Spouse’s Program

On Sunday, May 18th we are delighted to host the spouses for lunch and a tour of the Historic Maywood Mansion. On our way to the mansion we will travel by the Mayo Foundation House, which was the home of Dr. William Mayo (Dr. Will) and his wife Hattie. We will also visit the Plummer House which was the house of Dr. Henry S. Plummer and his wife Daisy. Dr. Plummer invented the pneumatic tube system that was used by Mayo Clinic for centuries and the record keeping and communication systems that are still used (in part) by Mayo Clinic today. Our final destination will be the Historic Mayowood Mansion. Originally Mayowood was a 3000 acre estate outside of Rochester, established by Dr. Charles H. Mayo, co-founder of Mayo Clinic. The centerpiece of the property is the 38-room mansion completed in 1911. Today the site sits on 15 acres and includes ornamental gardens. The site is part of the Mayowood Historic District added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

On Monday, May 19th we are delighted to host lunch and several tours around the Mayo Clinic campus. The tour will start in the Plummer building at the Mayo Clinic Historical suite and proceed up to the Carillon. A carillon is a musical instrument consisting of at least 23 bronze cup shaped bells. Below is an excerpt from the dedication of the carillon and the opening of the 1928 Plummer Building:

When the building was constructed with a tower it gave opportunity of fruition to a plan long ago proposed by Dr. W. J. Mayo.... that a soldier's monument should be built and that the singing bells would most effectively serve as an oft repeated reminder of our great obligation to the American soldiers who have never fought in a war of conquest, and whose battles both on land and sea have contributed to the freedom of man. Man has made progress through free competition in games, athletics and business, all contributing to training for a country's national achievements. War is the supreme effort of man and must be considered so, much as we abhor it. Through all the ages it has often taken the destruction and desolation of war for new ideas to enter the enlivened brains of both those who possess and those possessed. Wars have served their purpose, contributing to man's ultimate advance.
The final tour of the day will be that of art. Since its inception, Mayo Clinic has been dedicated to the “spiritual aspects” of medical care - especially the role of art in a place of healing. From the Rockwood tiles commissioned for the original 1914 Mayo Clinic building, to the internationally acclaimed art now displayed across the campus, Mayo Clinic sends a message to patients and visitors that art and science, together, play a vital role in the healing process. With generous support, Mayo Clinic is able to acquire and display art comparable to leading galleries and museums. Yet Mayo Clinic does not collect art for its own sake. Rather, we use art to humanize the medical experience, to preserve our cultural heritage, and to enhance our primary mission of excellence in patient care. We invite you to enjoy the Mayo Clinic art collection, which is dedicated to healing and hope.

We look forward to celebrating 150 years at Mayo Clinic and seeing you in Rochester!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at meyer.fredric@mayo.edu; 507-254-4230; Connie Hoeft at hoeft.constance@mayo.edu; 507-284-2254; or Betsy Koehnen at koehnen.elizabeth@mayo.edu.

With warmest personal wishes and best regards,

Fredric B. Meyer, M.D., F.A.A.N.S.
Chair, Department of Neurologic Surgery
Alfred Uihlein Professors in Neurologic Surgery
Director, Neuroregenerative Medicine Program
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota