

NEWS

School of Medicine Faculty Tackle Public Health Issues

IN ADDITION TO THEIR TEACHING, RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE DUTIES, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FACULTY MEMBERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SHAPING NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY.

Two recent examples clearly demonstrate how University of Maryland physicians are contributing their time and expertise to promote public health.

Stephen Havas, MD, MPH, MS, professor of epidemiology and preventive medicine, is the lead author of an American Public Health Association policy on salt consumption. The policy statement says tens of thousands of lives could be saved every year by significantly reducing the amount of sodium in restaurant and processed foods by 50 percent over 10 years.

"Americans are consuming an ever-increasing amount of processed foods high in sodium at home, at work, at school and in restaurants," says Dr. Havas. "The excess sodium in these foods is unnecessary and leads to a large, preventable toll of hypertension, premature death and

disability." Dr. Havas is also a member of the coordinating committee of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program.

Margaret B. Rennels, MD, professor of pediatrics, was instrumental in developing a revised national policy on flu vaccines for babies. The new policy of the American Academy of Pediatrics encourages flu shots for healthy children between the ages of six months and 23 months. Previously, the elderly had been considered at the highest risk. But Dr. Rennels says new studies have health experts thinking differently.

"The hospitalization rates associated with influenza infection in young children really equal the hospitalization rates of the elderly. The difference is kids don't die from it as often," she says. Dr. Rennels not only served on the Academy's infectious diseases committee, she was also a member of the federal advisory committee on immunization practices.

Gift to School of Medicine Will Establish Scholarship for First Year Students

THE CHILDREN OF SAMUEL E. EINHORN, MD, A 1935 GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, HAVE PLEDGED A MAJOR GIFT TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN THEIR FATHER'S NAME.

The \$50,000 gift will establish an annual scholarship to award \$5,000 to a first-year medical student who best exemplifies Dr. Einhorn's character through superior academic performance, a determination to succeed and a commitment to compassionate patient care.

The first recipient is Brian DelliGatti, from rural Wicomico County in Maryland. Brian is a graduate of Salisbury University where he studied biology and was a 4.0 student while also participating in several sports and volunteer activities. Brian hopes to return to his hometown upon completion of his medical training so he can serve his community.

The son of Russian immigrants, Dr. Einhorn decided on a career in medicine early in life and paid his way through college by working in pharmacies. Dr. Einhorn specialized in diabetes and tuberculosis during his medical career, which spanned six decades. "We are pleased that Dr. Einhorn's legacy will continue at the University of Maryland through this generous gift," said Dean Wilson.

"My father is a remarkable man," says Peggi Einhorn. "He continues to be an inspiration to our entire family and through this scholarship fund, we hope and expect that he will continue to be a model for future medical students."

Those who are interested in fostering the principles demonstrated by Dr. Einhorn's distinguished career can contact the University of Maryland School of Medicine Development Office at (410) 706-8503.



Brian DelliGatti is the first recipient of the Samuel E. Einhorn Scholarship.

Maryland Charities Campaign Exceeds 2002 Goal

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE (UMB) MARYLAND CHARITIES CAMPAIGN. GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FACULTY AND STAFF WILL ASSIST LOCAL AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES TO THOSE IN NEED WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.

"The Maryland Charities Campaign is more important than perhaps we realize," said David DeLooze, assistant director, Structural Trades Operations & Maintenance, Facility Management, and the campaign's 2002 chair. "In the blink of an eye our world can change and we may need the services of one of these organizations. Many of the charities within the Maryland Charities Campaign provide shelter, food, and clothing during tragic situations. There are also organizations like the Heart Association and the Alzheimer's Association that provide much-needed research and assistance that could one day help loved ones."

"I want to thank the School of Medicine for its continued support and enthusiasm during our campaign," said DeLooze. "I appreciate the hard work that went into helping UMB surpass its 2002 goal. The entire UMB campus should be proud of its generous contributions."

