

NEWS

Brodie Receives Charles F. Kettering Prize

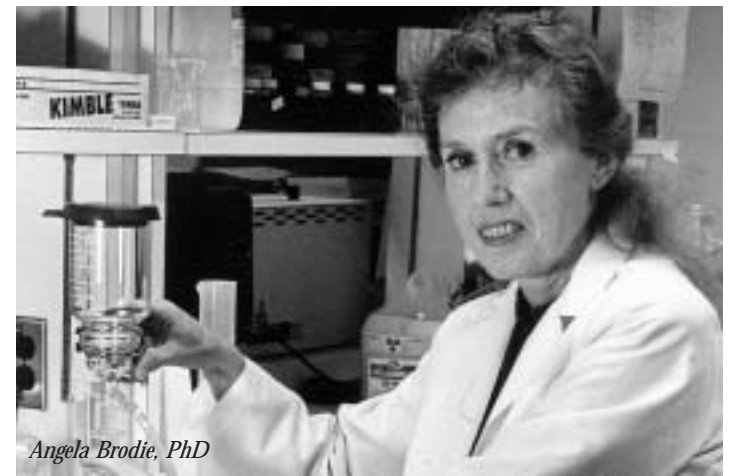
Angela H. Brodie, PhD, professor of pharmacology & experimental therapeutics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and a University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center researcher, has won the prestigious Charles F. Kettering Prize for her pioneering work in developing aromatase inhibitors, a new class of drugs widely used today to treat breast cancer.

The Kettering Prize recognizes the most outstanding recent contribution to the diagnosis or treatment of cancer. It is one of three \$250,000 prizes awarded annually by the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation to scientists throughout the world who have made seminal contributions to cancer research.

Along with the Charles S. Mott Prize honoring an outstanding contribution relating to the cause or prevention of cancer, and the Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. Prize for outstanding basic science research, the Kettering Prize is considered by many to be the Nobel Prize of cancer research. Of the more than 100 scientists who have received one of the three prizes since 1979, 12 have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Dr. Brodie is the first woman to win the Charles F. Kettering Prize.

An internationally recognized cancer researcher, Dr. Brodie's drugs help to prevent recurrence of breast cancer in post-menopausal women by reducing the level of estrogen produced by the body.

Dr. Brodie not only developed the concept for this novel drug therapy, but she and her team also created the first selective aromatase inhibitor to be used to treat breast cancer patients. Released for worldwide use in 1994, Formestane (4-hydroxyandrostenedione) was the first new drug in a decade specifically designed for the treatment of breast cancer. Since then, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has



Angela Brodie, PhD

approved three other aromatase inhibitors. Recent studies are proving these inhibitors to be significantly more effective than the standard breast cancer drug, tamoxifen, which blocks the effect of estrogen but stops working after five years.

"This is one of the most prestigious awards in the world of science," says Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and Dean of the School of Medicine. "Dr. Brodie epitomizes the scholar scientist whose work not only addresses fundamental biological issues but also translates into improving the lives of patients with cancer. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Brodie on our faculty, and we salute her ground-breaking efforts in the fight against cancer."

Dr. Brodie will receive the award at a gala in Washington, DC, on June 15.

Calia Receives Honorary Alumni Membership

On Friday, May 6, the Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors, with approval of the membership at-large, conferred Honorary Alumni Membership on Frank Calia, MD, MACP, who retired last fall. This honor, exercised sparingly, won unanimous approval.



Kenneth Hoffman, MD, '70 (far right), president of the Medical Alumni Association, presents Frank M. Calia, MD, MACP (center), with a plaque commemorating Dr. Calia's Honorary Alumni Membership as Jonathan Orens, MD, '87, and Harry Oken, '83, former chief residents under Dr. Calia, share in the moment.

The Tufts University School of Medicine graduate joined Maryland's faculty in 1969 as chief of the section for infectious diseases at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. He became professor in the departments of medicine and microbiology & immunology, and was named chief of the medical service at the VA. Dr. Calia was promoted to vice dean of the medical school in 1992. Students have honored him with 24 teaching awards. In addition, he is the recipient of "Teacher of the Year" awards by both the Maryland Higher Education Council and the University System of Maryland Board of Regents. He remains very active in retirement, serving as interim chief medical officer for the University of Maryland Medical Center. Additionally, he is fund raising for the medical school and is a member of the Maryland Board of Physicians.

Dr. Calia received Honorary Alumni Membership in recognition of his outstanding teaching and exceptional leadership.

