

NEWS

Kao Receives Founders Week Teacher of the Year Award

Joseph P. Y. Kao, PhD, associate professor in the Medical Biotechnology Center and associate professor in the Department of Physiology received the Teacher of the Year Award at the 2004 Founders Week Gala on October 14th, which honors the traditions, commitment and achievements of the campus community.

Dr. Kao has been a faculty member since 1990. He has taught numerous courses in such diverse programs as physiology, molecular and cell biology and neuroscience, and has directed the Master's Program in Physiology since its inception in 1993. These days, he continues to teach larger classes of medical physiology students and small graduate classes as well as students who work in his lab. Kao facilitates learning by making a conscious effort to think of new ways to help students, who sometimes have "completely different world views," understand. "There is no one explanation that suits every student," Kao says. "I am constantly thinking about alternative ways to explain a subject."

Throughout his teaching career at the University of Maryland he has been consistently recognized as an academician who can transform the most mundane topics into a "thing of beauty" as evidenced by students also commenting that they "never knew diffusion could be so interesting!" His students have echoed over and over again that he is a phenomenal teacher, one who just doesn't lecture or demonstrate, but inspires.



Joseph P. Y. Kao, PhD

Recently, Dr. Kao, along with colleagues Mordecai Blaustein, MD, professor of physiology, and Rick Matteson, PhD, associate professor of physiology, had their textbook *Cellular Physiology* published. In the preface of the textbook the authors write, "Nothing pleases a teacher more than a student whose expression indicates that the teacher's explanation has clarified a difficult concept that, just a few moments earlier, was completely obscure." Congratulations, Dr. Kao.

Nataro Family Scholarship Awarded



Left to right: James Nataro, MD, PhD, professor of pediatrics, Shayna Rich, MS-I, and Terry B. Rogers, PhD, professor of biochemistry & molecular biology and director, MD/PhD Program.

Shayna E. Rich, a first-year student in the MD/PhD Program, has been awarded the Nataro Family Scholarship, which was established by the Nataros to demonstrate their gratitude for the medical training they received at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. James Nataro, MD, PhD, '87, professor of pediatrics, was the first graduate of the MD/PhD Program, and shares the scholarship namesake with fellow alum – his grandfather, father and two uncles. Terry Rogers, PhD, director of the MD/PhD Program, commented, "We are extremely grateful that the Nataro family chooses to support the program in such a tangible manner." He added, "The scholarship is used as a recruitment tool for attracting and enticing dynamic students, such as Shayna, to our MD/PhD Program."

Shayna graduated with an undergraduate degree in physics and math from Dartmouth College. Upon graduation, she entered the field of nuclear physics, but changed her mind. With her MD/PhD degree she plans on working in population genetics and epidemiology. Shayna will receive \$5,000 in scholarship funds during her first year of medical school.



Dr. Calia Honored

Frank M. Calia, MD, MACP, professor, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology, and his son, Kurt Calia, listen to Dean Wilson give remarks at an October 5th reception honoring Dr. Calia for his 35 years of service to the School of Medicine. Over 100 people attended the celebration commemorating Dr. Calia's passion for teaching, his love of medicine and science and his enduring legacy to the school.

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Quick Studies

C. William Balke, MD, professor, Departments of Medicine and Physiology, has accepted an invitation from the National Institutes of Health to serve as chair of the Electrical Signaling, Ion Transport and Arrhythmias Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, effective July 2004 through June 2006.

Claudia R. Baquet, MD, MPH, associate dean for Policy and Planning and associate professor, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, was recently honored with an award for a national best practice by United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson. Dr. Baquet shares this award with Mary S. DeShields, MD, clinical associate professor, Department of Medicine. The best practice is titled, "A Model For Increasing Availability of Community-Based Cancer Trials In Rural Eastern Shore Maryland." The model is also featured on the HHS' Office of Public Health and Science website, www.osophs.dhhs.gov/ophs/BestPractice. The website showcases best practices in public health from around the country to foster an environment of peer learning and collaboration.

Steven L. Bernstein, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Ophthalmology, received a three-year \$675,000 grant from the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health for his project a "New Model of Optic Nerve Stroke and Neuroprotection."

Lorraine J. Doucette, MS, MT, assistant professor, Department of Medical and Research Technology, **Lisa S. Steinberg, MS**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, and **Frances E. Huber, EdD, PT, OCS**, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, were recently awarded a three-year \$472,244 interdisciplinary grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. Their project will develop an interdisciplinary Internet-based course that graduate students in all three aforementioned departments will take in conjunction with a clinical component. The students will also work as interdisciplinary teams, providing health care to members of the underserved population in Maryland, at various health fairs. In addition, the Internet course will ultimately be available as a method of obtaining continuing education for health care practitioners. The title of the grant is "Interdisciplinary Health Care Training and Delivery."

Joseph Finkelstein, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, recently received a five-year \$3.5 million award from the National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for a project to evaluate, in a randomized trial, the impact of Home Automated Telemanagement System on hypertension care in African American patients. The project title is "Hypertension Telemanagement in African Americans" and will use innovative telemedicine approaches to optimize treatment of hypertension in African Americans in Baltimore area clinics.

John M. Hamlyn, PhD, professor, Department of Physiology, was awarded a four-year \$1,183,975 R01 grant entitled "Cardiac Glycosides from the Adrenal Gland" from the National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

William L. Henrich, MD, professor and chair, Department of Medicine, was invited to serve on the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council by United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson. Dr. Henrich's term will begin on November 1, 2004 and run through October 2008.

Judith A. Johnson, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pathology, was invited to write the chapter on "Vibrio" in the *Manual of Clinical Microbiology*, 9th Edition.

James B. Kaper, PhD, professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, has been awarded an R37 Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) award from the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH/NIAID). The MERIT award is intended to "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," according to the NIH Guide for Grants & Contracts. Dr. Kaper's R01 research grant entitled "Molecular Genetics of Enteropathogenic E. coli Adhesion" was recently renewed and was converted to the R37 MERIT award. This action will allow the grant to be extended for an additional five years of support without having to go through a competitive renewal review. Dr. Kaper is the third faculty member of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology who currently holds a MERIT award; the others being professors Abdu F. Azad, PhD, Pharm D, MPH and Stefanie N. Vogel, PhD.

Shay-Whey Margaret Koh, PhD, associate professor, Department of Ophthalmology, received a five-year \$1,447,875 research grant from the NIH for a project entitled "Neurotrophic Factor Modulation of Corneal Endothelium." Dr. Koh will study how the survival of injured corneal endothelium (CE) is promoted by trophic factors of the CE cells.

Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH, professor, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology, has been elected president of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He will be sworn into office this month during the society's annual meeting in Miami.

Vincent D. Pellegrini, Jr., MD, professor and chair, Department of Orthopaedics, assumed the role of treasurer of the American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) during its 117th Annual Meeting this past June in Boston. His term will run from 2004 to 2009. The AOA is the oldest national orthopaedic association in the world.



New Faculty Orientation

Michael C. Garofalo, MD, assistant professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, checks-in at the registration table for the New Faculty Orientation on September 28th in the HSFII Auditorium. The orientation session welcomed new faculty and included

an overview of the resources available in research, teaching and clinical care and an introduction to this institution's Promotions and Tenure Process. Again, welcome aboard and best wishes for a great future at Maryland!

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