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## Al Taubman gives \$56M to University of Michigan for stem-cell, other medical research

By [Shannon Donnelly](#)

Daily News Society Editor

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It's been a cold and gray spring in Michigan, but Palm Beach resident Al Taubman just made things very sunny in Ann Arbor.

The university announced last week that Taubman gave \$56 million to the school for stem-cell research and other treatments for life-threatening diseases.

The gift brings Taubman's total giving to the university to \$142 million, making him its largest individual donor.

Of that amount, \$100 million has been for the medical research institute that bears his name.

That kind of dough buys a lot of daffodils.

Taubman's intentions are not decorative, however.

According to the Detroit Free Press, Taubman said the gifts were inspired by his longtime friend, the late New York Sen. Jacob Javits, who died of Lou Gehrig's disease. His lingering death "made a big impression on me," Taubman said.

"I told myself that if I ever had a chance to make a difference to helping cure the disease, I would."

The university's ongoing stem-cell projects include research into ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), prostate cancer, obesity, heart disease, Alzheimer's, some childhood cancers and even some spinal and back injuries.

The university's board of regents voted to name a research building in Taubman's honor.

Well, we should hope so.