring and we are honored that she chose to work with UMDNJ to make a difference in the lives of suffering children. Words alone do not express how grateful we are to the Association FXB," said Dr. Oleske.

If you are interested in finding out how you can support the FXB Center or want to learn more about Drs. Oleske and Boland's work with pediatric HIV/AIDS, contact Victoria Treland at (973) 972-2486. ■