

University of Iowa Establishes Memorial Scholarship Honoring the Life and Lasting Impact of Student Researcher, Molly Anne Corlett

\$250,000 donation supports future biomedical engineers

Iowa City, Iowa – The University of Iowa College of Engineering announced the establishment of the Molly Anne Corlett Memorial Scholarship, made possible through a generous \$250,000 donation from Molly's Miracles and the Corlett Family. The scholarship honors the life, academic excellence, and lasting medical impact of Molly Anne Corlett, whose work as a graduate student continues to influence research and clinical practice.

The gift includes a \$200,000 endowed scholarship from John and Cindy Corlett, Molly's Parents and an additional \$50,000 contribution from the Molly's Miracles Foundation, ensuring both immediate and long-term support for students pursuing degrees in Biomedical Engineering within the Roy J. Carver Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Molly Corlett was a University of Iowa Distinguished Honors Graduate student whose research and collaboration left an extraordinary imprint on the biomedical and rehabilitation sciences at the University of Iowa and beyond. Her work, completed before her passing, is already informing clinical practice and has generated pilot data for two funded clinical trials, advancing scientific understanding and directly benefiting patients.

"Molly was not just a student, she was a collaborator, a researcher, and a force for progress," said Jason Wilken, associate professor and director of MA/PhD studies and collaborative research and development in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science.

"I've spent countless hours writing and rewriting manuscript text, but these are by far the most difficult words I have ever written: *'Ms. Molly Corlett passed between the time of completion of this study and the current manuscript submission.'* Many readers may miss that sentence, but it reflects a lasting loss to our team and to the biomechanics and biomedical communities. It represents the loss of a future filled with meaningful impact."

Wilken added that Molly's influence extended far beyond her research results.

"Her dedication, drive, critical thinking, positive attitude, and love of life elevated everyone around her. The aftereffects of her passing show how profoundly one person can influence an entire community."

The Molly Anne Corlett Memorial Scholarship will provide one or more annual scholarships to students enrolled in the University of Iowa's College of Engineering who demonstrate substantial academic merit and are in good academic standing. Preference will be given to students majoring in Biomedical Engineering who demonstrate financial need and whose work reflects excellence in academic performance, meaningful research contributions in areas such as rehabilitation science, orthotics, prosthetics, physical therapy, or patient care, and a commitment to community engagement.

Founded in Molly's memory, Molly's Miracles is dedicated to carrying forward her legacy through heart-driven acts of kindness, faith in action, and advocacy for organ donation. The organization's mission is rooted in the belief that even in moments of profound loss, light, purpose, and hope can endure and be multiplied.

Administered by the University of Iowa in accordance with established policies and procedures, the endowed portion of the gift will be invested to ensure long-term sustainability. The additional contribution allows for immediate impact. Scholarship recipients may renew the award by maintaining academic standing and meeting established criteria.

“This scholarship represents the largest and most significant gift to date in the history of Molly’s Miracles,” said John Corlett, Board Treasurer of Molly’s Miracles, and Molly’s father. “As a student, Molly believed deeply in using knowledge, compassion, and hard work to make a difference for others. Seeing her work continue through future biomedical engineers, and knowing it will help future patients, is profoundly meaningful. This gift ensures that Molly’s light, her purpose, and her impact will live on.”

About The Roy J. Carver Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Iowa

The Roy J. Carver Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Iowa integrates engineering, medicine, and science to advance human health and improve patient outcomes. The department is internationally recognized for its strengths in biomechanics, medical imaging, neural engineering, rehabilitation science, and translational research. Faculty and students work closely with clinicians and researchers across campus and within the university’s academic medical center to translate discovery into clinical impact. The department is committed to educating the next generation of biomedical engineers whose work advances science, healthcare, and quality of life.

About Molly’s Miracles

Molly’s Miracles, mollysmiracles.org, is a nonprofit organization founded in memory of Molly Anne Corlett to honor her life, compassion, and enduring impact. Guided by a mission rooted in heart-driven acts of kindness, faith in action, and advocacy for organ donation, Molly’s Miracles is dedicated to turning loss into purpose and darkness into light.

At the core of the organization is a commitment to giving, serving, and creating meaningful connections that ripple through communities with love and hope. Through educational initiatives, scholarships, service projects, and organ donation advocacy, Molly’s Miracles carries forward Molly’s legacy while inspiring others to shine that light forward. If you would like to or contribute to Molly’s Miracle’s ongoing efforts in helping others, you can do so at <https://mollysmiracles.org/donate-to-mollys-miracles/>