

NEWS

“WHAT DO WE DO?”

Office of Student Affairs

The door to the Office of Student Affairs in the Bressler Research Building opens dozens of times each day. Students come by for help with situations ranging from class registration, financial difficulties, personal challenges and housing, to deciding on a medical specialty. As the guardians of the student body at the School of Medicine, the Office of Student Affairs is responsible for monitoring student registration, progress and advancement, graduation and all other aspects of student life.

“We do everything for the students from the moment they are accepted to the School of Medicine to years and years beyond their graduation,” says Jack Gladstein, MD, associate dean for student affairs. “We are charged with overseeing their well being. It is a responsibility we take seriously.”

Students often sit on the leather sofa in Dr. Gladstein’s office with tissues close at hand to discuss troubles with classes or in their personal lives. “We provide counseling to the students and will often refer them to resources within or outside of the school,” he said. “In that capacity, our job is a lot like that of a social worker.”

Student Affairs is also known for its event planning skills. They coordinate milestone events for the students such as the annual White Coat and Student Clinician Ceremonies, Match Day and pre-commencement. They oversee the judicial process when allegations of cheating or unprofessional behavior are made and verify almost 2,000 alumni certification requests each year. And, they represent the needs of the students to SOM faculty and the University of Maryland campus.

Aiding Dr. Gladstein in caring for the 591-member student body are assistant deans Michael Plaut, PhD, and Gary Plotnick, MD, and a four-person support staff.



Standing, left to right: Gary Plotnick, MD, assistant dean; Jack Gladstein, MD, associate dean; Michael Plaut, PhD, assistant dean. Seated, left to right: Sonia Beasley, office coordinator; Teresa Ward-Davenport, executive administrative assistant; Peggie Butler-Watson, word processing operator. Not pictured: Barbara Lindsay, administrative assistant.

Dr. Plaut notes he is now working with students who are family members (even children) of students he counseled when he started in Student Affairs in 1978. “I enjoy watching our students grow in knowledge and confidence,” says Dr. Plaut. “We are witnessing and helping them through an important developmental stage on their way to a career in medicine.”

“We want to be known as a friendly place that is easily accessible,” adds Dr. Gladstein. “Our door is always open to help any student at the School of Medicine.”

Reaching Out: University of Maryland Physician Visits Bosnia and Herzegovina

Last September, Robert A. Barish, MD, senior associate dean for Clinical Affairs, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina during a trip sponsored by the National Guard State Partnership Program. The program links American states with a partner country for the purpose of improving bilateral relations with the United States.



Robert A. Barish, MD

The Maryland delegation included representatives from the Governor’s Office, the Maryland National Guard, and the business, academic and medical communities. “We want to promote democracy and create friendships, while helping the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina,” says Dr. Barish.

During the five day trip, Dr. Barish provided medical training and advice to health officials and physicians in the country, which was ravaged by a war in the 1990s. “Bullet holes are everywhere and land mines continue to be a threat,” remarks Dr. Barish. “Medical students need to be trained in emergency care and trauma, and physicians need to be brought up to speed on the latest treatment advances.” For example, many physicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina had never seen an automatic defibrillator, which has become commonplace in the U.S. Physicians also need help

fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which is spreading rapidly in the war-torn country.

Dr. Barish states the trip was an important first step in a long-term effort to help the people who live in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A similar partnership with Estonia began in 1991. Maryland’s partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina began in 2003.

Celebrating 200 Years of Excellence A SPECIAL INVITATION TO ALUMNI & FACULTY

A publication highlighting significant medicine-related achievements of alumni and faculty of the University of Maryland School of Medicine is slated for release in 2007, the year of the school’s bicentennial celebration. The book will also include milestones and noteworthy events throughout the medical school’s 200-year history.

A committee is currently at work collecting and reviewing relevant material and invites your participation. If you believe any of your medical accomplishments are worthy of consideration for inclusion in this publication, or if you are aware of a momentous achievement of a colleague from Maryland, please notify us in writing by June 30, 2005. We also welcome old photographs and medical artifacts.

Correspondence should be forwarded to the Medical Alumni Association’s Bicentennial Book Committee via Jennifer Litchman, assistant dean for Public Affairs at BRB-14-002 or jlitchman@som.umaryland.edu. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer at 6.8519 or Larry Pitrof, executive director of the Medical Alumni Association at 6.7454.

A Publication for the
Faculty & Staff of the

University of Maryland

School of Medicine

Quick Studies

Olivia D. Carter-Pokras, PhD, associate professor, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, and Claudia R. Baquet, MD, MPH, associate dean for Policy & Planning and associate professor, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, were instrumental in having a special issue of *The American Journal of Managed Care* funded and published in September 2004. The issue was entitled "Healthcare Disparities and Models for Change."

Jaswinder Khosla, MD, a fellow in the Department of Neurology, was the lead author on an abstract presented at a recent meeting of the American Neurological Association. The abstract, entitled "West Nile Virus Presenting as Opsoclonus-myoclonus Cerebellar Ataxia," was co-authored by Martin J. Edelman, MD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, and Stephen G. Reich, MD, professor, Department of Neurology.

Sandra A. McCombe Waller, PhD, PT, NCS, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, has secured a pilot, one-year grant for \$20,000 from the Claude D. Pepper Center for her research in the area of stroke and the effect of central motor control mechanisms in response to short-term unilateral versus bilateral training.

J. Glenn Morris, Jr., MD, MPH, professor and chair, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, was awarded a \$600,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Integrated Food Safety Initiative for his work on the development of computer models for ranking the public health impact of foodborne hazards.

Andrew N. Pollack, MD, associate professor, Department of Orthopaedics, has been named a member of the Maryland Health Care Commission by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

Robert Schwarcz, PhD, professor, Departments of Psychiatry, Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics and Pediatrics, has been named Director of Neuroscience Research within the Department of Psychiatry. In this role, he will establish and direct processes related to ongoing neuroscience research needs and initiatives, develop meritorious grant proposals to internal and external sponsors and funding agencies, recruit neuroscience faculty and allocate resources to promote the department's research efforts. Dr. Schwarcz has been on the SOM faculty since 1979.

Lisa M. Shulman, MD, associate professor, Department of Neurology, has been elected to the American Neurological Association, an honor conferred on senior academic neurology faculty after a vote by their peers.

Mark Your Calendar!

UMB will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr./Black History Month on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 starting at 12:00 PM in the MSTF Auditorium. Lunch will be served in the MSTF Atrium following the keynote speech from George Russell, Jr., who is currently an attorney with the Law Offices of Peter Angelos and Chairman of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture Board of Directors. Mr. Russell was the first African American judge on Maryland's Circuit Court, is an alumnus of the UM School of Law, presently serving on its Board of Visitors, and is a former member of the UMMS Board of Directors.



American Heart Association Award

The School of Medicine received the Champions of Heart Award on November 15 from the Maryland Council of the American Heart Association for its financial and community support. Only four local organizations receive the award each year. Here, Dean Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, (on right) accepts the award from Todd Langenberg, Vice President of the Maryland Council of the American Heart Association.

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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.

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Campus Mail