

NEWS

School of Medicine Welcomes New Department and Chair

The Department of Surgery's former Division of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is now the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Scott E. Strome, MD, has been appointed professor and chair of the newly created department. Dr. Strome plans to lead the department with an emphasis on the School's core themes of medical education, biomedical research and patient care. His top priorities include educating the next generation of physicians, developing a top-notch research program and providing excellent medical care.

Donald E. Wilson, MD, MCAP, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and Dean, School of Medicine, remarks, "Scott Strome is an exceptionally gifted physician-scientist who will lead the transformation of the new Department of Otorhinolaryngology very successfully. We already have outstanding treatment and research programs for a wide variety of ear, nose and throat disorders; under Dr. Strome's leadership, this new department will become one of the finest in the country."

Dr. Strome graduated *magna cum laude* from Dartmouth College and received his MD from Harvard Medical School. He then went to the University of Michigan Medical Center to complete a six-year combined internship/residency program in general surgery/otorhinolaryngology. After completing his residency, Dr. Strome completed a one-year head and neck surgery/microvascular reconstructive fellowship at the Allegheny Health Education and Research Foundation in Pittsburgh in 1998 before joining the faculty of the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota.

While at Mayo, Dr. Strome ran a large translational research program, focused on the study of mechanisms to harness the immune

response to squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck for purposes of diagnosis and therapy and dedicated to bringing advances in the laboratory to the patient's bedside. He also founded the free flap program (surgically transferring tissue and bone from one part of the body to another) to perform reconstructive surgery for head and neck cancer patients.

In the research arena, Dr. Strome is developing a means to determine the utility of bone marrow-derived effector cells for antitumor therapy and believes immunotherapy holds the key to developing new treatments for cancer. "To have an impact on survival, we need to look for new ways to fight cancers on a molecular level," he says. "We are developing novel methods to stimulate the body's immune system and manipulate certain molecular pathways to boost the antitumor response."

Dr. Strome is the author of 56 peer-reviewed journal articles and seven book chapters and he recently completed a book that explores social and ethical dilemmas affecting medical training and drug development. He has served on a number of institutional and national committees and has been invited regularly to speak at both national and international venues.



Scott E. Strome, MD

Interim Surgery Chair Promoted



Stephen T. Bartlett, MD

Stephen T. Bartlett, MD, was named chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, after having served as interim chair since October 2003. He is also the Barbara Baur Dunlap Professor of Surgery.

Dr. Bartlett received his BA degree from Johns Hopkins University and attended medical school at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. His residency

training in general surgery was at the University of Pennsylvania and he received his vascular surgery training at Northwestern University. Dr. Bartlett is board certified in both general surgery and vascular surgery.

For the past 11 years, he also has served as head of the Division of Transplant Surgery within the Department of Surgery and concurrently functioned as medical director of the Transplant Resource Center of Maryland. The University of Maryland Transplant Program performs approximately 350 kidney transplants, 80 pancreas transplants and 25 liver transplants per year. In fact,

by the mid-1990's, Dr. Bartlett had performed Maryland's first simultaneous pancreas/kidney transplant and its first successful pancreas-alone transplant. "Dr. Bartlett has achieved a steady stream of success at the University of Maryland since his arrival here, by developing effective ways to help a vast number of people with organ failure to survive and thrive. I am confident that under his extraordinary leadership, the Department of Surgery will continue its growth and national prominence in research and patient care," says Dean Wilson.

His research interests include the study of the mechanism of recurrent autoimmunity in islet transplants in the non-obese diabetic mouse model and the clinical outcome of extended donor pool kidneys. Additionally, with funding from the Office of Naval Research, he is working on developing cranial-facial transplants for those who have lost tissue due to traumatic injuries and is the co-investigator of an NIH-sponsored clinical trial that is enabling HIV-positive people who have kidney failure to receive a kidney transplant and stay healthy, in spite of taking anti-rejection medications.

Dr. Bartlett succeeds Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, who has moved to the position of senior associate dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Bartlett says, "It is an honor to succeed Bruce Jarrell. He has been my mentor and my friend."

