

NEWS

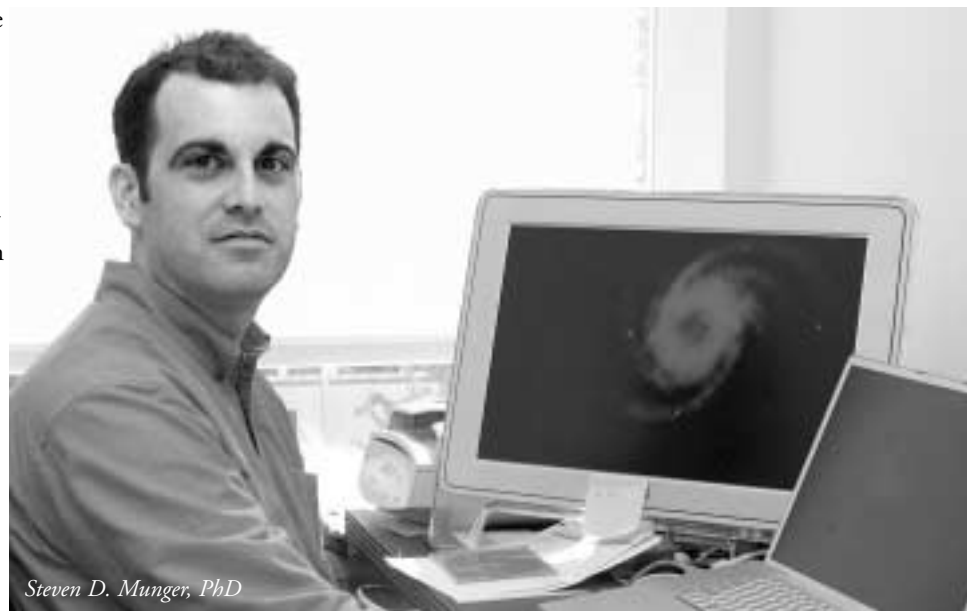
Presidential Award for School of Medicine Researcher is "Sweet"

A University of Maryland School of Medicine faculty member has received the 2003 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the nation's highest honor for professionals at the outset of their independent research careers. Steven D. Munger, PhD, assistant professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology, was honored for his research into the sense of taste.

The award was presented in Washington, DC by John H. Marburger III, science advisor to the President and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Congress established OSTP in 1976 with a broad mandate to advise the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the impacts of science and technology on domestic and international affairs.

Dr. Munger's study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, is investigating how sweet receptors on the tongue interact with chemically different substances, such as table sugar or an artificial sweetener. The research could lead to new and more versatile artificial sweeteners that taste more like natural sugar.

Established in 1996, the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers honors the most promising beginning researchers in the nation within their fields. Eight federal departments and agencies annually nominate scientists and engineers at the start of



Steven D. Munger, PhD

their careers whose work shows the greatest promise to benefit the nominating agency's mission. Participating agencies award these beginning scientists and engineers up to five years of funding to further their research in support of critical government missions.

"I was very surprised and very honored to learn of the award," said Dr. Munger, who will receive a two-year grant extension and an additional \$750,000 in funding to continue his research. "I feel a strong sense of responsibility to live up to the confidence that has been shown in me by the NIH and the OSTP."

New Medical Alumni Association President



Kenneth M. Hoffman, MD, '70

Kenneth M. Hoffman, MD, '70, is serving as the 130th president of the University of Maryland Medical Alumni Association.

A Maryland native, Kenneth Hoffman graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1962. He earned a BS in chemistry/physical science from the University of Maryland College Park in 1966. After receiving his medical degree, he interned and served a residency in pediatrics at Maryland. Upon completion of training, he was immediately commissioned in the US Navy, stationed at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. During his final year of service in 1975, he was chief of pediatrics. Dr. Hoffman returned to Maryland, settling in Annapolis where he completed his board certification and joined Chesapeake Pediatrics. Twenty-nine years later he continues with Chesapeake Pediatrics, is on the active staff of Anne Arundel Medical Center and is a member of the associate staff at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Hoffman is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the Bradley Pediatric Society of the University of

Maryland. He was chair of the health and human services committee for the transition team of the current Anne Arundel county executive, and for 13 years served on the board of trustees of The Key School. Dr. Hoffman's first wife Sandra, who was with him through medical school, died in 1980. In her memory, he established an emergency loan fund for married students through the Medical Alumni Association. For the past 17 years, he has been married to Deborah; they have three grown children.

Support the SOM

The Health Sciences Facility II Courtyard Commemoration Program provides a wonderful opportunity for members of the University of Maryland School of Medicine community to support this institution.

Buying a brick, paver or plaque is an ideal way to memorialize a School of Medicine alum, an important date or an outstanding achievement and a distinctive method for decorating the floors and walls of the courtyard. The gated courtyard, positioned near the intersection of Lombard and Penn Streets, provides a serene spot for students, faculty and staff to enjoy a quiet moment or eat their lunch.

