

# NEWS

## 2005 State of the School of Medicine Address— “Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now”

The Annual State of the School of Medicine Address given each year by Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and Dean of the School of Medicine, is an opportunity to look back at what faculty, staff and students have accomplished during the previous year.

Dean Wilson began his March 10 address by acknowledging those who contributed to the school’s success in 2004 – faculty, staff, students, the Board of Visitors, and partners at the University of Maryland Medical System. “Look how far we’ve come together,” he said. “We’ve faced almost continuous budget reductions, competition for resources, increasing costs of doing business and sometimes conflicting priorities. But we’ve always worked together to make this school great, and we will continue to do so.”

In 2004, the School saw its first increase in years in the number of staff and faculty and an overall student body increase of nine percent. “Our curriculum continually changes to meet the needs of our students as well as the needs of the changing healthcare environment,” Dean Wilson said. “For example, we’ve added new knowledge in areas such as genetics, imaging, healthcare disparities and how to respond to the nation’s current obesity crisis.”

On the budgetary front, Dean Wilson announced that total revenue for 2004 was \$529 million, with 53 percent of that income coming from sponsored research (\$281.2 million). Clinical practice income brought in \$127 million; reimbursements from affiliated hospitals brought in \$55.1 million; gifts and endowments \$19 million and tuition and fees brought in \$15.8 million. “State appropriations were less than six percent of our revenue,” Dean Wilson said. “This is a sobering statistic. We function primarily like a private institution. We generate 95 percent of our revenue from sources other than state support.”

Sponsored research increased seven percent in 2004. The faculty’s success at gaining research support earned the School of Medicine an eighth place ranking in research grant expenditures amongst all 77 public medical schools. “Comparing us to all 126 medical schools, we moved up one spot to 20<sup>th</sup>,” Dean Wilson said. “When you look at research dollars generated per faculty member, Maryland ranks fourth in the nation among public schools and sixth among all medical schools.”

2004 was the seventh consecutive year in which clinical revenue exceeded the prior year’s amount. “Since reimbursement rates did not increase, this positive trend reflects the hard work of our faculty to improve on business practices,” said Dean Wilson. “The complexity of the reimbursement and documentation processes and compliance costs require us to spend millions of dollars that would otherwise be available for mission-related activities. But we continue to make progress in a constant battle to maximize our efficiency.”

After recapping highlights of 2004, Dean Wilson focused on major initiatives for 2005 and beyond, including the construction of a new ambulatory care building, the development of a comprehensive clinical information system and a renewed focus on quality service.

At the conclusion of his address, Dean Wilson emphasized that the greatness of the School of Medicine isn’t research funding, curriculum reform, clinical programs or new buildings. “It’s students who bring us new ideas and fresh demands. It’s faculty who flourish in an atmosphere of collaboration and continue to demand excellence from themselves and those around them. And it’s staff who take pride in our school’s accolades because they realize the important role they play in our success,” he said. “We will always face change. I ask you to move forward and embrace change because change is how we grow. I fully believe that no matter what changes lie ahead and no matter what challenges may arise, there ‘Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now.”

### “WHAT DO WE DO?”

#### Office of Medical Education

Medical students can be confident that the Office of Medical Education (OME) is working to ensure they graduate with the best possible educational experience. This busy group of 17 people, under the leadership of associate dean David B. Mallott, MD, is continually refining the medical curriculum and investigating ways to make the learning experience more efficient and to foster graduates’ love of life-long learning.

“In the mid-1990s, after a careful review process, the SOM revised the curriculum to cut down on lecture time in order to increase study time and our students’ involvement in campus activities,” says Dr. Mallott. “We now focus on limited lectures and increased time spent in small groups, and changed to interdisciplinary teaching blocks so that students don’t feel so overwhelmed by competing classes and exams. We are confident that this provides a better educational experience.”

Students also benefit from the OME’s emphasis on the use of instructional technology. Five employees work on MedScope, a Web-based curriculum management system. With MedScope, first and second year students can review lectures notes and audio taken during class, take practice exams and keep up with class schedules and campus news and events. “We’ve found that electronic media offers an opportunity for more interactive learning,” Dr. Mallott states.

“The students and faculty have been really receptive to the technology we’ve introduced and have even approached us with ideas.”

OME also focuses on academic development. Headed by director Sandy Dolan, PhD, student performance is tracked to catch any academic struggles early on. “We start with freshmen before the first day of class through our pre-matriculation summer program,” Dr. Mallott says. “We identify students who may need extra help because they’ve been out of the academic environment for a while or they weren’t science majors.”

OME also offers an array of audiovisual support services and photo and graphics support for the entire School of Medicine.