The University of Maryland Baltimore is one of the few state agencies that by December 2002 completed its goal for giving. In fact, UMB is now ahead of the other University System of Maryland institutions in giving. In 2002, the UMB campus raised \$345,000, exceeding its goal of \$334,800. The School of Medicine has, to date, contributed \$135,048, which is 99% of its 2002 goal. DeLooze believes when all the donations are calculated, the School of Medicine will reach its goal.

This year's outstanding effort was the result of 469 generous contributors (out of a possible 2,653) from the School of Medicine. This is down from 510 contributors last year. It is the campaign committee's hope that the participation level for the School of Medicine increases in the coming years.

A Publication for the
Faculty & Staff of the

University of Maryland

School of Medicine

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: THE ANNUAL MATCH DAY CEREMONY will take place at noon on Thursday, March 20th at Davidge Hall. All are welcome! Medical students also take part in events beginning at 9 am with graduation information, a class photo at 10 am and a lecture at 11 am. For more information, contact Jessica at the Medical Alumni Association at 6-7454.

Reuben Mezrich Named Dr. John Dennis Chair in Diagnostic Radiology

AT A RECEPTION HELD LAST MONTH, DEAN WILSON ANNOUNCED THAT REUBEN MEZRICH MD, PHD, IS THE FIRST JOHN MURRAY DENNIS CHAIR IN DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY.

The endowed chair was funded by classmates and colleagues of Dr. Dennis, who served as dean of the School of Medicine from 1973 to 1990. The endowment includes gifts and pledges of approximately \$2.4 million to provide continuous unrestricted support to the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine. Those wishing to make additional contributions to the endowment fund may contact the Office of Development at (410) 706-8503.



L-R: Dean Wilson, Reuben Mezrich, and former dean John Dennis celebrate Dr. Mezrich being named the Dr. John Dennis Chair of Diagnostic Radiology.

Quick Studies

Suhayl S. Dhib-Jalbut, MD, professor, Departments of Neurology and Pathology, has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Neuroimmunology* effective January 2003, and will become the associate editor for the journal in July 2003.

Mary-Claire Roghmann, MD, MS, associate professor, Departments of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine and Medicine, was recently awarded a three-year \$140,000 Merit Review grant entitled "The Molecular Epidemiology of Antibiotic Resistance in People with Spinal Cord Dysfunction." Dr. Roghmann will quantify the effects of antibiotic use of the risk of acquiring fluoroquinolone resistant bacteria in order to promote strategies which optimize the use of antibiotics in this and other populations.

The Program in Complementary Medicine was recently approved as an Organized Research Center (ORC). The ORC, which will be called the Center for Integrative Medicine, will build upon the research, education and clinical initiatives of the Program in Complementary Medicine, extending its university-wide collaborations. The Center, which houses an NIH-specialized research center grant in complementary medicine, will continue to investigate the effectiveness, safety and mechanism of complementary and alternative medicines, and evaluate the contribution of an approach to patient care that integrates these therapies with mainstream medicine.

University Family Medicine, the clinical practice of the Department of Family Medicine, launched Employee Express in September 2002. Employee Express, the employee health care program for UMB, UPI, and University Hospital, takes a new approach to day-of calls and walk-ins, actually encouraging and planning for them. Two full-time physicians staff the center Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Employee Express is intended for the person who wakes up with a sore throat or cough and can't get in to see his or her doctor, or the person who develops a rash, but can't get a dermatologist appointment for several weeks. Employee Express should not replace a person's family physician.

Payment for work related injuries is covered under workmen's compensation. Employees seeking care for non-work related illnesses can use their health insurance or pay a fee-for-service. For more information, call University Family Medicine at 8-6645.

SOMNews is produced by the University of Maryland School of Medicine Office of Public Affairs.

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Submitting Information to SOMNews: Do you have news or information you would like to see in SOMNews? If so, please email your submission to Jennifer Litchman, Assistant Dean for Public Affairs, at jlitchman@som.umaryland.edu.

SOMNews

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Campus Mail

SAVE THE DATE: The grand opening celebration for HSFII will be held on Thursday, May 8th, 2003.
More details to come...