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Quick Studies

Bradley Alger, PhD, professor, Department of Physiology, co-authored an article in the December issue of *Scientific American* on research into natural chemicals that mimic marijuana's effects on the brain. Dr. Alger's article is called "The Brain's Own Marijuana."

Brian Berman, MD, professor, Department of Family Medicine, and **Marc Hochberg, MD, MPH**, professor, Department of Medicine, found that traditional Chinese acupuncture therapy significantly reduces pain and improves function for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee who have moderate or severe pain despite taking pain medications. The results of the four-year study, funded by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, were published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. This is the largest acupuncture study to date.

Larry W. Forrester, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, received a three-year Advanced Research Career Development Award from the Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Research and Development Service. Dr. Forrester's project, "Development of an Ankle Robot Module with Treadmill Training in Chronic Stroke," studies motor learning and neural plasticity responses in stroke survivors who undertake aerobic treadmill training and is conducted in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Johns Hopkins University.

Scott Haines, MS-III, presented an abstract of his research at the Parkinson Study Group's 18th Annual Symposia in Toronto. His abstract was entitled "Disclosing the Diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease: Patient Experiences." Co-investigators from the Department of Neurology included **William J. Weiner, MD**, professor and chair, **Karen E. Anderson, MD**, assistant professor, **Paul S. Fishman, MD, PhD**, professor, **Stephen G. Reich, MD**, professor, and **Lisa Shulman, MD**, associate professor, and **Hegang Chen, PhD**, assistant professor from the Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine.

Sandra A. McCombe Waller, PhD, PT, assistant professor, and **Jill Whithall, PhD**, professor, both of the Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, published an article "Fine Motor Function in Adults with Chronic Hemiparesis: Baseline Comparison to Non-Disabled Adults and Effects of Bilateral Arm Training" in the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*.

H. Ronald Zielke, PhD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, received \$6,720,600 from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for a five-year competitive grant renewal of a program project entitled "Metabolic & Developmental Aspects of Mental Retardation." Project and core directors are **Mary C. McKenna, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, **Robert Schwarcz, PhD**, professor, Department of Psychiatry, **Gary M. Fiskum, PhD**, professor, Department of Anesthesiology, and **Carol L. Zielke, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics.

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Flu Vaccine Clinical Trial

In an effort to increase the supply of approved flu vaccine in the United States, federal health officials asked the Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in December to test an influenza vaccine that is not currently licensed in the United States, but is widely used in more than 70 other countries, including the United Kingdom and Australia. If the vaccine, made by GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, is found to be safe and effective, it could possibly become available in the U. S. during next winter's flu season. The fast-track clinical trial was also conducted at three other testing sites.

"We needed 250 healthy volunteers, ranging in age from 18 to 64, to test this vaccine's safety and effectiveness against the currently circulating strains of influenza," says James Campbell, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics and principal investigator of the study. "In just five days, we vaccinated nearly 264 volunteers."

"Given that the United States was faced with a severe shortage of influenza vaccine this season, it was imperative that we test additional vaccines to add to our nation's supply. This one is similar to flu vaccines currently licensed in the United States, and it has been given to more than 126 million people around the world. The information we obtained during the trial will help the Food and Drug Administration determine whether the vaccine should be licensed here," says Dr. Campbell.

In the double blind study, volunteers had their blood drawn before receiving the shot in order to assess their level of immunity. The participants had their blood drawn again three weeks after the shot to see if they had developed an immune response. Twenty percent of the volunteers received a placebo.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, selected the Center for Vaccine Development to conduct the fast track study because of its researchers' extensive experience in vaccine research and testing. The other sites participating in the study were the University of Rochester, Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine.



Graham W. Aberdeen, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, receives an injection from Lisa Chrisley, RN. Dr. Aberdeen was one of 264 volunteers who participated in the influenza vaccine clinical trial at the SOM's Center for Vaccine Development.

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FEBRUARY 2005

Campus Mail

Mark Your Calendar! UMB will celebrate Women's History Month with a lecture series held on **March 1, 8, 15 and 29** from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM in the Dental Museum. The lectures will feature tips for a better diet, boosting exercise, home improvement and quality skin care. For more information, contact Heather Graham at hgraham@som.umaryland.edu or 6.1521.