Robert A. Pearlman

Chief Development and Strategy Officer

Robert A. Pearlman is Chief Development and Strategy Officer at Florida Atlantic University’s Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine. In this position, he oversees the philanthropic, marketing and communications programs in the College, and is responsible for developing short and long-term growth strategies for the organization. In this capacity, Mr. Pearlman is working to foster a culture of philanthropy and stewardship to ensure that the new medical school’s structure, systems and procedures support fund development across the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine.

Mr. Pearlman joined FAU in July 2013, after serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, since 1993.

During his tenure, the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation raised approximately $300 million. He presided over three consecutive five-year campaigns, which increased fundraising more than 15 percent per year, growing into the largest cure-related research program in the world.

Before joining the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, Mr. Pearlman was Vice President of Major Gifts at the National United Jewish Appeal, one of the largest charities in the world when he served there from 1968 to 1984. More than 50 percent of the Appeal’s income came from major gifts, headed up by Mr. Pearlman.

After leaving the Appeal in 1984, Mr. Pearlman served as Chief Executive Officer of the American Friends of Hebrew University, the premier institution for higher learning in Israel. He served in that capacity until 1993, when he came to South Florida to head up the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation.

Mr. Pearlman was recruited to the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation to increase funding for the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami, the sole beneficiary of its support. During his tenure, the Foundation and the Diabetes Research Institute experienced exponential growth, developing into one of the premier diabetes organizations and a recognized world-leader in cure-focused diabetes research.