#### Members of the Office of Medical Education

Back row, left to right: Tom Jemski; Ronnie Adams; John Seebode; Ursula Goldman; Gerry Wentz; Regina Johnson; Paul Moore; John Raczek; Alan Gregory; Khamraj Gransam; Mark Teske. Front row, left to right: Kevin Brown; Donna Reynolds; David Mallott, MD; Angie Battaglia; Tracy Ijams. Not pictured: Donna Hanes, MD; Sandra Dolan, PhD.

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## Quick Studies

**Claudia R. Baquet, MD, MPH**, associate dean for Policy and Planning and associate professor, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, was invited to attend the annual National Institutes of Health observance of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At the program, Dr. Baquet was recognized as a key individual who has worked to close the gaps in health care for the underserved. Specifically, she was honored for her work within the African American community in a proposal entitled "Maryland Special Populations Cancer Network" which will strive to build a network infrastructure to foster cancer awareness activities and establish cancer research priorities in Maryland.

**Stephanie Brown, MD**, assistant professor, Department of Family Medicine, was awarded a two-year \$311,667 R01 Minority Investigator Supplement Grant under **Joseph Finkelstein, MD, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, for their work entitled "Evaluation of Home Automated Telemanagement in COPD." The supplemental award from the National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute is provided for the purpose of enhancing the investigators' research skills and capabilities.

**Gregory I. Elmer, PhD**, associate professor, and **Neri Kafkafi, PhD**, research associate and post-doctoral fellow, both of the Department of Psychiatry, co-authored an article in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on research into the inheritance of complex exploratory behavior. The article, "Genotype-Environment Interactions in Mouse Behavior: A Way Out of the Problem," describes a strategy for identifying highly heritable behavioral endpoints that can be used to identify candidate genes involved in complex traits.

**Alessio Fasano, MD**, professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Medicine and Physiology, and director of the Mucosal Biology Research Center, published a study in the February 22 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. In the article titled "Role of the Intestinal Tight Junction Modulator Zonulin in the Pathogenesis of Type 1 Diabetes in BB Diabetic Prone Rats," Fasano identifies a way to prevent the development of type 1 diabetes in rats genetically prone to develop the disease.

**V. Raul Felipa, MD, FACP**, clinical associate professor, Department of Medicine, has received the Samuel P. Asper Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine from the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

**Bruce K. Krueger, PhD**, professor, Department of Physiology, was awarded a four-year \$1 million new competing grant from the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for his work entitled "Regulation of Cellular Responsiveness to BDNF"

**Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH**, professor, Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics and Microbiology & Immunology, and director of the Center for Vaccine Development, was awarded a four-year \$3.5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to introduce and monitor the effects of Haemophilus influenzae (Hib) conjugate vaccine in high-risk infant populations in Mali, West Africa. Dr. Levine also recently received the Mary Betty Stevens Award for Clinical Research from the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

**Christopher V. Plowe, MD, MPH**, associate professor, Departments of Medicine and Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, and **Keith T. Wilson, MD**, associate professor, Department of Medicine, have been elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). The ASCI is an honor society of physician-scientists, who translate findings in the laboratory to the advancement of clinical practice. Founded in 1908, the Society has more than 2,700 members who are in the upper ranks of academic medicine and corporate healthcare.

## Ladies and Gentlemen: Lace up your walking shoes and Get Fit Maryland!

Join Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. at the kickoff event for the inaugural Get Fit Maryland: 10,000 Steps a Day program on Friday,



April 29 at noon in University Square on S. Greene and Redwood Streets. Governor Ehrlich will be joined by Dean Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, Ed Notebaert, president and CEO of the University of Maryland Medical System and David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, as they unveil a new walking path on the UMB campus. Get Fit Maryland is a 12-week walking program designed to motivate people to

move their bodies, lose weight and implement better lifestyle decisions regarding nutrition and health.

Refreshments will be served. Registration for the program runs from April 18 to 30 but also will be available at the kickoff event. Registration sites include the Patient Resource Center in the University of Maryland Medical Center, the University Athletic Center and various area Merritt Athletic Clubs. For more information visit [www.getfitmaryland.org](http://www.getfitmaryland.org) or call Mariellen Synan, program coordinator, at (800) 492-5538.

Get Fit Maryland: 10,000 Steps a Day is a project of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the University of Maryland Medical Center and Merritt Athletic Clubs. The program officially begins on May 1.

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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](mailto:jlitchman@som.umaryland.edu).

# SOMNews



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

APRIL 2005

Campus Mail

The Student National Medical Association will host **Staying Alive in 2005: Empowerment for Healthy Living**, its 2nd annual community health fair, on April 24, 2005, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Barclay Middle School.

Free health screenings will be offered for glaucoma, HIV testing and blood pressure as well as health education on diabetes, asthma, mental health, men's health, tobacco use prevention, and sexually transmitted diseases. Demonstrations will be given for exercise and physical training to address obesity.

For more information, contact Lisa Green at [lgree006@umaryland.edu](mailto:lgree006@umaryland.edu).