For more information and if you would like to support the HSFII Courtyard Commemoration Program, please contact Edith McKeller in the Office of Development at 6.8503 or via email at emckeller@som.umaryland.edu.

A Publication for the
Faculty & Staff of the

University of Maryland

School of Medicine

Tune in to watch Discovery Health Channel's "Critical Hour" franchise featuring the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center on Sunday, October 3 at 9:00 PM.

A 12-part series, "The Critical Hour: Shock Trauma" was produced by the School of Medicine's Video Press. Episodes will continue on Sundays this fall.

Quick Studies

Sergei P. Atamas, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology, was awarded a three-year \$944,000 National Institutes of Health R01 grant entitled "Molecular Mechanism of PARC-Medicated Lung Fibrosis."

Carol Carraccio, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, received the first Walter W. Tunnessen, Jr., MD award given by the Association of Pediatric Program Directors. The award was established in honor of the late Dr. Tunnessen, who was a senior vice president of the American Board of Pediatrics, and is given to a pediatric program director who has made outstanding contributions to graduate medical education.

Didier A. Depireux, PhD, assistant professor, **Lauren M. Jones**, graduate student, and **Asaf Keller, PhD**, professor, all of the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, have documented their current research in a paper entitled "Robust Temporal Coding in the Trigeminal System." Their study was published in the June 25 issue of the journal *Science*.

Howard Dubowitz, MD, MS, professor, Department of Pediatrics, was elected to the executive council of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. This is the one international organization in the field of pediatrics.

Gary M. Fiskum, PhD, professor, Departments of Anesthesiology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, was recently awarded a three-year \$1.2 million translational research grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The goal of the preclinical work supported by this award is to determine which resuscitative ventilatory oxygenation protocol following cardiac arrest results in optimal neurologic outcome. Dr. Fiskum's co-investigators on this grant are Robert E. Rosenthal, MD, professor, Departments of Surgery and Anesthesiology, Tibor Kristian, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Anesthesiology, and Gregory I. Elmer, PhD, associate professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics.

Donna S. Hanes, MD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, has been named the director of Clinical Education for the School of Medicine. In this role, she will be responsible for the design and coordination of the clinical experiences of our medical students. The focus of this effort will culminate in a course titled, Introduction to Clinical Medicine, which will be available for students to take during their first two years of medical school.

Barbara C. Hansen, PhD, professor and director of the Obesity and Diabetes Research Center, Department of Physiology, has been named a member of the Immunology Research Portfolio Advisory Committee for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Giuseppe Inesi, MD, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, has been notified by the National Institutes of Health that he has placed above the 95th percentile of the distribution of extramural NIH grants over the last 25 years.

Carol Koski, MD, professor, Department of Neurology, published an article entitled "Identifying the Benefits of IVIg in Peripheral Neuromuscular Disease" in *Advances in Immunotherapy*, Volume 11, Number 1, Spring 2004.

Bradley McConnell, PhD, research associate, Department of Physiology, has been awarded a two-year \$132,000 grant from the American Heart Association. Dr. McConnell's work is entitled "Disruption of PKA Targeting to A-Kinase Anchoring Proteins to Rescue Contractility Following Induction of Heart Failure."

Stacy E. Smith, MD, assistant professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, has been awarded the 2004 Melvin M. Figley Fellowship in Radiology Journalism from the American Journal of Roentgenology (AJR). Dr. Smith will spend one month at the new AJR headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama working on manuscript review, publication and editorial management of a national medical journal. The scholarship is funded by a grant from The Roentgen Fund.

Founders Week Calendar of Events: "Defining A Decade"

This week of special events allows the University community to reflect on the University's founding, its achievements and goals for the future. All are welcome to attend!

Tuesday, October 12 – Staff Lunch

11:30 AM or 12:20 PM

Westminster Hall

Tickets available from staff senators or Pat Maloney. Contact Pat at 6.7004 or pmaloney@umaryland.edu.

Tuesday, October 12 – Student Cookout

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Davidge Hall Lawn

Free tickets available with student ID from the student affairs offices or the campus book store.

Wednesday, October 13 – Faculty Lecture

4:00 PM

School of Social Work Auditorium

"Using Prevention Science to Enhance the Safety and Well-being of Children"
– presented by Diane DePanfilis, PhD, assistant dean for Research and associate professor, School of Social Work

Thursday, October 14 – Founders Week Black Tie Gala

6:00 PM

Hyatt Regency Baltimore

Tickets \$85 per person; contact the Office of Special Events at 6.8035.

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SOMNews



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

OCTOBER 2004

Campus Mail

Reminder: Monthly SOM Council Meetings are open to all faculty, staff and students. The next council meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 27th @ 3:00 PM** in the VA's John Dennis Auditorium. Hope to see you there!