GET FIT MARYLAND KICKOFF

Governor Robert Ehrlich's support for Get Fit Maryland™ is now permanently set. On April 29 at Plaza Park the governor left his footprints in fresh concrete, signifying the official kickoff of Get Fit Maryland™, an exciting 12-week walking program designed to help fight obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the University of Maryland Medical Center, Merritt Athletic Clubs, and the state of Maryland, Get Fit Maryland™ will provide participants with education, support and encouragement as they walk their way to better health.

Joining the governor were (l to r) University of Maryland, Baltimore President David Ramsay, DM, DPhil, Dean Donald Wilson, Merritt Athletic Clubs CEO Leroy Merritt, and University of Maryland Medical System CEO Ed Notebaert. The five stepped into wet concrete, "cementing" the collaboration of their organizations' commitment to support the program. Three walking paths on UMB's campus were unveiled at the event as well.



A Publication for the
Faculty & Staff of the

University of Maryland

School of Medicine

CPC Diagnoses What Ailed Columbus

The death of Christopher Columbus was the focus of this year's historical clinicopathological conference (CPC) sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the VA Maryland Health Care System on May 6.

According to speaker Frank C. Arnett, MD, of the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, the man known for discovering the new world in his famed ocean voyage of 1492 suffered from a serious form of arthritis that left him crippled, with high fevers and bleeding from the eyes. After years of intense pain and puzzling symptoms, Christopher Columbus succumbed to reactive arthritis at the relatively young age of 54 in 1506.

"While literature indicates that physicians of the day diagnosed Christopher



(l to r) Philip A. Mackowiak, MD, Francesc Albardaner, Frank C. Arnett, MD, and Charles Merrill, PhD, discuss Christopher Columbus' ailments at the Eleventh Annual CPC.

Columbus with gout, it is my belief that Columbus was plagued by reactive arthritis, a form of arthritis that follows an infection," says Dr. Arnett, a rheumatologist and professor of internal medicine, pathology and laboratory medicine.

"Reactive arthritis is an inflammation of certain joints that occurs several weeks after intestinal bacterial infections or after acquiring a sexually

transmitted disease like Chlamydia," he says. "It seems likely that he acquired reactive arthritis from food poisoning on one of his ocean voyages because of poor sanitation and improper food preparation."

As part of the CPC, historians Charles Merrill, PhD, language professor at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, and Francesc Albardaner, a historical researcher and member of the Columbus Study Center of the Omnium Cultural Foundation in Barcelona, Spain, discussed Columbus' supposed ancestry because of growing evidence to support the argument that Columbus was from Catalonia, an independent country during the Middle Ages, but now part of Spain and France.

"This conference is unique in its approach to the history of medicine," says Philip A. Mackowiak, MD, professor and vice chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and director of medical care at the VA Maryland Health Care System. The historical CPC is the brainchild of Dr. Mackowiak, who adds, "No other conference I know of brings together some of the world's brightest clinicians and most knowledgeable historians to dissect and debate history's great medical mysteries."

Quick Studies

Robert A. Barish, MD, senior associate dean for Clinical Affairs and professor, Departments of Medicine and Surgery, and **Bruce E. Jarrell, MD**, senior associate dean for Academic Affairs and professor, Department of Surgery, have been promoted to the position of vice dean of their respective offices.

Alessio Fasano, MD, professor, Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics and Physiology, has accepted an invitation from the National Institutes of Health to serve as a member of the Gastrointestinal Cell and Molecular Biology Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, for the term beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2008.

Anthony D. Harris, MD, MPH, associate professor, Departments of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine and Medicine, was awarded a four-year \$850,000 R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health entitled "Epidemiology of Imipenem-resistant *P. aeruginosa*."

John Laurence Hill, MD, professor, Department of Surgery, has been named Mentor of the Year by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Hill is a pediatric surgeon.

The Office of Graduate and Continuing Medical Education, under the leadership of associate dean **Nancy R. Lowitt, MD, EdM, FACP**, has been awarded the status of Full Accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

Jay S. Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg, professor, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, has been awarded a Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) award from the National Institutes of Health National Institute on Aging. MERIT awards provide long-term stable support to investigators whose research competence and productivity are distinctly superior and who are likely to continue to perform in an outstanding manner. The budget for the first five years of this renewable award is \$6.8 million. Dr. Magaziner looks to continue his research into recovery from hip fracture, particularly in men.

Benjamin Philosophe, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Surgery, has been appointed as head of the Division of Transplant Surgery within the Department of Surgery.

Sanford A. Stass, MD, professor and chair, Department of Pathology, has been awarded a five-year \$2,097,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health for his work entitled "University of Maryland Biomarker Reference Laboratory."

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

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

JUNE 2005

Campus Mail