Living Legacies

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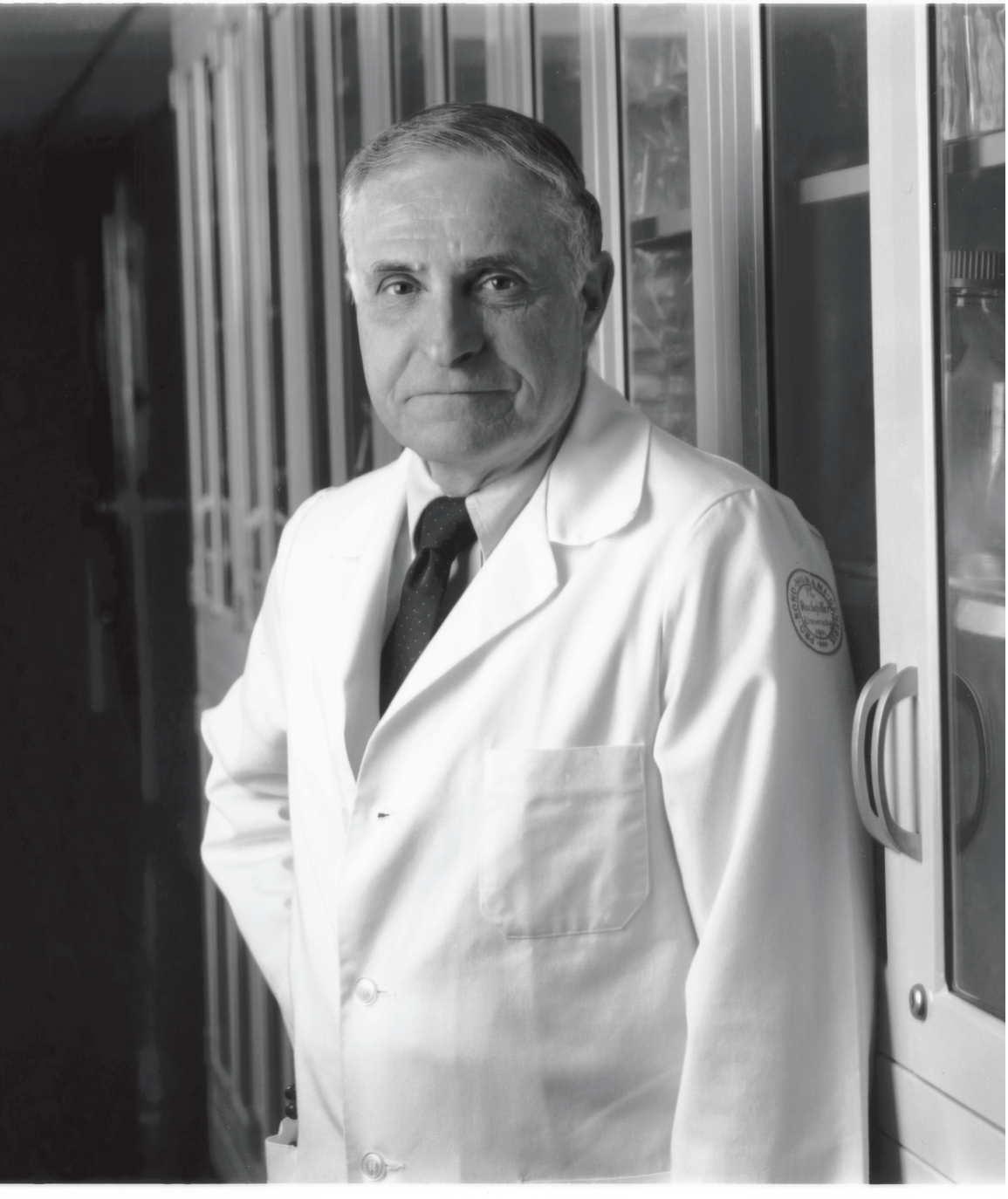
THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY



Living Legacies

Envisioning a Second Century of Transformational Discoveries

Jules Hirsch joined The Rockefeller University in 1954. A pioneer of obesity research, he was a brilliant and compassionate physician-scientist whose meticulous studies revealed that when a person diets to lose weight, the body slows its metabolic functions to compensate. His work offered compelling physiological evidence to explain why weight loss is so difficult to sustain.

Born in Manhattan in 1927, Jules attended Rutgers University before earning an M.D. at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1948. Following an internship at Duke University Hospital, a residency at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY, and two years in the Public Health Service, Dr. Hirsch joined Rockefeller University as an assistant professor. By 1967, he was a professor and senior physician. He was named Sherman M. Fairchild Professor in 1998.

Jules Hirsch served as Physician-in-Chief of The Rockefeller University Hospital from 1992 to 1996. During this period, Jules and his colleague Rudolph Leibel published their landmark findings on obesity, based on ten years of studying patients at the Hospital. When patients on low-calorie diets lost weight, their adipocytes (fat cells) underwent changes, and their metabolic rates adjusted to return them to a set point close to their original weight. Dr. Hirsch's insights provided a foundation for future genetic studies of obesity and associated conditions. His work remains highly influential today.

In 2010, the University celebrated the Hospital's Centennial and its remarkable history of achievements. With prescience and wisdom, Jules helped to commemorate this milestone occasion by urging that we strive to safeguard "the initial great experiment of the Rockefeller Hospital," which established the importance of scientific observation at the patient's bedside. Jules believed that investigations in the clinic are inextricably linked to experiments in the laboratory, and that both are essential to understanding health and disease. As a final expression of this deep conviction, Jules included Rockefeller as a beneficiary of his estate, directing his gift to patient-oriented research.

The Rockefeller University was Jules Hirsch's scientific home for more than sixty years. His contributions to research and to our campus community left an indelible mark, and his legacy gift will help to ensure an extraordinary second century of transformational discoveries.

Living Legacies is a periodic series highlighting benefactors who made the enormously helpful decision to include The Rockefeller University in their estate plans. In sharing what they have done, we hope to honor their dedication, and also to demonstrate how planned gifts can have a transformative impact on biomedical research at Rockefeller.

For more information, please contact:

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