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A CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER FROM UMB

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An 'Astronomical' Gift: Blausteins Donate 1609 Kepler Book to HS/HSL

Mordecai Blaustein, MD, is a longtime faculty member in the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Department of Physiology, chair of the department for 24 years, and former director of the school's Maryland Center for Heart, Hypertension, and Kidney Disease. Dr. Blaustein and his wife, Ellen, have made the gift of a rare original book, *Astronomia Nova*, by Johannes Kepler. The Blausteins have provided generous and continuing financial support to the School of Medicine and the Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL), donating several collectible and historic books to the HS/HSL during his tenure at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Published in 1609, *Astronomia Nova* contains the results of Kepler's 10-year investigation of the motion of Mars. It is considered one of the most significant books in the history of astronomy, detailing the sun as the center of our universe, and includes the first mention of the planets' elliptical paths. *Astronomia Nova* has been appraised at a value in excess

of \$200,000. When sold, the book's proceeds will be used to establish a faculty scholar position in the School of Medicine's Department of Physiology. Until that time, the book will be housed in HS/HSL's Historical and Special Collections Department.

The University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. (UMBF) expresses sincere gratitude to the Blausteins for their generous gift and the staff at HS/HSL for their expertise, knowledge, and skill in preserving this rare edition.

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